



Politics

Wonder which powers delayed
Bharat Ratna for Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel,
says Union minister Ravi Shankar Prasad

THE ASIAN AGE

FRIDAY | 1 NOVEMBER 2019 | NEW DELHI

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The BJP does not have a great freedom fighter of its own.

— Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, Congress leader

SHORT TAKES

Cong MLA gets one year in jail

Bhopal: A special court here sentenced Babul Jandel, a Congress MLA from Sheopur, and 14 others to one year's imprisonment by upholding the lower court's order, a prosecution official said on Wednesday. The judicial magistrate of Sheopur in Madhya Pradesh had awarded the same sentence on July 15 2015. But the accused later appealed against the judgment in sessions court, from where the case got transferred to a special court, constituted for cases against MPs and MLAs. — PTI

Vij terms Sidhu Pak representative

Chandigarh: A day after Pakistan invited Navjot Singh Sidhu to the inaugural ceremony of Kartarpur corridor, former Haryana cabinet minister Anil Vij on Thursday lashed out at the Congress leader calling him a "representative of Pakistan in India". "Navjot Singh Sidhu is pro-Pakistani. He has old relations (*purana prem*) with Pakistan and Imran Khan. He always speaks in favour of the neighboring country, talks in their language and advertises on their behalf. That is why they repeatedly invite him. He is a representative of Pakistan in India," Mr Vij said. — ANI

Cong will win local body polls: Pilot

Jaipur: Rajasthan deputy chief minister and state Congress chief Sachin Pilot exuded confidence on Thursday that the party would form boards in the local bodies that are going to polls next month. Buoyed by the Congress' victory in one of the two Assembly seats in the recently-held bypolls, Pilot said: "The Congress will win the local bodies election and will constitute boards." The state Congress president said he had directed the districts units to constitute committees, comprising young and experience leaders, to take decisions on the elections. — PTI

INDIRA, PATEL WORKED FOR UNITY: SELJA

Hisar: Haryana Congress president Kumari Selja on Thursday hailed the contributions of late prime minister Indira Gandhi and the country's first home minister Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, saying the two leaders had worked for the unity and integrity of the country. The Congress leader paid tributes to Gandhi on her 35th death anniversary and said that the late prime minister had sacrificed herself for the country. Gandhi was assassinated by her bodyguards in 1984. "She nationalised many banks. Today, the country owes her for the voice she gave to all sections including poor, common man, farmers and Dalits," Ms Selja said. Crediting Gandhi for taking several historic steps for the country's poor, Ms Selja said the former prime minister had a special bond with Haryana. "She had a connection with Haryana the day she was born. Haryana was nurtured by her. The farmers of the state got most benefit and the minimum support price for farmers is also due to Indira ji," she said. — PTI



Kumari Selja

■ Sena's Gorhe refuses to comment, says Uddhav will take call Cong will consider backing Sena to form govt: Chavan

AGE CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI, OCT. 31

Senior Congress leader and former chief minister Prithviraj Chavan on Thursday said that his party would consider supporting Shiv Sena to form the next government in Maharashtra. He said that if the Bharatiya Janata Party, which is the single largest party, fails to form the government, Shiv Sena should get the next opportunity.

There is an intense struggle going on between the Shiv Sena and BJP for the chief minister's post after the Assembly poll result.

Adding fuel to the fire, Mr Chavan on Thursday said that his party would consider giving support to the Sena if any such proposal comes from the Uddhav Thackeray-led party.

While speaking to media Mr Chavan said, "The BJP is the single largest party in the election and has the right to form the government. But after seeing the war of words between two saffron parties, if the BJP fails, Shiv Sena, which is second largest party, will get a chance. If they seek support from the Congress, then it would be certainly considered. We would put the proposal before party high command Sonia Gandhi".

On the other hand, Shiv Sena leader Neelam Gorhe refused to comment and said that Mr Thackeray would take a final call about it.

Two days back, Congress Maharashtra state youth wing president Satyaajeet Tambe had also suggested that Aaditya Thackeray be made the chief minister. "Hich ti vel (it is the right time)," he wrote in a Facebook post. He also advised MLAs not to wait for the "right age" to



Shiv Sena MLA Aaditya Thackeray hands a document to Maharashtra governor Bhagat Singh Koshari urging him to declare a drought in the state owing to unseasonal rain in various parts in Mumbai on Thursday.

— PTI

become the chief minister or they would lose the opportunity.

Claiming to be Aaditya's friend, he wrote, "In politics, time never comes back. So, use the opportunity to become the chief minister. You must get what you want and do not rely on anyone." Satyaajeet also requested, "If anyone will ask you to wait for the right age, do not listen to them."

A day after he rubbished the Shiv Sena's claim that the BJP had agreed to share the Maharashtra chief minister's post, chief minister Devendra Fadnavis on Wednesday offered an olive branch to his sulking ally.

Making a special mention of Shiv Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray in an address to his parties' newly-elected MLAs after being unanimously re-elected as the leader of the state BJP Legislative Party in a meeting in Mumbai, Mr Fadnavis said, "I thank Shiv Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray for his support."

Sena will go with BJP: Mungantiwar

AGE CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI, OCT. 31

Senior BJP leader Sudhir Mungantiwar has again mocked the Shiv Sena, saying that the post of chief minister would be given to the Uddhav Thackeray-led party only as Devendra Fadnavis himself is a Shiv Sainik.

Mr Mungantiwar has also claimed that the BJP will form the state government along with the Shiv Sena as the latter will go along with the BJP despite initial denials.

Mr Mungantiwar Thursday said that within a week, Mr Fadnavis will be sworn in as the chief minister and the swearing-in will be held both for the BJP and Sena. The Sena will go along with the BJP saying "Na na karte pyar tumhi se kar



Sudhir Mungantiwar

formation talks between the BJP and Sena are still underway.

The Sena has been insisting on equal sharing of power, including the chief minister's post.

According to sources however, the BJP has proposed a 13:26 formula, where 13 portfolios will be given to BJP's alliance partners and 26 will be kept by the BJP.

Commenting on the proposed formula, Mr Mungantiwar said that the Shiv Sena deserves more than 13 seats.

baithe".

A week has passed since an announcement of the Vidhan Sabha poll results but government formation

Trade union movement's doyen, Dasgupta, no more

Kolkata, Oct. 31: Veteran CPI leader Gurudas Dasgupta, one of the doyens of the country's trade union movement and a former MP, died here on Thursday following prolonged illness. He was 83.

Dasgupta is survived by his wife and daughter. Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi condoled the death of the CPI veteran, saying he was a strong voice in Parliament.

A five-term parliamentarian since 1985, Dasgupta was three times elected to the Rajya Sabha and twice voted to the Lok Sabha from West Bengal.

He was born on November 3, 1936, in Barishal district (now in Bangladesh) of undivided Bengal. After partition, he along with his parents and siblings moved to West Bengal.

A fiery orator who never shied away from raising issues concerning the masses and the working class both inside and outside parliament, Dasgupta was baptised into politics as a student leader during the tumultuous '50s and '60s.

He served as the president and general secre-



Gurudas Dasgupta

tary of the undivided Bengal Provincial Students' Federation in late '50s and went underground several times.

After the CPI split in 1964, which led to the formation of the Communist Party of India (Marxist), Dasgupta decided to stay with the parent party.

Later, he was shifted to the labour wing of the party in the early '70s to work among the labour force employed in the organised and unorganised sectors.

Dasgupta, who took over as the general secretary of the All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC) — the trade union wing of the CPI — in 2001, is credited with transforming the lesser-known trade union into a major trade union front of the country.

The widely travelled

► The widely travelled communist, with his trademark full-sleeve red sweater during winter, stood out as a parliamentarian for his oratory skills

communist, with his trademark full-sleeve red sweater during winter, stood out as a parliamentarian for his oratory skills.

His speeches earned praise from politicians, cutting across party lines. Though a diehard communist, Dasgupta was not dogmatic and shared good terms with leaders across the political spectrum.

Despite being political and ideological adversaries, he shared a rapport with former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, a section of Congress leaders and West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee.

In 2004, Dasgupta along with late CPI leader A.B. Bardhan, played a key role in the formation of the United Progressive Alliance (UPA-1) government which was supported by the Left parties, including the CPI. — PTI

Rajnath administers pledge to military, civilian officials

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, OCT. 31

Defence minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday administered a 'Rashtriya Ekta Diwas pledge' to the senior military and civilian officials of the ministry of defence on the occasion of 144th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

Remembering the architect of united modern India, the defence minister along with the officials took vow to preserve the 'Unity, Integrity and Security of the Nation'.



Rajnath Singh

As first home minister of Independent India, Sardar Patel played key role in integrating more than 560 princely states in India. Government had decided in 2014 to observe the day as 'Rashtriya Ekta Diwas' or 'National Unity Day'. Chief of the Army Staff General Bipin Rawat, defence secretary Dr Ajay Kumar and other senior officials took part.



Rahul Gandhi

BJP takes a dig at Rahul for regular foreign visits

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, OCT. 31

Claiming that Congress leader Rahul Gandhi had travelled abroad on 16 occasions in the last five years, more than he visited his family's earstwhile pocketborough Amethi, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Thursday said that the Congress leader's frequent foreign visits are a matter of public interest as he is a public representative.

Amethi in Uttar Pradesh was Mr Gandhi's parliamentary constituency until he lost in the Lok Sabha polls held earlier this year. He was elected to the Lok Sabha from Wayanad in Kerala.

The Congress had on Wednesday said that Mr Gandhi has gone on a "meditation visit" abroad and will miss the party's nationwide protests against the Modi government over key issues from November 5 to 15.

Targeting Mr Gandhi for his "frequent" foreign visits and the "secrecy" surrounding them, the BJP asked if he was involved in some secret operation.

BJP national spokesperson and Rajya Sabha member GVL Narsimha Rao said Mr Gandhi visited abroad more than Amethi which is also one of the reasons the people of Amethi had rejected him.

Opp. parties mock BJD's 5T concept

AKSHAYA KUMAR
SAHOO
BHUBANESWAR, OCT. 31

The Opposition BJP and Congress on Thursday cornered the ruling-party asking why the concept of 5T (Teamwork, Transparency, Technology, Time and Transformation) was introduced now after 20 years of BJD governance and not before.

While senior BJP leader and Bhubaneswar MP Aparajita Sarangi termed 5T model 'old wine in a new bottle', senior Congress MLA questioned whether it was '5T or Tea'.

On the sidelines 'Run for Unity' programme organised by the state BJP marking the 144th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Mr Sarangi said, "There was no need to create a separate department or a power centre like 5T. Rather, all the secretaries of the departments should be pushed to bring in the philosophy of 5T into their work culture."

AIIMS director told to form board to check PC's health

New Delhi, Oct. 31: The Delhi high court directed the AIIMS director to constitute a medical board on Thursday itself to give opinion on the health of former finance minister P Chidambaram, who is suffering from Crohn's disease and is currently lodged in Tihar jail in the INX Media money laundering case.

The high court said that the Hyderabad-based gastroenterologist Nageshwar Reddy, who has been treating the 74-year old Congress leader, be included in the board to give his opinion on Chidambaram's medical condition.

Chidambaram has sought interim bail in the case, filed by the Enforcement Directorate (ED), on medical grounds saying his condition is deteriorating and he needs to be in a sterile environment.

Justice Suresh Kait directed that the board will sit Thursday to discuss Chidambaram's medical condition and place the report before the court which will hear the matter on Friday.



P. Chidambaram

Chidambaram has sought interim relief for six days to enable him to consult and get examined by his regular doctor, Reddy, at the Asian Institute of Gastroenterology (AIG) in Hyderabad.

He has claimed that he needs "urgent medical treatment for the acute and persistent abdominal pain being experienced" by him since October 5 due to Crohn's disease which he was diagnosed with in 2017.

Crohn's disease refers to the inflammation of the digestive tract leading to abdominal pain, diarrhoea and also weight loss. Senior advocate

‘Public servants need clearance to visit Kartarpur’

AGE CORRESPONDENT
with agency inputs
NEW DELHI, OCT. 31

The ministry of external affairs (MEA) on Thursday made it clear any public servant who is not part of the Indian official "jatha" (religious contingent) for the Kartarpur pilgrimage has to seek political clearance from the MEA before visiting Pakistan as it is a foreign country.

Asked whether Punjab MLA Navjot Singh Sidhu too would have to seek political clearance in the wake of reports that he had been invited by the Pakistan government, the MEA spokesperson made



A procession of Sikh devotees cross Attari-Wagah border towards Nankana Sahib in Pakistan to mark the 550th Parkash Purab.

— PTI

it clear Mr Sidhu too would have to seek the mandatory political clear-

ance. The MEA spokesperson said India had already

given its list (to Pakistan) of persons who would be part of its official "jatha" to go to the Kartarpur Sahib Gurudwara on November 9 but that no response had been received as yet from Pakistan.

Meanwhile, officials said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the state-of-the-art Passenger Terminal Building (PTB) at Dera Baba Nanak in Punjab on November 8, formally opening the Kartarpur corridor. The prime minister will also address a public meeting nearly three kilometres from the building after the inauguration, following which he will attend the 550th birth

anniversary celebrations of Guru Nanak being organised at Sultanpur Lodhi, they said.

The much-awaited corridor will connect the Dera Baba Nanak shrine in Gurdaspur, Punjab, with the gurdwara at Kartarpur, just around four kilometres from the international border, located at Shakargarh in Narowal district of Pakistan's Punjab province.

Guru Nanak Dev, the founder of Sikhism, had spent more than 18 years of his life at the Darbar Sahib gurdwara in Kartarpur located on the banks of the river Ravi, making it one of the holiest sites for devotees.



Caution

Vice-president Venkaiah Naidu cautions against remarks by political leaders on J&K

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J&K's transition from a state into 2 Union Territories is beginning of a 'new chapter'

— Prakash Javadekar, Union minister

SHORT TAKES

Odisha signs pact with Abhijit's K-PAL

Bhubaneswar: The Odisha government on Thursday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL) South Asia to engage in a strategic evidence-based approach to policymaking. The partnership targets to maximise the impact of anti-poverty programmes of the state across a wide range of sectors. J-PAL is co-founded by Abhijit Banerjee and Esther Duflo, joint winners of 2019 Nobel Prize in economics for their experimental approach to alleviating global poverty. Under this partnership, J-PAL South Asia will provide the Odisha government technical assistance for scaling up evidence-backed programmes.

Mathura jeweller duped of ₹1.31cr

Mathura: A jeweller here was allegedly duped of around ₹1.31 crore by two traders from Punjab's Ludhiana, according to an FIR. According to the complaint filed by Praveen Kumar, proprietor of Kanha Jems and Art Gallery, two brothers — Gyaneshwar Sood and Yogeshwar Sood — from Ludhiana had given an order for a gold umbrella for Lord Badrinath. Diamond, emerald and other gems were fixed in the umbrella weighing around 3.35 kg, the FIR said. The umbrella worth around ₹1.31 crore was to be delivered to the Ludhiana traders on April 6, 2018, with a rider that the payment for it would be made within a week. Kumar said the FIR was lodged on August 31 this year as the traders didn't pay him. — PTI

Lightning kills 3, injures 10 in MP

Sindhwa, MP: Three labourers died and 10 sustained injuries due to a lightning strike in Banihar village of Sindhwa on Thursday. "Three people have died and 10 have been injured and currently receiving treatment at Civil Hospital in Sindhwa," said Sub-divisional officer T.S. Baghel. A Police team is currently on the spot. Further details are awaited. — ANI

RAINS POUND KERALA, 1K SENT TO CAMPS

Thiruvananthapuram: With rains pounding Kerala on Thursday due to the cyclonic storm in the Arabian sea, over 1000 people have been shifted to 11 relief camps across the state and search is on for six fishermen from north Kerala who are yet to return to shore. The weather department has asked fishermen not to venture into the sea till November 2 until the cyclonic storm "Maha" subsides. The India Meteorological Department said "Maha" has intensified into severe cyclonic storm on Thursday and is very likely to intensify into a very severe cyclonic storm over east central Arabian Sea during the next 24 hours. As the cyclone intensified, the IMD said gale winds very likely to increase upto 100-110 kmph gusting to 120 kmph over eastcentral Arabian Sea from midnight. During the next 24 hours, gale wind speed reaching 80-90 kmph gusting to 100 kmph was likely to prevail over northern parts of Lakshadweep area and adjoining southeast Arabian Sea during the subsequent 24 hours and decrease gradually. Sea conditions over Lakshadweep area and adjoining southeast Arabian Sea will be high to very high during the next 24 hours. — PTI

India and China in war of words over UTs' creation

Beijing calls move 'null and void', India hits back

SRIDHAR KUMARASWAMI
NEW DELHI, OCT. 31

India and China were involved in a fierce exchange of words on Thursday, with Beijing calling the creation of two new Union Territories (of J&K and Ladakh) as "unlawful and void" and New Delhi hitting back to remind China that it has "illegally occupied" large tracts of land belonging to J&K state.

The verbal exchange comes just days after the informal summit between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping at Mamallapuram in Tamil Nadu.

After India had revoked Article 370 and announced bifurcation of J&K state into two union territories in early-August this year, China had protested against the move since the territorial jurisdiction of the Ladakh Union Territory (like the erstwhile J&K state) includes the Aksai Chin area that is under Chinese occupation. The territorial jurisdiction of the Ladakh UT is as per the territorial claim of India.

"The Indian government officially announced the establishment of so-called Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory and Ladakh Union Territory that included some of China's territory into its administrative jurisdiction. China deplores and firmly opposes that. India unilaterally changes its domestic laws and admin-



Advisor Farooq Khan meets first lieutenant-governor of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir G.C. Murmu in Srinagar on Thursday. — PTI

istrative divisions challenging China's sovereignty. This is unlawful and void and this is not effective in any way and will not change that fact that the area is under Chinese actual control," Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Geng Shuang was quoted as saying at a foreign ministry press briefing in Beijing.

India retaliated soon after. "China continues to be in occupation of a large tract of area in the Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh. It has also illegally acquired Indian territories from Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) under the so-called China-Pakistan Boundary Agreement of 1963. India has consistently conveyed its concerns to both China and Pakistan on the projects in so-called China-Pakistan Economic Corridor which is in the territory that has been illegally occupied by Pakistan since 1947," MEA

spokesperson Raveesh Kumar said.

He added, "We have seen the statement made by the spokesperson of the ministry of foreign affairs of China on the establishment of the Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh. China is well aware of India's consistent and clear position on this issue. The matter of reorganisation of the erstwhile state of Jammu & Kashmir into the Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh is entirely an internal affair of India. We do not expect other countries, including China, to comment on the matters which are internal to India, just as India refrains from commenting on internal issues of other countries. The Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh are integral part of India. We expect other countries to respect India's sovereignty and territorial integrity."

MEA defends EU MPs trip to Kashmir Valley

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, OCT. 31

After a controversy over the visit of several European Union MPs (MEPs) to New Delhi and then to Jammu and Kashmir earlier this week, the ministry of external affairs (MEA) indicated it had "facilitated" the visit, adding that engagement with the international community does not amount to internationalisation of the Kashmir issue. At his weekly briefing on Thursday, MEA spokesperson Raveesh Kumar said that the MEPs had been to India on a private visit and that they had "expressed a desire to know about India", adding that they were "directly elected" representatives.

He said that the government "would look at such requests" in future too and that "intent, content and the ground situation" would be a "deciding factors". He said the issue was whether any such action promotes India's "objectives and national interests" and whether "sharing of perspective" serves the "national interest". He said that after the visit, the role of Pakistan in cross-border terrorism has got international attention.

"Our (MEA's) job is to facilitate ... This is part of our mandate ... We are supposed to share our perspective," the spokesperson

J&K broken into pieces: Congress

Jammu: The people of Jammu and Kashmir have nothing to celebrate as a state, which had an identity even 200 years before Independence, has been broken into pieces, Congress leader G.A. Mir said on Thursday. Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday transitioned from a state into union territories of Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh, nearly three months after Parliament abrogated the state's special status. "It is not a moment of happiness for the people, irrespective of their ideology," he said. — PTI

said, adding that part of the MEA's mandate involved engaging with a range of people (from abroad) including MPs, civil society, businessmen and media. He said that even earlier, the MEA had facilitated visits that were not organised through official channels.

He added that all foreign visitors "don't have to come through official channels". A controversy had erupted recently after it was revealed that the invitation to the MEPs had been issued by an NGO which had also claimed that PM Modi was keen to interact with decision-makers in Europe.

RCEP issues have to be resolved satisfactorily: MEA

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, OCT. 31

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit the Thai Capital Bangkok from November 2 to 4 during which he will attend the 16th Asean-India Summit, the 14th East Asia Summit and third Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) summit, the ministry of external affairs (MEA) said on Thursday.

