#### FROM PAGE ONE

## European lawmakers begin J&K visit

"We told the MEPs that youth draw inspiration from the EU-like system. We underlined there was no leadership in J&K. The unfortunate decision to bifurcate I&K is a collective failure of the regional mainstream parties and separatists. If they had worked in a selfless manner, Kashmir would have been a peaceful place," said Mr. Raina.

BJP spokesman Altaf Thakur, who led a delegation of panchs and sarpanchs, said, "Kashmir is normal. There are some forces that want to disturb peace here. Otherwise, people want to open shops and students want to go to educational institutes. Article 370 was like a wall, stopping the State's development." A women's delegation highlighted the issue of unemployment.

Earlier, General Officer Commanding, 15 Corps, Lt. Gen. K.J.S. Dhillon hosted a lunch to the visiting delegates at the Badamibagh Cantonment. Sources said the Army apprised the team of the situation on the Line of Control (LoC), infiltration bids from across the border and the internal situation.

In the evening, the EU team also met senior officials of the J&K government for their feedback on the situation.

Meanwhile, no prominent traders' body, civil society group or regional political parties interacted with the EU delegation.

President of the Valley's apex traders body, Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industries (KCCI), Sheikh Ashiq said his association was not invited.

### Questions grow over NGO's invite to MEPs

The Hindu made several calls to its Delhi office in Safdarjung Enclave, and tried to reach official in-charge Sujay Dhawan, but was unable to elicit a response.

On Monday, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson clarified that the "MEA is not involved and not coordinating the visit." The fact that these MEPs then met Mr. Modi, Vice-President Venkaiah Naidu and were hosted for meals by the National Security Adviser's office and the MEA, however, has raised questions about the manner in which the delegation, the first foreign group to visit the Kashmir Valley since August 5, was organised.

Amid the developments, two MEPs from the UKbased Liberal Democrat Party (LDP) claimed that they were "disinvited" from the India visit after they asked for unfettered access to local Kashmiris and journalists during the visit. According to their correspondence with Ms. Sharma, MEPs Chris Davies and Irina Von Weise had confirmed a at the European Parliament on October 10 to discuss the arrangements for the visit. However, hours before the meeting, Ms. Sharma wrote to cancel it and said that she could not "take any more MEPs at this stage."

Protesting the treatment

statement on Tuesday in London. Mr. Davies told The Hindu that he was "surprised" when he first received the invitation as he had addressed the European Parliament on his "concerns over Kashmir". "I replied that I was happy to accept on the condition that during my time in Kashmir I would be free to go wherever I wish and talk to whoever I wish, unaccompanied by military, police or security forces but accompanied by journalists." Ms. Sharma replied that it

of its MEPs, the LDP issued a

was their responsibility to ensure protection to the MEPs, but "a little security" would not hinder their

It is unclear on whose behalf Ms. Sharma was able to guarantee security, nor is it clear why the government and the MEA, which regularly organise visits of foreign parliamentarians to India, did not undertake the organisation itself.

The visit has also come in for criticism from the Opposition parties in India who right" antecedents of the MEPs. Most of them belonged to anti-immigrant, right-wing parties like Germany's AFD, UK's Brexit Party, Italy's Forta Italia, France's National Rally Party and Poland's Law and Justice Party

### Sena not promised top post, says Fadnavis

As the deadlock between the Bharatiya Janata Party and the Sena continued. both parties on Tuesday made contradictory claims about the first official meeting between the two that did not happen.

While Mr. Fadnavis said no such meeting was planned, Sena Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Raut said that it was cancelled over the directions of his party chief Uddhav Thackeray.

"The meeting planned between two leaders each from the two parties. But since the Chief Minister said there was no 50:50 formula, the meeting was left with no agenda and therefore it was cancelled," said Mr. Raut, adding that

Mr. Thackeray must have taken the decision in a bitter state of mind.

The Shiv Sena leader said a video clip of Mr. Fadnavis talking about the 50:50 formula is available. "The issue is not about getting upset over it, but the issue is whether the 50:50 formula will be implemented," said Mr. Raut, editor of Sena mouthpiece Saamna.

Earlier, Mr. Fadnavis had expressed his displeasure over the editorials in Saamna, which have been targeting the BJP in the aftermath of the election results, stating that its role was to derail the talks between the two parties. "Will the paper take a hard stand on Congress-

### 80-hour battle to rescue Sujith fails

Sujith had fallen into the borewell while playing with his brother at 5.30 pm on Friday evening and went silent after 5 a.m. on Saturday. A slew of attempts by multiple teams of experts with experience in such rescue missions had failed following which huge rigs were moved to the site to dig a passage

way. But the rigs too struggled to drill through the

hard rock at the site. Meanwhile, both abandoned borewell and the adjacent passage dug to rescue the boy were filled with concrete within hours of his burial under the supervision of Collector S. Siv-

## Congress to rally Opposition against MEP visit

Party says Centre not accountable to European Parliament

SOBHANA K. NAIR

Congress president Sonia Gandhi is likely to soon call a meeting of the Opposition parties to discuss the visit of a delegation of European Union parliamentarians to Jammu and Kashmir on the invitation of the Narendra Modi government. Sources said the meeting is likely to be held in the first week of No-

Other than the EU delegation visit, the Opposition will also be discussing the economic downturn and other related issues.

"The government is accountable to the Indian Parliament and not to the European Parliament. The government denied privileges to members of the Indian



**Quick action:** Policemen arriving to remove road blocks put up by protesters in Srinagar on Tuesday. • NISSAR AHMAD

Parliament to visit part of their own country and detained them at the airport and then they invite this motley group belonging to fringe far right groups; MPs who do not represent the

mainstream political parties of their respective countries," Deputy Leader of the Congress in the Rajya Sabha Anand Sharma told The Hindu on Tuesday.

The members of the dele-

gation, Mr. Sharma said, represent ideologies that are in direct conflict with the mainstream parties in those countries. And the visit, he said, is "ill-advised".

"We are shocked at this di-

plomatic disaster. It has caused avoidable embarrassment to India. On the one hand, we have consistently and firmly maintained that J&K is India's internal affair. Pakistan and China both have sought to internationalise it. Why should we do the same. Because of this visit, Kashmir is in the sharp focus of the entire world," Mr. Sharma added.

The Opposition will be deliberating on what course of action to take.

"We have mainly two options. We can move a privilege motion just on the fact that the Indian parliamentarians were detained at Srinagar airport, though, the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha and Speaker in the Lok Sabha, in all likelihood, will dispose of the application," a top Opposition leader said.

The other option is to move an adjournment motion to hold a day-long debate on the issue to censure

#### PDP distances itself from Baig after meet

The Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) on Tuesday distanced itself from party patron Muzaffar Hussain Baig, who met visiting Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) in New Delhi on Monday, while the National Conference (NC) described three regional leaders' participation in the meeting as "Delhi's old dirty tricks".

#### CPI leader seeks Modi nod to visit J&K

NEW DELHI

CPI leader Binoy Viswam wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday, requesting that he be allowed to visit Jammu and Kashmir since a foreign delegation was given a "red carpet" entry into the region. Mr. Viswam's letter comes amid demands from the Opposition that the Centre explain why Indian citizens and political parties were being denied entry into

## Terrorists fire upon CRPF bunker

Troops fire in retaliation; no casualties reported on either side

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Terrorists fired upon a bulletproof mobile bunker of the CRPF in Pulwama of Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday, but there were no casualties, officials said. The paramilitary force of-

ficials said the militants fired multiple gunshots on the mobile bunker (sentry post atop a four-wheeler) of the 72nd battalion of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) around 3.30 p.m. when it was stationed in the Drubgam area of Rajpora in Pulwama district.

Six to eight bullets were fired by the terrorists at the CRPF post when the personnel were deployed on law and order duty in the area,

The firing took place near a school where Class 10 board examinations were



Students appearing for the Board exam in Budgam. The Pulwama firing took place near an exam centre. • NISSAR AHMAD

under way, but officials said the educational institute was not the target.

CRPF troops opened fire in retaliation, they said, adding that no casualties have been reported on either A search operation has

been launched in the area af-

senior official said. Immediately after the at-

tack, the local police, based on initial reports, had, however, said that the attack was on an Army patrol team.

Driver cremated A truck driver, who was shot dead by terrorists in a south

Kashmir village, was cremat-

ed in his home town of Katra in Reasi district amid tight security arrangements on Tuesday, officials said.

Truck driver Narayan Dutt, a native of Kakriyal village nera Katra, was cremated amid mourners' demand for adequate compensation to his four orphaned chil-

Dutt was shot dead by terrorists at Kanilwan village on Monday evening in the fourth such incident in the past two weeks, aimed at disrupting transportation of apples outside the valley.

He was the fourth trucker killed by terrorists in south Kashmir in the past three weeks. Earlier an apple trader from Punjab and a labourer from Chhattisgarh were killed by terrorists. A pall of gloom descended on the village as the body of 43-year-

## Rajasthan truckers not to operate in J&K

Terrorists targeting apple shipments

MOHAMMED IQBAL

After two incidents of attacks on Rajasthani truck drivers and helpers in Jammu & Kashmir, truck operators in the State have announced that they will not send their lorries to the region nor bring any goods from there. Two truck drivers and a helper from eastern Rajasthan were killed in attacks by militants.

Mohammed Ilyas, 45, belonging to Alwar district, and his helper Zahid Meo, hailing from Bharatpur, were shot dead by militants in Shopian district last week, when they were returning with a truckload of apples after having offloaded milk supply for Army personnel. This was the fourth attack by militants on the non-J&K residents and the second on truckers from Rajasthan during the last couple of weeks. Sharif Khan, 40, a truck driver from Bharatpur district's Ubhaka village, was gunned down in the Kashmir Valley on October 14. Truck and transport un-

ions here have said that they would not send trucks to J&K until the Centre took adequate security measures for drivers, cleaners and helpers. Jaipur Truck and Transport Association president Gopal Singh said on Tuesday that a strike call would be given if the demand was not met. "It has been decided at a meeting of the association that we will not pick any stuff from J&K until the government provides security to our staff travelling with the

### Sena, JPP trade barbs over Maharashtra

Will solve Cabinet berth row: Dushyant

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Rajya Sabha member Sanjay Raut of the Shiv Sena, the old constituent of the NDA, Dushyant Chautala, president of the Jannayak Janta Party (JPP), the NDA's new ally, sparred over the situation in Maharashtra that continues to be tense on government formation.

Mr. Raut, taking a jibe at the BJP with which the Shiv Sena is caught in intense negotiations, said: "We do not have any Dushyant here whose father is inside the jail. Here, it's us who do politics of 'dharma' and 'satya' (righteousness and truth). Maharashtra has a very complicated politics."

In response, Mr. Chautala

said: "It means he knows who Dushyant Chautala is. My father has been in jail for six years, he [Raut] never asked about his well-being. Ajay Chautalaji will not come out without completing his term. Such statements don't add to Sanjayii's stature.'

He also said, "His party [Shiv Sena] has been associated with BJP for long. Our party was formed 11 months ago. It is not our intention to fight with others, or use politics of intimidation and threats. We want to implement honest politics for the next 5 years." Mr. Chautala added that his party and the BJP would amicably settle the question of Cabinet berths in Haryana.

Abhay Chautala rules out merger with JJP

'The chapter is closed.... they have gone away and we are separate now

Indian National Lok Dal (INLD) leader Abhay Chautala on Tuesday set aside speculations about coming together of his party and its offshoot outfit - the Jannayak Janta Party (JJP) in Haryana.

On Monday, Deputy Chief Minister Dushyant Chautala's father Ajay Chautala met his estranged Mr. Abhay Chautala, his younger brother, causing speculations among party ranks about a truce between both the leaders of the "Chautala family".

Asked about the meeting and the INLD's future political prospects, Mr. Abhay Chautala told The Hindu over telephone that "...the chapter is closed. When they have gone away and we are separate now, then it's over."

Cabinet expansion soon SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar on Tuesday said that the State

the Assembly, which will be held on ensuing November 4. Mr. Khattar told

Cabinet will be expanded

after the special session of

presspersons in New Delhi .....

A party source said "nothing much should be read into the meeting as it was a customary one among the family members."

Deepavali greetings The meeting took place at the family's farmhouse in Teja Khera in Sirsa district and Assembly session on November 4. The formal subjects of

requested to convene the

that the Governor had been

the Assembly session agenda include the oath of MLAs and election of the Speaker. The Cabinet will be expanded after the special session," he said.

Deepavali greetings were exchanged.

"The two brothers had a cordial conversation," said the source.

The INLD, led by former Chief Minister O.P. Chautala saw a split in 2018 after a bitter power struggle between Mr. Ajay Chautala, who is

tence in a teacher recruitment scam, and Mr. Abhay Chautala, who was the leader of the Opposition in the Assembly and had been running the party since 2013. Amid the family feud, Mr. Ajay Chautala and Mr. Dushyant Chautala floated the JJP. In the recent Assembly

serving a 10-year jail sen-

pressive debut by securing 10 seats, and struck a deal with the BJP to form a coalition government. The INLD saw a near

polls, the JJP made an im-

washout from the political arena by winning just one

Ahead of Mr. Dushyant Chautala's oath as Deputy Chief Minister last week, Mr. Ajay Chautala was released from the Tihar jail on a twoweek furlough.

## Incoming CJI seen as 'practical judge', a boon to litigants

Justice Sharad Arvind Bobde pushed for mediation of the Ayodhya dispute, is a votary of continuous hearing of a case

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL NEW DELHI

Justice Sharad Arvind Bobde is what lawyers call a "practical judge". A judge who crafts a well-thought-out solution in a knotty case, which may otherwise have taken years to resolve.

In his hearings, one witnesses Justice Bobde listen carefully to both sides before suggesting a remedy suitable to all.

Eminent American jurist Benjamin N. Cardozo, in a compilation of lectures titled 'The Nature of Judicial Process', quotes W.G. Miller to describe what a boon a practical judge is to the litigant. "The client cares little for a 'beautiful case'! He wishes it settled somehow on the most favourable terms he can obtain."

Justice Bobde, appointed the 47th Chief Justice of India by the President, has shown his propensity for practical and amiable resolutions twice recently.

It was Justice Bobde on the Constitution Bench who first pushed for mediation of the Ayodhya dispute in order to "heal hearts and minds". Again, in the long-drawn

BCCI dispute, Justice Bobde took the practical path. Rather than countless court hearings, in a case which seemed to grow new branches of dispute every time, Justice Bobde appointed an amicus curiae to resolve the problems of the stakeholders and ordered the hold-



Principal Secretary to the PM P.K. Mishra, right, presenting the warrant of appointment to Justice Bobde . • ANI

ing of elections in the BCCI. This he accomplished in a handful of hearings. Recently, Justice Bobde

was heard saying in his courtroom that it was only lately that the judges had understood the benefits of hearing

a case continuously, without a break, as they had heard the Ayodhya dispute. This may be an indication that, in future, important cases may be heard on a day-to-day basis in the apex court. Justice Bobde had also led

the in-house committee which had enquired into the sexual harassment allegations against CJI Ranjan Gogoi by a former Supreme Court employee, the first in the history of the Supreme Court. The committee later gave the CJI a 'clean chit'.