In other engagements, PM Modi will address members of the Indian

Community at Bangkok besides releasing the Thai translation of the ancient Tamil classic Thirukkural written by the great ancient Tamil Sage Thiruvalluvar. The move is being seen as yet another powerful message sent by PM Modi who had praised the rich Tamil language and culture recently at the second informal summit with Chinese President Xi Jinping at Mamallapuram in the southern state.

On RCEP, the MEA's secretary (East) Vijay

Modi will visit Bangkok from November 2 to 4 during which he will attend the 16th Asean-India Summit, the 14th East Asia Summit and 3rd RCEP summit

Thakur Singh said, "The RCEP negotiations have been going on for many years now. India has participated constructively in these negotiations. We believe that RCEP repre-

sents a significant economic and trade opportunity. There are obviously some critical issues still outstanding and efforts are being made to resolve them to provide a fair and transparent trading environment.

"These issues are extremely important for our economy ... It is therefore imperative that these issues are resolved satisfactorily. India remains engaged to find a resolution of these issues. We expect greater clarity in that regard after ministe-

rial talks ..." She also said the "leaders will review negotiations currently taking place in Bangkok". The RCEP is a proposed free trade agreement (FTA) between the ten member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) (Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam) and its six FTA partners (China, Japan, India, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand).

Eating eggs may turn kids into cannibals: BJP leader

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY
BHOPAL, OCT. 31

BJP legislature party leader of Madhya Pradesh Gopal Bhargav has created a flutter when he said eating egg and meat may turn children cannibals.

Mr Bhargav whose bizarre remarks landed him in unnecessary controversy late on Wednesday night slammed the decision by Kamal Nath government to introduce eggs in the meals offered to malnourished children in anganwadi Centres in Madhya Pradesh, saying, "If children are fed egg and meat, then they may become cannibals later".

"India's Sanatan (eternal) culture prohibits eating of non-vegetarian food", he said and added, "What do you expect from this malnourished government (referring to resources starved Kamal Nath government)? Children who are vegetarians are being forced to eat eggs. Later, they will be forced to eat chicken and then meat. If children are habituated to non-vegetarian food, then they may become cannibals later".

Mr Bhargav had earlier hogged media limelight for making similar bizarre statements.

He had drawn ire of ruling Congress in MP when he described the just concluded by-elections in Jhabua (ST) assembly constituency in MP as "Indo-Pak war", while calling the candidate fielded by

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Gopal Bhargav

BJP as representative of India and that of Congress as nominee of Pakistan.

He had also invited criticism from several quarters when he slammed media coverage of ordeal of daughter of BJP MLA from Bareilly Rajesh Mishra after she married to a Dalit youth, saying that publicity given to such matters would only encourage incidents of

feticides in the country.

State women and child welfare minister Imarti Devi on Wednesday announced to serve eggs in the meals offered to malnourished children in anganwadi Centres in the state from November this year, as a measure to tackle the malnutrition problem in the state.

Madhya Pradesh has earned the dubious distinction of having the largest number of malnourished children in the country.

According to National Family Health Survey IV, 2016, there are more than 45 lakh children underweight and stunted children in MP. Of them, ten lakh children are identified as severely underweight.

Unmarried girl listed as widow, given house under PMAY

AGE CORRESPONDENT
BHUBANESWAR, OCT. 31

In a case of irregularity in the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) in the state, an unmarried college girl was allegedly allotted a house under the scheme after being listed as a widow in Narendrapur village under Thihidi block in the district.

According to the complainant Bhagirathi Sutar, Nibedita Behera, daughter of Rabindra Behera of Narendrapur village is an unmarried girl and studying in college but a PMAY house has been allotted under her name.

Sources said, Nibedita has also received ₹20,000 of the total 1,20,000 rupees sanctioned to her under the scheme in the first phase. On the other hand, Nibedita's father has clarified that he is not aware of being allotted any house under the PMAY. Reportedly, the complainant Bhagirathi and other villagers after coming to know about the alleged irregularity informed the Block Development Officer and the district Collector about the same. "An unmarried girl was mentioned as a widow and money was drawn in her name. We have enough proof to substantiate our allegations and have also apprised about the same to the concerned authorities, alleged Sutar.



Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman along with BJP workers participate in the Gandhi Sankalpa Yatra in Chennai on Thursday. — PTI

Article 370 acted as wall in J&K: PM

'Diversity in unity is India's biggest pride and challenge for enemies'

Kevadiya, Gujarat, Oct. 31: Paying glowing tributes to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel on National Unity Day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday defended the scrapping of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir, saying the special status provision only bred terrorism in the erstwhile state.

He also hailed India's unity in diversity, calling it the biggest challenge for the country's enemies.

Attending a function at the Statue of Unity here on Patel's 144th birth anniversary, Mr Modi led the gathering in taking the "national unity pledge" on National Unity Day.

"The new system in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh is not meant to



Prime Minister Narendra Modi pays floral tribute to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel at the Statue of Unity to commemorate his 144th birth anniversary at Kevadia in Narmada district of Gujarat on Thursday. — PTI

draw a line on the land (to draw a boundary) but to build a strong link of trust," the prime minister said in the wake of the

bifurcation of the state into Union Territories which came into existence from October 31.

Inspired by Patel, his gov-

ernment is working for "emotional, economic and constitutional integration" of the country, without which it would be difficult to imagine a powerful India in the 21st century, he said.

In a swipe at Pakistan, he said those "who cannot win wars" against India are trying to destroy its unity. "The country took the decision to scrap Article 370 (which provided special status to J&K), which had only given separatism and terrorism to that state," Mr Modi said.

"Over 40,000 people lost their lives in three decades of terrorism," he said, adding it was Patel's inspiration which made him take the decision to revoke Article 370. — PTI

Work together, not in silos, PM Modi tells IAS officers

Kevadiya, Gujarat, Oct. 31: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday called upon young IAS officers to work together for the nation, saying silos and hierarchy don't help the system.

He called for working towards realising the vision of making India a USD 5 trillion economy by 2024-25.

Mr Modi was addressing bureaucrats participating in the first-ever Common Foundation Course called "Aarambh", being held at Kevadiya in Narmada district of Gujarat.

"This course, Aarambh,

is nation-centric and future-centric. It will usher a paradigm shift in administration, whereby people stop working on silos. "Instead, people work together and in a comprehensive manner," a tweet posted on Modi's official twitter handle — PMO India — quoted him as saying at the event.

Mr Modi said no bureaucratic posting should be seen as a punishment rather it should be treated as an opportunity.

"The presence of silos and hierarchy doesn't help our system. Whoever we are, wherever we are, we have to

work together for the nation," he added.

"Let's change how we look at things. Even something like a changed terminology helps. Earlier, people would keep saying backward districts.

Today we say aspirational districts. Why should any posting be a punishment posting? Why not see it as an opportunity posting?" the PM said.

On the occasion, Modi remembered the contribution of independent India's first home minister, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, in the development of civil services. — PTI

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Website : www.csidc.in, Email: csidc_raipur@yahoo.com

Expression of Interest (Eoi) for Establishment of Bio-Ethanol Plant in Chhattisgarh State
NIT No./01/CSIDC/IPP/2019-20/ Dated 30.10.2019
CORRIGENDUM-01
Chhattisgarh State Industrial Development Corporation Limited (CSIDC) vide NIT dated September 30, 2019 has invited proposals for setting up of Bio-refinery unit in the State. Last date of submission of proposal has been extended till November 30, 2019 at 1500 Hrs. For further details, please visit www.csidc.in
Managing Director



Politics

At the absolute core of democracy lies the freedom within political parties, says Congress leader Salman Khurshid

Nation

PAGE 4

THE ASIAN AGE

FRIDAY | 1 NOVEMBER 2019 | NEW DELHI



RSS, Sewa Bharti played active role in polio eradication programme

—Harsh Vardhan, Union minister

SHORT TAKES

Man held for killing monitor lizard

Thane: A 32-year-old man from Navi Mumbai was arrested on Thursday for allegedly killing an Indian monitor lizard, an endangered species. The accused, Subhash Rathod, was identified and nabbed after a video went viral, in which he and some other persons could be seen killing the lizard, a statement issued by Thane divisional forest office said. "Based on the video, a probe was launched and Rathod was held from his residence in CBD Belapur in Navi Mumbai. During his interrogation, the accused told the officials that he and his two friends killed the monitor lizard, which they had found near his house," it added. — PTI

Mumbai, Hyd in creative cities' list

Hyderabad: UNESCO has announced that Mumbai and Hyderabad have been included in its network of 'Creative Cities' on the occasion of World Cities Day 2019 on Thursday. Mumbai has been designated as Creative City of Films and Hyderabad, a Creative City of Gastronomy, an official press release said. In India, Chennai and Varanasi are UNESCO cities of music while Jaipur is the City of Crafts and Folk Arts, the release said. By joining the UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN), the cities pledge to share their best practices. — PTI

French envoy to visit Assam Sat.

New Delhi: French envoy Emmanuel Lenain will undertake a three-day visit to Assam beginning Saturday to bolster ties between his government and the north-eastern state. Mr Lenain will travel from Guwahati to Kaziranga National Park to meet members of the French Development Agency and Assam Environment and Forest Department, involved in Assam Project for Forest and Biodiversity Conservation. On November 3, the delegation will return to Guwahati to share their tour insights with department of environment and forests, and the Assam State Biodiversity Board. — PTI

SENA STICKS TO 50:50 DEMAND

■ **Continued from Page 1** stated that he had not received any power-sharing formula from the BJP on government formation so far. "If the BJP fails to fulfil its promise, we have other options available too," he warned. "Our values say that one should keep one's promise. We are in no hurry to join the government. But our only demand is that the commitment be honoured. The BJP had promised before the Lok Sabha polls that all posts and responsibilities should be shared equally between both the parties and it should keep its word," said Mr Thackeray. Meanwhile, the party elected senior MLA Eknath Shinde as the leader of its legislative party. The legislator said that the rights of distribution of portfolios and government formation had been given to Mr Thackeray. The Sena's youth leader and Mr Thackeray's son Aaditya also refused to talk about government formation, saying that the party had given all rights to his father on this issue. "I will not talk about government formation. Whatever Uddhav Thackeray says will be the final word on the issue," he said after meeting governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari. Aaditya headed a Sena delegation, which met the governor to demand compensation to farmers and fishermen who suffered damages in the recent storm.

AICC clears names for K'taka polls, many upset

AGE CORRESPONDENT BENGALURU, OCT. 31

With the December 5 Assembly bypolls to 15 constituencies just over a month away, the Opposition Congress on Thursday declared its candidates for eight of these seats in what seems to be an attempt to steal an edge over the ruling BJP, which is yet to declare its candidates. The Congress choices include former Assembly Speaker K.B. Koliwad, who in a shock defeat, lost to independent MLA R. Shankar in Ranenbennur constituency in the May 2018 polls. Shankar was subsequently disqualified from the Assembly after he decided to support the BJP and his prospects of entering the fray this time depend on the Supreme Court verdict in the disqualified MLAs' case.

The choice of candidates makes it evident that Opposition leader in the Assembly Siddaramaiah has had his way in the selection process. Sources claimed that the candidates were selected without even discussing the names in State Election Committee meeting. The candidates' list has also raised eyebrows in Congress circles for other reasons. Sources said that M. Anjanappa who has been selected for the Chikkaballapur seat, is still with the JD(S) and has not joined the Congress officially.

Despite being on a sticky wicket, Army says it can take action under Army Act Indian Army still backs gay sex ban

PAWAN BALI NEW DELHI, OCT. 31

Indian Army, which is strongly opposed to homosexuality and adultery in its rank and file is in a legal conundrum after both these offences have been decriminalised by the Supreme Court.

While it has already written to the defence ministry on its concerns regarding revoking of these two provisions, a senior Army officer said that Army still

can take action against personnel for such behaviour under section 45 of Army Act, which deals with "Unbecoming conduct". He indicated that homosexuality and adultery will fall under "Unbecoming conduct" as armed forces personnel are expected to follow high moral standards. "It will depend on how we charge him and how such acts will come under Unbecoming conduct," said the official.

The officer said that the individual is free to approach the court after being charged under section 45 of Army Act.

He said that section 45 of Army Act has been approved by the Cabinet/Parliament and has not been repealed. "Some conduct can be legal but it may not be ethical," said the official. However, he added that "Supreme Court's judgements are law of the land and will be abided within

► **An individual is free to approach the court after being charged under section 45 of Army Act. Section 45 of Army Act has been approved by Cabinet/Parliament**

the Army." Under section 45, any officer, junior commissioned officer or warrant officer, who behaves in a

manner unbecoming his position and the character expected of him shall, on conviction by court-martial, if he is an officer, be liable to be cashiered or to suffer such less punishment as is in the act.

In the military, the offence of "stealing the affections of brother officer's wife - a euphemism for adultery - is a serious offence that is a notch below "cowardice", which is punishable with even death. The Army is also

acting against those involved in "moral turpitude and corruption."

Recently, one senior Army officer of rank of Major General has been dismissed from service due to moral turpitude.

"One more Major General is in the pipeline to be dismissed on the same issue," said sources. Since June 2017, more than 6 officers have been dismissed from services due to moral turpitude.

Merkel won't stand during national anthems due to medical condition

SRIDHAR KUMARASWAMI NEW DELHI, OCT. 31

India has agreed to a German request that visiting German chancellor Angela Merkel be seated, when the National Anthems of India and Germany are playing, in view of a medical condition she suffers from wherein she has bouts of shaking when she stands still.

The German Chancellor arrived in New Delhi on Thursday night. She will hold talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday.

Due to her medical condition, certain provisions from the order relating to the National Anthem of India will be invoked to allow Ms Merkel to be seated, while the national anthems of both countries are playing during the ceremonial reception



Union minister Jitendra Singh receives German Chancellor Angela Merkel on her arrival at Air Force Station Palam in New Delhi on Thursday.

— PTI

at Rashtrapati Bhawan on 1 November. The exemption as per the order is apparently being invoked based on a request from the German side to accommodate the chancellor's wish to be accorded the ceremonial welcome.

Observers point out that chancellor Merkel's difficulties in standing with-

out support are known and lately, she has been seen seated at ceremonial events, which would have normally required her to stand.

Meanwhile, New Delhi on Thursday said it was looking forward to Ms. Merkel's visit and hoped bilateral ties would rise to new heights.

Blow to HDK's 'junket diplomacy'

11 out of 14 MLCs not to join former CM's junket to Malaysia on Nov. 3

SHYAM SUNDAR VATTAM BENGALURU, OCT. 31

Former chief minister and JD(S) leader H.D. Kumaraswamy's 'Junket diplomacy' to keep his legislators secure from poaching by the BJP and Congress, seems to have come a cropper with 11 of the total 14 JD(S) members of the state legislative council deciding not to join the junket.

The legislators were supposed to accompany Mr Kumaraswamy on the junket to Malaysia on November 3 from Bengaluru. The purpose of the junket was to build bridges with party legislators and plead with them not to leave the party, said

sources. But JD(S) MLCs led by senior member, Mr Basavaraj Horatti have decided not to accompany the former CM and cited the floods in their respective constituencies as the reason. They felt it was wrong on their part to leave the state and go on a foreign jaunt at a time, when several parts of the North Karnataka region are yet to recover from the devastating effect of the floods. Besides, they suspect that they would be embarrassed by the media if they went off on a foreign trip.

Without mincing words, Mr Horatti said they did not want to go with Mr Kumaraswamy as their relationship had soured long ago. The former CM



H.D. Kumaraswamy

had no respect for senior leaders and runs the party as per his whims and fancies, he said, adding that in the present circumstances, there was no point in accompanying him to Malaysia. Except Mr Bhojgowda and Mr Appajgowda, none of the JD(S) MLCs are accompa-

nying the former CM, he added.

It is a known fact that the ties between Mr Horatti and Mr Kumaraswamy became strained after the former was unceremoniously removed from the post of chairman of the legislative council. Mr Horatti also lambasted his party leaders for neglecting the interests of legislators and not taking anyone into confidence.

Meanwhile, talking to reporters in Ramanagara, senior JD(S) MLC Puttanna said almost all of them have decided to quit JD(S) and join BJP. "Our party leaders are not bothered about us which has pained us a lot. We have resolved to quit the party," as early as possible."

J&K splits into two UTs

■ **Continued from Page 1** converted into two UTs even though there are numerous instances of a UT becoming a full state or a state being bifurcated into two states, like Bihar and Madhya Pradesh.

The two new entities take the total number of UTs to nine and bring down the number of states in India to 28. The BJP has called J&K's reorganisation "historic" and a tribute to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel on his birth anniversary. The Prime Minister, who was at the Statue of Unity in Kevadiya, Gujarat, on Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's 144th birth anniversary, defended the abrogation of Article 370 by saying that the special status provisions generated terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir.

"The new system in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh is not meant to draw a line on the land (to draw a boundary) but to build a strong link of trust," Mr Modi said. "Patel had once said that had he handled the Kashmir issue, it would not have taken so long to resolve it," the PM Modi said in a veiled swipe at first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, often blamed for the Kashmir issue by the ruling BJP.

As J&K — which has been part of the Union of India since its accession to it in 1947 — ceased to be a state and formally

bifurcated into two UTs, two IAS officers, Girish Chandra Murmu and Radha Krishna Mathur, were on Thursday sworn in as Lieutenant Governors of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, respectively. While Mr Murmu took oath as the first Lt Governor of the UT of J&K in Hindi at a function at the Raj Bhavan in Srinagar, his counterpart, Mr Mathur, was administered the oath of office and secrecy by Justice Gita Mittal, chief justice of J&K high court, at a similar function held earlier in Leh. He took the oath in English.

A complete shutdown was observed in Kashmir Valley to protest bifurcation of the state. Many people interviewed by this correspondent termed it "a stab in the back". There is growing apprehension among people in the Valley that the main motive behind the Centre scrapping Article 370 and Article 35A could be to pave the way for "outsiders" to get their hands on the land and other immovable properties in J&K in the run up to change the demography of the Muslim-majority (erstwhile) state.

Former CM Mehbooba Mufti tweeted, "While Kashmiris mourn massacre of J&K, the same development is a source of sadistic pleasure to rest of India. The emotional gulf that exists

between you and us couldn't be any wider. You violated our consent and rights but will never control how we feel. Long live Kashmir, Insha'Allah (God willing)". She also posted the official flag of the erstwhile state which has since been removed from all government buildings and other locations.

Ms Mufti is among the several Kashmiri politicians who were detained on the night of August 4 and has no access to Internet. Her Twitter handle is being operated by her daughter Iltija.

Though there was jubilation in the remote Buddhist enclave of Leh over Ladakh being made a UT, several local political parties have demanded certain legal and constitutional guarantees including under Article 371 to secure their land, jobs and socio-economic interests, and culture. They have also asked for Ladakh being declared a tribal area under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution.

However, in Kargil district of Ladakh, where Shia Muslims are in majority, various political parties and leaders have voiced concern over the move and want certain assurances pertaining to their political, cultural and economic interests. They are also apprehensive of probable "hegemony" of Leh and its Buddhist population.

Centre seals deal with Nagas

■ **Continued from Page 1** add: "I congratulate the Prime Minister and Union home minister for having the resoluteness to solve the Naga issue. Also, hearty congratulations to Mr R.N. Ravi, the interlocutor, and the NSCN (I-M) and NNPGs for arriving at a mutual understanding."

It is significant that Mr Zeliang met the two groups — NSCN (I-M) and the Naga National Political Groups (a conglomerate of seven other Naga groups) — in New Delhi on Tuesday and urged them to unite and sign the peace deal to ensure peace in Nagaland. He told the media: "I have been told that the issue of territorial integration

will be resolved in a democratic or political process very soon."

In the wake of the Naga talks deadline, a delegation of the Naga People's Front had met the 15-member NSCN (I-M) delegation and representatives of the NNPGs in New Delhi ahead of the last leg of talks.

Besides all civil society groups, student bodies and Church leaders, Nagaland's main Opposition party had also appealed both negotiating parties to hammer out their differences and sign the final deal, paving the way for a permanent peace.

Normal life in Manipur came to a standstill on Thursday in response to

the call for a 20-hour strike by the Coordinating Committee on Manipur's Integrity (COCOMI). An appeal by Manipur CM N. Biren Singh to call off the strike also went in vain.

The strike call was given after speculation in a section of the media about the signing of the Naga peace pact on October 31. The Manipur CM, who led a 20-member team of all political parties, met Union home minister Amit Shah on Wednesday night. Mr Shah told the team that no agreement will be signed without consulting all stakeholders. After this assurance, Mr Biren Singh urged COCOMI to call off the strike, but his appeal went unheeded.