**Notable judgments** 

His notable judgments include his opinion upholding privacy as a fundamental right. He wrote that the first and natural home for a right

of privacy is in Article 21 at the very heart of 'personal liberty' and life itself. "There are innumerable activities which are virtually incapable of being performed at all and in many cases with dignity unless an individual is left alone or is otherwise empowered to ensure his or her privacy," he wrote. The judge was also part of

the Bench which insisted that a citizen cannot be deprived of essential services and welfare subsidies of the State for lack of an Aadhaar card. Justice Bobde was a member of the Bench which suspended the sale of firecrackers in the National Capital Region in 2016, to curb pollution. Justice Bobde is scheduled to retire on April 23, 2021.

THE HINDU DELHI WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2019

## India, Saudi Arabia condemn terrorism

No particular religion, race or culture should be linked with international terror, says joint statement

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

India and Saudi Arabia on Tuesday condemned the recent drone attacks on the Aramco petroleum processing facilities at Abqaiq and Khurais in eastern Saudi

In a joint statement issued at the end of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit, both sides also condemned terrorism in all forms and stated that no particular religion, race or culture should be linked with international terrorism.

An announcement by the Ministry of External Affairs declared that both sides sealed 12 MoUs on issues such as preventing narcotics trafficking, renewable energy, training of diplomats, defence industry production, security collaboration, and the use of RuPay cards in Saudi Arabia.

The MEA's Secretary in charge of Economic Relations, T.S. Tirumurti said that the discussion also considered possibilities of increasing Indian investments in Saudi Arabia. India, he



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with King Abdullah II of Jordan in Riyadh on Tuesday. • PTI

said, has not 'pledged' any amount for Saudi Arabia, but there is a chance of greater private investment from India to Saudi Arabia.

India also cleared an MoU that will help Haj pilgrims to travel comfortably in Saudi Arabia during the pilgrimage

Prime Minister Modi who

reached Rivadh late on Monday evening, held a series of consultations with Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman Al Saud, Minister of Energy, Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud, Minister of Foreign Affairs and with King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud.

During an interaction at the trade summit, Mr. Modi also pushed for greater respect for international laws and conventions and urged for reform of the UN Security Council.

"Some countries have become too big and don't want to obey rules. But I think they have to respect and conduct themselves according to the global rules," he said.

Both sides discussed a number of regional conflicts like the war in Syria and Yemen and sought lasting peace in the Palestinian territories for the establishment of the independent Palestinian state based on the pre-1967 borders with "Jerusalem as its capital."

On the sidelines of the summit, Mr. Modi met King Abdullah II of Jordan.

"Both leaders exchanged views on working closely together to strengthen our ties across sectors, especially in trade & investment, human resource development & people-to-people ties," External Affairs Ministry spokes-Raveesh tweeted.

The two leaders met last month on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly session in New York.

Mr. Modi had met King Abdullah for the first time on the sidelines of the UNGA in September 2015. This was followed by a visit by the then president Pranab Mukherjee to Jordan in October 2015.

(With PTI inputs)

## Manipur faces stir as Naga settlement 'deadline' nears

NGOs call for a civil uprising and collective resolution

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

An umbrella organisation of non-governmental organisations in Manipur has announced a 20-hour protest on October 31, the "deadline" for arriving at a solution to the protracted Naga political problem.

The Coordination Committee on Manipur Integrity (COCOMI) has asked the people, irrespective of their religion and ethnicity, to suspend all normal activities on Thursday for protesting against a peace deal that could "challenge" the State's territorial integrity.

"The call to people is for building up a civil uprising and a collective resolution to determine our own future in case the final Naga agreement challenges Manipur's territorial integrity, economy, cultural practices and administrative set-up," CO-COMI coordinator Sunil Karam said.

The protest, expected to



Keeping the peace: Soldiers stand guard in Kohima on Tuesday ahead of the deadline to conclude the Naga talks. • AP

shut down at least five districts straddling the Imphal Valley, is scheduled from 4 a.m. to midnight.

Manipur, along with Arunachal Pradesh and Assam, fears losing large swathes of land if the Centre is working towards an "inclusive settlement" covering all Naga-inhabited areas of northeast.

The apprehension stems from speculation that the Centre and the Isak-Muivah faction of the National Socialist Council of Nagaland (NSCN-IM) reached an agreement that would lead to the redrawing of boundaries of the States with a sizeable Naga population.

Nagaland and Manipur are also abuzz about the Centre, determined to conclude the peace talks by October 31, cold-shouldering the NSCN-IM and going for a settlement with a caucus of rival outfits called the Naga National Political Groups

## Sharp fall in number of Pakistanis visiting India

Bangladeshis make up the largest block of foreign visitors

VIJAITA SINGH NEW DELHI

There has been a sharp decline in the number of Pakistanis visiting India in the past three years, according to the annual report of the Union Home Ministry.

From 1,04,720 in 2016, the number fell to 57,283 in the whole of 2018 and the first three months of 2019. In 2017, it was 67,350, the re-

port said. A senior government official said that in August 2016, the Ministry put in place an electronic visa clearance process for Pakistani citizens. For countries under the restricted category, such as Pakistan, China and Afghanistan, any visa application has to be cleared by the Ministry after receiving inputs from the security agen-

cies within 60 days. The highest number of foreign visitors in the 15 months from January 1, 2018 to March 31, 2019 was from Bangladesh. Of the 1.37 crore foreigners who came to India during the period, around 28.76 lakh were from Bangladesh, followed by 18.63 lakh from the U.S. and 13.69 lakh from the U.K., the report said.

#### **Deportations** Out of the 1,982 foreigners

deported by the authorities of the Foreigners Regional

#### **Guest list**

Thanks to the strained ties between the neighbours, there



The Samihauta Express and other ransport between the two countries have been suspended post-Balakot.

Number of visitors Pakistan \*2018

long-term \*2011 to 2014 \*\*2018 and

Number of



SOURCE: ANNUAL REPORT OF THE UNION HOME MINISTRY

highest number belonged to Nigeria (847), followed by Bangladesh (491) and Somalia (124), the report said. In 2017, of the 1,303 deported, the highest were from Nigeria (601), followed by Bangladesh (328) and Afghanistan

In the 15-month period, a total of 16,121 long-term visas were granted to Pakistani nationals. A long-term visa is a precursor to Indian citizenship. The visa facility was first introduced in 2011 for persecuted Hindus from Pakistan. The LTVs granted to Pakistani Hindus from 2011 to 2014 stood at 14,726. The

Registration Office (FRRO) BJP government at the during the 15 months, the Centre will reintroduce the Citizenship Amendment Bill, 2019 in the coming winter session of Parliament. It proposes to grant citizenship to six religious minorities - Hindus, Jains, Sikhs, Parsis, Christians and Buddhists – from Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh who came to India before December 31, 2014.

> The Bill lapsed in the previous Lok Sabha as the House was dissolved following the election of a new Parliament.

In 2016 and 2017, a total of 2,298 and 4,712 LTVs, respectively, were approved for

#### Cong. claims 'Pak. link' to cargo ship stuck off Goa coast

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The Congress in Goa on Tuesday cited "RTI documents" to claim that the cargo vessel stuck off the State coast since October 25 originated from Pakistan.

The unmanned vessel 'MT Nu Shi Nalini', carrying 2,600 metric tonnes of naphtha, 50 tonnes of heavy oil and 19 tonnes of diesel, ran aground near Dona Paula close to the Goa Rai Bhavan.

The Congress demanded that Prime Minister Narendra Modi constitute a special investigating team (SIT) to investigate the matter.

Addressing reporters, Goa Pradesh Congress Committee (GPCC) president Girish Chodankar cited an RTI application filed by a local in July this year to highlight the "Pakistan link" of the ship.

"It is a matter of national security as the vessel, according to documents obtained under RTI, had originated from Pakistan," he said.

Mr. Chodankar, however, didn't reveal who had filed the RTI application, its purpose and the agency to which it was submitted.

Meanwhile, the State government has requested defence authorities to provide a helicopter to drop heavy pumps and equipment on the vessel to empty it out.

## Cong. plans offensive on slowdown

Senior party leaders to address press conferences across the country

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Stepping up its attack on the economic slowdown, the Congress on Tuesday finalised a plan to hold a series of press conferences across the country between November 1 and 8 to be addressed by senior leaders.

A senior Congress functionary said Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Ghulam Nabi Azad would meet the press in Hyderabad. Rajasthan Deputy Chief



Senior leader Mallikarjun

while Ajay Maken will be addressing a press conference in Lucknow. Former Defence Minister

A.K. Antony will be Kerala to address press conferences in the State.

To give final shape to this programme, Congress president Sonia Gandhi has convened a meeting of general secretaries and heads of the frontal organisations on Saturday.

The party will focus on

the economic slowdown, joblessness, agrarian distress and a proposed trade agreement called the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP).

The Congress argued that the RCEP trade agreement would open up the Indian markets to 15 countries including China, Australia among others. The party held the view that it would affect agriculture, dairy farming, textile, steel and au-

## 'Kudankulam plant control systems are hack-proof'

Official says it is not connected to a network or Internet

P. SUDHAKAR TIRUNELVELI

Officials of the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant (KKNPP) on Tuesday said a cyberattack on the unit was not possible as its systems were all standalone.

R. Ramdoss, Training Superintendent and Information Officer, KKNPP, said in a press release that in the Kudankulam and other Indian nuclear power plants, control systems were not connected to an outside cyber network and Internet.

#### Tweet in question

On Monday night, Pukhraj Singh, an independent expert on cybersecurity, tweeted that domain controller-level access at the plant had been breached. "Extremely mission-critical targets were

However, a senior official



of the KKNPP told The Hindu that at the isolated networking system of the KKNPP Universal Serial Buses (USB), compact discs could not be used as these ports had been deactivated in all the systems. It could not be accessed by any of the networks from any part of the world. Moreover, all the systems had been loaded with home-grown firewalls to check hackers' attempts, if any. "When an Iranian nuclear power plant came under suspected cyberattack. **Nuclear Power Corporation** of India Ltd. (NPCIL) took all precautionary measures though it had already put in place an isolated network.

The official revealed that a cybersecurity audit was conducted recently after a futile attempt to hack the NPCIL's isolated network was made.

"So there is no need for panic as the healthy reactors are generating power," he

Asked about the possibility of hand-held communication devices being used, the official said there was no possibility of smuggling such devices into the plant premises as a two-tier check was conducted every day on the employees and the contract workers.

# Kharge will be in Jaipur

Minister Sachin Pilot would address the media Bengaluru.

to industry.

## House to vote on impeachment probe

We are taking this step to eliminate any doubt about the process, says Speaker Nancy Pelosi

SRIRAM LAKSHMAN

In a change in strategy, the Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, Nancy Pelosi, announced that the House will hold a formal vote on the impeachment inquiry. The vote, which is planned for Thursday, comes some five weeks after House Democrats launched an inquiry into whether President Donald Trump had violated his oath of office by pressuring Ukraine's President to investigate Mr. Trump's political opponents.

Members of the House will now have to go on record with where they stand on the impeachment – a politically risky situation for House Democrats who are from districts with a thin Democratic majority, one of the reasons why Ms. Pelosi had been hesitant to hold such a vote in the first place.

The move also comes in the face of the Trump administration insisting that the ongoing inquiry is not constitutionally valid having not been put to vote. White House Counsel Pat Cipollone had written to Democratic leaders in the House and Ms. Pelosi in early October, saying the White House would not cooperate with the inquiry. Some State Department officials have defied the White House's order not to A federal court last week

had, however, ruled that the inquiry was legal. Nevertheless, Ms. Pelosi is not taking any chance. "We are taking this step to eliminate any doubt as to whether the Trump Administration may withhold documents, prevent witness testimony, disregard duly authorised subpoenas, continue obstructing the House of Representatives," Ms. Pelosi said on Monday in a letter to her Democratic colleagues.

The House Resolution posted on Ms. Pelosi's website read: "Directing certain committees to continue their ongoing investigations as



President Donald Trump in Chicago on Monday. •AP

part of the existing House of Representatives inquiry into whether sufficient grounds exist for the House of Representatives to exercise its Constitutional power to impeach Donald John Trump, President of the United States of America, and for other purposes.'

This resolution establishes the procedure for hearings that are open to the American people, authorises the disclosure of deposition transcripts... and sets forth due process rights for the President and his Counsel," Ms. Pelosi said, suggesting that the next phase is likely to involve witnesses testifying in open session.

Sole power

According to the U.S. Constitution, the House has the "sole power" to impeach a President, and if impeached, a President is tried by the Senate and removed only if convicted there. The President is likely to be impeached given that the Democrats have a 234-197

Republicans.

STANLY JOHNY

The death of Abu Bakr al-

Baghdadi, the founder lead-

er of the Islamic State (IS), is

a signal moment in the fight

against terrorism. Baghdadi

blew himself up in an under-

ground tunnel in a Syrian vil-

lage where he was hiding

when he was surrounded by

U.S. special forces. In the

few years he led the IS, the

48-year-old had overseen

the rise and retreat of the IS.

Born in Iraq's Samarra,

Baghdadi, whose real name

was Ibrahim Awwad bin

Ibrahim al-Badri, did his

primary education in his ho-

metown and higher studies

in Baghdad. He graduated

and finished his doctoral re-

search in the Saddam Centre

for the Reciting of the Qu-

ran. His initial political acti-

vism was with the Muslim

Brotherhood. While the

Brotherhood stood for main-

stream politics, Baghdadi

was more attracted towards

the writings of Sayyid Qutb,

the radical Islamist who was

In 2004, he was arrested

in Fallujah where he went to

religious leader of the in-

mates. Some of the inmates

recalled him as an energetic

scholar and a crazy football

fan (he was called the 'Mara-

dona of Camp Bucca'). In

Bucca, Baghdadi established

a network of both Saddam-

era military leaders and Isla-

mist radicals, who would

rise to the top command of

After Abu Musab Zarqawi

al-Baghdadi) were

and two of his successors

(Abu Ayub al-Misri and

the IS in a few years.

hanged in Egypt in 1966.

Who's Baghdadi?

The Republicans introduced a resolution in the Senate last Thursday condemning the House inquiry. On Monday, the White House and Republicans on Capitol Hill criticised the planned

"Speaker Pelosi is finally admitting what the rest of America already knew – that Democrats were conducting an unauthorised impeachment proceeding, refusing to give the President due process, and their secret, shady, closed door depositions are completely and irreversibly illegitimate," White House Press Secretary Stephanie Grisham said in a statement.

However, Mr. Trump reacted differently, asking his colleagues on the Hill to focus on the case itself. "I'd rather go into the details of the case rather than process," Mr. Trump told reporters on Monday. "Process is good but I think you ought to look at the case."