Explain snooping: Govt to Whatsapp

■ **Continued from Page 1** Surveillance Software? 2. Who — PMO or NSA — authorised the purchase? 3. What action do you intend on taking against the guilty?" he asked.

Issuing a clarification on the contentious issue, the government stated, "Some statements have appeared based on reports in media regarding breach of privacy of Indian citizens on Whatsapp. These attempts to malign the Government of India for the reported breach are completely misleading." The statement further added, "Government of India is committed to protect the

fundamental rights of citizens, including the right to privacy, and will take strict action against any intermediary responsible for breach of privacy."

The government has asked the messaging platform to explain the breach and list out measures that have been taken to safeguard the privacy of millions of Indians. The response is expected by November 4. Mr Prasad hit out at the Opposition, saying those trying to make political gain out of the issue should be reminded of bugging incidents in the office of former finance minister Pranab

Mukherjee during the UPA regime, as also spying over then Army Chief Gen., V.K. Singh. He asserted that government agencies have a "well-established protocol for interception which includes sanction and supervision from highly ranked officials in central and state governments, for clear stated reasons in national interest".

WhatsApp said it is suing NSO Group, an Israeli surveillance firm that is reportedly behind the technology that helped unnamed entities' spies to hack into phones of roughly 1,400 users worldwide.

Disability pension

■ **Continued from Page 1** getting disability pension," sources said.

"Any officer from Brigadier level and above who is in shape can get his medical done from any military hospital. But others with medical problems will have to get it done at the Command Hospitals. Those who are posted in Delhi will have to do it in the Armed Forces Clinic in Delhi," an Army official said. He added that this has already been implemented for officers of the rank of major general and above.

In June this year, the finance ministry had said that income tax exemption on disability pension would be available only for those Army personnel, who have been "invalidated" from service due to disability. However, Rajnath Singh had said that the government will look into the ministry's circular. Army is also planning to remove current practice of assigning "percentage of disability" while officers are in service. "It is only on retirement that the Army officer will be told whether he has 20 per cent disability or 30. This is because when an officer is designated to have 30 per cent disability while in service, it becomes difficult to reassign the percentage later on if the same officer recovers after treatment.



An elderly woman sits inside her flooded house in Kanyakumari on Thursday. In the next 24 hours, heavy rains are likely in most districts of Tamil Nadu, including those along the western ghats owing to intensification of cyclonic storm "Maha". — PTI

Did the Congress give Sikhs the short shrift?



Priyadarshi Dutta

review

The tiny community of Parsis (Zoroastrians) threw up a line of civilian leadership during the freedom movement. They acted as a model minority who served the national cause, from Dadabhai Naoroji to Feroze Gandhi, without considering the interest of their own community. The presence of Tatas, Godrejs, Wadias and Modys prove that it was not a bad decision.

The political response of the Muslim community in colonial India was dissimilar. Right from the days of National Mohammedan Association (estd. 1877), founded by Syed Ameer Ali, they charted out an alternative course. The bulk of the community saw in the Congress a masked agenda for Hindu domination. The interest of the community took precedence over the freedom movement, leading to the creation of Pakistan.

The response of the Sikh community, another minority, was more ambivalent. It was neither of absolute participation in the national life (despite Ghadar martyrs, Bhagat Singh and Udham Singh) nor of secession despite ad hoc demands of "Azad Punjab" and "Khalistan" raised at some point. The community had a shared past with Hindus. They had dominated the history of Punjab in 18th and early 19th century by the dint of sword. It had touched the highest watermark during the 40-year long rule (1799-1839) of Maharaja Ranjit Singh.

Though vanquished in the Anglo-Sikh Wars, the community still enjoyed large share of recruitment in the colonial army.

But the community could not develop requisite skill sets, necessary in the age of civilian politics. While the Sikhs politics revolved round the gurdwara, they failed to throw up secular leadership. While in the age of swords, a 10 per cent population was enough to dominate Punjab, 14 per cent (as per Census 1941) proved too small to merit any special attention by the Congress or the Muslim League. The Sikhs who had once punched above their weight, failed to be at par in the politics of colonial India.



THE SIKH MINORITY AND THE PARTITION OF THE PUNJAB 1920-1947

Chhanda Chatterjee

THE SIKH MINORITY AND THE PARTITION OF THE PUNJAB 1920-1947

By CHHANDA CHATTERJEE Manohar pp235, ₹1,095

Chhanda Chatterjee's latest book, *The Sikh Minority and the Partition of the Punjab 1920-1947* (Manohar, 2019), makes a nuanced reading of the subject. Prof. Chatterjee, who formerly acted as the director, Guru Nanak Dev Studies, Visva Bharati University, has previously written about Sikh themes in the colonial setting.

The crystallisation of Sikh "identity", feels the author, was result of 19th century reformation that affected several other communities as well. Sikhs were enumerated as a separate community in the 1868 Census in Punjab, whereas they had been enumerated along with the Hindus in the 1855 Punjab Census. In the 1870s, the Sikhs realised the need for associations and institutions for promotion of learning and literature. The Singh Sabha was founded in Amritsar in 1873 and Lahore in 1879. The Arya Samaj, which began to publicly criticise contemporary Sikhism in 1885 for the same evils for which it had earlier assailed Hinduism, further provoked this alienation.

During the 19th century the Sikhs remained a loyal community. They were favoured by the British in military recruitment, which led to their disproportionate presence in the colonial army. Yet the Sikhs were left out in the cold when the Morley-Minto reforms introduced the principles of "separate electorates", from which the Muslims benefited in Punjab.

The loyalist image of Sikhs, the author informs, first received a rude shock with the launching of the canal colony agitation. It resulted in the deportation of Sardar Ajit Singh (uncle of Bhagat Singh, whom the martyr never saw in his lifetime, but he later on returned to India) and Lala

Lajpat Rai. The Ghadar movement, launched by expatriate Sikhs, also ended in disaster.

In 1920, there arose the Gurdwara Reforms Movement, to wrest the Sikh shrines from the hands of degenerate Hindu mahants. The Sikhs, encouraged by the Congress, joined Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi's Non-Cooperation Movement. But soon as Gandhi called off the movement, the Congress abandoned the Sikhs, and the community was left to fend for itself. The author describes a few other attempts of the Sikhs to align with the Congress in the late 1920s and mid-1940s. But the cold and insensitive attitude of the Congress repeatedly forced them to break off. The Congress rather tried to woo the more numerous Muslim community.

The Sikhs stood to lose most from the Partition, because in no district of Punjab they formed a clear majority. Their reaction to the Partition proposal fluctuated between denial and complete opposition to securing an independent "Khalistan". The Sikhs developed their own militia, like the Akal Fauj, which was funded by wealthy Hindus. This contributed to spiralling communal violence in Punjab. The Sikhs figuratively stood on the burning deck of a sinking ship in the land of five rivers. Ultimately the Partition declaration fell like a gill-outine upon their neck; and 2.5 million Sikhs trapped in western Punjab had no alternative but to flee across Ravi waters to the Indian side, notwithstanding its "Hindu majority".

The writer is an independent researcher and author based in New Delhi

Stars have little bank balance while they lead glam lives



Bhaichand Patel

extract

On a humid October morning in 1966 I landed in Bombay, now Mumbai, with the intention of practising law in the city. Three months earlier, I had been called to the Bar at Inner Temple in London but I was from a small country in the middle of Pacific Ocean, Fiji. I was lucky that Rajni Patel, one of the most prominent lawyers in the city found a place for me in his chambers. We were not related.

Two of my fellow juniors in the chambers, Katy Baam and Michael Saldana, went on to become High Court judges. Another, Balwant Desai, became a Minister in the Maharashtra Government. Meena Khanna was the sister of a rising film star, Rajesh Khanna and Aruna Joshi was the niece of N.M. Joshi, a prominent trade union leader.

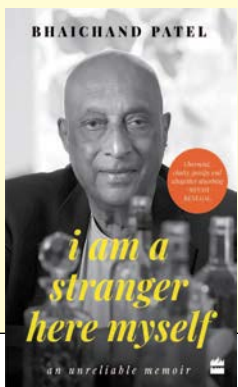
The most interesting of the lot, though by no means the most talented, was Kishore Sharma. Like me, he was a London educated barrister, not an advocate. He sat at the head desk as the most senior among us. We were all crowded in one room with a part-time secretary. The room also served as the waiting area for those seeking our services.

Meena Kumari, the actor, had moved out of her physically abusive husband's house and had come to Rajni Patel for legal protection and to sort out her complicated finances. One thing I have discovered over the years is that, while they live glamorous lives, many of the film stars have very little money in the bank. Often their houses are crawling with relatives who lived off them. Ismat Chughtai wrote a film script based on the life of Nargis and her sponging brothers, appropriately titled *Sone ki Chidhiya*.

Producer Ismail Merchant had to help out

Shashi Kapoor when his wife, terminally ill, needed expensive medical treatment. After the debacle of *Mera Naam Joker*, Raj Kapoor slept on a sofa in Bina Ramani's flat in New York to save on hotel expenses. A number of film stars, once a case was over, conveniently forgot to pay us our legal fees. *C'est la vie!*

Kishore was assigned the task of looking into the nitty gritty of Meena Kumari's case under Rajni Patel's supervision. He took to it like fish to water. Soon Kishore began devoting his



I AM A STRANGER HERE MYSELF

By BHAICHAND PATEL HarperCollins pp 272, ₹655

energies solely to her affairs, I use the word "affairs" advisedly. It seemed as if her bedroom in Juhu had a revolving door. In the evenings our chambers was overrun with all sorts of *filmi* types. The star had started drinking heavily and was neglecting her acting commitments. They came to plead with Kishore to bring her back to the studios. They were losing their shirts through her wayward ways. The fact that she was putting on weight was not helping matters



Meena Kumari

either.

Before we knew it Kishore married Meena Kumari's younger sister, who went under the name of Madhuri, a leftover from a short career as a child actor. She was earlier married to actor Mehmood. It was a mystery to us how Kishore and Madhuri hitched up. He was already married with a wife tucked away somewhere in Madhya Pradesh through an arranged marriage that had not worked from the start. All we knew about the earlier wife was that she came from one of the most distinguished families in Benares.

To no one's surprise Kishore gave up his law practice and shifted out to an office in Tardeo. He was now the full time business manager of Meena Kumari with ambitions of producing films, or so he told me.

One Saturday afternoon I went to visit him. We were chatting amicably when Meena Kumari walked into the office unannounced. She took the chair next to me without a word. Silence followed. I guess I was expected to leave but for me it was the chance of a lifetime, sitting next to the woman of my sexual fantasies. Finally Kishore got up and left the room and for the next few minutes I had Meena Kumari all to myself. Not a word was exchanged between us. I just breathed in the perfume that I imagined was emanating from her body. Then I got up and left.

I met Meena Kumari several times afterwards but always in company. I would be invited to "trials" of her films when with some luck they got completed. Trials were screenings of a rough cut of a film for the benefit of potential distributors to encourage them to invest and get screening rights.

One such film I saw at a trial was the forgettable *Baharon ki Manzil*. It was the last in which Meena Kumari appeared. The hero was one of her lovers, Dharmendra, not yet a major star. It was directed by Yakub Hassan Rizvi whom we knew in our chambers as Babban. Before the screening I was forewarned to keep any opinions on the film to myself since potential distributors sitting in the preview room might hear whatever I say and it could have an adverse effect. Meena Kumari too sat silently and left before the film was over.

By now she was seriously over-weight but she had retained her lovely face.

Excerpted from Bhaichand Patel's memoir, I am a Stranger Here Myself (chapter titled Meena Kumari and I), published by HarperCollins, ₹655. Available in bookshops and online.

India was Zimmer's muse, bedrock of his friendship with Jung



Sridhar Balan

meanwhile

A new book, *A Mediated Magic*, looks at the Indian presence in Modernism between the years 1880 and 1930. Among the various essays in the volume, on theosophy and musical culture, on Anna Pavlova and Indian dance, and on Tagore and Ananda Coomaraswamy's vision for Indian craft, there is also an essay on Carl Jung's relationship with India and his fascination with the Indian sacred texts.

Jung's engagement with India culminated in a visit in 1938 where he saw the temples devoted to Kali.

The essay deals in part with Jung's relationship with another noted Indologist Heinrich Zimmer and goes on to state that Zimmer was so profoundly influenced by Jung's interpretation of the Sanskrit texts that he felt it had "unlocked

the master key to comparative symbolism".

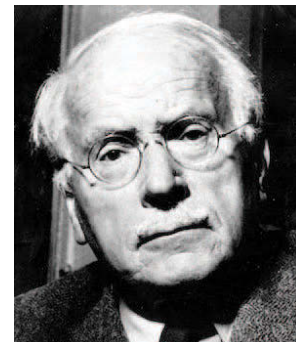
Jung had made a study of Buddhist, Hindu and Taoist practices in personality development and in his seminal work *Liber Novus*, he had quoted from the *Bhagavadgita* on the nature of dharma, "whenever there is a decline of the law and increase in inequity, then I put forth myself for the rescue of the pious and for the destruction of the evildoers. For the establishment of law, I am born in every age". This, of course, refers to Krishna as an *avatar* of Vishnu but Zimmer had read Jung's *The Secret of the Golden Flower* and this had a profound impact on him.

At their meeting in 1932, Zimmer told Jung, "What struck me then was the sudden insight that my Sanskrit texts were not merely a collection of grammatical and syntactical problems, but



Heinrich Zimmer

they also contained a substantial body of meaning." In Jung, Zimmer found someone with whom he could have a close, intellectual and spiritual relationship. Zimmer was willing to have Jung take on the role of a guru, a Zen master much like the role of a Hindu sage. Jung, on his part, was quite willing to assume this role. He too knew of Zimmer before they had met. He had read *Artistic Form and Yoga in the Sacred Images of India*. It was later reprinted and published in India, inspiring students of Indian religion and culture. Jung was to write later of that first meeting, "I found him to be a man of lively temperament, a man of genius.



Carl Jung

He talked a great deal and spoke very rapidly, but he could also be an excellent, attentive listener."

Zimmer's listening skills were to be put to test when, at a lecture at the Analytical Psychology Club of New York in 1942, Zimmer mentioned that the first teaching he received from Jung was neither oral nor written. "I was taught by the pictorial script of a mere gesture after the famous manner of the masters of Zen Buddhism, who prefer to teach without words by mere gestures and attitudes. In this case, it was a gesture of both his hands, and in one of them, he held a bottle of gin." Zimmer and Jung were standing together at the

lunch buffet after the former's lecture on Hindu yoga psychology.

Jung had possibly praised his lecture and was also privileged that Jung was pouring gin from the bottle into a glass of lemon squash held by Zimmer. Zimmer, very excited at this privilege, and knowing that Jung perhaps knew more about the human psyche than anyone else, naively asked Jung about his opinion of the Hindu idea of the transcendental self.

"But he, without so much as disclosing his lips, poured gin from the bottle in his right hand, and with forefinger of his left hand, persistently pointed to the rising level of the liquid in the glass, until I hastily said 'stop, stop, thank you.' It was a gentle and indirect way of making Zimmer come down to earth from the lofty heights of his question, and to abandon the soaring and speculative flight to transcendental spheres!"

Zimmer wrote prodigiously on India. Apart from *Artistic Form and Yoga*, some of his other works in English included *Myths and Symbols in Indian Art and Civilisation*, *Philosophies of*

India, *The Art of Indian Asia*, and *The King and the Corpse*. But Zimmer was fated to never make a trip to India, in something he shared with another great Indologist Max Mueller. Zimmer tried thrice to travel to India. In the 1920s, the company with which he had booked his passage went bankrupt. He made a second attempt in 1935, but the plan failed because the German government refused him permission as his wife was half-Jewish. The last attempt he made was in 1938-39 but the tensions before the outbreak of the Second World War prevented this.

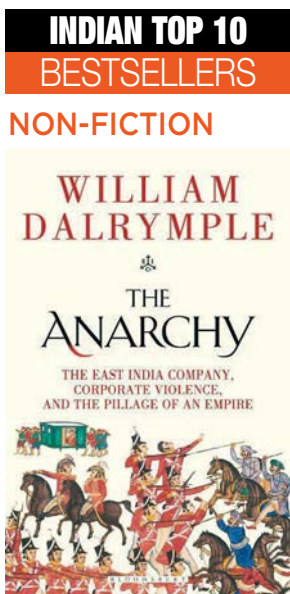
Zimmer was overjoyed to hear that Jung was to make a short trip to India in 1938. Zimmer was keen that Jung should visit the sage of Tiruvannamalai. Shri Ramana Maharshi, in the sage, Zimmer saw the true avatar of the *rishi*, seer and philosopher, which strides as legendary as it is historical, down the centuries and the ages. One of Zimmer's last works was the translation of some of Ramana Maharshi's English writings into German. Zimmer wrote, "Shri Ramana's thoughts are beautiful to

read. What one finds here is purest India, the breath of eternity."

But Jung was unable to visit Ramana Maharshi. Maybe the dysentery that laid him low in Calcutta contributed. Jung was to later write on the sage. "For the fact is, I doubt his uniqueness. He is of a type that was, and will be, I saw him all over India. He is genuine and on top of that, he is a phenomenon, which seen through European eyes has claims to uniqueness. But in India, he is merely the whitest spot on a white surface."

For Zimmer, writing on India shortly before his death, "Imagining India, its dense, deep fragrance in my nostrils, the jungle like an ocean before me, unknown, perhaps unknowable." What would he have made of India had he made it to her shores? His wife wrote, "He could accept so much. It is hard to imagine he would turn away from his beloved India as he found it."

The writer is a senior publishing industry professional who has worked with OUP and is now a senior consultant with Ratna Sagar Books



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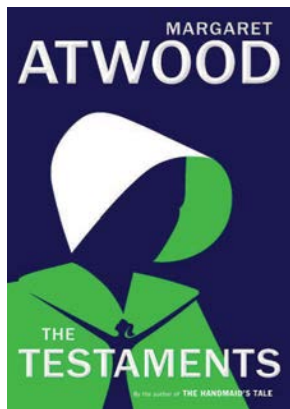
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THE ASIAN AGE

1 NOVEMBER 2019

Fadnavis set to be CM, with Sena thorn in side

After being elected the BJP legislature party leader, Devendra Fadnavis is all set to become the chief minister for a second term. He is only the second CM after Vasant Rao Naik (1967-72) to complete a full term in office. His second foray, however, is likely to be more challenging as the BJP's numbers have reduced from 122 to 105 in the 288-member Assembly, while the Opposition Congress-NCP combine has been able to increase its tally from 83 to 98. However, the biggest test will be managing the Shiv Sena, which has been sulking ever since it became the junior partner in the saffron alliance in 2014.

A week has passed since the results were announced, but there is still no clarity on the formation of the new government. The Shiv Sena wants half of the ministerial berths and the CM's post for 2.5 years. The Uddhav Thackeray-led party claims that these were the terms agreed upon by the leadership of both parties while entering into a pre-poll alliance. On the other hand, the BJP claims it had agreed on equitable, not equal, distribution of power.

Though the Sena is playing hardball and claiming it has other options, it has no better option than to go with the BJP. The Sena has won 56 seats and has the support of seven Independent MLAs.

In 2014, BJP had given only 12 ministerial berths to Sena, including six Cabinet and six ministers of state portfolios. The BJP had also kept all crucial portfolios to itself. This time, Mr Fadnavis will have to be more generous.

In 2014, BJP had given only 12 ministerial berths to Sena, including six Cabinet and six ministers of state portfolios. The BJP had also kept all crucial portfolios such as home, revenue, urban development, finance and rural development to itself. This time, Mr Fadnavis will have to be more generous. The Sena can get 16 ministers in the 43-member Cabinet, including the revenue portfolio. The party can also demand and get full control of the public works and health departments, which were bifurcated in 2014 when half the control of these departments was given to BJP ministers.

The Sena also wants the post of deputy chief minister and Mr Fadnavis is ready to part with it. In fact, Uddhav Thackeray can take a cue from Karnataka and demand more than one DCM. After all, it is just a decorative post created for political convenience. It has no constitutional validity and DCM has no special powers in the government. The Sena's newly-elected leader of legislative party, Eknath Shinde, is likely to be the DCM as Uddhav Thackeray does not want his son Aaditya, who is a first-time MLA and the first member of the family to contest an election, to take charge of the legislature party so soon.

In all likelihood, Mr Fadnavis will take oath early next week and form the government with the Sena's support. However, his troubles may have just begun, as he'll have a cantankerous bedfellow to contend with for the next five years.

Gulabi gang? Not exactly

How many birds can this stone kill? Aimed primarily at the low-income strata of society, Arvind Kejriwal's free bus rides for women has received a strong response from the citizenry. The burden is being borne jointly by the Delhi Transport Corporation and the government which is reimbursing DTC ₹10 per pass issued to female passengers which is coloured a cheery pink. Sniggering critics see it as pandering to the electorate ahead of the Assembly elections in 2020. They sneer that there are no brakes on this bus of freebies.