#### meet a friend who was on America's wanted list. He was transferred to Camp Bucca, a U.S.-run detention centre in southern Iraq. Durbe done. Many tests and ing his 10-month stay in Bucca, Baghdadi emerged as a

Dr. Khan had earlier said

the hospital last week after his platelets count dropped to a critical level and kept fluctuating. He also suffered a minor heart attack on Saturday while being treated at a Services Hospital in La-

# His death is a blow to IS, but insurgency is likely to continue

Islamic State after Baghdadi

Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi

killed by American attacks, the leadership of a weakened al-Qaeda in Iraq fell into Abu Bakr Baghdadi's hands. The group had already renamed itself as the Islamic State in Iraq, revealing its ambitions for power. When the civil crisis broke out in Syria in 2011, Baghdadi found an opportunity to regroup his organisation. He despatched a group of jihadists across the border to

#### **NEWS ANALYSIS**

fight against the regime of President Bashar al-Assad. This group, under the leadership of Abu Mohammad al-Julani, would become Jabhat al-Nusra, al-Qaeda's Syria branch. The IS is a breakaway faction of al-Nusra. Under Baghdadi's leadership, the IS grew fast by attracting thousands of youth from around the world and expanding territories quick-

The fall of the Caliphate The fall began in Kobane, the Syrian border town, in early 2015, when Kurdish People Protection Units (YPG) militias defeated the IS. After that, the YPG took back most of the border region with help from the U.S. In central Syria, the IS was stopped in the outskirts of the ancient city Palmyra by the government forces. In

Iraq, they faced resistance

from the Iraqi Army. Sur-

rounded by enemies, the IS

the core of its territory, spread from Der Ezzor in eastern Syria to Mosul in Iraq. But after its expansion was stopped, the U.S.-allied troops started attacking this core. The Syrian Democratic Forces, led by the YPG, attacked the IS in Syria while in Iraq, the Iraqi Army, Irantrained Shia militias and the Peshmerga of Iraqi Kurdistan led the charge. They liberated all the major cities such as Raqqa, Der Ezzour, Falujjah, Ramadi and Mosul one by one, with help from the U.S. By mid-2018, the IS Caliphate was physically destroyed, and its soldiers were on the run.

remained concentrated on

#### What's next? While the IS is certainly on

the backfoot now, the insurgency is not defeated vet. The death of Zarqawi did not bring an end to AQI. The death of Osama bin Laden did not mean that al-Qaeda central was finished. The IS is primarily an insurgency that tried to establish a proto-state. The organisational structure, which is largely decentralised with autonomous cells taking their own tactical decisions, also means that the group will survive the loss of its leaders. Even after it lost territories, IS cells continued to carry out terror attacks in Iraq and Syria. As long as Iraq and Syria remain chaotic and lawless, the IS remains would continue to find opportunities to strike a comeback.

The group also has loyalist factions and affiliates in different parts of the world. The Boko Haram in Nigeria is an IS affiliate. The IS has a province in Afghanistan. It has operational units in Libya and Egypt's Sinai. All these suggests, the threats from the IS are far from over despite the losses it suffered.

#### Lebanon PM resigns over mass protests

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Lebanon's Prime Minister Saad Hariri resigned on Tuesday, bowing to antigovernment demonstrators shortly after Hezbollah rampaged through the main protest camp in Beirut, chasing away protesters. The Prime Minister said

he was stepping down after hitting a "dead end" in trying to resolve the crisis, which has paralysed the country for nearly two

MEERA SRINIVASAN

month in office.

Sri Lanka's Supreme Court

on Tuesday extended an ear-

lier interim order on the

death penalty, preventing

any attempt by President

Maithripala Sirisena from or-

dering the execution of drug

convicts during his last

fenders, President Sirisena

said in June that he had

signed death warrants for

four persons convicted in

cases of drug offence. "They

will be carried out soon," he

told the media then. Howev-

er, following over a dozen

petitions challenging the de-

Vowing to hang drug of-

## Nawaz Sharif fighting for life: doctor

Islamabad High Court grants bail to the former PM on medical grounds

MEHMAL SARFRAZ

The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Tuesday granted bail on medical grounds to former Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif for eight weeks.

Mr. Sharif's personal doctor said he remains 'critical and unstable'

Mr. Sharif's brother Shehbaz Sharif had filed a plea seeking the suspension of his brother's sentence in the in the Al-Azizia Steel Mills corruption case. He had been sentenced to seven years in

extends stay on death penalty

the move early in July, pre-

venting the country's first

hanging in over four de-

cades. On Tuesday, the Su-

preme Court extended the

interim order until Decem-

Earlier this month, Mr.

Sirisena promised to hang

"at least one drug dealer"

before his tenure ends, if the

Supreme Court gave a fa-

vourable ruling, according

to a report published in the

Sri Lanka has maintained a

moratorium on capital pun-

ishment since 1976 and not

English daily *The Island*.

'To save the nation'

cision, the top court stayed executed anyone in 43 years,

+ Sri Lanka's Supreme Court

Sirisena had vowed to hang 'at least one drug dealer'

ber 9.

jail for corruption with regard to the setting up of Al-Azizia Steel Mills in Saudi Arabia by his family. The court had granted interim bail to the former Prime Minister on Saturday in the same case.

'Condition unstable'

Speaking to The Hindu, Mr. Sharif's personal physician Dr. Adnan Khan said it is the prerogative of Mr. Sharif to decide what he wants in terms of his treatment and how to go about it.

"The former Prime Minis-

though more than 400 per

sons have received con-

Justifying his decision

then, President Sirisena

said: "I signed the document

to execute the drug offen-

ders not with hatred and

cruelty towards anyone, but

to save the nation and the fu-

ture generation from the

drug menace, which is our

Presidential hopeful Sa-

jith Premadasa has endorsed

the death penalty, though

his UNP is against it. Other

contestants, including Gota-

baya Rajapaksa, have not

commented on the issue.

worst social catastrophe."

firmed death sentences.



ter remains critical and unstable. There is a strong suspicion of malignancy due to enlarged lymph nodes. It is very early to say what has to scans are pending and diagnosis of his condition has still not been made."

in the court that there is a fear that Mr. Sharif may lose his life due to his worsening Mr. Sharif was brought to

## U.K. heads towards pre-Christmas poll

With Labour Party's backing, Johnson is pushing a Bill that calls for Dec. 12 election

REUTERS

Britain was heading towards its first December election in almost a century after Prime Minister Boris Johnson's bet on breaking the Brexit deadlock with an early ballot gained support from opposition parties on Tuesday.

As the European Union agreed a third delay to the divorce that was originally supposed to take place on March 29, the U.K., its Parliament and its electorate remain divided on how or indeed whether to go ahead with Brexit.

Mr. Johnson, who had promised to deliver Brexit on October 31, has repeatedly demanded an election to end what he casts as a night-



Early ballot: British Prime Minister Boris Johnson speaking in the House of Commons in London on Tuesday. • AP

mare paralysis that is sapping public trust in politicians by preventing any Brexit outcome at all.

After Parliament refused Mr. Johnson his third demand for an election on Monday, he will try to force a Bill through Parliament on Tuesday that calls for a December 12 election. It needs a simple Parliament.

The opposition Labour Party's leader, Jeremy Corbyn, said the condition of ruling out a no-deal Brexit had been met so he would support an election.

"Whatever date the House

decides the election will be, I'm ready for it, we're ready for it," Mr. Corbyn said. "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," he

The first Christmas election in Britain since 1923 would be highly unpredictable: Brexit has variously fatigued and enraged swathes of voters while eroding traditional loyalties to the two major parties, Conservative and Labour.

Some politicians feel an election so close to Christmas could irritate voters, while campaigning and getting the voters out could be hampered by cold weather.



Hong Kong bars activist

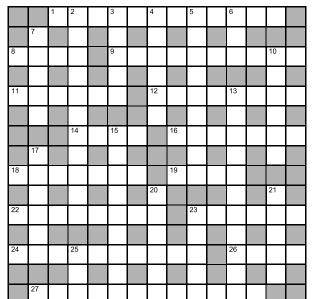
HONG KONG Hong Kong democracy activist Joshua Wong was barred on Tuesday from standing in upcoming local elections after months of huge and frequently violent protests in the city. AFP

#### U.S. plans to bar purchases from Huawei and ZTE

The U.S. plans to vote on November 19 to designate China's Huawei and ZTE as national security risks, barring their U.S. rural carrier customers from tapping an \$8.5 billion government fund to purchase equipment or services. REUTERS

#### **THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12767**

Log on to www.crossword.thehindu.com for more puzzles





To play an interactive version of this crossword

ACROSS

1 Batting collapses at final in Edgbaston kept one engrossed (4,1,5,2)

8 Lead cut short by tea (4) 9 Drives from bat showing positive energy, with runs in boundaries (10)

11 Point saved run easily being quick (6) 12 Case of century (not out)

certain to become object of admiration (8)

14 Utter pace getting a wicket (4)

16 Nearly bowl a maiden to end the innings (7)

18 Hide in field remaining outside ring (7) 19 Grand century on return to tie

22 One out beaten in flight having

hollow stance (8) 23 Top ball breaking off stump

24 Deserve bye, throw being wild

over fielder's head (2,6,2) 26 Has a problem scoring right off

27 Opening batting, tense except

the bat (1.1.1.1)

for power play (12)

DOWN

2 This game, bit sticky so to speak (2.2.5.2)

3 Love West Indies, during peak of their time that is (2,3)

4 Shot clips base part of bat's handle (6)

(set by Buzzer)

5 Unfurling late sweep, is rolling on (9)

6 Rule change to a mode of dismissal in the middle (3)

**7** Bit tough chasing second (5)

10 Most remarkable attributes of spinner are standout (6)

13 Mostly good team, semi-poor in the past (4,4,3)

15 Players on field in a difficult spot after dropping catch?

17 Line say close to edge of crease results in extra (3,3)

20 Bye is merely bonus conceded

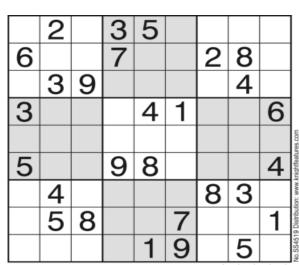
21 One big hit brings belief ... (5)

23 ... one about fellow not in good form (5)

occasionally (3,3)

25 Stumped perhaps by defeat with lead in excess (3)

#### **SUDOKU**



DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

Sc	Solution to puzzle 12766 Solution to yesterday's Sudoku																							
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#### **FAITH**

#### Ethics of war

After the Gitopadesa to Arjuna is over and when all is ready for the Mahabharata war to begin, Yudhishtira puts away his weapons, discards his armour, gets down from the chariot and walks towards the Kaurava army. All are puzzled and perplexed. Arjuna goes after Yudhishtira to learn the reason for this sudden and strange reaction. Yudhishtira, immersed in his own thoughts, does not give any reply. The all-knowing Krishna tells Arjuna that perhaps Yudhishtira wishes to get the permission of the elders and preceptors under whom the Pandavas had been trained.

In a discourse, Sri B. Sundarkumar drew attention to the fact that if Yudhishtira seeking permission from members of the opposing camp is to be appreciated as a worthy gesture, equally creditable is the way the elders respond. For when Yudhishtira approaches the great stalwarts, Bhishma, Drona, Kripa and Salya in succession, they all agree in one voice that what he has done is right and that they would never have pardoned him if he had gone ahead and fought without seeking their permission. Bhishma is happy to bless Yudhishtira. He says that success is sure for him since he is always aligned to dharma. Dharma and victory are synonymous. It hence follows that wherever there is dharma, there is Krishna; and wherever Krishna is, there is victory.

To Yudhishtira's query as to how to defeat him, the grand old Pitamaha, ever invincible, tells him that the secret will be given away on the night of the ninth day of battle. He also explains that he is indebted to the Kauravas. Man is a slave to wealth, but the irony is that wealth is not subservient to any one. Drona, Kripa and Salya also echo somewhat similar sentiments on loyalty and the inevitable obligation that gets attached to those who are dependent on others.

online, scan the QR code

#### MARKET WATCH

	29-10-2019	% CHANGE
Sensex	39,832	1.48
US Dollar	70.84	0.08
Gold	38,857	-1.39

NIFTY 50		
	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports		
Asian Paints		
Axis Bank		
Bajaj Auto		
Bajaj Finserv	8150.90	149.40
Bajaj Finance	4047.25	68.35
Bharti Airtel		
BPCL		
Britannia Ind		
Cipla	473.05	12.00
Coal India	209.75	6.90
Dr Reddys Lab		
Eicher Motors	22049.40	725.75
GAIL (India)	125.85	2.20
Grasim Ind		
HCL Tech	1139.75	9.25
HDFC	2113.05	7.70
HDFC Bank	1242.50	4.80
Hero MotoCorp	2701.55	32.65
Hindalco	184.30	2.20
Hind Unilever	2160.20	20.45
ICICI Bank	477.40	7.85
IndusInd Bank	1315.30	38.65
Bharti Infratel		
Infosys	650.65	1.80
Indian OilCorp	144.35	1.65
ITC	253.25	2.85
JSW Steel	234.25	14.90
Kotak Bank	1575.55	17.45
L&T	1461.10	26.70
M&M	611.80	20.30
Maruti Suzuki	7721.30	299.20
Nestle India Ltd.	14699.75	-113.65
NTPC	119.90	1.10
ONGC	142.15	2.30
PowerGrid Corp	201.05	-1.30
Reliance Ind	1467.05	32.80
State Bank	280.65	-1.15
Sun Pharma	421.95	4.20
Tata Motors		
Tata Steel		
TCS		
Tech Mahindra		
Titan		
UltraTech Cement		
UPL		
Vedanta		
Wipro		
Wipro YES Bank		

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on October 29										
CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL								
US Dollar	70.64	70.96								
Euro	78.36	78.71								
British Pound	90.85	91.27								
Japanese Yen (100)	64.88	65.18								
Chinese Yuan	10.00.	10.04								
Swiss Franc	70.98	71.31								
Singapore Dollar	51.84.	52.07								
Canadian Dollar	54.14	54.39								
Malaysian Ringitt	16.88	16.96								

## IndiGo soars with \$33-bn A320neo order

300-plane order is Airbus' largest ever with a single airline; to take IndiGo's A320neo count to 730

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

InterGlobe Aviation Ltd., which runs India's biggest airline IndiGo has placed an order for 300 A320neo family aircraft worth over \$33 billion (₹2,31,000 crore) in list price to support its growth

This marks one of Airbus' largest aircraft orders ever with a single airline operator.

This order from IndiGo comprises a mix of A320neo, A321neo and A321XLR aircraft. This will take IndiGo's total number of A320neo family aircraft orders to 730. The airline did not provide the break-up of the mix and time of delivery of the air-

Since its first A320neo aircraft was delivered to IndiGo in March 2016, its fleet of A320neo family aircraft has grown into the world's largest with 97 A320neo air-



Extra mile: The aircraft is expected to deliver an additional long range of up to 4,700 nautical miles . • B. VELANKANNI RAJ

craft, operating alongside 128 A320ceos.

Gangwal not in picture

This is for the first time that the airline has placed its biggest ever aircraft order without the involvement of cofounder Rakesh Gangwal, who, till recently, was the architect of IndiGo's fleet acquisition, induction and network planning. Currently, both founders are locked in a feud.

"This order is an important milestone as it reiterates our mission of strengthening air connectivity in India, which will, in turn, boost

economic growth and mobility," Ronojoy Dutta, CEO, IndiGo, said in a statement.

"India is expected to continue with its strong aviation growth and we are well on our way to build the world's best air transportation system to serve more customers and to deliver on our promise of providing low fares and a courteous, hassle-free experience to them," he

**Fuel efficient** 

"The fuel-efficient A320neo family aircraft will allow IndiGo to maintain its strong focus on lowering operating costs and delivering fuel efficiency with high standards of reliability. The choice of engine manufacturer for this order will be made at a later date," said Rivaz Peermohamed, chief Aircraft Acquisition and Financing Officer of IndiGo.