But pink is the colour of freedom for the working class woman in Delhi. Often denied her share of the family income, if available, she frequently has no money to travel a moderate distance from her home, if only to fulfil her needs. For her, this scheme spells jobs and prosperity.

Now, the CM's dream is on a grander scale. He proposes that the safety in numbers thus created will also encourage more affluent women to step out and exponentially boost overall female labour force participation, currently at 10 per cent in the national capital. But his logic is flawed because women's safety is at best a dubious bogey. Women as a demographic are at least as patriarchal as men and well-to-do women are socialised to mistake comfort for security. Predictably, they have been asking for more public transport. Delhi does not have point-to-point bus connectivity but it does have a Grameen Seva network and, in many pockets, a shared auto service.

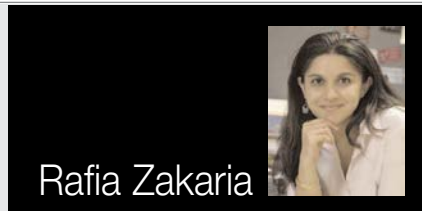
Hence should buses also be made available, their eventual participation in the odd-even pollution control scheme remains an imponderable.

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Rafia Zakaria

Can killing of ISIS' Baghdadi save Trump in 2020 polls?

President Donald Trump could barely contain himself. On the evening of Saturday, October 26, he couldn't stop himself from tweeting a hint: "Something very big has just happened!" he announced cryptically on Twitter. Most Americans were likely not paying attention to what the President was saying, used as they would have become to the copious amounts of nothingness that their commander-in-chief puts out on a daily, even hourly, basis.

The "something very big" was a United States Delta Force raid on a compound in Idlib in northern Syria. It was Sunday morning by the time President Trump could deliver his official address. It was, unsurprisingly, full of hyperbole and blather. The President stated that the self-styled "Islamic State" leader had died a coward's death and was "whimpering and crying" towards the end.

Then, in a near 46-minute free-wheeling exchange with the media that had been gathered, he opined on

many other things. This included but was not limited to the fact that he had been the first and only person to point out that Osama bin Laden had been a terrorist and needed to be taken out — but that no one had listened to him. This raid and operation, Mr Trump pointed out, was more important than the raid that led to the killing of Osama bin Laden.

In the initial few hours after the raid, it seemed that the operation in which Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi died had saved Donald Trump. In dire straits, with an impeachment inquiry under way and increasingly damning proof surfacing regarding his underhand dealings with Ukraine (he appears to have asked Ukraine to investigate his electoral rival Joe Biden's son Hunter Biden), President Trump definitely needed something miraculous to deliver him. A raid in Syria during which the "most wanted living terrorist" died seemed to be just the thing that would (like Osama bin Laden's raid did for President Barack Obama)

deliver the boost required to win a second term. Yet even though the event had all the ingredients of a huge political win, the Baghdadi raid seems to have fallen flat, unable to provide the boost that was required.

Proof came just that evening. On Sunday night, President Donald Trump and First Lady Melania Trump attended a World Series baseball game. The Washington Nationals, DC's local team, was playing the Houston Astros. A crowd estimated at nearly 50,000 people was in attendance. And yet at the end of the third innings, when Mr Trump was introduced, the entire stadium began to boo the President. If that were not enough, the booing was followed up with loud chants of "Lock him up", a variation on the chant that Trump supporters use in relation to Hillary Clinton at the 2016 Trump rallies. If the stadium was at all a sample of Americans, President Trump was disliked, even detested, whether or not he had caught Baghdadi or anyone else.

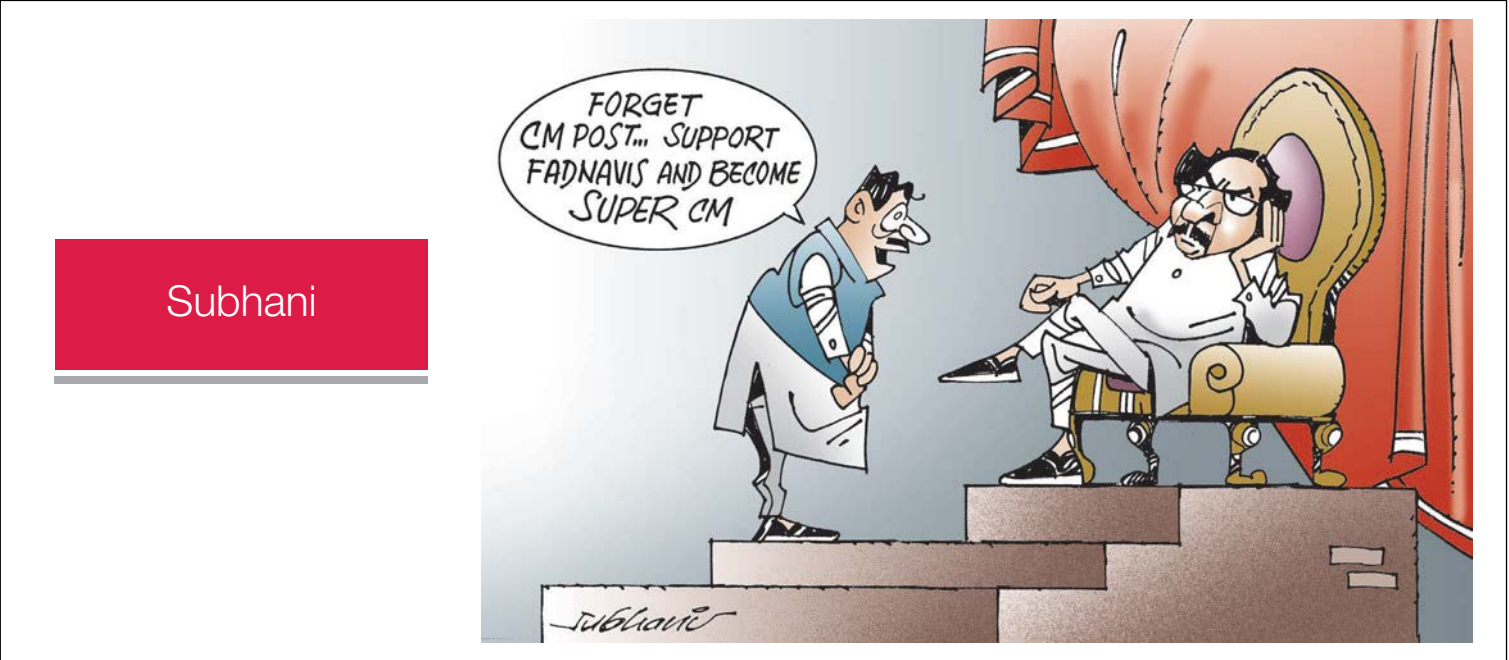
The reception of the Baghdadi raid by the US foreign policy establishment has also been interesting. Analysts from a variety of think tanks, the people who make up the terrorist analysis industrial complex (that has grown into a behemoth in the 18 years since the 9/11 attack), seemed terribly circumspect in their statements. Unlike the cooing and self-congratulation post-Bin Laden, many pointed out that terror networks and organisations are not eliminated if a leader is killed. At least one pointed out that it was incorrect to claim that the Americans had got Baghdadi when in fact he had killed himself using a suicide vest.

For the world beyond the United States, both the circumspection and the lack of attention and admiration for the raid are positive things. While it is indeed a cause for celebration that a cruel man like Baghdadi is dead, the fact that high-profile killings of terrorists are no longer yielding enormous political divi-

dends at home suggests that the US terror policy can finally move away from its obsession with high-value targets. Terrorism analysts in South Asia have repeatedly pointed out the questionable nature of decapitating leadership. Terrorism is not something that can be eliminated, only something that can be managed and contained. In the aftermath of the raid, the US Special Forces destroyed the compound and took Baghdadi's remains with them. They were, like those of Osama bin Laden, buried at sea, except for the parts that have been used for DNA testing.

In the coming months, as the campaign for the next US presidency heats up, President Trump will undoubtedly claim that he has singlehandedly defeated ISIS. Based on the first few days following the death of the most wanted man in the world, it appears that Americans, who will vote for a new President in almost exactly one year, are not impressed.

By arrangement with Dawn



Subhani

Uncertainty ahead as J&K enters a new era



Nilanjan Mukhopadhyay

The cessation of Jammu and Kashmir's statehood on October 31 and the simultaneous termination of its special status symbolically underscored by its separate flag and constitution, on a day observed since 2014 by this government as Rashtriya Ekta Diwas, or National Unity Day, to mark Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's birth anniversary, setting it off against the Rashtriya Sankalp Diwas, or National Pledge Day, in memory of Indira Gandhi on the anniversary of her assassination, is packed with ironies. It makes little difference which observance is given greater importance or ignored, because both are aimed at reminding people about the need for harmony.

The midnight of October 31 and the 24 hours that followed, which saw high-voltage chanting of unity by ruling party leaders, Prime Minister Narendra Modi downwards, will eternally have a paradoxical ring to it because it coincided with the formal splitting of the state into two Union territories. For people of the state, especially those in the Kashmir Valley, this day will mark less the beginning of a new future and more the end of a past held dearly. It is indeed a tragedy in the nation's life that something which is an occasion for joy and celebration in most parts of the country, is a sad day for those whose fates were altered.

This development is also against the principle of giving people greater control over their destinies which guided various instances of states' reorganisation. That the government feels shame-faced over the decision to strip J&K of its statehood is evident in the repeated assertions that the

restoration of statehood was possible in the foreseeable future provided people "behave" and stay away from violence.

The Centre's decision to culminate the first phase of the long process initiated on August 5 with the nullification of Article 370 on this day was aimed at broadcasting a political message — the Sardar is, after all, credited with integrating 565 princely states into the Indian Union and the termination of J&K's separate constitution and flag marks a "complete integration" with the Union, thereby marking a major development in the Iron Man's agenda. Yet, because there is no mistaking that this "gain" for the India has come alongside an acute "sense of loss" of people, the road ahead is far more uncertain. The Centre's move may result in administrative fusion of the region with the rest of the country, but in civilisational terms the alienation will become deeper and more difficult to counteract. It requires no great knowledge of modern statecraft to conclude that high significant levels of social angst threatens the peace and triggers security worries.

This was proven in ample measure in the last few days as violence escalated and a series of attacks in the Valley took place against non-Kashmiris and so-called "outsiders". This sends ominous signals to beligerent supporters of the

The government's preoccupation with running the new UT of J&K with an iron hand is evident in its choice of G.C. Murmu, a serving IAS officer, as its first lieutenant-governor

The BJP accused politicians from select dynasties of diverting state resources, but has chosen to follow the same path of identifying and foisting 'client' politicians on the territory's people

BJP's version of nationalism within industry, who pledged investments in the newly-created UT. In the absence of communications and travels curbs in force for those seeing these developments from a prism different from the ruling party's, few believe the official narrative that signs of protests are solely due to the curfew imposed by "militants". Indeed, reports and pictures circulated during the ill-advised visit of members of the European Parliament — which not only became a PR disaster, but also pointed at fissures within the government, and showed how it works outside established systems — indicates that the anger in the Valley is high. It is simply not just due to the fear of militants targeting people venturing out to begin leading "normal" lives.

The moot point, however, is that the Centre is not interested in ensuring "normality" within the Kashmir Valley but is keener to showcase its muscular handling of the issue. There is little concern that there is little evidence of "acceptance" in the region of its decision. The emphasis in more on proving that its plan has continued without much opposition and that it's just a matter of time before the new UT becomes a fully functional administrative unit.

The government's preoccupation with running the new UT of J&K with an iron hand, giving scant consideration to people's ambitions and aspirations, is evident in its choice of G.C. Murmu, a serving Indian Administrative Service officer, as its first lieutenant-governor. The Gujarat cadre IAS officer from Odisha's claim to fame is reportedly being

a loyalist of Mr Modi and home minister Amit Shah. As a close aide of Mr Modi while he was Gujarat chief minister, Mr Murmu reportedly played a significant role in devising a legal defence for Mr Shah in the Ishrat Jahan fake encounter case. His name also surfaced in the Snoopgate controversy in 2013. L-Gs are usually former bureaucrats, police officers or defence personnel but are normally nominated after retirement to add gravitas to the office. That this convention has not been followed indicates that the emphasis is on loyalty and confidence on competence and the certainty of Mr Murmu remaining true to the political brief till the last letter. This, however, resulted in the advisers to the J&K government bowing out as they were senior in the hierarchy to the new L-G.

For years, Congress governments prior to Indira Gandhi's accord with Sheikh Abdullah plied J&K with carefully selected client politicians who milked the state's resources in return for political loyalty. It is a contradiction that the BJP accused a handful of politicians from select dynasties of diverting state resources for amassing personal wealth, but has chosen to follow the same path of identifying and foisting "client" politicians on the territory's hapless people. The true political support of the BJP in the entire region can be assessed by a careful reading of the Block Development Council election results, which showed no or scanty support for the BJP across J&K. Since 2014, the BJP's Kashmir policy was fashioned with an eye on its core votebank elsewhere in India. Even after its decision of August 5, there has been no change in this approach. For the people of J&K, there appears to be no escape from the dark abyss they had slipped into decades ago.

The writer is a Delhi-based journalist and author. His latest book is RSS: Icons Of The Indian Right.

LETTERS

NOT JUST OPTICS

The decision to let the first foreign delegation visit Srinagar nearly three months after the decision to nullify Article 370 of the Constitution and split the state of Jammu and Kashmir into two Union territories is a positive move. But much more importantly, the Centre must work to change the ground situation in Kashmir and not just its global perception. Why is the curfew still continuing in the Valley? Why the communications clamp-down? Where is the space for alternative politics that enlightened Kashmiris dream of engaging in? This the government has omitted doing, so the Valley is a ticking time bomb now.

Seraj Ali
Bengaluru

CLERICS' DUTY

ASSAM HAS become the first Indian state to have a cap on the number of children to be eligible for government jobs in the states. This is a great move. Our people want new jobs to be created by the government but they are taking no responsibility for reducing demand, which is already at a very high level. It is time for our religious leaders to support this law and not think only in terms of its effect on the number of votes their political representatives can collect. When it comes to people, they should think in terms of quality rather than quantity.

Sultan Fazelbhoj
Mumbai

SPENT FORCE

THAT THE JD(S) is a spent force is apparent by how the majority of the MLAs in the party are contemplating resigning en masse. Sensing the dismal mood among the party cadres, former chief minister H.D. Kumaraswamy has planned a junket to Malaysia for his 30-odd legislators some time next week. But the gambit has failed to enthrone the MLAs, with many of them considering skipping the tour. With the confidence of JD(S) legislators at an all-time low, the party's top brass must keep the flock together.

N.J. Ravi Chandrer
Bengaluru

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Naga peace flight emerges out of turbulence



Wasbir Hussain

The Naga peace flight appears to have finally emerged out of turbulence and touched clearer skies after 22 years of negotiations. On Thursday evening, the Government of India's peace interlocutor, Nagaland governor R.N. Ravi, and leaders of the Isak-Muivah faction of the National Socialist Council of Nagaland, or NSCN (I-M), the main protagonist of the Naga rebel movement, posed for photographs in New Delhi, clearly signifying the end of the negotiations. It is now clear — the deadlock over “core issues” with the NSCN (I-M) has ended. The hitch was over the NSCN (I-M)'s rigid posturing on its demand for a separate flag and constitution for the Nagas, trig-

gering the obvious question: what have the two negotiating sides, the government and the NSCN (I-M), been doing all these years and why were the differences over the two demands not narrowed down until the last moment before the agreement is to be signed. But all's well that ends well — New Delhi seems to have agreed to let the Nagas use their own flag, although nothing is clear on the other demand for a separate constitution.

Informed Nagas were indeed worried about whether there would be an inclusive Naga peace deal, one that has the consent and signatures of all the factions, meaning the NSCN (I-M) and the seven other Naga rebel factions that have come together and engaged in parallel negotiations with New Delhi under the banner of the Naga National Political Groups (NNPGs). The question also arose whether Prime Minister Narendra Modi could be forced by circumstances to repeat the same mistake as Jawaharlal Nehru did in July 1960 to sign what is known as the 16-Point Agreement, not with Naga rebel stalwart of the time, Angami Zapu Phizo, but with the Naga People's Convention,

a facilitating group. But yes, one had to factor in the fact that year 2019 is not 1960, and that Narendra Modi is not Jawaharlal Nehru!

Since 1997, when the peace talks between the Government of India and the NSCN (I-M) began, the negotiation process ran into “bad weather” a number of times. But the two sides managed to emerge from such rough patches, leading to the signing of a so-called “Framework Agreement” on August 3, 2015, a document that was to be the basis of the final Naga peace accord. But now that the contents of the Framework Agreement has been revealed after four years, it emerged that it was this hotch-potch deal that also had the signature of NSCN (I-M) chairman Isak Chishi Swu, who subsequently died, that had led to the turbulence in the past few weeks.

The Framework Agreement was supposed to have recognised the Nagas and the Union of India as “two entities”. It is this construct — “two entities” — that has since been used by the NSCN (I-M) to push its argument that the two negotiating sides have agreed to have an arrangement of a “shared

As long as the NSCN (I-M) and the NNPGs sign together on the agreement, the prolonged insurrection in the Naga areas would certainly reduce drastically. But New Delhi cannot afford to ignore the fears of people in other Northeast states.

sovereignty”. Therefore, the NSCN (I-M) kept insisting on its demand for a separate flag and a separate constitution for the Nagas, and said there can be no solution without New Delhi conceding these two “core demands” of the Nagas. The government's interlocutor for the Naga peace talks, R.N. Ravi, who was recently made governor of Nagaland, obviously with the mandate to clinch the Naga peace deal, had said in an official statement that it will not be possible for New Delhi to grant the Nagas a separate flag and constitution. In fact, after the Narendra Modi government abrogated Article 370 on August 5, the adoption of such a stand was understandable. But pragmatism and the

obvious realisation that a piecemeal solution without the NSCN (I-M) was not going to resolve the Naga problem seems to have finally prevailed, and led to the change of heart on New Delhi's part.

The 85-year-old general secretary of the NSCN (I-M), Thuingaleng Muivah, the group's topmost leader, who is also the Ato Kilonser, or “prime minister”, knew very well, like the outfit's other leaders, that if they do not manage to get a separate flag and a constitution for the Nagas, they cannot claim any “victory” whatsoever after 22 years of negotiations. Many thought that New Delhi could easily give the Nagas a flag and a statute because the NSCN (I-M) has watered down its demand from that of an independent Naga homeland to the bringing of contiguous Naga areas under a single politico-administrative unit to achieve what it calls “Nagalim” to that of border-less regional autonomy without altering the boundaries of the existing northeastern states.

The situation also saw a new drastic turn with the NNPGs taking centre-stage and increasing the momentum of their

negotiations with the government over the past 18 months. The NSCN (I-M) has publicly described the NNPGs as “opportunists” and accused them of trying to capitalise on the situation. The question now is — with the NSCN (I-M) and the NNPGs on a collision course till the last moment, how would they work together in the coming days. One has to wait and watch. The NNPGs, unlike the NSCN (I-M), had sorted out the differences over the agreement some time ago.

Meanwhile, a former “home minister” of the NSCN (I-M), Hukavi Yepthomi, who was part of the NSCN (I-M) negotiating team, switched sides and joined the NNPG working committee last week. Published reports said he did so because he had to be “practical” and in sync with the “reality of the situation”. Another batch from the NSCN (I-M) has since joined the NNPG. If this trend continues, it may seem to weaken the hold of the NSCN (I-M), but things cannot be viewed so simply. Already, there are reports doing the rounds that scores of NSCN (I-M) cadres have disappeared from the designated camps where they have been staying

for years, triggering speculation on whether they are gearing up for a renewed insurrection.

One thing which is clear now is that the Naga peace process had got entangled in layers, and unlike the two decades since 1997, when the key player was only the NSCN (I-M), there emerged other stakeholders in the form of the NNPGs to whom the government has attached lot of importance. But as long as the NSCN (I-M) and the NNPGs sign together on the agreement, the prolonged insurrection in the Naga areas would certainly reduce drastically, if not end altogether. But New Delhi cannot afford to ignore the fears of people in neighbouring Manipur and other Northeast states. This will have to be New Delhi's topmost priority now. Of course, the government has said late Thursday evening that it would hold discussions with stakeholders in Manipur, Assam and Arunachal before the Naga peace accord is signed.

The writer is a political commentator and executive director of the Centre for Development and Peace Studies, a Guwahati-based policy think tank

Will Boris' gamble work? Anything might happen after Dec. 12 UK vote



Karan Thapar

The general election that will happen on December 12 will be Britain's fifth nationwide contest in five years. Two were national referendums and three general elections. It's also the first December election since 1923 and the most consequential since Margaret Thatcher came to power in 1979. In fact, some would say it's the most important since the two world wars. Additionally, it will not only determine the character of Brexit or whether it happens at all but also whether the most radically left-wing Labour Party in history gets elected. Finally, the future of the United Kingdom itself could depend on how Scotland reacts to Brexit. All of this has huge implications for Britain and Europe, but also the rest of the world.

Boris Johnson goes into the election knowing he has failed to fulfil his promise that Britain would leave the European Union on October 31 “do or die”. That was his pledge outside Downing Street the day he took over as Prime Minister. So his gamble is -- who will the British public hold responsible for this failure? He's hoping that the British voter will blame Parliament, and not his gov-

ernment. He will argue that he did everything possible, but the House of Commons repeatedly created obstructions that stalled Brexit.

Boris Johnson will also be gambling in one other sense. He must hope that the growing impatience to get “Brexit done” will be sufficient to deliver a majority to his Conservative Party because of their commitment to this cause. The problem is that the Brexit Party might be seen to have a clearer, if not also longer-standing, commitment. How many Tory voters could they lure? Would it be sufficient to deny Mr Johnson the majority he's after?

For Jeremy Corbyn, the Leader of the Opposition, the election happens at a time when the polls have his Labour Party trailing 10 points behind the Conservatives. This is why a section of his shadow cabinet and several of his MPs are reluctant to face the electorate in December. They attempted “wrecking amendments” to Tuesday's bill which paved the way for the December election, but failed to get them adopted or passed. Many of them fear Labour will lose seats “up and down the country”.

If the campaign that now gets under way becomes

Recent British elections have been notoriously difficult to predict. Two of the last three resulted in a hung Parliament. In 2015, David Cameron just about squeaked home. In 2017, Theresa May began with a huge lead but lost her majority to a resurgent Labour Party.

presidential, as is more than likely, Labour could face another problem. Jeremy Corbyn would be pitted against Boris Johnson. The Times (London) points out that the incumbent Prime Minister's approval ratings may be negative and below those of his recent predecessors at a similar point in their prime ministership but the Labour leader's negative ratings have “broken all polling records”. This could be made worse by the fact Boris Johnson is considered an indefatigable and popular campaigner -- which his win in two mayoral contests in London and the Brexit referendum testify to -- while Mr Corbyn is unconvincing and unimpressive at the stumps.

In these circumstances, what is Boris Johnson's likely strategy? He knows he could be squeezed between the Brexit party on his right and the Liberal Democrats on his left. Most analysts believe he will attempt to invade Labour's Brexit territory. The greater the number of Labour-held constituencies which voted for Brexit that the Tories can win, the

bigger the majority they could hope for.

If, in addition, Mr Johnson can strike a deal with Nigel Farage's Brexit party not to field candidates in winnable Tory seats that would help him concentrate on his Labour attack. But that's only likely if Mr Farage comes to the conclusion a convincing Tory victory is the best guarantee of Brexit and is willing to sacrifice his party's interests to this end.

Labour's hopes, on the other hand, lie in what the British are calling “Remainia”. Here the Tories will be on the backfoot. Nearly 40 Tory seats voted to remain or only marginally voted to leave. These could be in danger. The only thing is -- will their voters still see Jeremy Corbyn as the best way of avoiding Brexit? Or might they now prefer the Liberal Democrats? If they do, Labour could lose some of its most loyal constituencies just as the Tories are successfully appealing to Brexit voters in Labour strongholds in the Midlands and the north.

A lot depends on the manifesto commitments both parties make. In 2017 Labour promised to scrap university tuition fees, which appealed to young voters. They are believed to have voted for it en masse. In contrast, the Tories proposed a social care policy, nicknamed the dementia tax, which tripped them up. Their seats -- but intriguingly not their vote share -- shrank. Will Mr Corbyn offering much the same again prove attractive? Or, this time, can Boris

Johnson pull beguiling promises out of his hat?

On top of all of this there's the Scottish question. Almost certainly Brexit will trigger another referendum. The question is how will the majority in Scotland vote? Most of those in favour of the Union tend to be Tory voters. In 2017, the Conservatives won 13 seats, their best performance since 1983. If they lose most of those to the Scottish Nationalist Party, they will also strengthen the demand for another referendum. If it happens, many Scottish voters might opt for independence in the belief this could be a way of getting back into the EU.

Now, recent British elections have been notoriously difficult to predict. Two of the last three resulted in a hung Parliament. In 2015, David Cameron just about squeaked back home. In 2017, Theresa May began with a huge lead in the polls but lost her majority to a resurgent Labour Party. Anything can happen this time around.

Which is why Boris Johnson cannot ignore history's ominous warning. It was a Tory Prime Minister, Stanley Baldwin, who called the last December election in 1923. He went into it with a majority that could have lasted for four more years. He came out of it without one and, within weeks, a national government was sworn in with Labour's Ramsay MacDonald at its head. Could something similar happen again?

The writer is a television commentator and anchor

Meditate to reduce stress and stomachaches



Sant Rajinder Singhji

Doctors and medical researchers have discovered that stress has a role to play in our health. They have learned that stress can cause a breakdown of our immune system and open the door to a variety of ailments. Stress interferes with the healthy functioning of some of our bodily systems required to resist disease. It activates the “fight or flight” response causing certain biochemical reactions in our body.

When we are in a state of stress, our heart beats faster. Certain hormones are released to get us ready to protect ourselves. Once released, they cannot be recalled. A ready-alert system that was originally intended to help us escape physical harm becomes activated even in the presence of day-to-day situations that do not pose any

threat to our life.

Thus, we carry within us a state of stress, or a state in which our body is responding to fear and threat even in situations that are only problems for our mind. Because we are not fighting or fleeing, our body has no way to dissipate the bottled up stress and we carry it around with us throughout the day. Ultimately, it begins to cause problems for us internally, and different organs begin reacting to that stress.

Thus, stress that is unchecked and not dissipated can affect our heart, our lungs, our circulatory system, our digestive system, our skin, and our nervous system. We may suffer from stress-related headaches, stomachaches, breathing problems, and nervousness.

We may not be able to control the contraction of certain diseases

which are genetic or which are spread from the air, but we can have a measure of control over our own personal stress. There are ways to reduce and even eliminate stress in our lives. When we talk of eliminating stress, we do not mean eliminating problems. Problems will always be there. But we can eliminate our unhealthy physical response to the problems.

There is a technique called meditation that we can try in our lives. By learning the art of meditation, we will have a defense system against stress. The key is to have another kind of response to problems that will not stimulate these physical reactions in

the body.

If we can learn to meditate, then we can confront problems in a way that does not upset our physiological systems. Meditation provides a way for us to learn to control our

reactions.

When we are in a state of meditation, our heart beats slower. Our body and mind are relaxed. It is in a state of calm. When our body is peaceful and calm, the physical reactions to stress are stilled. It is said that we also get more rest in meditation than the same amount of time spent in sleep. Why? In sleep, we may dream. The dreams may be good or they may be stressful.

Our body may react in sleep to our dreams as it would if awake. We toss and turn in our sleep. In meditation, though, we are perfectly still. Our mind is still so there are no stressful thoughts or dreams in which we can react. Thus, it is a time of peace for our body.

If we become habituated to meditation, we may call upon that same response when we are in a difficult situation. At first, it may take a while to get used to it. But the more we meditate, the more easily we can access that state and use it throughout the day.

Sant Rajinder Singhji, head of Sawan Kirpal Ruhani Mission, works towards promoting inner and outer peace. He can be contacted at www.sos.org



Farmers plan nationwide stir against RCEP

Fiat Chrysler, PSA merger to impact Indian operations



Overleaf

quick BITES

INDICATORS		%
Sensex	40,129.05	+0.19
Nifty 50	11,877.50	+0.28
S&P 500	3,029.10	-0.58
Dollar (₹)	71.08	+0.06
Pound Sterling (₹)	65.80	+0.64
Euro (₹)	79.52	+0.54
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	38,494.406	1.07
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	\$60.30	-0.31
IN 10-Yr bond yield	+6.643	-0.022
US 10-Yr T-bill yield	+1.712	-0.084

* As of 9:30 pm IST

Hong Kong plunges into recession

Hong Kong confirmed it had plunged into its first recession since 2009 as months of pro-democracy protests and the US-China trade war exacted a heavy toll on the financial hub. The city's GDP shrank 3.2 per cent in the third quarter compared with the previous quarter when it saw a 0.4 percent drop. That means HK is experiencing a technical recession.

Onion, tomato prices rule high in Delhi



Onion and tomato prices remained high in the Rs 60-70/kg range in the retail markets of Delhi despite government measures. The two kitchen staples are being sold at up to Rs 70 per kg, depending on the quality and locality, as per trade data. The ministry data also showed retail price of onion ruling at Rs 55/kg and tomato at Rs 53/kg in the NCR.

PSU banks extend ₹2.56 lakh crore to stressed NBFCs

The Finance Ministry said public sector banks have extended support of Rs 2.56 lakh crore to NBFCs by way of credit and pooled buyout since September 2018 as part of efforts to provide liquidity to the sector. Further, under the partial guarantee scheme, PSBs have been accorded sanction to purchase Rs 21,580 crore worth of pooled assets as on Oct. 16.

Muthoot board okays \$450 mn fund-raising

Muthoot Finance said its board has approved raising \$450 million through bonds in overseas markets under the \$2 billion capital-raising plan. The bonds will be listed on the London Stock Exchange's International Securities Market. The company said its board approved the issuance of \$450 mn 6.125 per cent senior secured notes due 2022 under the \$2 bn global medium term note programme.

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■ Seven out of eight sectors see contraction in output Core sector production contracts 5.2% in Sept

New Delhi, Oct 31: Core infrastructure industries' output contracted last month to the lowest since at least 2005, reflecting an enduring sharp weakness in economic activity. The index of eight core infrastructure industries, which comprises output of coal, crude oil, cement and electricity among others, declined 5.2 per cent in September: the government said in a statement on Thursday. That was the second straight month of contraction. As many as seven of eight core industries saw a contraction in output in September. Coal production fell steeply by 20.5 per cent, crude oil by 5.4 per cent, and natural gas by 4.9 per cent. Refinery products (-6.7 per cent), cement (-2.1 per cent), steel (-0.3 per cent), and electricity (-3.7 per cent) output too declined. The only infrastructure segment to post growth was fertilisers where production increased by 5.4 per cent year-on-year. The eight core sectors had expanded by 4.3 per



Fiscal deficit hits 93% of target

New Delhi, Oct. 31: India's fiscal deficit reached nearly 93 per cent of the budgeted target at Rs 6.52 lakh crore at end-September, government data showed on Thursday. In absolute terms, the fiscal deficit, or the gap between expenditure and revenue, was Rs 6,51,554 crore as on September 30, according to data from the Controller General of Accounts. The deficit stood at 95.3 per cent of the 2018-19 budget estimate (BE) in the corresponding month a year ago. Net tax receipts in the first half of the current fiscal year were Rs 6.07 lakh crore while total expenditure was Rs 14.89 lakh crore, the data showed. —Agencies

cent in September 2018, according to official data. During the April-September period, the growth of core industries fell to 1.3 per cent against 5.5 per cent in the year-ago period. The core infrastructure sector accounts for 40 per cent of total industrial production and the weakness is bound to drag down factory output, which in August saw the first decline in more than two years. The next industrial production numbers are



Yes Bank gets ₹8.5K cr global investor offer

FALAKNAAZ SYED
MUMBAI, OCT. 31

Shares of Yes Bank jumped 35 per cent before closing with gains of 24 per cent after the lender informed the exchanges that it has received a \$1.2 billion binding offer (around Rs 8500 crore) from a global investor. The bank is yet to consider the offer, it said. While the bank did not name the investor, according to reports, it was Hong Kong-based SPGP Holdings. The bank said that it continues to be in advanced discussions with other global and domestic investors. Analysts said the amount being offered by the global investor is sizeable enough to take care of future growth besides helping the bank maintain the minimum capital requirements. "One of major overhang on capital will get elevated. But the name of the investor, timing of the capital infusion and central bank's comfort with this proposal needs to be watched for," said an analyst. K Vijaykumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Financial Services, said, "Yes Bank is badly in need of capital for growth. Absence of positive news on this front led to bear hammering in the stock, taking the stock below Rs 30. It is natural that

investors are finding it attractive to invest in the stock for a stake. Further developments will depend on who the investor is and the regulatory approvals." The Yes Bank board is likely to consider the offer along with other proposals as well as results today. The shares of Yes Bank closed 24.03 per cent higher at Rs 70.45 on the BSE, making it the world's best performing bank share this month. The bank has now recovered over 150 per cent from its 52-week low of Rs 29.05 hit on October 1. The bank had earlier on September 25, 2019 informed the exchanges that it had received strong interest from multiple foreign as well as domestic private equity and strategic investors for the capital raise and remains firmly on course to raising growth capital subject to necessary approvals. According to reports, the lender has been in talks with private equity investors, tech companies and family offices.

Banks asked to probe data leak of 1.3 mn cards

ADITYA KALRA & NUPUR ANAND
NEW DELHI/MUMBAI, OCT. 31

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has asked banks to ensure customers' debit and credit card data is secure and investigate reports that say data of 1.3 million accounts was available online, a notice seen by Reuters showed. Banks should secure the customers' data by performing a preliminary analysis of the leaked card information online, the RBI notice said, and cited an article by tech news site ZDNet on Tuesday. Three industry sources confirmed the notice had

Sebi tightens NPA disclosures

New Delhi, Oct 31: Putting in place a stricter framework, Sebi on Thursday directed all listed banks to disclose any divergence in bad loan provisioning within 24 hours of receiving RBI's risk assessment report, rather than waiting to publish the details in their annual financial statements.

In recent months, there have been several instances of under-reporting of bad loans by lenders, prompting action by the RBI. The Sebi circular, noted that disclosures in respect of divergence and provisioning are in the nature of material events and hence needed immediate disclosure. —PTI

been sent to Indian banks. The RBI did not immediately respond to a request for comment. "On finding leaked data to be correct and genuine,

disable and re-issue the credit and debit cards as per the bank's policy," said the notice dated Oct. 29. Security researchers at Singapore-based Group-IB

Cognizant to lay off around 7,000 staff

SANGEETHA G
CHENNAI, OCT. 31

Global IT services company Cognizant will lay off around 7,000 mid-to-senior level employees globally and is exiting the Digital Content Business, which will affect another 6,000 jobs. The company has decided to remove 10,000-12,000 mid-to-senior level employees worldwide from their current roles in coming quarters. As on September 30, Cognizant's worldwide employee strength stood at 2,89,900. The net reduction will be

5,000 to 7,000 jobs, or about two per cent of the company's total population, as the company aims to re-skill and redeploy about 5,000 of the total employees impacted, said, CEO Brian Humphries in a post-earnings call. The decision is part of the two-year "Fit for Growth" plan that will simplify the way work is done, lower the cost structure, and fund investments that will enable growth. The plan will sharpen the company's strategic focus and simplify the operating model. Cognizant is also exiting



the Digital Content Business, which is not in line with the company's long-term strategic vision. The exit will happen over the course of 2020. Exiting this area will impact an additional 6,000 jobs worldwide. The com-

pany intends to work with its partners to explore ways to shift the roles to alternative vendors. The exit will impact revenue in the firm's Communications, Media and Technology segment. As per reports, Cognizant had about 500 workers in Hyderabad looking for sensitive topics or profane language in Facebook videos. The company found that work focused on determining whether content violated client standards was not part of its strategic vision as it can have objectionable materials. Meanwhile, Cognizant

has raised its revenue growth guidance for the full year to 4.6-4.9 per cent in constant currency, which was higher than its previous guidance of 3.9-4.9 per cent issued in the previous quarter's earnings. For the third quarter ended September, the company registered revenue of \$4.25 billion, up 4.2 per cent for the same quarter previous year. Digital revenue, growing at 25 per cent, accounts for about 35 per cent of the company's revenue. The company's net profit stood at \$497 million versus \$477 million for the same quarter last year. —Reuters

Boeing grounds 50 planes globally over cracks

Oct. 31: Boeing announced on Thursday that up to 50 of its popular 737NG planes had been grounded after cracks in them were detected, in another blow to the US aircraft maker following two deadly crashes. Australian national carrier Qantas became the latest airline to take one of the planes out of the air, as it said it would urgently inspect 32 others but insisted passengers had nothing to fear. The announcement by Qantas came after authorities in Seoul said nine of the planes were grounded in South Korea in early October, including five operated by Korean Air. The cracks are on what is known as the "pickle fork" — a part that attaches the plane's

fuselage, or body, to the wing structure. Repairing the cracks requires grounding the airplane and costs an estimated \$275,000 per aircraft, according to aviation consultancy IBA, reports said. There are currently thousands of 737 NG planes in use by airlines around the world. The issue surfaced while the newer 737 MAX model is grounded globally following two deadly crashes. Following the Qantas announcement, a Boeing spokesperson on Thursday told AFP in Sydney that less than 5 per cent of 1,000 planes had cracks detected and were grounded for repair. The spokesperson did not give an exact figure, though 5 per



cent equates to 50 planes of 1,000 inspected. Boeing and Qantas stressed travellers should not be concerned. "We would never operate an

aircraft unless it was completely safe to do so," Qantas head of engineering Chris Snook said. But the discovery has heightened fears that the scale of the 737NGs' problem may have been underestimated. The US Federal Aviation Administration had initially ordered immediate checks of Boeing 737NG planes that had flown more than 30,000 times. But Qantas said it had found the fault in a more lightly used aircraft than those singled out for early checks; one that had recorded fewer than 27,000 flights. "This aircraft has been removed from service for repair," Qantas said in a statement, adding it had hastened its inspections of 32 other 737NG

planes to be completed by Friday. The airline said it generally used the aircraft on domestic routes, flying primarily between major cities as well as shorter-haul trips to New Zealand. Stephen Fankhauser, an aviation expert at Australia's Swinburne University of Technology, said that the parts were designed so the "structure can tolerate some level of damage or degradation". "The inspection period is set to ensure the cracks do not continue to grow to a dangerous length and then significantly compromise the strength of the airframe," he said. A Boeing spokesperson said the company "regrets the

impact" the issue was having on its customers and was "working around the clock" to fix the problem. "Boeing is actively working with customers that have airplanes in their fleets with inspection findings to develop a repair plan, and to provide parts and technical support as necessary," the spokesperson said in a statement. The NG is a precursor plane to the Boeing 737 MAX, which has been grounded since mid-March following the two deadly crashes in Indonesia and Ethiopia. Boeing is still trying to restore its safety reputation after two 737 MAX crashes last year that killed 346 people. —AFP

Facebook profit, user base climb

San Francisco, Oct 31: Facebook on Wednesday reported that its quarterly profit grew along with its user base as it grapples with concerns ranging from political ads to cryptocurrency.

The leading social network said its profit topped \$6 billion on revenue that climbed 28 per cent to \$17.4 billion in the quarter that ended on September 30.

Meanwhile, the number of active monthly users increased eight percent from a year ago to 2.45 billion.

"We had a good quarter and our community and business continue to grow," said Facebook chief and co-founder Mark Zuckerberg.

"We are focused on making progress on major social issues and building new experiences that improve people's lives around the world."

"Advertisers continue to support Facebook, despite the many controversies...and the user base also continues to expand around the world," said eMarketer principal analyst Debra Aho Williamson. —*AFP*

China doubts deal possible with Trump

SHAWN DONNAN, JENNY LEONARD & STEVEN YANG
OCT. 31

Chinese officials are casting doubts about reaching a comprehensive long-term trade deal with the US even as the two sides get close to signing a "phase one" agreement.

In private conversations with visitors to Beijing and other interlocutors in recent weeks, Chinese officials have warned they won't budge on the thorniest issues, according to people familiar with the matter. They remain concerned about President Trump's impulsive nature and the risk he may back out of even the limited deal both sides say they want to sign in the coming weeks.

Chinese policy makers are gathered in Beijing for a key political meeting. Ahead of that plenum some officials have relayed low expectations that future negotiations could result in anything meaningful—unless the US is willing to roll back more of the tariffs.

—*Bloomberg*

Johnson Lifts eyes overseas acquisition

RITWIK MUKHERJEE
KOLKATA, OCT. 31

Chennai-headquartered Johnson Lifts Pvt Ltd, the 56-year old manufacturer of elevators and escalators with more than 1 lakh installations, 22 per cent market share in elevators and 48 per cent in escalator, is now looking at inorganic growth through acquisitions in new geographies like Dubai and Kenya. The company is also looking at Bangladesh as a potential market and that may happen within next three months.