IndiGo is keen on the A321XLR, which is the next evolutionary step from the A321LR, and which provides more range and payload. This aircraft will help IndiGo

to fly long haul routes. The aircraft will deliver an extra long range of up to 4,700 nautical miles, with 30% lower fuel burn per seat compared with previous generation competitor jets.

In June this year, IndiGo had placed an order to buy engines worth \$20 billion for its future fleet of aircraft ordered before the current

"This new order is on expected lines. It will be for both replacement of fleet and to meet growth plans. Now, IndiGo will focus on international markets including medium to long haul [routes]," said Kapil Kaul, CEO South Asia, Centre for Asia Pacific Aviation (CAPA).

## Awaiting clarity on AGR, Bharti defers Q2 results

'Moving DoT to arrive at total amount'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Bharti Airtel has deferred the release of its earnings report for July-September 2019 quarter till November 14, as it seeks clarity and government support over the dues of about ₹42,000 crore it owes to the exchequer following the recent Supreme Court judgment on calculation of adjusted gross revenue in favour of the government.

The company's board of directors were to meet on Tuesday to approve the audited financial results for the second quarter and half year ended September 30,

However, the management recommended that this agenda be deferred till November 14, 2019 "on account of the fact that more clarity is needed on the AGR

matter arising out of recent judgment of Hon'ble Supreme Court."

In a communique to the stock exchanges, the company added that it was approaching the Department of Telecom to seek "clarity on the total amounts involved and request for their support to deal with this adverse outcome".

"The board of directors, at its meeting held today, has accepted the management's recommendation and deferred the agenda item relating to the approval of the said financial results till Thursday, November 14, 2019," it added.

As a result of the Supreme Court decision, the industry, which is reeling under a debt of about ₹4 lakh crore, might need to pay about ₹1.42 lakh crore to the government.

## Slowdown temporary, reforms will reverse trend: Mukesh

'Steps taken since August will bear fruit in next few quarters'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Industrialist Mukesh Ambani on Tuesday said the slowdown in the Indian economy was temporary and the recent measures taken by the government would help reverse the trend in the coming quarters.

Speaking at Saudi Arabia's annual investment forum, also known as 'Davos in the desert', he said the reforms undertaken by the Indian government since August would bear fruit in the next

"Yes, there has been a

slight slowdown [in the Indian economy]. But my own view is that it is temporary," he said at the Future Investment Initiative (FII) conference here

"All the reform measures that have been taken in the last few months will see the outcome and I am quite sure that in coming quarters this will reverse," he said.

The Indian economy, which, till recently was hailed as the fastest-growing major economy, has seen its growth rate decline in each of the past five quarters, falling to 5% in April-June 2019

from 8% recorded a year earlier. This is the lowest growth reported since 2013 and has largely been attributed to the slowdown in investment that has now broadened into consumption, driven by financial stress among rural households and weak job creation.

The government has taken a string of policy measures over the past couple of months to shore up the economy and revive credit. These measures should gradually improve the flow of credit and nudge up growth, analysts have said.

## Automobile sales witness Diwali boom

Up to 50% jump in PV retail sales in festival season was driven by discounts

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The festive season has brought some relief to automakers, with passenger vehicle makers witnessing up to a 50% jump in retail sales during the Diwali period driven mainly by high discounts – as compared to the festive season last year.

Even though this growth comes on a low base of last year, it should be noted that auto sales have been declining for nearly a year.

"We are happy to share that customers have responded well to our festive offers as reflected in 50% more retail in the Diwali period. Additionally, to double



this joy, the day of Dhanteras alone witnessed a retail growth of 49%," a Tata Motors spokesperson told The Hindu.

While the company did not share absolute numbers, the spokesperson said given the increasing interest of customers, the auto giant was "cautiously optimistic of more growth while the offers

**Dhanteras delivery** 

Likewise, Mahindra and Mahindra said that on the day of Dhanteras (October 25), the company delivered close to 13,500 vehicles across the country.

"This figure was substantially higher than the deliveries last year on Dhanteras," the company added.

The country's largest carmaker Maruti Suzuki did not comment on the number of vehicles sold, but said that with the previous festive season, it expected sales to be "marginally positive, thanks to the biggest promotions ev-Hyundai Motor India had

sales had picked up this fes-

tive season and, compared

sold about 12,500 cars on Dhanteras alone, which was nearly 31% of the company's monthly sales in September. Rakesh Srivastava, manag-

ing director, Nissan India, said following the launch of new model variants along with special financing offers, the company was seeing high traction in the form of increased enquiries across the country, including Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities.

## + Auto, metal stocks drive Sensex up 581 points

Earnings, auto sales to drive indices

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Benchmark indices on Tuesday rallied following gains in auto and metal stocks. The BSE Sensex closed at 39,831.84, up 581 points, or a gain of 1.48%. Similarly, the NSE Nifty closed at 11786.85, up 159 points, or a gain of 1.37%.

Top Sensex gainers include Tata Motors at 16.63%, Tata Steel (9.09%), Yes Bank (6.3%), Axis Bank (4.06%) and Maruti, which gained 4.01%. The bulls were back in action as the Indian markets started the week on a strong note led by positive global cues. The BSE Midcap and Smallcap indices gained 1.1% and 0.6% respectively, yet underper-

formed the benchmark. "Barring telecom, all sectors witnessed buying interest, with metal and auto

gaining over 4%, followed by capital goods, oil and gas and banking, which were up I-I.2%," said Alit Mishra, V-P, Research, Religare Broking.

He said in the near term, markets are likely to be driven by earnings outcome and auto volume numbers, a crucial indicator of revival in consumer spending. "Global cues will also in-

duce volatility as expectations are high from the ongoing U.S.-China trade talks. The outcome of the U.S. Fed meet, scheduled for October 29-30, will also influence trends," he said.

Sameet Chavan, chief analyst, Technical and Derivatives, Angel Broking said, "Most of the global uncertainty seems to have subsided. Tuesday's rally had a broad-based participation and hence should be considered as a robust one.'

## Govt. to work on relief package for telcos

Industry stares at over ₹1.4 lakh-crore payout to exchequer

YUTHIKA BHARGAVA

The government has constituted a Committee of Secretaries (CoS), headed by Cabinet Secretary Rajiy Gauba, to work out a relief package for the telecom sector, a move that may help mitigate the impact of the more than ₹1.4 lakh crore that the telcos may need to pay the exchequer following a recent Supreme Court order.

The CoS will "examine all aspects and suggest measures to mitigate the financial stress being faced by the telecom sector, keeping in view the larger public interest and improving telecom services for the subscribers," a source in the Department

of Telecom (DoT) said. The source added that the CoS will review various demands made by the industry, including deferment of spectrum auction payment due for the next two years,



Data price at an average of ₹8 per GB is perhaps the lowest in the world.

reduction in spectrum usage charges and the Universal Service Obligation Fund

"Representations have been received from major telecom service providers regarding the financial stress faced by them... the recent Supreme Court order is expected to further add to this," the source said, adding that a case is also being made for viable pricing for

voice and data, which falls in the realm of sectoral regulator TRAI, the source said.

TRAI is expected to examine prescribing a minimum charge for voice and data services to ensure longterm viability and robust financial health of the sector, the source added.

The panel is expected to submit recommendations in a time-bound manner.

On Monday, Sunil Bharti Mittal of Bharti Airtel again met Telecom Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad and Telecom Secretary Anshu Prakash, while Kumar Mangalam Birla of Vodafone Idea had sought time to meet the

₹4 lakh-crore debt

The industry's debt currently stands at about ₹4 lakh crore. Last week, the Supreme Court upheld the government's position on including revenue from non-telecommunication businesses in calculating the annual adjusted gross revenue (AGR) of telecom companies, a share of which is paid as licence and spec trum fee to the exchequer. Following the order, the telcos may have to pay the government ₹1.42 lakh crore within three months.

According to the DoT's calculations, Bharti Airtel's liability stands at about ₹42,000 crore while Vodafone Idea may have to shell out about ₹40,000 crore. Reliance Jio may have to pay

about ₹13 crore. Noting the gross revenue of the industry had fallen between 2017-18 and 2018-19, the source said the price of data for the customer at an average of ₹8 per GB is perhaps the lowest in the world. Additionally, the average revenue per user per month has declined from ₹174 in 2014-15 to ₹l13 in 2018-19.

## Adani, U.S. group to set up data centres in India

To utilise infra developed by Adani

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

In a move to boost its foray into the data centre domain. Adani Group has announced that it is partnering with San Francisco-based Digital Realty, a leading global provider of data centre, co-location and interconnection solutions.

The Gujarat-based \$13-billion integrated business conglomerate is setting up a mega piece of data centre infrastructure in Hyderabad in Telangana.

As per the Memorandum of Understanding signed between Adani Enterprises Ltd. and Digital Realty, both firms will jointly evaluate developing and operating data centres, data centre parks and cultivating undersea cable provider communities of interest across India.

"Data centre infrastruc-

ture is critical to enable a Digital India and this partnership leverages several of the capabilities developed by the Adani Group in power generation, transmission, retail electricity distribution, access to waterfronts through the ports business, and real estate management," Gautam Adani, chairman of the Adani Group, said after the signing of the

agreement. He added that with one of the top five renewable energy companies in the world, the group's ability to power data centres with solar and wind energy is unique and addresses some of the challenges of building and operating data centres.

"We are excited by the opportunity to enter the Indian market with the Adani Group," Digital Realty CEO A. William Stein said.

#### RBI slaps ₹1 cr. penalty on Bandhan Bank

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a penalty of ₹1 crore on Bandhan Bank for violating licencing norms, the lender has informed the exchanges.

According to RBI's norms on universal banking licence, an entity which has received a banking licence needs to bring down the shareholding of its nonoperative financial holding company, in this case Bandhan Financial Holdings Limited, in the bank to 40% within three years from the date of commencement of business.

Bandhan Bank started functioning as a commercial bank in August 2015 and they were to comply with the RBI norms by August 2018.



Bank to focus on online sanctioning, disbursement: MD

N. ANAND CHENNAI

Public sector lender Indian Bank is planning to provide unsecured loans 'on the go,' said a top official.

"This is the one area we are thinking of taking forward," said Padmaja Chunduru, managing director and CEO, Indian Bank. "Now, on digital platforms many banks are giving personal loans. Indian Bank has not yet adopted [it] in full," she said.

"Indian Bank had started the practice of giving unsecured loans. But we are still offering it as a SMS service viz. the bank sends SMS to probable customers offering the loan. The customer has to approach the bank to get



the loan. However, with digitalisation, we will take forward the process of online sanctioning and disbursement of loans," she said.

Like any other financial institution, Indian Bank plans to offer unsecured loan upwards of ₹20,000 based on the salary slip of a customer. It could be a personal loan or vehicle loan and the tenure could range from 12 months to 24 months, she said. The city-based bank has

been investing in management information systems, big data, data mining. "But, these are all helpful to get basic information about a customer. We will now invest in predictive tools to do predictive analysis of a customer. For this, we will tieup with fintech firms to invest in mobile platforms and digitalisation," she said.

On the recent strike by the trade unions against the amalgamation of public sector banks, Ms. Chunduru said she had received positive feedback from the customers and staffers.

#### Petronet profit nearly doubles on lower tax

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Petronet LNG Ltd. on Tuesday reported a near doubling of net profit in September quarter as it derived benefit of lower corporate tax rate.

Net profit in July-September at ₹1,089 crore was 90% higher than the ₹572.89 crore net profit in the same period, said company CEO and MD Prabhat Singh told reporters here.

"Pursuant to the introduction of the lower tax rates for corporates by the government for FY 2019-20, the company has taken the benefit of lower corporate tax rate of 22% (as against 30%) in the current quarter," he said.

"Due to the same, there is a reversal of deferred tax liability of ₹380 crore."

## LMW to make machinery for Japan's DMG Mori

Company to produce about 10 units a month initially

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Textile machinery and machine tools manufacturer Lakshmi Machine Works (LMW) has started making vertical machining centre (CMX 600 Vi VMC) for DMG Mori for the Indian market.

The machine tool division of LMW will produce about 10 units a month for DMG Mori initially. "The production volume will increase in stages," according to a statement from DMG Mori.

The production is outtential for DMG Mori, Masasourced to LMW in India, "which makes possible a shorter lead time until deliv-Tuesday. ery than domestic production in Japan," the statement

India is a market with po-



Sanjay Jayavarthanavelu.

hiko Mori, its president, informed the media here on

"India is a growing market. We want to expand the customer base (in India) with the collaboration with

CMD, LMW, said the entire machinery will be assembled here and supplied. While the critical parts will be imported, LMW will do value addition. The existing facilities have been upgraded in some areas.

LMW," he said.

"The demand came from a product gap which is filled by competitors. We realised we could fill it together with the product (CMX 600 Vi VMC). So, we came together," he said. In a communication to

"We have the capacity to

increase volumes," he said.

Sanjay Jayavarthanavelu,

the stock exchanges, LMW has informed that the activity does not involve any additional capital expenditure.



## Adrenaline rushes into Gaul

As *Asterix* completes 60 years, it gets its first female hero in Adrenaline, daughter of Gaul chieftain Vercingetorix. We get exclusive access to panels from the new book

SWETA AKUNDI

Things are aflutter at the Gaulish village, home to our tiny but indomitable hero Asterix, and his strong, good-natured sidekick, Obelix. And it is all because of the arrival of one teenager -Adrenaline, daughter of Vercingetorix, the chieftain of the Gauls, in Asterix and the Chieftain's Daughter. Adrenaline not only has the Gaulish village in throes of teenage rebellion, but is the first female hero the comic has seen in its 60 years of existence.

Escorted by two Arverni chiefs, Adrenaline lands up in the village with a target on her back. She is being chased by Caesar and his legionnaires, thanks to her father, the chieftain Vercingetorix. Remember, the last time we saw him, he had grudgingly conceded defeat by laying his weapons down at (or rather,

at Alesia.

With long red hair in a plait that is reminiscent of, but out-Obelix's, Adrenaline stands with her arms crossed and a defiantly smug look on her face. What teenage character would be complete without headphones to shut the world out? Adrenaline wears gold ones.

As her name suggests, Adrenaline is determined and fierce, and it is upto Asterix and Obelix to keep her safe as the Romans try to hunt her down.

character who would be based on her seductive side as we usually do with female characters in Asterix. Most of the time, they are young attractive women who seduce Obelix and their role stops there," said Didier Conrad to the media. Conrad took over from Albert Uderzo as illustrator, and the writer Jean-Yves Ferri,

throwing them on) Caesar's feet

WOOF WIF WIF

"We didn't want to develop a

from René Goscinny in 2013. Both have, however, stuck closely to the original format ever

A MYSTERY IN THE VILLAGE

"In terms of vocabulary, it was quite amusing because I had to create a sort of teenage language for the time. We don't have a lot of documentation about that. So

the idea was to use certain expressions like teenagers do," said Ferri.

Why Adrenaline stands out As Didier pointed out, most of the female characters in the comics have been side-characters, better known as one of the main guys' spouses or love interests. That is not to say they weren't strong characters. Disposable as they were, they did always manage to squeeze out a couple of snorts from us.

WOOF

BOOKSHOPS PRI 14TH OCTOBER!

NO ONE

Take Impedimenta, for instance. An ambitious woman, as the village chief Vitalstatistix's

The new order (Clockwise from left) Panels from the new book; (below) Adrenaline, the female hero • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



SIXTY YEARS OF ASTERIX

In February 2019, France issued a commemorative €2 coin to celebrate the 60th anniversary of Asterix

Paris has renamed 12 metro stations, such as 'Menhirmontant', 'Place de Clichix', and 'Ecole Légionnaire' to honour the

• A new album, Asterix: Generations has been launched to commemorate 60 years of the comic

wife, she makes sure she rubs her power in everybody's faces. Proud and stubborn Vitalstatistix may be, but he is no match for Impedimenta, who always finds ways to convince her 'Piggywiggy' to do what she wishes.

nor characters are more often than not either vying for a warrior's attention think Hydrophobia, the fishmonger known for her admiration for Obelix's curves which drives him to blush.

Or, they are being vied for

 Panacea, the beautiful or Mrs Geriatrix, wife of the oldest Gaul.

Women from the real world too have occasionally made cameos in the series; actress and singer Annie Cordy appears as Bonanza, the wife of the Belgian chief in Asterix in Belgium.

However, it is now after 60 years that we are getting our first female as a main character - one who will not be using her looks to drive the plot. Conrad has said that as Adrenaline is still a teenager, all that is feminine is focussed on her face.

According to the panels shared with us, the arrival of Adrenaline has caused considerable chaos, with the information trying to be kept

secret (an effort highly unlikely to succeed). Asterix and Obelix must intervene. on the one hand dealing

with her teen The other miangst and on the other, protect her from Caesar. Because as we all know, these Romans are crazy. Asterix and the Chieftain's

#### **FOOD REVIEW**



NAVAL SATARAWALA CHOPRA

The charming husband-wife chef duo, Hanisha Singh and Jamsheed Bhote, have opened Delhi's finest (remember, I called it first!) contemporary international cuisine restaurant. It is not just about the quality of cooking, which is tremendous, or their selection of dishes on the menu, which makes you want to order everything, or the phenome-

nal flavours that they create, but it's

even the ingredients they source - their prawns felt as if they had been just caught, and after decades I've had veggies in Delhi which

taste fresh. Vibe: Minimalistic, bright and comfortable. The focus clearly is on the food. Must try: Oh, where do I begin! On their appetizers list, the

Shroom Buns with Mushroom and Truffle Mousse are as light as clouds and yet full of rich and creamy fungi goodness, the Prawn and Calamari The food at Plats (Clockwise from top left) The burrata with blistered and pickled grapes, the prawn and calamari, shroom buns, charred broccoli ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

a'la Plancha (grilled) is fresh, juicy and has an amazing spicy kick, the Charred Broccoli with Spanish Romesco (tomato) sauce and Indonesian Sambal Sauce is just wow. The Shrimp and Chicken Stuffed Wings are sticky, sweet and succulent. The burrata comes with a hazelnut and herb salsa and blistered and pickled grapes which are pure genius – we

# In culinary heaven

Plats is a triumph of love, skill and fresh produce



lenta, and the Lime Leaf and Chilli Crusted Seabass served with a citrus coriander oil that takes the dish to another level.

Finally, desserts. The chocolate soufflé tart and the Tiramisu Mille Crepe Cake are memorable. Skip: The Banana Crème Brulee.

mato Garlic Sauce and Sweetcorn Po-

The chocolate cake and biscuit base of it just doesn't taste right.

Spacebar: 950 sq feet with 40 covers

Cost: ₹2,500 for two sans alcohol Getting there: Located at C-51 Shivalik Road, three minutes from the Panchsheel crossing. Ample parking.



fought over the grapes at our table. Hanisha's famous Cubanos (sandwiches) are on the menu and they don't disappoint. There are a

selection of "bowls", the Charred Pumpkin and Kale Risotto was perfect and I am so glad they served it al dente (best not to send it back saying it's undercooked).

On to mains: I've had and loved all their dishes but the two standouts are the Beetroot Pave which is caramelized to perfection and comes with a To-

## **PRODUCTS**

#### **Wedding sutra**



Anita Dongre has collaborated with Paperless Post for made-to-order digital wedding invitations for all traditional ceremonies. The collection contains 11 sets of invitations with floral and botanical motifs in muted pinks, powder blues, mint greens, peaches, yellows and tangerines. Using an online tool, you can personalise the design, send invitations, and collect RSVPs for each of the events on their wedding itinerary. In the past, Paperless Post has collaborated with design houses such as Oscar de la Renta, Kate Spade New York and Kelly Wearstler. This is their first partnership with an Indian designer.

At Paperlesspost.com, launching November 1,

Contact us at delhimetro@thehindu.co.in

#### 5 EVENTS WORTH YOUR WHILE



#### **EXHIBITION Gond artwork**

Gallery Ragini is presenting an exhibition of traditional Gond artwork. Called Folklore, this will showcase works by artist Dhawat Singh from Chhattisgarh. The paintings tell stories of birds: peacocks losing their crowns to vanity for instance, with attention to detail and narrative. **VENUE:** Ambassador, IHCL SeleQtions,

Subramaniam Bharti Marq **TIME:** 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.



#### Hindustani vocal

The India Habitat Centre is hosting a Begum Akhtar commemorative concert this evening. Rekha Surya, an award-winning Hindustani light-classical vocalist and composer, will render the poetry of Kabir, Mirza Ghalib, Faiz, Meer, Nasir Kazmi, Tulsi Sahib Hathrasi, Amir Khusro, and other iconic poets.

VENUE: Amaltas Hall, IHC, Lodhi Road



The Signature Menu Antidot – The Waterbar Cafe has a new menu comprising dishes like Antidot Dragon Dumplings, Home Made Ravioli, Crazy Shrimps, and Soft Tofu Chimi Changas. Beverages include Antidot Dark and Storm, made of Scotch Smoke, cinnamon bitters, and peach; Anti Connection, with cranberry infused vodka.

VENUE: B-6/2 2nd, 3rd floor, Safdarjung Enclave TIME: 12 p.m. to 12 a.m.



#### **Ancient Arts**

The 7th International Ancient Arts Festival and Symposium, a two-day event, begins today. Scholars and artists from across the globe will attend. The first day will see an Odissi dance by Reela Hota, followed by a fusion-music set by Pandit Vishwa Mohan Bhatt, Salil Bhatt, and German jazz guitarist Matthias Muller.

**VENUE:** Shriram Centre for Performing Arts TIME: 6:45 p.m. onwards



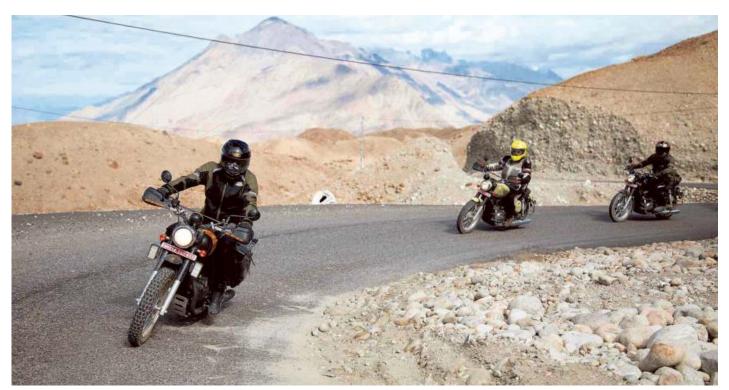
#### **History-inspired**

Shrinkhala Dance Company's production, Aatmadarshanam, which will blend Indian and contemporary styles, traces the lives and virtues of three three yugpurushas: Shiva, Gautam Buddha, and Mahatma Gandhi. The focus is on compassion, wisdom, patience, and the courage to stand up against injustice.

**VENUE:** The Stein Auditorium, IHC **TIME:** 7 p.m.







VANGMAYI PARAKALA

The air in the already-quiet diplomatic enclave of Chanakyapuri was quieter still last week – until the distinct exhaust note of a classic two-stroke engine filled the air. This came from one of the few vintage Jawa bikes parked at the Czech Embassy's courtyard, announcing the start of the evening.

The Embassy was celebrating the 90th year of the motorbike brand, which had originated in Czechoslovakia and found an almost cult-like following in India since the 1960s.

To mark this milestone, they also unveiled a limited 90th Anniversary edition of the bike, from Jawa's new custodians, Classic Legends, a subsidiary of the Mahindra Group, which relaunched Jawa in the Indian market in November last year.

Earlier that morning, these vintage models had participated in a ride down Rajpath, to celebrate the milestone, which the Czech Ambassador to India, Milan Hovorka, had flagged off. Yezdis, which were manufactured in India with know-how from Jawa, also took part.

#### **Family silver**

**POOCH CAFE** 

Some of these bikes were passed on from father to son - for instance, 46-year-old Atul Arvind Gokhale from Pune remembers taking the bike he brought to Delhi, on rides as early as when he was just 13 years old. "I never ex-

# The (almost) return of the Jawa

The Czech Ambassador in India, along with Classic Legends, marked 90 years of Jawa. But where are the bikes?

pected my bike [a 1967 Jawa 250 Type 353] to stay with me all this time. It's a part of my family," he says. At the event, Hovorka too recalled the emotion that many back in the Czech Republic hold, of owning a Jawa. "We call this family silver. It has that value."

Jawa first formally came to India in 1961, imported by a domestic firm called Ideal Jawa, founded by the Parsi businessmen Rustom and Farrokh Irani. Under licence, they also started manufacture of these bikes from their Mysore factory. By 1971, they had also started the Yezdi.

Gokhale, a service head at Honda Cars based in Pune, is also one of the founding members of the Yezdi Jawa Owners Club (YJOC) of Pune. They had started with just three people in 2001. Today, the club has over 250 members, with the youngest in their late teens, and the oldest close to 75.

Since the bikemaker officially stopped production in India in the early '90s, close to 35 groups through the country like the YJOC Pune – including the Roaring Riders, Yezdi & Jawa Club Delhi, Rajasthan Jawa Yezdi Club, Mysuru Jawa Club, Puducherry Jawa Club, the Jawa Yezdi Club of Hyderabad - have only served to cement the

cult-like status of the Jawa-Yezdi

#### Zero-maintenance value

bikes in India until today.

"This used to be called the dhoodhwala bike," says 45-yearold Mandar Phadke, another member of the YJOC. "The idea behind that [expression] is of reliability. I've driven mine [a 1950 250cc Perak) for the last 19 years, travelling over 84,000 kilometres, from -7°C to 46°C; it is still 200% reliable."

Unlike Gokhale, Phadke bought his bike. It's been 19 years since he did, and as its third owner, he got a bit of it restored. "But most of it is intact still - these spokes are over 70 years old," he says. "It's really a zero-maintenance bike.'

#### The revival

Even before manufacturing began in Mysore, the stage had been set for Jawa's entry, with collectors transporting small numbers of the bikes into the country, even in the 1950s.

This niche established an aspiration, so when the brand formally arrived in India, it could hold its own in the market, which already had the Royal Enfield, and later the Bajaj Chetaks and the Lunas as two-wheeler options. Jawa, like the Enfield, was also the more "masculine" of options.

Last November, investment banker Anupam Thareja, co-founder of Classic Legends, backed by Anand Mahindra and Boman Ira-

> DOGS ONLY

On the road Scenes from the Ibex Trail 2019 in Ladakh; Anupam Thareja leading the 90th anniversary ride, as Ambassador Hovorka flags it off • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



ni, son of Ideal Jawa's Rustom Irani, launched with three bikes: Jawa, Jawa Forty Two and Jawa Perak. But one year later, the bikes are not yet a familiar sight on streets in any major city, despite them being pocket-friendly for a leisure motorcycling experience.

#### So where are the bikes?

"Any relaunch is very difficult," says Thareia, whose company is manufacturing the units from a

**JAWA TRIVIA** 

the Jawa Perak).

price points.

factory in Pithampur, Madhya Pradesh. Interestingly, he was also associated with the Royal Enfield turnaround, before he quit the company in 2008 to start his own investment firm. Much like that previous project, the Jawa relaunch too is one that is dipped in the rose-tinted stickiness of nostalgia.

Thareja draws from pop-culture to explain himself: "Anyone who might attempt a remake of Sholay (1975) will feel like a dud,"

he says at one instance; "but look how beautifully Batman has evolved to appeal to generations over the years", at another.

He confirms that one of the contributing factors for this is that their network of dealerships is spread thin, with 81 cities

through the country. 'The reason we don't see bikes on the road is because I'm probably supplying two bikes here and six bikes there. In a normal biking scenario, there would be 10 dealerships in a few major locales, a whole lot of bikes sent, [resulting in] seeing the bikes there. But we

are across tiers," he says. In June, seven months after their launch, the bike makers also explained the delay in order deliveries, saying they were "overwhelmed" with the initial response. Their waiting period now has been brought down from 10 months to about six, says Thareja.

#### Selling a lifestyle

Industry observers have also noted the risk of people not being entirely convinced with new-age iterations of vehicles that have piggybacked off an old favourite. Contexts change too, and loud decibel levels may not cut it with an environmentally-sensitive postmillennial. Earlier this month, Bajaj relaunched the Chetak in an electric version, in the hope of riding on its nostalgia value.

"We are going to stick to what we think [the Jawa] customer needs and how we think this brand is going to be built over a long period of time," says Thareja. He aims to do so by organising more rides backed with the philosophy of their Jawa Nomads programme, where the brand encourages participants to give back to the community of the regions through which they ride – they let riders experience local food, be more mindful of the ecology, enforcing a no-plastic policy on all such rides.

Their Ibex Trail 2019, which ended in the first week of September, saw one such clean-up initiative at the Hanle river bed in Ladakh.

In tandem with the niche clientèle that Jawa appeals to, Thareja hopes to "adopt a sub-culture in music and a sub-culture in sport" by associating non-mainstream artistes and sporting communities. Jazz and folk-fusion over pop; hockey over cricket, he says. "Because if I start selling a motorcycle I lose. If I start selling a lifestyle, maybe I have a chance."

#### **PEANUTS**





Jawa's 2018 launches are priced at ₹1,64,000 (for the

olds, who want the feeling of a superbike at reasonable

Jawa); ₹1,55,000 (for the Jawa Forty Two); ₹1,89,000 (for

Jawa aims to reach a target demographic of 25- to 35-year-

The 90th Anniversary edition, limited to only 90 bikes, was

the basis of a lucky draw — the first name was announced at

priced at ₹1,72,000. The winners of these were picked on

the 90th anniversary event, while the rest will be

cylinder DOHC engines that are BS-VI compliant.

The new Jawa engines are 293cc liquid-cooled, single-

announced by the end of this month.





#### **HAGAR THE HORRIBLE**



WELCOME, FRIEND. WHAT CAN I GET YOU?