The Rs 2,000-crore company exports elevators and escalators to Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar, Maldives and Tanzania. The current exports, which stands at 6 per cent of total revenues, is expected to grow 10 per cent year-on-year from here onwards, said Albert Dhiravivamy, Country Head (Marketing), Johnson Lifts.

The firm is bullish about the growth of infrastructure sector in India and hopes to garner larger revenue from commercial and infrastructure sectors.

FCA sells Jeep & Maserati here; PSA set to bring Citroen Fiat Chrysler, PSA merger to impact Indian car ops

MICHAEL GONSALVES
PUNE, OCT. 31

Europe's second largest car-maker Groupe PSA of France and Italian-American OEM Fiat Chrysler Automobiles (FCA) plan to join forces through a 50-50 share swap to create the world's fourth-largest automaker, bringing about a new wave of consolidation in the car industry.

This merger of the two auto giant could also have an impact in their India businesses.

FCA is now present in the country only through its Jeep brand and Maserati, and PSA has made an announcement to enter the market with a mid-sized Citroen SUV next year, and its DS brand.

Auto analysts said there would certainly be leveraging of synergies between the two in this promising but highly competitive automobile market.

"In a rapidly changing environment, with new challenges in connected, electrified, shared and autonomous mobility, the combination would create



the 4th largest global OEM in terms of annual unit sales of 8.7 million vehicles," a statement signed by both companies said.

The combination entity would unite the groups' respective brand strengths across Luxury, Premium, Mainstream Passenger Car, SUV and Trucks & Light Commercial – making them stronger together, it said.

The multi-brand group will include the Fiat, Jeep, Dodge, Ram, Chrysler, Alfa Romeo, Maserati, Peugeot, DS, Opel and Vauxhall brands, allowing it to serve mass and premium passenger car markets as well as trucks and light commercial vehicles.

FCA and PSA said they aimed to reach a binding deal to create a \$50 billion

company domiciled in the Netherlands, with listings in Paris, Milan and New York and with PSA's Carlos Tavares as CEO and FCA's John Elkann as chairman.

"This convergence brings significant value to all the stakeholders and opens a bright future for the combined entity," Tavares said in a statement.

This strategic move is aimed at giving both automakers the scale to help manage a global downturn in auto markets as well as costly investments in new technologies such as electric and self-driving vehicles.

FCA would get access to PSA's more modern vehicle platforms, helping it to meet tough new emissions rules, while PSA would benefit from FCA's profitable US

business.

The management teams of FCA and PSA will seek to finalise the discussions in the coming weeks to create a group with 8.7 million in annual vehicle sales aimed at making it the world's fourth biggest automaker after Volkswagen, Toyota and the Renault-Nissan alliance.

The deal aims to make savings of 3.7 billion euros (\$4.1 billion), without plant closures, and achieve around 80 per cent of that within four years, at a one-off cost of 2.8 billion euros.

Both PSA and FCA boards have given the mandate to their respective teams to finalize the discussions to reach a binding Memorandum of Understanding in the coming weeks.

Farmers plan nationwide stir against RCEP

BIBHUDATTA PRADHAN
OCT. 31

India's farmers' organisations have planned a nationwide protest on November 4 to demand that the government of Prime Minister Narendra Modi keep agriculture out of a 16-nation trade agreement currently being negotiated in Thailand.

The All-India Kisan Sangharsh Coordination Committee, an umbrella organization of about 250 farmers unions from across the country, said that they will burn effigies depicting the China-backed Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership or RCEP, to mark their protest and warn the government.

Indian farmers won't be able to compete should the country agree to cut duties for agricultural and dairy products in the proposed trade pact, said V.M. Singh, a convener of the the farmers' group.

Imports of dairy and agricultural products including wheat, cotton and oil seeds would affect the livelihood of millions of Indian farmers, he said.



The government should defer signing of the agreement and hold consultations with farmers, state governments and other stake holders before taking a final decision, said Singh. "We have to stop RCEP," he said.

It is not clear yet what terms India will agree to in order to join what could become the world's largest trade deal. The final stage of negotiations have begun in Bangkok and Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal will travel for the ministerial meeting there on November 1. The nations are seeking to conclude the negotiations by November end.

Technically, India will have time till the end of February 2020 to sort out bilateral market access issues.

—*Bloomberg*

Telcos have capacity to pay: Jio

New Delhi, Oct 31: Reliance Jio on Thursday strongly opposed any bailout to telecom companies at taxpayer's expense, and asserted that telcos should be mandated to deposit their dues within the court-stipulated timeline of three months, as they have the capacity to comfortably clear their liabilities.

In a letter to Telecom Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad on Thursday, Jio argued that even an unlikely event of failure of two operators will not have an adverse impact on the sector dynamics given the "existence of vibrant competition including presence of the PSUs" as well as absence of any restriction on entry of new operators.

Jio said it did not agree



with COAI's alarmist views that telecom sector will collapse in absence of immediate relief by the government.

It also lambasted industry body COAI for writing to government "under the influence of two of its members in furtherance of their vested interests" and accused the association of

acting as a "mouthpiece of two service providers" and harbouring a negative bias towards Jio.

Launching a full-fledged attack on the Cellular Operators' Association of India (COAI) for writing exparte to the government on the financial distress in the sector, Jio said the body was "blackmailing" to "extract relief from the government" after all legal recourse had expired.

"We submit that the so-called affected service providers have sufficient financial capacity to pay the government dues by monetising their existing assets/investments and by issuing fresh equity in their companies," it wrote in the letter to Prasad.

—*PTI*

Bullion banks would create 25K jobs: WGC

SANGEETHA G
CHENNAI, OCT. 31

Development of bullion banking in India has a potential to create 15,000 to 25,000 jobs, finds WGC.

Creation of bullion banks is one of the key recommendations made by the trade as part of the proposed framework of Gold Policy. WGC finds that bullion banking will increase bullion demand and in turn lead to significant job creation. It is estimated that higher manpower requirements at banks and collection and purity testing centres could create an additional 15,000-25,000 jobs.

While existing commercial banks can have separate bullion banking operations, new bullion banks can also be created.

Existing banks can leverage their commercial banking expertise in areas such as information technology, retail and corporate banking, sales and trading and compliance. These are highly people-centric areas, which will lead to job creation. Further, bullion banking has a market potential of around \$300-500 million. Certain key products like gold metal loans, dore financing and brokerage and clearing services will dominate the market.

IOC net dips 83% on inventory loss

FC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, OCT 31

With slump in refinery margins as well inventory losses, state-owned Indian Oil Corp (IOC) on Thursday posted a 83 per cent dip in net profits on a year-on-year basis in the second quarter. The net profit for July-September has been reported at Rs 564 crore against Rs 3,247 crore in the same period last year.

"The major reason for the decline in net profit was inventory losses in Q2 as against inventory gain during corresponding quarter of previous year," IOC Chairman Sanjiv Singh told reporters here.

"As far as inventory loss is concerned, variation in bottomline was seen during the current quarter and inventory gain during the corresponding quarter last year," Singh, added.

However, the oil and gas major earned \$1.28 on turning every barrel of crude oil into fuel in July-

September as compared to gross refining margin (GRM) of \$6.79 per barrel in Q2 of the previous fiscal. Without accounting for inventory losses, the GRM was \$3.99 per barrel. "The company recorded an inventory loss of Rs 1,807 crore in the quarter as opposed to an inventory gain of Rs 2,895 crore," Singh said.

A company generally suffers inventory loss when it buys raw material like crude oil at a particular price but by the time it is able to ship it and process it into fuel, global rates would have fallen. Because pump rates are benchmarked at prevailing international rate, it books an inventory loss. Inventory gain are booked if the reverse happens.

Singh further said the company had a forex loss of Rs 1,135 crore in the second quarter.

Turnover also slipped to Rs 1.32 lakh crore from Rs 1.51 lakh crore due to the dip in prices.

RITWIK MUKHERJEE
KOLKATA, OCT. 31

Hyderabad-headquartered Meenakshi Energy Ltd (MEL) locked horns with HDFC Bank after the latter refused to honour bank guarantees (BGs) of Rs 20.31 crore issued by the bank on behalf of Siemens Ltd in favour of Meenakshi Energy Ltd (MEL) even after the beneficiary decided to invoke the BGs on ground that the sub-contractor had failed to perform its obligations as per the agreement.

Meenakshi Energy's repeated invocation claims have been to no avail. This is notwithstanding the fact that the Hyderabad Commercial Court, after protracted hearing, refused to grant any stay or any injunction in the matter as prayed for by Siemens, holding that no ground has been made out for the same. Interestingly, RBI circular clearly says that "BG is a contract between the beneficiary and the bank and when the beneficiary invokes the



bank guarantee and a letter invoking the same is sent in terms of the bank guarantee, it is obligatory on the bank to make payment to the beneficiary'.

A detailed query sent to HDFC Bank and subsequent phone calls did not elicit any response.

Significantly, India Power Corporation, a Kanoria Foundation company, had acquired Meenakshi Energy from French major Engie for an undisclosed sum, as it looked to expand thermal power capacity. Engie had been holding 89.11 per cent of Meenakshi Energy. Rest of its stake belonged to the Meenakshi Group.

On October 18, in two separate communications, Mrityunjay Poddar, authorised signatory of MEL, wrote to the HDFC Bank manager at its Golf Course Road branch, requesting for invocation of BGs issued by the bank on behalf of Siemens.

MEL alleged that 'as per instructions of the bank, Siemens prayed for an ad interim injunction/stay of the invocation of the BG'. The court however after protracted hearing, refused to grant any stay or any injunction in the matter.

RBI Master Circular dated July 1, 2015, says: "In fact some strictures were passed by Courts in the past against banks for not honouring the guarantee commitments promptly....: 'We are therefore, of the opinion that the correct position of law is that commitment of banks must be honoured free from interference by the courts.'"

MEL is now taking up the issue with the RBI, PMO and other concerned authorities.

Fed cuts rates for a thrird time but signals it will now pause

CHRISTOPHER RUGABER
WASHINGTON, OCT. 31

The Federal Reserve cut short-term interest rates Wednesday for a third time this year to try to support the economy. But it signaled that it plans no further cuts unless it sees clear evidence that the economic outlook has worsened.

For now, Chairman Jerome Powell sounded a bullish note about the economy in a news conference after the Fed's latest policy meeting. Despite some signs of weakness, the Fed expects growth to continue and the job market to remain strong.

Since spring, manufactur-

ing output has stumbled amid trade tensions and slower global growth, while businesses have cut spending on large equipment. But Powell stressed that the Fed doesn't see those trends weakening the broader economy. Instead, steady hiring is keeping unemployment very low, boosting consumer confidence, and encouraging more spending.

"Monetary policy is in a good place," Powell said. "If developments emerge that cause a material reassessment of our outlook we would respond accordingly. Policy is not on a pre-set course."

Some of the global and trade threats that have been bedeviling the economy



have receded, Powell said, thereby reducing the need for future rate cuts. The U.S. and China have reached a tentative truce that has cooled their trade war. And the European

Union has agreed to extend the deadline for the United Kingdom's exit from Oct. 31 to Jan. 31, lowering the likelihood of an economically disorderly "no deal" Brexit. "On both, the risks appear

to have subsided," he said. "That could bode well for business confidence and activity over time."

Investors appeared pleased with Powell's positive take on the economy. The Dow Jones Industrial Average closed up 115 points, or 0.4 per cent. Analysts also noted that the year's third rate cut had been widely expected and that expectations for another cut at the Fed's next meeting, in December, were already dim.

"He clearly set the bar high for rate cuts in December and January," said Kathy Bostjancic, chief US financial economist at Oxford Economics.

But Bostjancic and some

other economists say they expect growth to keep slowing and to eventually force the Fed's hand. Bostjancic expects growth to decline to just 1.6% in 2020, below the Fed's forecast of 2%, and that the policymakers will cut rates sometime next spring.

Powell may be too optimistic about a defusing of the China trade and Brexit threats, Bostjancic said. While President Donald Trump and China's President Xi Jinping are seeking to agree to an initial pact next month, it would likely leave many significant areas of dispute between the two countries unresolved.

—*AP*

OPENING BELL

Nifty shifts support base to 11700 levels

The Sensex made a new all-time high of 40392.22, gaining for the fifth session, amid October month futures and options derivatives series expiry. Due to profit taking later the benchmark index closed much lower at 40,129.05, up 77.18 points or 0.19 per cent as it gained for the fifth consecutive session.

Foreign portfolio investors were net buyers of equities worth Rs 1,870.87 crore which helped market to move up further.

The Nifty-50 Index came very close to the 12000-mark intra-day, touching a high of 11945 and finally closed at 11,877.45, up 33.35 points, or 0.28 per cent.

The broader markets outperformed with the BSE Mid Cap Index up 1.14 per cent and the Small Cap Index up 0.94 per cent.

Among the sectors, the top gainers were BSE IT (1.75 per cent), Telecom (1.87 per cent), Realty (1.30 per cent), Technology (1.97 per cent), Consumer Durables (0.54 per cent) and Oil & Gas (0.59 per cent).

Technical View

Shrikant Chouhan, Senior Vice-President, Equity Technical Research, Kotak Securities, said, "Sensex made a record-high, however, it remained short-lived and profit booking emerged especially in those companies that have rallied substantially in the last few weeks.

"We may even call it as a short covering day for the market as many weak companies namely, RBL Bank, Yes Bank and Grasim managed to close significantly higher than the previous day. On the other side, companies that are part of the index and have huge weightage have closed lower on the back of profit-taking in the second half of the trading session. For the coming month, we are of the view that Nifty may trade in the range of 11,700 and 12,100."

Chandan Taparia, Analyst - Equity Derivatives & Technicals, Motilal Oswal Financial Services said, "Nifty index remained highly volatile in October as it moved in a wider range of 850 points. It has shifted its support base from 11100 to 11500 and now at 11700 zones."

"Now till it holds above 11700 zones, we are expecting it to head towards its life time high of 12103 marks while Bank Nifty has been underperforming the Nifty Index and needs to hold above 29750 zones to head towards next hurdle of 30800 zones."

Market View

Siddhartha Khemka, Head - Retail Research, Motilal Oswal Financial Services said, "Celebration of Diwali continued on Dalal Street as Sensex touched a record high of above 40392 mark by surpassing previous high of 40312 made on June 4, 2019. Sensex drifted to 36000 levels in the middle of September month but witnessed good recovery in last two months led by FPIs inflows, positive momentum from US indices, reducing tension over US-China trade war."

"In October, FPIs have bought nearly \$700 million in equities, while so far this year they purchased equities worth \$8.87 billion," Khemka said.

—*RAVI RANJAN PRASAD*

WHEN WOMEN PROGRESS, THE NATION PROGRESSES



Dip/shabdarth/d/0219/19-20

FREE RIDE FOR WOMEN IN DELHI'S BUSES AND BUS MARSHALS FOR YOUR SAFETY

“I want every Delhi-ite to progress and prosper and every woman to fulfil her dreams and aspirations. This is why we are making travel in buses free for all women.”

- Arvind Kejriwal
Chief Minister, Delhi





SPORT | Tennis

Djokovic survives scare in Paris opener, Nadal wins

15



SPORT | Football

Liverpool in quarters after 10-goal thriller against Arsenal

16



GUIDE TO FORTUNE

Tick the answer and check them below.

1 Who among the following is known as the 'Heroine of 1942 Quit India Movement'?

- Annie Besant
- Suchitra Kriplani
- Aruna Asaf Ali

2 The first Land-Boundary Agreement between India and Bangladesh was signed in which year?

- 1974
- 1976
- 1978

3 The Central Indian Security Forces (CISF) came into existence in which year?

- 1963
- 1969
- 1975

SHORT TAKES

FIR lodged against Hyundai Motors

New Delhi: The Delhi police informed a city court on Thursday it has lodged an FIR against Hyundai Motors India Ltd for allegedly cheating customers by asking them to obtain CNG kit only from CEV Engineers Pvt Ltd, else their warranty would be void. Submitting a compliance report before metropolitan magistrate Siddhartha Malik, the police said it has registered the case under sections 406 (criminal breach of trust), 420 (cheating), 384 (extortion), 467 (forgery of valuable security), 468 (forgery for purpose of cheating) and 34 (common intention) of the Indian Penal Code. The offences entail a maximum punishment of life imprisonment. The FIR, which also named CEV Engineers, was lodged pursuant to the court's October 22 direction on a complaint filed by a customer.

Offered less drugs, addict kills friend

New Delhi: Enraged that he was not given his share of the promised injectable narcotics, a drug addict allegedly tried to strangle his friend, hit him with a stone and finally slit his throat in outer Delhi's Bawana area, police said on Thursday. The body of Hussain (45), also a drug addict, was found in Bawana's JJ Colony on Sunday morning, they said. According to police officials, he had injected a larger share of drugs into himself and that infuriated Mohammad Mumtaz. Mumtaz (28), who lived in the same colony, was arrested on Tuesday, they said. He told police that a quarrel started between him and Hussain after he offered him less drugs to inject, following which he cut his throat with a knife.

Illicit liquor seized from parked car

New Delhi: The Delhi police PCR unit recovered illicit liquor from a parked car in Madangir area. DCP (PCR) Sharat Kumar Sinha said that the MPV staff consisting of ASI Ajit Singh and Ct. Mahender noticed a car parked under suspicious condition in Madangir area. When the staff approached near the car three persons got down from the car and fled away taking the advantage of darkness. During search of the car, 45 boxes of illicit liquor containing 1080 half-bottles of special country spirit Desi Masaledar were recovered which was later handed over to the local police for further investigation.

Anand Vihar tops 5 'critically polluted' areas Smoky haze lingers over Delhi-NCR for 3rd day

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, OCT. 31

The air quality in Delhi remained in the 'severe' category, on Thursday morning, with smoky haze lingering over the national capital for the third consecutive day and becoming a serious health concern for the residents.

Doctors have advised people to take lots of precautions, including wearing face masks and avoiding early morning and late evening walks, as concentration of pollutants is at its highest during this period.

Delhi deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia said the decision to shut schools will be taken "when the need arises."

In November 2017, the government had shut the schools for a few days due to deteriorating air quality.

Chief minister Arvind Kejriwal said that the government will start distributing 50 lakh N95 masks among school students from Friday.

Twenty-two of the 37 air quality monitoring stations across Delhi recorded air quality in the 'severe' category on Thursday morning. Anand Vihar continued to be the most polluted area with an AQI of 466 followed by Wazirpur with an AQI of 453. An AQI (air quality index) between 0-50 is considered 'good,' 51-100 'satisfactory,' 101-200 'moderate,' 201-300 'poor,' 301-400 'very poor,' and 401-500 as 'severe.' AQI above 500 falls in the 'severe-plus emergency' category.

According to the ministry of earth sciences' air quality monitor, SAFAR, the overall air quality of Delhi continues to be in the severe category. The calm surface wind prevailing for the last two days has led to



Vehicles ply amid an atmosphere shrouded in smog in New Delhi on Thursday. AAP activists (left) protest against Punjab and Haryana governments for their failure to stop stubble-burning.

—BIPLAB BANERJEE, PTI

strong surface nocturnal inversion and accumulation of pollutants.

The stubble-fire count in Haryana and Punjab has increased. SAFAR said that the share of stubble burning in Delhi's PM2.5 concentration was 27 per cent on Thursday and is predicted to be 25 per cent on Friday. On Thursday, smoke from crop residue burning accounted for 35 per cent of Delhi's PM2.5 pollution, the highest this season.

SAFAR said the transport-level wind direction is likely to remain north-westerly, which is favourable for plume transport, for the next three days. "An increase in surface wind speed is expected on Thursday. AQI is likely to improve slightly on Friday," it predicted.

A fresh western disturbance as a trough runs roughly along the Afghanistan-Pakistan border as of Thursday. It will approach Northwest India by November 2.

"It is likely to improve Delhi's air quality positively. An improvement to

the lower end of the 'very poor' category is expected by November 2," it said.

Weather experts said that Delhi's problems aggravated due to an unfavourable wind speed post Diwali, which led to the accumulation of pollutants. They said that there is likely to be some relief on the weekend.

The AAP government has identified five "critically polluted" areas after examining the post-Diwali pollution data and asked the municipal corporations and the Delhi Pollution Control Committee to intensify actions at these locations. The "critically polluted" areas are Wazirpur, Anand Vihar, Ashok Vihar, Vivek Vihar, and Bawana.

The AQI takes into account five chief pollutants—particulate matter with a diameter of less than 10 micrometres (PM10), PM2.5, ozone (O3), nitrogen dioxide (NO2), and carbon monoxide (CO). The higher the AQI value, the greater the level of air pollution and health concerns.

MBA graduate arrested for air ticket scam

Gurgaon, Oct. 31: The cyber cell of Gurgaon Police busted an online "fake" air ticket booking ring and arrested an MBA graduate on the charges of duping a local of over ₹83,000, officials said on Thursday.

Suryakant, a native of Bihar, was currently living in south Delhi and police arrested him from his residence on Monday, they said.

A case was registered in Gurgaon cyber cell on April 1 this year by the victim, Dr Roli Bawa, a resident of sector-5. Mr Bawa in his complaint stated that he booked three tickets for Delhi to Kuala Lumpur online after searching for "cheap" tickets, Gurgaon

police PRO Subhash Bokan said.

He spoke with one Amit Kumar over the phone, who was later identified as Suryakant. Suryakant assured him of booking tickets and also sent him a screenshot of the booked tickets, Mr Bokan said.

He then asked Mr Bawa to deposit over ₹83,000 to send the tickets to his email address. After Bawa deposited the amount, the accused switched off his phone and didn't send the tickets, he added. Mr Bawa approached the police.

"We are interrogating the accused to know his previous crime history," the police PRO said.

—PTI

7 days left for mercy plea, Nirbhaya convicts told

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, OCT. 31

Tihar Jail authorities have informed the Nirbhaya gangrape case convicts that they have exhausted all legal remedies and are only left with the provision of filing a mercy petition against the death sentence before the President, officials said on Thursday. In a notice issued to the four convicts in the case on October 29, the jail superintendent informed them that they have only seven days within the receipt of the notice to file the mercy petition.

"It is hereby informed that in case you have not yet filed the mercy petition, and if you wish to

file the mercy petition in your case against the capital sentence before the Hon'ble President of India, you can file it within seven days of the receipt of this notice through prison authorities, failing which it will be presumed that you are not willing to file mercy petition in your case and the jail administration will initiate further necessary legal proceedings as per law," read the notice.

Tihar director general Sandeep Goel said the notice was issued to them and if they do not file a mercy petition, the trial court will be informed and it will decide on the future course of action. Three of the convicts are housed in

City police shift to own 'home' after 70 years

Union home minister Amit Shah inaugurates new police headquarters

BHASKAR HARI SHARMA
NEW DELHI, OCT. 31

After 70 years, the Delhi police finally got their own "home" in the heart of national capital which is spread over an area of 8 acres with inimitable grandeur, exceptional facade and equipped with state-of-art technology. While inaugurating the building of the new police headquarters at Jai Singh road, Union home minister Amit Shah emphasised that internal security was the top priority of the Modi government and several steps have been taken to ensure it, including improving vigil on the borders and cracking down on fake notes. He also stressed on the need to change the image of police.

Mr Shah underlined that law and order is foundation of a civilised society and every citizen must recognise the sacrifices of our forces and also advised policemen to be more responsive towards citizens, especially the aggrieved ones and this mutual respect and sensitivity will give a new identity to the force. He also paid tributes to Delhi police personnel, who lost their lives in the 2001 Parliament attack and were conferred with Kirti Chakra, and to inspector Mohan Chand Sharma,



New police headquarters which was inaugurated by Union home minister Amit Shah in New Delhi on Thursday.



—ASIAN AGE

killed during the Batla House encounter.

The home minister observed that the police is perpetually projected in negative light in popular media, but the sacrifices made round-the-clock by officers and jawans to ensure the safety of citizens are seldom highlighted.

Mr Shah also added that, "Bhawan ke nirmaan se

lakhshyo ki sidhi nahi hoti hai, bhawan ke andaar bhawnao ke nirurpan se

hi laksho ki sidhi hoti hai", meaning merely getting the building won't help you achieve the goal but the feeling, determination and zeal will help.

The new 17-storey building has twin towers along with 12 residential quarters for officers and is also been awarded GRIHA cer-

tification for it is eco-friendly. It also houses a 500-seat auditorium and will also have parking capacity for 1,000 cars. It also has photo gallery on first home minister of India Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

There has been a provision for a helipad at the top of the building which might be used on special occasions and for which Delhi police will rent the choppers.

Delhi Police was raised in 1948 and had its first office at Kashmere Gate and later shifted to ITO in 1975 in the complex, which belongs to PWD but later ITO headquarters became insufficient to house all the functionally required offices.

Delhi police commissioner Amulya Patnaik said that Delhi police, in the post-Independence era, had the blessings of Sardar Patel on many occasions, and is privileged to have got its own headquarters inaugurated on the occasion of his 144th birth anniversary.

Lieutenant-Governor Anil Bajjal, MoS (Home) G.Kishan Reddy, Union home secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla, Delhi chief secretary Vijay Dev, among others, were present at the inauguration ceremony apart from the former police chiefs and top cops.

Chhath Puja: AAP, BJP fight over temporary ghat

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, OCT. 31

The Chhath Puja festival, on Thursday, turned into a political battlefield between AAP and BJP leaders over setting up of a temporary ghat in a park in South Delhi's Kalkaji area. While senior AAP leaders wanted to set up the ghat inside a well-maintained park, local residents backed by BJP councillor Subhash Bhadana wanted them to set it up inside an adjoining park.

AAP Rajya Sabha member Sanjay Singh, transport minister Kailash Gahlot, party MLAs Saurabh Bhardwaj, Sanjeev Jha, and Somnath Bharti; and party leader Dilip Pandey arrived at Ambedkar Park and staged a sit-in protest demanding that the puja ghat be constructed there.

Mr Bhadana also staged a dharna at the park with area residents raising slogans against AAP. The area residents were in favour of constructing the puja ghat at a nearby

Chhath Puja is an important festival of Poorvanchalis, who play a critical role in deciding the fate of about 20-odd seats in the Delhi Assembly

park. They said that each year the ghat is being set up in that particular park.

Delhi BJP president Manoj Tiwari told this newspaper that local AAP MLAs were trying to construct the puja ghat without seeking prior permission from the competent authority. He added that if they were serious about the issue, they should have sought the requisite permission well on time.

"AAP and its leaders are trying to create a clash between the Poorvanchalis and non-Poorvanchalis by playing with the sentiments of people. But BJP will not allow them to play politics over Chhath," he said.

Chhath Puja is an important festival of Poorvanchalis, who play a

critical role in deciding the fate of about 20-odd seats in the Delhi Assembly.

Condemning the action of the AAP leaders, BJP Lok Sabha member Meenakshi Lekhi said that her party and the Municipal Corporations prepare Chhath ghats so that worshippers do not face any problem.

"BJP has always helped prepare Chhath ghats and never created any hindrance. I have doubts that AAP workers may create dispute at Chhath ghats in various areas of Delhi to vitiate the atmosphere," she added.

Meanwhile, puja ghats in the national capital are being spruced up for festivities with the civic bodies also setting up mobile dispensaries and toilets for devotees.

The four-day long Chhath festival began on Thursday. On the last two days, devotees perform rituals and offer evening and morning "arghyas" (offerings) to the Sun god by taking a dip in the river or other water bodies.

Drunk man sets bike on fire after fined by traffic police

New Delhi, Oct. 31: A man in an inebriated state set his motorcycle on fire in south Delhi's Saket on Thursday after an argument with traffic police who fined him for obstructive parking, officials said.

The man was issued a challan of ₹500, they said. The motorcycle was towed away by assistant sub-inspector Rajender from Khoka Market in Saket for obstructing parking.

According to police, the vehicle was parked in the no-parking zone in Khoka Market and was towed away by the traffic police

and brought to the temporary holding area in Pushp Vihar. After some time, the biker, Mukesh, a resident of Satbari, reached the spot and started misbehaving with traffic police staff. He was found to be under the influence of alcohol, said DCP (South) Atul Kumar Thakur.

Following the heated argument, Mukesh set the bike ablaze, he said. The traffic police informed the local police and he was handed over to them. A case has been registered and the officer said,

—PTI



Sanga Returns

Kumar Sangakkara, the first overseas president of the Marylebone Cricket Club, will captain the MCC against county side Essex in Sri Lanka next March

Cricket

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THE ASIAN AGE

FRIDAY | 1 NOVEMBER 2019 | NEW DELHI



We will create a system where Ravi's involvement is more at the NCA till the time he's coach.

— Sourav Ganguly, BCCI president, on getting Ravi Shastri involved at the National Cricket Academy

SLOW COACH DADA WANTS SHASTRI TO BE ACTIVE AT NCA

Kolkata: BCCI president Sourav Ganguly on Thursday said that senior team's head coach Ravi Shastri will be asked to get "more involved" in grooming talent at the National Cricket Academy "till the time he is coach".

Ganguly's prospective move to have Shastri in dual role, could well be an aim too create a synergy between national team and NCA.

Shastri has now had a new contract till 2021 World T20 but his terms of agreement is only working with the Indian team with an annual salary of ₹10 crore.

"We will also create a system where Ravi's involvement is more at the NCA till the time he's coach. We will make it a good Centre of Excellence. We have Rahul Dravid, Paras (Mhambrey) and Bharat Arun also goes there," Ganguly said at the Eden Gardens.

However Ganguly said that Shastri is doing well as the coach even though Indian needs to address the problem of not being able to cross the final hurdle at the global events.

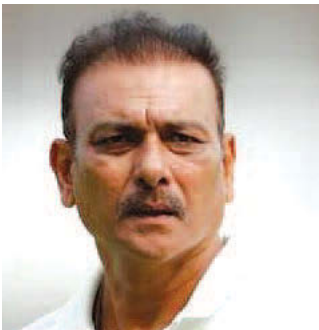
"He's done well with the side. He will be with us for next two years. As I said, India need to win a world tournament. They have the ability.

Once considered to be a finishing school of Indian cricket, NCA in the last decade had become a rehabilitation centre.

Ganguly along with other office-bearers had a meeting with the NCA staff including Rahul Dravid and COO Toofan Ghosh, who gave an elaborate presentation.

Asked about his meeting with Dravid, Ganguly said: "It was good. He's the head of NCA and one of the greats of Indian cricket. Basically, we wanted to know about the functions of NCA. We are building a new NCA. The meeting went for about two hours. I met him separately and found out what is the way forward. I think they do a lot of good work," he said.

— PTI



Ravi Shastri

Eden Test to be gala event

Kolkata, Oct. 31: Legendary Sachin Tendulkar along with the chess wizard Viswanathan Anand and tennis ace Sania Mirza are likely to grace India's first ever day/night Test against Bangladesh here at Eden Gardens from November 22-26.

Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has already given her consent to the BCCI and will be attending the first day's proceedings.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has also been invited. "Day/Night Test was one of my dreams. We want to make it a spectacle for everyone. We will make it a fantastic event. Work is on and in three or four days' time, I will be able to give you a concrete picture of what all is happening. It will be a huge event," Ganguly told reporters at the Eden Gardens.

As for the invitees, Ganguly said: "I'm trying to get hold of Sachin. We will felicitate Olympic medallists M. C. Mary Kom, P. V. Sindhu for their achievements."

● **BCCI president Sourav Ganguly will be inviting Prime Minister Narendra Modi, his Bangladeshi counterpart Sheikh Hasina, Sachin Tendulkar, Vishwanathan Anand and Sania Mirza.**

● **Boxer Mary Kom and shuttler P. V. Sindhu will be feted during the Test.**

"Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina is coming. A request has been sent to the Prime Minister's Office. Invitations have also been sent to Didi (Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee) and the Honourable Governor (Jagdeep Dhankar).

"We will felicitate the players of the first Test when India played Bangladesh. We want to make sure that everybody is available," Ganguly said. Later CAB secretary

Avishek Dalmiya said five-time chess world champion Anand is expected alongside Mirza.

"Anand would be here for a Grand Chess Tour event around the same time, so we have invited him too. He is most likely to grace the Test. We have also invited Sania Mirza," Avishek said.

Revealing further plans, the CAB secretary said they are planning a charity match for HIV-positive children during the 40-minute supper break on first day. "We will seek permission from BCCI and if they allow a match between the HIV-positive children from an NGO will be organised during the first day. We will also allow them to run a cafeteria, solely run by HIV-positive children."

The first day of the match could see a helicopter revolving around the Eden Gardens from which a sky-diver will come flying into the ground with the trophy in his hand. Pink colours might also be showered from the sky.

— PTI

MSK LASHES AT ENGINEER FOR 'PETTY TALK'

New Delhi, Oct. 31: Chairman of selection committee MSK Prasad has lashed out at former wicketkeeper Farokh Engineer for deriving "sadistic pleasure out of indulging in petty talk" after former India keeper commented that selectors served tea to India captain Virat Kohli's wife Anushka during World Cup. "I feel sad for someone deriving sadistic pleasure out of indulging in petty talk, thereby demeaning & disrespecting the selectors and wife of Indian captain through false and frivolous allegations," an angry Prasad said.

Prasad feels that it's time that Engineer behaved his age as it doesn't behove his stature to pass such nasty comments about anyone's wife.

"Someone at the age of 82 should reflect maturity and enjoy the progress of Indian cricket from his time to the current day," he added.

— PTI

DEW RESPECT

Ground grip is key factor in night Test, says Sachin

New Delhi, Oct. 31: India's first ever Day/Night Test will be a success only if the dew factor is countered effectively at the Eden Gardens, says the iconic Sachin Tendulkar, apprehensive that wet conditions might severely hamper pacers and spinners alike.

Tendulkar welcomed the introduction of Tests under floodlights in India, saying it is a "good move" and will pull back crowds for the traditional format. India will play their first-ever Test under lights with pink ball against Bangladesh from November 22 in Kolkata.

"As long as dew does not become a factor, it is a good

move but if dew is going to be a factor then seamers as well as spinners are going to find it challenging," Tendulkar said.

"Because once the ball gets wet, neither seamers can do much nor the spinners. So in that way, bowlers will be put under the test. But if there is no dew, then surely it is a good addition," the maestro said.

The dew was a factor at the Eden Gardens during ODI games under floodlights, something Tendulkar is apprehensive about.

"I think the dew factor will play a big role over here. We need to figure out how much dew is there. The dew will

determine, to what extent both teams are competing. The conditions shouldn't hinder anything (competitiveness)," said the highest run-getter in Tests and ODIs.

However, Tendulkar agreed with BCCI president Sourav Ganguly that the experiment is a good idea to bring the crowds back to the stadium.

"There are two ways to look at it. One aspect would be from the public point of view. It is a nice concept as people would be able to watch a Day/Night Test after their working hours. People can come in the evening and enjoy the game."

"From players' point of view, it won't be a bad idea to

play with pink ball and check how differently it behaves from the traditional red ball. It's about getting that pink coloured ball coming to you," said Tendulkar.

"The batsmen will need to practice with different balls at the nets. A new pink ball, a 20-over pink ball and a 50-over pink ball and an 80-over ball. See how differently a new, semi-new and old ball behaves. Accordingly prepare your strategy," he said.

— PTI



Bangladesh's Mushfiqur Rahim looks on during a practice session in New Delhi on Thursday. — AFP

India's 1st T20 vs Bangla weathers dirty Delhi air

New Delhi, Oct. 31: The national capital's air quality is in "severe" category right now but India's stand-in captain Rohit Sharma on Thursday said he doesn't expect any pollution-related problem during Bangladesh T20 on Sunday even as BCCI president Sourav Ganguly promised "practical scheduling" in near future.

Bangladesh batsman Liton Das was briefly seen wearing a face mask during his team's first training session at the Feroz Shah Kotla but he later clarified that it was not due to air pollution.

"No, no it was nothing to do with pollution. I just wore it myself as I had some problems," Liton told reporters.

Rohit on his part felt that it won't be a problem as they had not faced issues during the Sri Lanka Test, where the opposition players were wearing masks and some fell ill.

"We didn't have any problem when we played



Bangladesh's Liton Das wears a mask during his practice session at the Feroz Shah Kotla Stadium in New Delhi on Thursday.

the Test match here (against Sri Lanka in 2017). We are not aware of the exact discussion and I haven't had any problem," Rohit said during a promotional event in the capital.

Ganguly acknowledged that deteriorating air quality in NCR is an issue during post Diwali days but said it's too late to change the itinerary.

"It's too late to do anything, because a lot of preparations go into matches like tickets, crowds everything. So it's not possible to cancel things at the last minute. Fingers crossed," Ganguly said at Eden Gardens.

The newly-elected BCCI boss said in future they would be more "practical".

— PTI

STORM IN A TEA CUP!

New Delhi, Oct. 31: "Ill-intended lies", said an outraged Anushka Sharma, while a baffled selection panel member termed it "malicious" after former wicketkeeper Farokh Engineer claimed that the actor wife of India captain Virat Kohli sat with the selectors and was served tea by one of them during the World Cup this year.

Speaking to a newspaper, the 82-year-old Engineer, who played 46 Tests for India, ridiculed the credentials of India's five-member selection panel, led by MSK Prasad and comprising Sarandeep Singh and Jatin Paranjpe, Gagan Khoda and Devang Gandhi.

Engineer claimed that he saw one of these five men serve tea to Anushka during the World Cup in England but didn't name anyone.

A member of the selection panel angrily refuted the claim. "During the World Cup, none of the selectors were sitting in the box where the Indian captain's wife sat and this is an absolutely rubbish, malicious and defamatory assertion," the selection committee member said on conditions of anonymity.

A furious Anushka put out a lengthy statement. "...the latest version of these ill-intended lies is that I was being served tea by selectors at matches during the World Cup! I came to one game during the World Cup and sat in the family box and not the selectors box as reported but when has the truth mattered when it's about convenience!" she said.

"If you want to have a comment on the selection committee and their qualifications please do so as it's your opinion but don't drag my name into it to substantiate your claim or sensationalise your opinion. I refuse to allow anyone from using my name in such conversations," was her retort to Engineer's claims.

In her statement, Anushka also addressed the past controversies she has been embroiled in. "I have stayed quiet through all the times I was blamed for the performance of my then boyfriend, now husband Virat and continue to take the blame for the most baseless things involving Indian cricket," she wrote. "...how I have overstayed my authorised time with my husband on foreign tours which if anyone really cared about finding facts from the board, would know that I have always and always followed protocol but yet, I kept quiet," she added referring to a past report, which claimed that the BCCI decided its roster for players' wives and partners based on Anushka's schedule.

Anushka said she has been buying her own flight tickets to be with Kohli, who has also in the past, called the allegations against his wife a shame. Anushka, in her latest statement, slammed another earlier media report in which

● **Anushka Sharma hit back at former cricketer Farokh Engineer who claimed that he saw one of the selectors serve tea to Indian captain Virat Kohli's wife during the World Cup in England.**

intentionally wanting to be part of it and the said event, even though I was invited for it," she said.

Anushka said all the reports linking her to controversies in Indian cricket have been "regressive and horrible and malicious and vicious".

"I am not and will not be a pawn to be used by anyone's thoughts or beliefs or agendas and next time you want to use my name to discredit someone or the board or even my husband, do it with facts and proof and leave me OUT of it. Maybe, it's hard for some to believe that, because, I am a self-made, independent woman who only happens to be the wife of a cricketer and for the record, I drink coffee," she concluded.

— PTI



In this Instagram photo shared by Virat Kohli, Anushka Sharma enjoys at cup of hot beverage.



In lead

A last-minute switch back to his old clubs helped China's Li Haotong find his groove and delight a home crowd by charging to the first-round lead in Shanghai on Thursday

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Sport

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I knew I had to play aggressively. I'm really excited to still have another chance to play.