POOCH CAFE









5 Priceless (10) 6 Affirmative gestures

7 Hang around in a secretive way (4) **10** Wagner opera (10) 12 (Sound made by) fancy frills on female dresses - four/four (anag) (4-4) **13** In motion (5,3) 16 Horses (6)

(4)

18 Worry

(4)

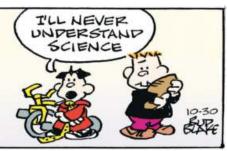
unnecessarily (4) 19 Long-necked bird

#### **TIGER**

**WUMO** 





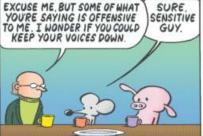


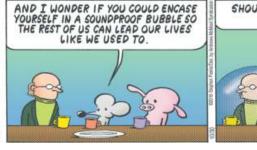


#### Yeah, this is all the costumes we've got that don't offend anybody and cause a Twitter storm. We had a Minnie Mouse, but a spokesperson for mice felt violated, and we had to take the zombie masks



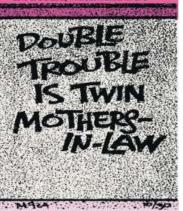
#### **PEARLS BEFORE SWINE**







## GRAFFITI



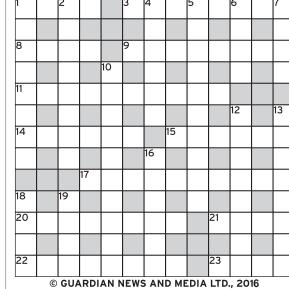
#### HEALTH CAPSULES® by Brok Smith

WHAT IS THE FATTEST NATION IN THE WORLD? MISSISSIEP NO SURPRISE THERE, 60%

OF AMERICANS ARE EITHER OBESE OR OVERWEIGHT MISSISSIPPI IS THE FATTEST STATE IN THE NATION, 1 IN 4 MISSISSIPPI RESIDENTS IS OBESE, OBESTTY TO SECOND ONLY TO SMOKTING AS A MAJOR CAUSE OF PREVENTABLE DEATH JN AMERICA.

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#### THE GUARDIAN QUICK CROSSWORD-13211



ribbed skin (10) Across 1 Snide remarks (4) **20** Dirty (8) 3 Countrywide (8) 21 Fine (for the Scots) 8 Equipment (4) 9 \_\_ Dali, painter (8) 22 Summer frock (8) 11 Gondolier's song

(10)

(anag) (6) 15 Senior nursing

officer of old (6)

17 Small melon with

14 Sea cow – gun dog

23 Wharf (4) Down 1 One given menial tasks to do (8) 2 Best bib and tucker (4.4)

4 Female warrior (6)

Solution will appear in The Hindu dated October 31, 2019. Solution No. 13210



## India's first Day/Night Test set to roll out at Eden

BCB has confirmed and we are having a pink-ball game; it's a good development: Ganguly

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The Indian cricket team will play its first-ever Day/Night Test match here against Bangladesh next month, BCCI president Sourav Ganguly told PTI on Tuesday, taking a path-breaking decision within a week into his nine-month

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.

#### **Speculation ends**

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," Gan-

"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



History beckons: Come November 22, Eden Gardens will add a fresh chapter to the annals of Indian cricket.

Test cricket and hopefully it will bring back crowds to the ground," Ganguly said just aflandmark development.

#### **Exploring new avenues**

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 2 p.m. (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 the Eden Gardens against one of the best teams in the world," Domingo said.

#### Same for both teams

"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

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 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, R. Ashwin, Kuldeep Yadav and 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's assurance

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 onedayers after all and dew spray is used," he said.

There are plans to invite India's legendary Olympians like Abhinav Bindra, M.C. Mary Kom and P.V. Sindhu and felicitate them for their contribution to the country's Olympic movement during the match.

### Hasina accepts invitation to watch Kolkata Test

SUVOJIT BAGCHI

Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will attend the Test match between Bangladesh and India in Kolkata's Eden Gardens. Hasina confirmed in Dhaka in a press interaction on Tuesday that she has received the invitation from Sourav Ganguly and will reach Kolkata to watch the match. The second Test between the two countries will commence on November

"Sourav has invited me. [He] Called me after he became the board president... a Bengali and was once a famous cricketer, so I told him I will go to Kolkata to watch the match," she said in Dhaka on Tuesday. She indicated that her visit has nothing to do with politics.

According to the CAB sources, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is not expected to visit Kolkata to watch the match. However, the Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB) has also invited



Sheikh Hasina. • PTI

#### Modi.

#### First time

"The Prime Minister will take a 7 a.m. flight to Kolkata, inaugurate the match and return to Dhaka on the same evening," said Ihsanul Karim, press secretary to the Prime Minister. Karim said that this is for the first time that Hasina will watch a match at Eden Gardens.

"She likes Sourav a lot and as the invite came from him, the Prime Minister decided to inaugurate the match," Karim told The Hindu.

The CAB has also invited West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee.

#### Netherlands secures T20 WC spot

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

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 the United Arab Emirates in Dubai on

The Netherlands, which faces Ireland in the semifinals, won by eight wickets to progress to the eightteam first round of the World Cup to be held in Australia in October 2020.

#### Struff stuns Khachanov



Jan-Lennard Struff. • AFP

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Karen Khachanov's Paris Masters title defence ended at the first hurdle on Tuesday as the Russian fell 7-6(5), 3-6, 7-5 to German Jan-Lennard Struff.

Khachanov beat four top-10 players, including Novak Djokovic in the final, to win the 2018 tournament, but was knocked out after an indifferent secondround display this time around.

The loss ends the World No. 8's slim hopes of qualifying for next month's ATP Tour Finals in London.

The results: Second round: Jan-Lennard Struff bt Karen Khachanov 7-6(5), 3-6, 7-5; Radu Albot bt Andreas Seppi 7-6(5), 7-6(6). First round: Kyle Edmund bt Ricardas Berankis 6-4, 6-3; Corentin Moutet bt Dusan La-

jovic 6-4, 1-6, 6-3. Alex de Minaur bt Laslo Diere 6-1, 6-4; Taylor Fritz bt Frances Tiafoe 7-6(6), 3-6, 6-4; Jeremy Chardy bt Sam Querrey 5-7, 6-3, 7-5; Cristian Garin bt Pablo Cuevas 6-4,

Milos Raonic bt Cameron Norrie 6-3, 6-2; Fernando Verdasco bt Borna Coric 3-6, 6-4, 6-3; Benoit Paire bt Damir Dzumhur 7-5, 6-4; Albot bt Nikoloz Basilashvili 6-3, 6-2; Struff bt Yoshihito Nishioka 4-6, 7-5, 6-2; Jo-Wilfried Tsonga bt Andrey Rublev 4-6, 7-5. 6-4: Marin Cilic bt Hubert Hurkacz 7-6(5), 6-4; Adrian Mannarino bt Casper Ruud 6-4, 6-2.

## ICC suspends Shakib for two years

Sanctioned for failing to report approaches by a bookie



Shakib Al Hasan...in the dock ■REUTERS

is a suspended sentence which will come into effect if Shakib fails to comply with the anti-corruption code of the world body

■ Twelve months of that ban

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

Shakib Al Hasan in numbers												
BATTING	Mat	1	N.O.	Runs	HS	Avg.	S/R	100/50				
Tests	56	105	7	3,862	217	39.40	62.05	5/24				
ODIs	206	194	27	6,323	134*	37.86	82.75	9/47				
T20Is	76	76	10	1,567	84	23.74	123.77	0/9				
BOWLING	Mat		Runs	W	BB	Avg	Econ.	5w				
Tests	56	95	6,537	210	7/36	31.12	3.01	18				
ODIs	206	203	7,857	260	5/29	30.21	4.48	2				
T20Is	76	75	1,894	92	5/20	20.58	6.81	1				

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangladesh captain and star allrounder 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

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.

from the game I love, but I

Mominul to lead in Tests In his absence, Mominul Haque will lead the team in Tests, while Mahmudullah will be the skipper in the three T20 Internationals.

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, Deepak Aggarwal."

Shakib recently spearheaded a players' strike be-

fore calling it off after the BCB assured that their demands, will be fulfilled. The ICC said while Shakib's voluntary admission, cooperaduring interviews worked in his favour, the fact that he failed to report advances made over months was an "aggravating" factor. The squads:

and charges

T20Is: Mahmudullah (Capt.), Liton Das, Soumya Sarkar, Mohammad Naim, Mushfigur Rahim. Afif Hossain. Mosaddek Hossain, Aminul Islam, Arafat Sunny, Al-Amin Hossain, Mustafizur Rahman, Shafiul Islam, Mohammad Mithun, Taijul Is-

lam and Abu Hider. Tests: Shadman Islam, Imrul Kayes, Saif Hassan, Mominul Haque (Capt.), Liton Das, Mushfigur Rahim, Mahmudullah, Mohammad Mithun, Mosaddek Hossain, Mehidy Hasan, Taijul Islam, Nayeem Hasan, Mustafizur Rahman, Al-Amin Hossain, Abu Jayed and Ebadat

## NCA needs a shake-up, and the two old friends can give it one



#### BETWEEN WICKETS

SURESH MENON

If India's National Cricket Academy could talk, it would have said in the year 2000 when it was set up, "When I grow up I want to become like the Australian Cricket Academy." That was the plan of the Board of Control for Cricket in India - a finishing school for young cricketers and a refresher for mature players who find technical snags creeping into their

#### **Running** joke

The ACA was later renamed the Centre of Excellence, and the NCA a hospice for injured players. The former was an official change of name, the latter merely a running joke among some players. In recent years, rehabilitation was much criticised, as in the case of wicketkeeper Wridhiman Saha who missed tours either because he had a thumb injury or a shoulder injury - clarity was not an NCA speciality.

This lack of clarity has been a part of the NCA's mission too – despite some top players having been either chairmen or directors - and is what Rahul Dravid inherited when he took over a few months ago. The NCA had produced, or put the finishing touches to some fine India players, but it has failed to live down its botched injury-management system. The NCA deserves better, and the BCCI's renewed interest in its future is welcome.

On Wednesday, when the BCCI team arrives in Bengaluru to speak to Dravid (why the entire team is not relevant here), it will be, in reality, a meeting between two old friends who made their Test debut together. Sourav Ganguly and Dravid will discuss the future of the NCA, and by extension, Indian cricket. And hopefully set in motion the rehabilitation of the rehabilitation centre. Even if no major announcements are made, a statement of intent would be a good



Joining hands: Rahul Dravid and Sourav Ganguly teaming up again augurs well for cricket in the country. ■FILE PHOTO: S. SUBRAMANIUM

The NCA, like the BCCI itself, has needed a shake-up, and in the two leading cricketers of the golden era of Indian cricket, when they first became the No. I team in the world, won the World Cup in two formats, and produced some of the finest players, India seem to have the right men for the job.

This is a young administration, and if the Ganguly-Dravid meeting is a harbinger, then it is possible their colleagues of that era, will have another opportunity to do off the field what they did so well on it. A coming together of Anil Kumble, V.V.S. Laxman, Javagal Srinath, Zaheer Khan, Venkatesh Prasad, Sachin Tendulkar, Virender Sehwag, and M.S. Dhoni (when he officially retires) is a mouthwatering prospect. These are men of spirit and experience who have other career choices right now, but could be persuaded to join Ganguly and Dravid in their mission. Some have administrative experience already, others are fine coaches, and all have credibility. Cricketers who have the good of the game at heart can upset the best-laid plans of

politicians. The NCA is set to shift from the Chinnaswamy Stadium to its new home some 20 minutes from the airport. Forty acres of land have been acquired and if the BCCI's recent lethargy is replaced by the necessary bustle, we should soon have a modern training facility with accommodation areas, indoor nets, range of wickets and a technological marvel.

The cricketer largely responsible for

the acquisition, former KSCA president Sanjay Desai knows his cricket and his administration, and would be the ideal man to handle the project during his cooling-off period. Indian cricket needs to make use of the varying skills of its

Ganguly has less than a year to set things in motion in the areas he wants to focus on. Having the right men in the right place is the essence of management, and Ganguly has a good set to pick from.

When Kumble quit after a brief run as NCA chairman some years ago, he said, "I had a three-year plan in place, but my ideas did not align with the rest of the NCA committee. I didn't want to be a figurehead." If the NCA needs a revamping, then Dravid and Ganguly have the power and the responsibility, apart from the ability to do it.

#### Importance of logic

Committees must necessarily have dissenting voices, but an opposing point of view must be presented with logic and come from a place of understanding. This has not always been the case, and has led to many projects being still-born.

Not wanting to be a figurehead is an important quality. Ganguly does not want to be one, nor does Dravid. This is the essential difference between those who put their hands up to do a job and those who are in it for the wrong rea-

## Jamshedpur FC continues its winning run on home turf



Off the mark: Jamshedpur players celebrate after the opening goal against Hyderabad. • PTI

#### ISL AMITABHA DAS SHARMA

Jamshedpur FC kept its winning momentum at home intact when it downed Hyderabad FC 3-1 at the JRD Tata Sports Complex here on Tuesday. Farukh Choudhary, Aniket Jadhav and Sergio Castel found the target for the host while Marcelinho scored the lone goal for the

The first half ended with honours even as the host conceded an equaliser in the last minute. Jamshedpur took control of the action early in the match with its

Spanish trio of Aitor Monroy, Francisco Medina (Piti) and Castel showing good coordination in the zone.

#### First opening

The host found the first opening in the 10th minute when Mobashir Rehman set a long through-pass to find Farukh Choudhary. But the latter failed to convert the opportunity on an one-onone situation with Hyderabad goalkeeper Kamaljit Singh, who blocked Choudhary's attempt.

With the Jamshedpur midfield keeping goal-bound supplies at regular intervals, the Indian striker showed

when he found the net off the third chance in the 34th minute. Castel created the move

that he is a quick learner

after making a nice interception and released Piti on top of the box. The latter's attempt was saved by Kamaljeet. However, Farukh was in the right position to avail the clearance and quickly sent

the ball past the goalkeeper. Hyderabad found the equaliser at the stroke of half-time when its Brazilian striker Marcelinho came up with a solo effort.

Jamshedpur returned with a greater resolve after the break and regained the lead through young Aniket Jadhav in the 62nd minute. Coming in as substitute in the 58th minute, the under-17 World Cup campaigner for India finished with a sharp left-footer, on a Farukh assist, to score his first ISL

Keeping up the tempo, Castel got one in his own name in the 75th minute to complete an impressive scoreline for Jamshedpur, which won its second successive match at home.

The result: Jamshedpur FC 3 (Farukh Choudhary 34, Aniket Jadhav 62, Sergio Castel 75) bt Hyderabad FC 1 (Marcelinho 45).

#### TV PICKS

NBA: Sony Ten 1 (SD & HD), 8

Australia vs Sri Lanka: 2nd T20I, Sony Six (SD & HD), 1.30 p.m. **T20 WC Qualifiers**: Star Sports 3, 3.30 p.m. & 9 p.m.

ISL: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD), 7.30 p.m. Serie A: Sony Ten 1 & Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD), 1.30 a.m.

(Thursday)
FIFA U-17 World Cup: Sony Six (SD & HD), 1.30 a.m. (Thursday).

#### IN BRIEF



**Curry and Green lead Pelicans rout** 

LOS ANGELES Stephen Curry scored 26 points and Draymond Green bagged a triple-double as **Golden State Warriors** bounced back from successive thrashings to down New Orleans Pelicans on Monday. The reigning Western Conference champions rediscovered their scoring touch to claim a 134-123 win at the Smoothie King Centre.

The results: Detroit Pistons 96 bt Indiana Pacers 94; New York Knicks 105 bt Chicago Bulls 98; Philadelphia 76ers 105 bt Atlanta Hawks 103; Toronto Raptors 104 bt Orlando Magic 95; Houston Rockets 116 bt Oklahoma City Thunder 112; Milwaukee Bucks 129 bt Cleveland Cavaliers 112; Golden State Warriors 134 bt New Orleans Pelicans 123; San Antonio Spurs 113 bt Portland Trail Blazers 110; Utah Jazz 96 bt Phoenix Suns 95; Denver Nuggets 101 bt Sacremento Kings 94; Los Angeles Clippers 111 bt Charlotte Hornets 96, AFF

#### Joshna loses to defending champion

India's Joshna Chinappa lost to Nour El Sherbini, the defending champion and the No. 2 seed 11-5, 11-3, 11-6 in the pre-quarterfinals of the PSA women's World championship here on Tuesday. The three-time World champion comfortably won the opening two games, before Joshna put up more of a fight in the third.



**Gymnastics venue for Tokyo Olympics unveiled** 

Organisers of the Tokyo 2020 Olympics on Tuesday unveiled a custom-built \$188 million gymnastics venue inspired by Japanese architecture that uses wood brought from around the country. The futuristic Ariake Gymnastics Centre in Tokyo uses 2,300 cubic metres of wood and is intended to hark back to traditional building techniques that pre-dated the use of modern materials.



Way to go! Kiki Bertens made her presence felt in her very first match in the Finals. • REUTERS

## Bertens has a surprise for Barty

Injured Osaka's replacement stuns World No. 1

#### **WTA FINALS**

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Kiki Bertens, who replaced an injured Naomi Osaka, stunned World No. 1 Ashleigh Barty with a comeback three-set victory to shake-up the season-ending WTA Finals here on Tuesday.

The World No. 10 looked in deep trouble at a set and break down, but turned the tide with ruthless returns and aggressive play at the net to overwhelm a deflated Barty, who could have sealed a spot in the semifinals with

Bertens won 3-6, 6-3, 6-4 in two hours and nine minutes in a see-saw match featuring 12 breaks of serve.

Bertens appeared nervous under the bright lights dropping her first three service games and Barty, who has locked up the year-end No. 1 ranking, pounced to run away with the first set.

Barty then endured her own service woes against an increasingly aggressive Bertens, who showcased soft touch at the net. A slumping Barty had her serve broken five times through the second and third sets as Bertens stormed to her first victory over the Australian.

Bertens continued her strong form after making the final in Zhuhai last week and the semifinals of the China Open earlier in the month, when she lost a three-set

Bertens, who made the semifinals of last year's edition, has to win both her matches to qualify from Red Group.

thriller to Barty.

In the later match, Belinda Bencic fought back from a second-set spiral to beat Petra Kvitova 6-3, 1-6, 6-4 in one hour and 47 minutes.

#### Bencic stays alive

It kept her tournament hopes alive after she had lost her opening match to Barty. Earlier, two-time Grand Slam winner and third-

ranked, who was on a hot streak of 11 matches, withdrew from the season finale with a shoulder problem the second straight year she has been forced out due to

The 23-year-old Osaka said she was unsure of the severity of the injury, which she initially hurt during her triumph in Beijing earlier this month.

The results: Red Group: Kiki Bertens bt Ashleigh Barty 3-6, 6-3, 6-4; Belinda Bencic bt Petra Kvitova 6-3,

## Miranda House enters semifinals

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Harshita was hampered by a knee injury and had to retire from a winning position against Ankita Hoon, as Miranda House secured a 2-0 victory over Sri Venkateshwara College in the quarterfinals of the Delhi University inter-collegiate women's tennis, organised by the Lady Shri Ram College, here on Tuesday. Gargi College and Indraprastha College were the other teams that

made the semifinals. Host Lady Shri Ram College was locked 1-1 against Kalindi College. The decisive doubles will be played on Wednesday.

The results (quarterfinals): Gargi College bt Jesus and

Mary College 2-0 (Anu Moar bt Amrita Yaav 6-0, 6-1; Tanmavee Patnaik bt Nisha Rani 6-4, 6-1).

Indraprastha College bt Shri Ram College of Commerce 2-1 (Shivva Sachdeva bt Rishika Sharma 6-2, 6-2; Manisha Hooda lost to Shefali Arora 1-6, 3-6: Shivva & Manisha bt Rishika & Shefali 6-4, 6-1).

Miranda House bt Sri Venkateswara College 2-0 (Neeru bt Malika 6-2, 6-2; Ankita Hoon bt Harshika 6-4, 2-6, 0-4 (retd.)).

## Sidhartha Babu aims for a Paralympics medal

Planning an equipment upgrade in pursuit of his dream

M.R. PRAVEEN CHANDRAN THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Sidhartha Babu, the rifle shooter who won a quota place to compete in the 2020 Paralympics, is aiming for a podium finish in Tokyo.

Sidhartha Babu shot 617.6 points to finish sixth in the mixed 50m rifle prone SHI event at the WSPS championship in Sydney last week.

The performance earned him a quota place and Siddhartha Babu is obviously thrilled.

"It was the moment I was waiting for all these years. I had many dreams and this was my first target. I am excited and very proud to represent the nation at the Paralympics. I am thankful to all people who supported me, especially the Kerala government," he said.

Bengaluru-based



Sidhartha Babu qualified for the Games at the WSPS championship in Sydney last week. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

shooter was extremely focused on his mission. He spent seven to eight hours at the shooting range.

"I stuck to my schedule. Since I was using an old rifle, one that has been with me for seven years, I concentrated more on technique. I also worked on my concentration and did regular workouts at the gym. I was aware of the windy conditions in Sydney and was mentally prepared for it," he Sidhartha Babu said he

was planning to upgrade his equipment and has ordered a new rifle. As for his preparation, he wants to reunite with his foreign coach Sergi Martynov from Belarus.

"He is a multiple Olympic champion and I was fortunate to train with him for two weeks last year. This time I am looking for a longer session, like one or two months. I will also be competing in the World Cup in March and I am looking to win a medal as a first step towards achieving the larger goal," he said.

## Divij & Sitak pair moves up

#### INDIANS ABROAD

SPORTS BUREAU

Divij Sharan and Artem Sitak of New Zealand beat the fourth seeds Mate Pavic of Croatia and Bruno Soares of Brazil 6-7(5), 6-3, [10-3] in the doubles pre-quarterfinals of the €5,791,280 ATP-1000 tennis tournament here on Tuesday.

The Indo-Kiwi pair had made the main draw as alternates. The duo will play Jeremy Chardy and Fabrice Martin of France in the pre-quarterfinals.

In the Challenger in Shenzhen, Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan and Adil Shamasdin of Canada made the doubles quarterfinals. The results:

€5,791,280 ATP, Paris: Doubles (first round): Artem Sitak (Nzl) & Divij Sharan bt Mate Pavic (Cro) & Bruno Soares

(Bra) 6-7(5), 6-3, [10-3]. \$135,400 Challenger, Shenz-

hen: Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Adil Shamasdin (Can) & Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan bt Cui Jie & Wu Hao (Chn) 6-0, 7-6(1). \$60,000 ITF women, Liuzhou, China: Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Rosalie van der Hoek (Ned) & Ankita Raina bt Dalila Jakupovic (Slo) & Sarah-Rebecca Sekulic (Ger) 6-4, 6-3. \$15,000 ITF men, Sharm El

Sheikh: Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Lukas Hellum Lilleengen (Nor) & Boris Pokotilov (Rus) bt Haadin Bava & Rishabdev Raman 6-2, 7-6(6).

Curtney John Lock (Zim) & Aryan Goveas bt Vladyslav Manafov (Ukr) & Luigi Sorrentino (Ita) 7-6(4), 7-6(7)

\$15.000 ITF men, Meshref, Kuwait: Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Ashwin Rvan Sharma (Aus) & Anurag Nenwani bt Giovani Sharma (Lbn) & Kunal Anand 6-2, 3-6, [10-8].

\$15,000 ITF women, Tabarka, Tunisia: First round: Rita Atik (Mar) bt Humera Shaik 6-2,

## Thapa and six others enter last-four stage

#### **BOXING**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Four-time Asian medallist Shiva Thapa (63kg) assured himself of a medal at the Olympic boxing Test event here winning his quarterfinal bout on Tuesday while six other Indians made the last-four stage without even stepping in the ring.

Thapa overpowered local favourite Yuki Hirakawa ili a 5-0 verdict to light his way into the medal rounds.

The seasoned boxer from Assam claimed his third National title earlier this month.

#### **Bve for Narimatsu**

He will be up against another Japanese, Daisuke Narimatsu, in the semifinals on Wednesday.

Narimatsu got a bye in the first round.

The six other Indians, 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 size of their draws.

Zareen, who hit the hea-



Wednesday. Apart from Zareen, (69kg),

Shiva Thapa. ■ FILE PHOTO: AKHILESH KUMAR

dlines 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

Asian silver-medallist Sumit Sangwan (91kg), Ashish Vanhlimpuia (75kg), Simranjeet Kaur (60kg) and Pooja Rani (75kg) made the semifinals.

The only disappointment for the Indian contingent was the quarterfinal exit of Anant Choapde, who went down 3-2 in a hard-fought contest against local hope Tosho Kashiwa-

#### Mohun Bagan bows out in semifinals

#### **FOOTBALL**

SPORTS BUREAU

Lee Tuck's hat-trick helped Terengganu FC defeat Mohun Bagan 4-2 in the semifinals of the Sheikh Kamal International Club Cup at the M.A. Aziz Stadium here on Tuesday.

Fran Gonzalez equalised twice in the second half to bring the scores level at 2-2.

#### Twin strikes

But Syafik Bin Ismail put the Malaysian club back in the lead before Tuck added his third in the 79th minute to put the scoreline beyond Bagan.

The result: Terengganu FC 4 (Lee Tuck 39, 59, 79, Syafik Bin Ismail 75) bt Mohun Bagan 2 (Fran Gonzalez 47, 61).

## Castaway well prepped to come good

MYSURU: Castaway, who has been well tuned, is expected to score in the M.K. Srinivas Memorial Trophy (1,200m), the feature event of the concluding day's races to be held here on Wednesday (Oct 30). False rails (width about 2m from 1,600m to the winning post) will be in position. A carried over amount of ₹8,49,841 will be added to the combined jackpot pool.

MULKI PLATE (DIV. II), (1,200m), rated 00 to 25, 1-00 p.m.: 1. Only Prince (11) Chetan G 60, 2. Premier Premises (4) Arshad 60, 3. Extremelydangerous (9) S. Shareef 59, 4. Rancho (5) K. Raghu 59, 5. Cherie Amour (2) Rajesh K 58, 6. Emerald Green (12) T.S. Jodha 57, 7. South Bell (1) Sai Kiran 57, 8. Vroom Vroom (7) Chotu Jaiswar 55.5, 9. Natalie (6) Rayan 55, 10. Iconic Glory (10) Ramandeep Bal 54.5, 11. Desert Gilt (8) Vaibhav 54 and 12. Oro Plata (3) Mukesh K 51. 1. PREMIER PREMISES, 2. EMER-

NUGU DAM PLATE (DIV. II), (1,200m), rated 20 to 45, 5-y-o & over, 1-30: 1. Castlebar (7) H.M.

ALD GREEN, 3. DESERT GILT

Akshay 60, 2. Hafnium (11) Dhebe 59.5, 3. Oceana (3) K. Raghu 59, 4. Eloika (1) Janardhan P 58, 5. Green Meadow (6) H. Rahul 57.5, 6. Divine Retribution (5) R. Manish 57, 7. Girl With Pearl (8) Arshad 57, 8. Aerospeed (9) B. Harish 56, 9. Industrialist (2) Darshan 55, 10. Kasauli (4) Vaibhav 55, 11. Princeazeem (12) T.S. Jodha 55 and 12. Perfect King (10) Sai Kiran

1. AEROSPEED, 2. HAFNIUM, 3. GIRL WITH PEARL

3 (1,200m), rated 00 to 25, 2-00: 1. Heart Beat (7) Shiva Kumar 62.5, 2. Lightning Attack (2) Chetan G 62.5, 3. Moonstruck (10) G. Rohith 62.5, 4. Arrogance (9) M. Naveen 62, 5. Only Hope (4) Gautam Raj 62, 6. Nostradamus (1) S. John 61, 7. King Star (8) Madhu Babu 60.5, 8. Firestone (6)

A. Vishwanath 59.5, 9. Smart Signs (5) Vipin Kumar 59.5, 10.

Star Lagoon (11) S. Shareef 59.5, 11. Lovely Sierra (3) Jagadeesh 59 and

12. Star Style (12) Vijay Kumar 1. NOSTRADAMUS. 2. STAR LAGOON, 3. ARROGANCE

KASARGOD PLATE (DIV. II), 4 (1,400m), rated 20 to 45, 2-30: 1. Thea's Glory (6) H.M. Akshav 60, 2. Carnival Express (5) Ramandeep Bal 59.5, 3. Countrys Crown (11) Vijay Kumar 58, 4. Segera (12) Shiva Kumar 55.5, 5. Swiss Admiral (9) Rajesh K 55.5, 6. Naval Wrestler (3) Adarsh 54.5, 7. Akimbo (4) Sai Kiran 54, 8. Summer (1) S. Imran 54, 9, King's Command (2) Jagadeesh 53.5, 10. Pilgrim (8) Arshad 53.5, 11. Classic Jewel (7) A. Merchant 52.5 and 12. Siberian Tiger (10) Dhebe 52. CLASSIC JEWEL, 2. SWISS AD-

**5** ALEKONA TROPHY (1,600m), rated 40 to 65, 4-y-0 & over, 3-00: 1. Brabourne (4) Kiran Rai 61.5, 2. Sussex Pride (6) J. Paswan 59.5, 3. All In (1) Rajesh K 58, 4.

MIRAL, 3. AKIMBO

Celestial Light (7) Adarsh 57, 5. Order Order (2) S. Shareef 55, 6. Reanna (3) Dhebe 55, 7. Thea's Gift (10) H.M. Akshay 55, 8. Willow Glen (11) Ramandeep Bal 55, 9. Ascendency (9) Arshad 54.5, 10. Siddhani (5) Janardhan P 54, 11. Arak (12) Shiva Kumar 53 and 12. Anteros (8) I. Chisty 52. 1. ORDER ORDER, 2. BRABOURNE,

3. ANTEROS K. THAMMANNA GOWDA ME-

6 K. THAMMANNA GOWDA ME-MORIAL TROPHY (1,200m), rated 45 to 65, 3-30: 1. Coorg Regiment (4) Mukesh K 60, 2. Take A Bow (9) Jagadeesh 60, 3. Illuminate (8) Dhebe 59.5, 4. Animal Queen (11) S. John 59, 5. Greek Goddess (5) J. Paswan 57, 6. Class Above (10) Ramandeep Bal 56, 7. Ewandor (12) Rajesh K 56, 8. Spanish Beauty (7) I. Chisty 55, 9. Clovis (2) Md. Mushraf 54.5, 10. Eddie The Eagle (1) S. Imran 54, 11. Export Quality (3) H.M. Akshay 53.5 and 12. Valkyrie (6) Arshad

1. SPANISH BEAUTY, 2. ANIMAL QUEEN, 3. CLASS ABOVE

M.K. SRINIVAS MEMORIAL 7 м.К. SRINIVAS МЕМОГЛАН ТROPHY (1,200m), rated 60 & above, 4-00: 1. Star Of Thea (2) Chetan G 63.5, 2. Country Music (6) S. John 60.5, 3. Batman (7) Rajesh K 59.5, 4. Haedi's Folly (1) I. Chisty 58.5, 5. Maduro (11) Santosh K 58, 6. Fringe Benefit (12) S. Shareef 57.5, 7. Mint (5) Sai Kumar 57.5, 8. Castaway (9) A. Imran 57, 9. Good Earth (10) Kiran Rai 53.5, 10. Super Success (4) Darshan 53, 11. Admiral Act (8) Mukesh K 51.5 and 12. Cyclone (3) C. Umesh 51.

1. CASTAWAY, 2. HAEDI'S FOLLY, 3. GOOD EARTH

NUGU DAM PLATE (DIV. I), (1,200m), rated 20 to 45, 5-y-o & over, 4-30: 1. Al Dorado (5) Kiran Rai 62.5, 2. Brooklyn Supreme (2) Chetan K 62.5, 3. Maybe Forever (4) Rajesh K 62.5, 4. Be Bold (3) Sai Kumar 61, 5. Habanero (9) A. Imran 61, 6. Lucky Pineapple (7) J. Paswan 61, 7. Morrane Gabriella (8) R. Pradeep 60, 8. Sufficient Proof (6) Chetan G 60, 9. Touch Of Class (1) Sai Kiran 60, 10. Tanoura (11) Adarsh 59, 11. Stari Grad (12) Dhebe 58.5 and 12. Back Of Beyond (10) S. Shareef 58.

1. BROOKLYN SUPREME, 2. HABANERO, 3. BE BOLD

9 KASARGOD PLATE (DIV. I), (1,400m), rated 20 to 45, 5-00: 1. Country's Power (1) Darshan 60.5, 2. Dancing Blues (5) Janardhan P 60, 3. Dean's Gal (11) H.M. Akshay 60, 4. Spiritual Force (10) C. Umesh 60, 5. Naval Glory (6) Santosh K 57, 6. Sky Jasmine (8) K. Raghu 57, 7. Ireland (4) Rajesh K 56.5, 8. Frosted (9) Arshad 56, 9. Airvelocity (7) I. Chisty 55, 10. Masters Mind (2) S. Imran 55, 11. Octopussy (3) H. Rahul 55 and 12. Veni Vidi Vici (12) T.S. Jodha 54.5.

3. AIRVELOCITY Day's best: NOSTRADAMUS Double: SPANISH BEAUTY CASTAWAY Jkt: 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9; Tr (i): 1, 2 and 3; (ii): 4, 5, and 6, (iii): 7, 8 and 9.

1. FROSTED,

2. COUNTRY'S POWER,



#### from Botswana: study

Modern humans emerged 2,00,000 years ago in a region of northern Botswana, scientists have found. While it has long been known that modern humans — Homo sapiens - originated in Africa, scientists have until now been unable to pinpoint the precise location of our species' birthplace. A team analysed DNA samples from 200 Khoesan people to arrive at the conclusion. AFP



U.K. to melt down and recycle Brexit coins

The U.K.'s Royal Mint plans to melt down and recycle the commemorative coins minted to mark Brexit on October 31, after the U.K.'s exit from the European Union (EU) was delayed by three months until January 31, 2020. The concept of a new 50-pence coin, featuring the U.K.'s scheduled departure date from the economic bloc, will now be moved to a later date. "We will still produce a coin to mark our departure from the European Union," a U.K. Treasury official said. PTI

## Assamese Bhaona to make an English debut in Abu Dhabi

Three siblings seek to take the folk theatre form to a global audience

RAHUL KARMAKAR

Almost 500 years after saintreformer Srimanta Sankardeva experimented with the literary language of Brajavali, Assam's Bhaona has now reached foreign shores in an English avatar.

Entertainment played a major role in the neo-Vaishnavite movement that Sankardeva started in Assam. He wrote his prose in Sanskrit but used Assamese and Brajavali to develop Borgeet, a new form of spiritual music, and Bhaona, a mythologybased theatrical performance, and monastic dances that evolved into the classical Sattriva.

Linguistic researchers say Sankardeva needed to connect with his Assamese masses, who did not expect the divine characters of his plays to speak in the common man's language. So he created the Brajavali, a literary language limited to theatrical usage.

The need to connect with an audience not conversant with Assamese, not to speak of Brajavali, was the reason why three siblings from Sonitpur district's Jamugurihat conceived the English Bhaona a couple of years ago. The experiment has taken them to Abu Dhabi where they are set to stage two Bhaonas -





Vibrant medley: Bhaona performers incorporate music, dance and drama into the folk art form. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Keli Gopala ('Playful Krishna') and Ravana Badha ('Slaying Ravana') - on November 1.

"The Bhaonas would be performed by members of Prajanma Unmesh, a sociocultural organisation, at the BRS Auditorium in Mohammed Bin Zayed City. Assam's Department of Culture has supported our initiative to take Bhaona to the world

in a language many are familiar with," Sandhya Gitimallika Baidya told The Hindu.

While Ms. Baidya and her sister Girimallika Saikia are the coordinators of the plays, their brother Arup Sakia is the director. He also translated the Bhaonas from Brajavali into English.

Conservatives have been critical of the trio for "deviating" from the pure form of Sankardeva and his disciple Madhabdeva's their "English misadventure".

Mr. Saikia defended the attempt. "Intellectual assets cannot be kept within the narrow confines of a particular language. One has to change with the times and showcase the cultural wealth to the new generation across the globe," he said.

A Bhaona, involving dialogues, songs and dances by performers in costumes and ornaments, usually involves 40-50 people, including those playing heavy drums and cymbals.

But the team that landed in Abu Dhabi on Tuesday has 25 members.

'Transporting an entire troupe with their costumes and array of musical instruments is unwieldy besides being expensive. We had to keep the troupe to a minimum for managing with a limited budget," Ms. Baidya

Many of the actors in the two Bhaonas are schoolchildren. They include Ms. Baidya's 13-year-old son Daawarnil, one of the lead singers, and 14-year-old Rahat Rahman who plays two characters from the Ramayana – Rama's brother Laskhmana and Bali, the monkey king of Kishkindha

## 14 mountains in six months: Nepali climber makes history

Nirmal Purja smashes record for scaling highest peaks

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

A Nepali mountaineer on Tuesday smashed the speed record for summiting the world's 14 highest peaks, racing up all "8,000ers" in just six months and six days, organisers said.

The previous record for the 14 mountains above 8,000 metres tall was almost eight years.

"MISSION ACHIEVED! says @nimsdai from the summit of #Shishapangma," read a post on Mr. Purja's Facebook page, while a statement quoted him as being "overwhelmed and incredibly proud" after his 189-day

"It has been a gruelling but humbling six months, and I hope to have proven that anything is possible with some determination, self-belief and positivity,' the 36-year-old said. "We started with nothing, but look how far we've come."

Starting with Italy's legendary Reinhold Messner in 1986 - who on Tuesday praised Mr. Purja's "unique mountaineering accomplishment" - around 40 climbers have climbed the Earth's 14 highest mountains, but none have come close to Mr. Puria's speed.

The late Polish climber Jerzy Kukuczka took seven years, 11 months and 14 days



Pinnacle of success: Nirmal Purja. •@NISMDAI/TWITTER

in 1987. South Korean Kim Chang-ho completed the challenge one month faster although unlike Mr. Kukuczka and also Mr. Purja, he never used supplementary oxygen. Mr. Purja, a former member of the Gurkhas – a brigade of Nepalis in the British Army – as well as the elite Special Boat Service, kicked off "Project Possible" in April.

In the first part of his record attempt, Mr. Purja ticked off Annapurna, Dhaulagiri, Kanchenjunga, Everest, Lhotse and Makalu in just one month.

A month later, Mr. Purja

tackled the notorious Nanga Parbat at 8.125 metres.

Battling sleep deprivation to meet his target, Mr. Purja said he was almost sprinting up and down five of Pakistan's highest peaks including Gasherbrum I, Gasherbrum II and K2, the second highest in the world.

Twenty-three days later he was standing atop Broad Peak, his fifth and final mountain of the second phase. Mr. Purja began his final push in September, reaching the tops of Cho Oyu and Manaslu within a week.

With the summit of Shishapangma, he met his goals.

## Robert Evans, maverick producer of classics, dies at 89

He oversaw the making of *The Godfather* and *Chinatown* 

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Legendary Hollywood movie mogul Robert Evans. who oversaw 1970s classics The Godfather and Chinatown, has died aged 89.

A larger-than-life figure, Evans was known in Tinseltown both for saving Paramount Pictures by greenlighting a string of hits, and for his tabloid lifestyle including cocaine addiction and seven marriages.

Evans' death, which occured on Saturday, was confirmed on Monday by his publicist, and by a second person close to the producer. No details were immediately available.

Evans took over as Paramount's head of production in 1966 aged just 36, ushering in a highly successful era for the studio including Ro-



Robert Evans

semary's Baby (1968) with director Roman Polanski, followed by Francis Ford Coppola's The Godfather

Mr. Coppola paid tribute on Monday to Evans' "charm, good looks, enthusiasm, style, and sense of humour".

"He had strong instincts as evidenced by the long list of great films in his career," said Mr. Coppola, also praising the producer's "ultimate realisation that The Godfather could be 2 hours and 45 minutes in length". Evans earned an Oscar

nomination - his only Academy recognition - for personally producing Chinatown (1974). Born the son of a New

York dentist in 1930, Evans was a partner in a clothing company before moving to Los Angeles where he began his film acting career. He appeared in the 1957 movie version of Ernest Heming way's The Sun Also Rises, despite the author's prot-

Darryl F. Zanuck, head of 20th Century Fox at the time, reportedly insisted that the handsome Evans remain in the film by declaring "The kid stays in the picture" - later the title of Evans' autobiography and a documentary about his life.

#### Trick or treat



All dressed up: U.S. President Donald Trump and First Lady Melania Trump hand out candy to schoolchildren in advance of Halloween (October 31) at the White House in Washington, U.S. on Monday. • REUTERS

#### **Indians** are the least active: study

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

India has emerged as the least active country among 18 countries including the U.S., the U.K., Japan and Singapore, according to a report by fitness solutions firm Fitbit. It said an Indian user walked an average of 6,533 steps daily.

Indians were also the second-most sleep deprived after Japan, getting an average night sleep of 7 hours 1 minute, the report said.

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.

## Mountain gorillas in Africa rebound thanks to careful interventions

Change could not have happened without an exercise some biologists call "extreme conservation", which has entailed monitoring every single ape in the rainforest

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Deep in the rainforest of Volcanoes National Park, a 23year-old female gorilla named Kurudi feeds on a strand of wild celery. She bends the green stalks and, with long careful fingers, peels off the exterior skin to expose the succulent inside.

Biologist Jean Paul Hirwa notes her meal on his tablet computer as he peers out from behind a nearby stand of stinging nettles.

The large adult male sitting next to her, known as a silverback, looks at him quizzically. Mr. Hirwa makes a low hum "ahh-mmm" imitating the gorillas' usual sound

of reassurance. "I'm here," Mr. Hirwa is trying to say. "It's OK. No reason to worry.'

#### Raising the alarm

American primatologist Diane Fossey, who died in 1985, would likely be surprised any mountain gorillas are left to study. Alarmed by rising rates of poaching and deforestation in central Africa, she predicted the species could go extinct by 2000.

A concerted and sustained conservation campaign has

Dedicated team: Trackers observing a pair of gorillas in Volcanoes National Park. • AFP averted the worst and given a second chance to these great apes, which share about 98% of human DNA. Last year, the Switzerland-

based International Union for Conservation of Nature changed the status of mountain gorillas from "critically endangered" to "endangered," an improved if stillfragile designation, reflecting new survey data.

It wouldn't have happened without an interventreme conservation," which has entailed monitoring every single gorilla in the rainforest, periodically giving them veterinary care to clean infected wounds, for instance, and funding forest protection by sending money into communities that might otherwise resent not being able to convert the

tion some biologists call "ex-

woods into cropland. "The gorillas are still here. We celebrate that as a victory," Mr. Hirwa says. Instead of disappearing, the number of mountain gorillas, a subspecies of the eastern gorilla, has risen from 680 a decade ago to just over 1,000 today. Their population is split between two regions, including mist-covered defunct volcanoes within Congo, Uganda and Rwanda one of Africa's smallest and most densely populated countries. The population of moun-

tain gorillas is still vulnera-

ble," says George Schaller, a renowned biologist and gorilla expert. "But their numbers are now growing, and that's remarkable."

Once depicted in legends and films like King Kong as fearsome beasts, gorillas are actually languid primates that eat only plants and insects, and live in fairly stable, extended family groups. Their strength and chestthumping displays are generally reserved for contests

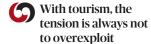
#### Medical assistance

between male rivals.

Every week, Mr. Hirwa and other scientists gather data as part of long-term behavioural research.

In case medical intervention is needed, the scientists inform the chief park warden and the staff at Gorillas Doctors, a non-governmental group whose veterinarians work in the forest. The vets monitor wounds and signs of respiratory infections, but intervene sparingly.

When they do for example, by darting a gorilla with antibiotics they almost never remove the animals from the mountain, since reuniting gorillas can be difficult. A



Global Wildlife Conservation

long absence can change the delicate social dynamic.

"Our hospital is the forest," says Jean Bosco Noheli, a veterinarian at Gorilla Doctors. When his team goes into the field to address a gorilla emergency, they must carry everything they might need in equipment bags weighing up to 45 kg, including portable X-ray machines.

Mr. Schaller, the biologist, conducted the first detailed studies of mountain gorillas in the 1950s and early 60s, in what was then the Belgian Congo. He was the first to discover that wild gorillas could, over time, become comfortable with periodic human presence, a boon to researchers and, later, tou-

Today, highly regulated tour groups hike in the Rwandan rainforest to watch gorillas. Within Volcanoes National Park, tour groups are limited to eight people at a time, with only an hour spent observing gorillas.

People are not allowed to

but the pair persisted.

of how many people could visit the forest, and for how long, was a delicate process

germs from humans. The number of tourists per day is limited, and the price is steep: \$1,500 (₹1.6 lakh) per visit.

carry food or even water bot-

tles near the animals, lest a

curious silverback snatch

them and get exposed to

#### Sustainable ideas Ticket revenue pays for oper-

ating costs and outstrips what might have been made from converting the rainforest to potato farms and cattle pastures. About 40% of the forest already was cleared for agriculture in the early 1970s. "With tourism, the tension is always not to overexploit," says Dirck Byler, great ape conservation director at the non-profit Global Wildlife Conservation, which is not involved in the Rwanda gorilla project. "But in Rwanda, so far they're careful, and it's working."

The idea of using tourism to help fund conservation was contentious when conservationists Bill Weber and Amy Vedder first proposed it while living in Rwanda during the 1970s and 80s. Diane Fossey herself was sceptical,

Figuring out the balance

of trial and error, Mr. Weber

The pair, who are married and currently professors at Yale University, had another idea, equally radical when it was first proposed some of the money raised must bene-

fit local communities. "Back then, the field of conservation was dominated by the 'fortress model': You draw a line, build a wall, hire guards and keep local people out," Mr. Weber says. "But it wasn't really working to stop poaching. There needs to be a real incentive for local people to care about conserva-

In 2005, the government adopted a model to steer 5% of tourism revenue from Volcanoes National Park to build infrastructure in surroundvillages, including schools and health clinics. Two years ago, the share was raised to 10%

To date, about \$2 million has gone into funding village projects, chief park warden Prosper Uwingeli says. "Every year, we meet with the communities," he says. "We have to give back."