— Ashleigh Barty after win over Petra Kvitova in WTA finas

SHORT TAKES

RB Leipzig tear Wolfsburg apart

Berlin: RB Leipzig demolished Wolfsburg 6-1 in the German Cup on Wednesday after a second-half exhibition featuring four goals in 13 minutes from the visiting side. Leipzig trail Wolfsburg by two points in the Bundesliga but grabbed the lead on 13 minutes in their last-32 tie courtesy of an own goal by Dutch defender Jeffrey Bruma. Marcel Sabitzer scored Leipzig's second in the 55th minute and opened the floodgates, with goals from Emil Forsberg, Konrad Laimer and Timo Werner padding the score out to 5-0. Germany forward Werner struck again in the 88th minute before Wolfsburg got a consolation goal from Wout Weghorst. Elsewhere, Werder Bremen dominated second division side Heidenheim, winning 4-1. — *AFP*

Monaco send Marseille packing

Monaco: Marseille's season suffered another setback on Wednesday when they were knocked out of the French League Cup 2-1 at the hands of Monaco, just days after they endured a 4-0 defeat by PSG in Ligue 1. With just one win in their last seven matches, the pressure is on coach Andre Villas-Boas with a cup exit compounding Marseille's modest seventh position in the league table which sees them already 11 points behind champions PSG in the title race. Despite making seven changes from the previous game starting line-up, Monaco coach Leonardo Jardim still had enough firepower to see off Marseille. — *AFP*

Forrest keeps Celtic on top

Glasgow: Celtic winger James Forrest celebrated his new contract with a goal as the Scottish champions beat St Mirren 2-0, while title rivals Rangers routed Ross County 4-0 Wednesday. Forrest grabbed Celtic's second goal after the interval at Parkhead, just hours after signing a one-year contract extension which ties him to the club until 2023. The 28-year-old came closest to breaking the first-half deadlock as St Mirren defended in numbers and displayed good skill and composure to net in the 54th minute. Mohamed Elyounoussi had opened the scoring five minutes earlier as Celtic remain top on goal difference. — *AFP*

KORDA, HUR SHARE LEAD IN TAIWAN

Taipei: America's defending champion Nelly Korda tied with two-time 2019 tournament winner Hur Mi-Jung at six-under-par 66 to lead the LPGA Taiwan Championship by one shot on Thursday. Korda claimed her maiden LPGA Tour victory at this event last year to join her elder sister Jessica as a winner on the circuit, extending a family sporting resume which also boasts a Grand Slam tennis title via father Petr. "It's definitely so special," said the 21-year-old of being the defending champion, after having three bogeys coupled with seven birdies and an eagle to top the scoreboard. "I'm recognised by so many people now and everyone is really rooting for me... Hopefully I can get it done but there's still a lot of golf to be played." South Korea's Hur managed to stay bogey-free despite hitting only 6 of 14 fairways on the rainy and windy first day at the Miramar Golf Country Club in New Taipei City. Fresh from her victory at the LPGA Volunteers of America Classic in Texas early this month, Hur won her first title of the year at the Ladies Scottish Open in August to snap a five-year LPGA win drought. — *AFP*

ILL BUT STRONG

■ Djokovic survives scare in Paris opener, Nadal wins



Serbia's Novak Djokovic returns the ball to France's Corentin Moutet during the second round match of the Paris Masters tennis tournament in France on Wednesday. — *AP*

Paris, Oct. 31: Novak Djokovic defied illness to survive a scare against French lucky loser Corentin Moutet and reach the third round of the Paris Masters on Wednesday, while Rafael Nadal saw off a plucky challenge from Adrian Mannarino.

Top seed Djokovic, locked in a battle with Nadal for the year-end world number one spot, had to save two set points in the first set before beating the 97th-ranked Moutet 7-6 (7/2), 6-4.

The 32-year-old will play Britain's Kyle Edmund on Thursday in the last 16 as he continues his bid for a record-extending fifth Bercy title.

"I don't feel health-wise 100 percent in the last couple of days, but it is what it is," said Djokovic, who was struggling with a sore throat.

"It affects your energy, your vitality on the court. Obviously it's not ideal, but in these kind of circumstances you just have to accept it and do everything that you can to recover."

Djokovic, who was beaten by Karen Khachanov in last year's final, found himself in a spot of bother when Moutet broke his serve in the seventh game before saving four break points to seize a 5-3 lead.

But the home hope saw two set points come and go in the following game, with Djokovic quickly taking advantage to break back and level the set.

The Serbian took control as the opener entered a tie-break and Moutet smashed a ball into the crowd in anger as his opportunity for an upset looked to have disappeared, with his opponent cruising through the breaker.

Moutet delighted the crowd with an outrageous

'hotdog' lob over Djokovic early in the second set, but the 16-time Grand Slam champion belatedly found his form.

Djokovic did let one break slip after leading 4-1, but closed out victory on his first match point with a forehand winner.

Nadal does enough

Nadal, who is guaranteed to usurp Djokovic at the rankings summit next week ahead of the ATP Tour Finals in London, beat home wildcard Mannarino 7-5, 6-4 to set up a clash with three-time Grand Slam title-winner Stan Wawrinka.

Nadal was not at his imperious best against world number 43 Mannarino, but did enough to win with relative comfort.

The 19-time Grand Slam champion, who has never won the tournament but does hold a record 35 Masters titles, will hope to improve in the third round against Wawrinka after the Swiss beat Marin Cilic 7-6 (7/3), 7-6 (7/5).

Earlier in the day, fifth seed Dominic Thiem booked his spot in the last 16 by edging out Milos Raonic in a marathon encounter: Thiem had to dig deep to get past Raonic 7-6 (7/5), 5-7, 6-4. — *AFP*

BARTY CLINCHES POLE POSITION IN SHENZHEN

Shenzhen (China), Oct. 31: World number one Ashleigh Barty clinched pole position in the Red Group after defeating Petra Kvitova in straight-sets at the WTA Finals in China on Thursday. The French Open champion stormed into the semi-finals with a crushing 6-4, 6-2 win in one hour and 28 minutes at the Shenzhen Bay Sports Centre. The result knocked out the winless Czech from the round-robin tournament. Barty, who had already sealed the year-end No.1 ranking, rebounded after a three-set loss to late replacement Kiki Bertens on Tuesday. For Kvitova, the 2011 WTA Finals champion — the oldest player in the draw — this loss marks a second straight winless campaign in her seventh appearance at the lucrative year-end.

NBA | SEASON

Harden Rockets with 59 points

Los Angeles, Oct. 31: James Harden made the winning free throw with two seconds left, capping a 59-point performance as the Houston Rockets out-gunned the Washington Wizards 159-158 in one of the highest scoring games in NBA history.

Harden shot 18-of-32 from the field, made all but one of his 18 free throws, and drained six three pointers as the Rockets overcame a 46-point night from Bradley Beal.

"I work hard every single day. I fall in love with it, mastering the game," Harden said. "You can't expect to be great if you don't put the work in."

"You might be doing everything right and things don't always work out your way. You got to keep pushing."

The teams combined to score 317 points, the most ever in an NBA game which was decided by a single point. It was just the third game in the past 25 years in which each team scored at least 150 points.

The previous record for combined points in a game decided by just a single point was 311 between the Chicago Bulls and Portland Trail Blazers in 1984.

Russell Westbrook overcame a slow start to finish with his second triple double of the season with 17 points, 12 assists and 10 rebounds. Clint Capela tallied 21 for the Rockets, who improved to 3-1 on the season.

'Whatever it takes'

Beal tied the contest 158-158 with eight seconds remaining by making his free throws, but the Wizards couldn't tack on any more and dropped to 1-3 on the season.

Rui Hachimura, the highest drafted Japanese-born player in NBA history, scored 23 points and Davis Bertans had 21.

Japan's ambassador to the United States, Shinsuke Sugiyama, attended the game to watch Hachimura, who was selected ninth overall by the Wizards in the 2019 entry draft.

Joel Embiid scored 19 points before being ejected because of a third quarter fight as the Philadelphia 76ers won their fourth game to start the season by beating the Minnesota Timberwolves 117-95. — *AFP*



Houston Rockets guard James Harden (right) dribbles the ball past Washington Wizards' Thomas Bryant. — *AP*

INDIAN CRICKET

Ganguly meets Dravid to talk NCA roadmap

New Delhi, Oct. 31: BCCI president Sourav Ganguly on Wednesday met NCA head Rahul Dravid to chalk out a roadmap for the improvement of the academy, Indian cricket's biggest feeder line for many years.

The long-time former India teammates discussed their plans for the academy with Ganguly also giving his inputs.

The former India skipper, who took over the BCCI's reins last week, also visited the proposed land where the new NCA facility is supposed to come up.

BCCI had signed a 25-acre deal with the Karnataka government in May and now it has got an additional 15 acres of land from the government for setting up the Centre of Excellence near the Bengaluru international airport.

The NCA, which was supposed to be the supply line of Indian cricket, has actually become a rehabilitation centre, which even Ganguly acknowledged after tak-



Sourav Ganguly (right) and Rahul Dravid in a file pic.

ing over.

It is currently situated adjacent to the Chinnaswamy Stadium and the BCCI has been trying for alternate location to set up the NCA with state-of-the-art facilities.

The land allocated for the new facility is near the Airport in Devanahalli and is likely to accommodate three grounds, apart from indoor nets, administrative buildings, and the hostels. — *PTI*

Dravid again gets BCCI summon

New Delhi, Oct. 31: BCCI ethics officer D.K. Jain has asked Indian cricket great Rahul Dravid to appear in person for the second time, on November 12, for "further submissions and clarifications" on the conflict of interest allegations levelled against him.

The 46-year-old former India captain had earlier explained his case in the personal hearing held in Mumbai on September 26.

MPCA life member Sanjiv Gupta had filed the complaint against Dravid, alleging conflict of interest in his current role as National Cricket Academy (NCA) Head and being an India Cements employee.

"Jain wrote to Dravid on Wednesday night, asking him to depose on November 12 in New Delhi. Gupta too will be heard," a BCCI official said.

Dravid is currently the NCA Director in Bengaluru besides being a vice-president in the India Cements group, which owns the IPL franchise Chennai Super Kings.

He was also the head coach of the India A and Under-19 teams before

● BCCI ethics officer has asked Dravid to depose again on November 12

● He had earlier explained his case in the personal hearing on September 26

being handed the NCA role, which includes monitoring the progress of these two sides as well.

Dravid has already given a reply and defended himself saying he has taken leave of absence from India Cements and he has nothing to do with the Chennai Super Kings. As per the BCCI constitution, no individual can hold more than one post at the same time.

The Committee of Administrators was in charge of the BCCI when the September hearing took place but a new set of officer-bearers were elected last week. The new president, Sourav Ganguly, has already said that the conflict of interest is a "very serious issue" facing Indian cricket. — *PTI*

Maxwell to take break from cricket

Sydney, Oct. 31: Cricket Australia says batsman Glenn Maxwell will take a break from the game to deal with mental health issues.

Maxwell, 31, started the Australian summer season in strong form when he hit 82 runs off just 28 balls against Sri Lanka in Twenty20 game on Sunday and executed a run-out from near the Adelaide Oval boundary.

Australia won that match by 134 runs and the second on Wednesday by nine wickets, when Maxwell wasn't required to bat, to clinch the three-match series.

Maxwell met with Cricket Australia staff on Wednesday, and is expected to miss the rest of the T20 internationals against Sri Lanka on Friday in Melbourne and against Pakistan in three matches next week.

Team psychologist Dr Michael Lloyd said on Thursday that Maxwell "has been experiencing some difficulties with regards to his mental health. As a result, he will spend a short time away from the game ... Glenn was proactive in identifying these issues and engaging with support staff." — *AP*



Glenn Maxwell

MAXWELL WORE MASK TO BATTLE ISSUES: LANGER

Melbourne, Oct. 31: Australia coach Justin Langer on Thursday said Glenn Maxwell's jovial persona was a mask that he wore while battling his mental health issues and things have not been well with the all-rounder for a year.

Maxwell announced a "short" but indefinite break from the game. "There's been a few times over the last 12 months where I've suspected that

he was probably battling a little bit, but mainly in Adelaide last week before the first game." Langer was quoted as saying.

"A few little things just weren't quite adding up. I just asked how he was going and he said, 'No, I'm not going that well actually'. I'm pleased he feels he has got that trust in the environment to be able to do that and he has got to do some work now to get himself right." — *PTI*

PCB wish to host top SL players

Karachi, Oct. 31: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) is hoping that Sri Lanka's top players, who opted out of the recent limited overs series, will not shun the upcoming two-match Test series.

The PCB announced Rawalpindi and Karachi as venues for two ICC Test Championship matches in December. Pakistan had won the ODI series 2-0 while the Lankans whitewashed the hosts 0-3 in the Twenty20 series.

If the series goes ahead

on schedule, it will be the first Test series in Pakistan in 10 years time.

"The indications are that most of the ten players who did not come to Pakistan for the limited over series in Sept-Oct due to security concerns will be part of the Test squad," a PCB source said.

The source added that Sri Lankan Board would confirm the Test tour in a week's time after due approval from their executive committee and government. — *PTI*



Ready for action

France's World Cup winning midfielder N'Golo Kante is set to return to training with Chelsea after almost a month on the sidelines with groin injury

Games



A crazy match. At the end we were winning until the last action. Penalties are 50-50 and we lost. We are sad but we deserve more.

— Unai Emery, Arsenal boss after crashing out of League Cup

SHORT TAKES

Lakshya, Kiran reach quarters

Saarbrücken, Germany: Indian shuttlers Lakshya Sen and Kiran George progressed to the men's singles quarterfinals of the SaarLorLux Open Super Tour 100 here on Thursday. Lakshya, who had won his maiden BWF World Tour title at the Dutch Open early this month, didn't have to break any sweat as his opponent Germany's Lars Schaezler gave him a walk over, while Kiran beat Netherlands' Joran Kwekel 21-14, 21-16 to also make it to the last eight. While Lakshya, an 18-year-old from Uttarakhand, will face Germany's Max Weisskirchen next, reigning Junior National champion Kiran takes on France's Christo Popov in the quarterfinals. However, it was curtains for Mithun Manjunath and B.M. Rahul Bharadwaj, who lost in the pre-quarterfinals. While Mithun went down fighting 21-15, 19-21, 11-21 to fifth seeded Toby Pentty of England, Rahul lost 18-21, 14-21 to Ireland's Nhat Nguyen in a 42-minute clash. — PTI

Pooja enters U-23 wrestling finals

Budapest: Indian women grappler Pooja Gehlot (53kg) entered the finals after beating Turkey's Zeynep Yetgil in the semifinals of the UWW Under-23 World Championships here on Thursday. Pooja scripted a superb come back as she fought her way from a 2-4 deficit to win 8-4 against Yetgil, a gold medalist at the Junior European Wrestling Championships in 2018. In the summit clash on Friday, Pooja will be up against Haruno Okuno of Japan. No Indian has ever won a gold in the last three editions of the UWW Under-23 World Championships. Ravinder had settled for a silver medal on Wednesday after going down to Kyrgyzstan's Ulukbek Zholdosbekov in the 61kg final. It was a fantastic display from the youngster who started from the qualifying stages, where she demolished Ekaterina Verbina of Russia 8-3. — PTI

HOCKEY MEN FACE RUSSIA IN OLY QUALIES

Bhubaneswar: The Indian men's hockey team will have to guard against complacency when they take on lower-ranked Russia, while a tricky contest awaits their female counterparts against USA in the two-legged Olympic qualifiers here on Friday. Both the Indian teams are just two matches away from booking their tickets to Tokyo. While the Manpreet Singh-led men's team is up against an easy opponent in world No. 22 Russia, the Indian women have a relatively difficult task at hand as they face the American girls in the final round of the FIH Olympic Qualifiers. Both the Indian teams will play back-to-back matches against Russia and USA on Friday and Saturday and the aggregate winners at the end of the two-match qualifier (each for men and women) will seal their places in the 2020 Tokyo Games. On paper, the Indian men, ranked fifth in the world, are expected to have a cakewalk against the Russians. But coach Graham Reid is very well aware that one bad day in office can ruin India's Olympic dream. So complacency is something which the Indian men cannot afford in the next two days. The biggest improvement which Indian men witnessed under Reid in the last 12 months is the defensive structure. Along with Surrender Kumar and Junior World Cup-winning team member Harmanpreet Singh, India's defence has been rock solid in recent times. — PTI



Liverpool's Curtis Jones (right) celebrates after scoring the winning penalty in a shoot-out during their League Cup fourth round match against Arsenal at Anfield in Liverpool on Wednesday. The hosts won 5-4 (5-5) on penalties. — AFP

KLOPP THREATENS PULL-OUT OVER FIXTURE PILE-UP

Liverpool, Oct. 31: Jurgen Klopp has warned Liverpool could pull out of the League Cup if the English Football League do not help with their hectic fixture schedule.

Klopp's side moved into the quarter-finals after an incredible 5-5 draw against Arsenal and 5-4 penalty shoot-out victory at Anfield on Wednesday.

It was a superb advert for the tournament, but Liverpool might not be appearing in the League Cup again this season unless Klopp's fears over a fixture pile-up are soothed.

Match dates for the quarter-finals are scheduled for the week commencing December 16, when Liverpool will be in Qatar at the Fifa Club World Cup.

And Reds boss Klopp said if a suitable alternative, the most likely being the week commencing January 6, the scheduled date for the first leg of the semi-final, is not found then they would refuse to play.

"Fifa told us the Club World Cup will be there (Qatar) and we have to come there and we will do," Klopp told reporters.

"The Premier League tells us we have to play in the Premier League, which we do obviously."

"The Carabao (League) Cup, if they don't find an appropriate place for us — not 3am on Christmas Day — then we don't play it." — AFP

QUARTERFINALS DRAW

- Aston Villa vs Liverpool
- Everton vs Leicester
- Manchester United vs Colchester United
- Oxford vs Man City

Ties to be played save Aston Villa vs Liverpool — who are at the Fifa Club World Cup — week beginning December 16.

Gunners pay the penalty

Liverpool reach League Cup quarters after 10-goal thriller against Arsenal

London, Oct. 31: Liverpool reached the League Cup quarter-finals in thrilling style as their incredible 5-5 draw against Arsenal was followed by a 5-4 penalty shoot-out triumph, while Manchester United won 2-1 at Chelsea on Wednesday.

Both Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp and Arsenal boss Unai Emery made 11 changes for the fourth round tie, but the understudies served up one of the most entertaining games of the season at Anfield as the Gunners squandered multiple leads.

In the shoot-out, Dani Ceballos' penalty was saved by 20-year-old Irish keeper Caoimhin Kelleher before Liverpool-born 18-year-old Curtis Jones converted the winning kick. Liverpool have won the

League Cup a record eight times and they remain on course to lift the trophy for the first time since 2012.

"We were too open at times. We can talk about tactics but who cares on a night like this? I hoped for the boys they would have a game to remember," Klopp said.

"It's like a dream for them to play for the first time at Anfield. All our goals were wonderful."

After Granit Xhaka's astonishing outburst at Arsenal fans during Sunday's traumatic Premier League draw with Crystal Palace, this was another body blow for Arsenal, who lost despite leading 3-1, 4-2 and then 5-4 with seconds to go.

With an average age of 23 years and 122 days, it was Liverpool's youngest starting

THE RESULTS

Aston Villa 2
(El Ghazi 28, Elmohamady 57)
Wolves 1
(Cutrone 54)

Chelsea 1
(Batshuayi 61)
Manchester United 2
(Rashford 25-pen, 73)

Liverpool 5
(Mustafi 6-og, Milner 43-pen, Oxlade-Chamberlain 58, Origi 62, 90)

Arsenal 5
(Torreira 19, Martinelli 26, 36, Maitland-Niles 54, Willock 70)
Liverpool won 5-4 on penalties

We were too open at times. We can talk about tactics but who cares on a night like this? I hoped for the boys they would have a game to remember.

— JURGEN KLOPP

Liverpool manager

eleven in any competition since January 2017 as teenagers Neco Williams, Harvey Elliott, Rhian Brewster and Sepp van den Berg all featured.

At Stamford Bridge, Ole Gunnar Solskjaer was rewarded for naming a strong team as United beat Chelsea to continue their recent revival. Solskjaer made just four

changes, while Chelsea boss Frank Lampard made six and it was five-time League Cup winners United who came out on top as they enjoyed a third successive victory.

After Marcus Rashford and Anthony Martial both missed penalties in United's win at Norwich on Sunday, Solskjaer's team went in front thanks to a successful spot-kick in the 26th minute at the Bridge.

Daniel James was fouled by Marcos Alonso and Rashford stepped up to send Willy Caballero the wrong way from the spot for his sixth goal of the season.

Michy Batshuayi equalised from long range in the 61st minute, but Rashford's superb 30-yard free-kick won it for United in the 73rd minute. — AFP

Madrid put five past limp Leganes

Madrid, Oct. 31: Real Madrid registered their biggest win since Zinedine Zidane's return as coach on Wednesday as they demolished struggling Leganes 5-0 to move up to second in La Liga.

Karim Benzema was the star of the show, the Frenchman rounding off a superb attacking display with a goal from the penalty spot after Rodrygo, Toni Kroos and another spot-kick from Sergio Ramos had already put Leganes out of sight. Luka Jovic added a fifth in injury-time.

"We have not scored five goals for a long time," said Zidane. "We needed a victory like that. When you start scoring goals, it makes everything easier."

Gareth Bale was absent as he continues to recover from a calf injury but Madrid hardly missed the Welshman, whose future has again been up for discussion this week after he was pictured returning to London.

Zidane said he has spoken to Bale and saw him in the changing room at the Santiago Bernabeu. He was also asked if Bale had permission to leave the game five minutes before full-time. "I think so," Zidane said. "If he leaves five minutes before the game finishes, he can get home more easily."

Zidane had struck a conciliatory tone on Tuesday too but Bale's team-mates flourished in his absence, albeit against a limp Leganes side, who remain rooted to the bottom of the table after sacking their coach Mauricio Pellegrino last week.

This was not a performance to recommend caretaker manager Luis Cembranos for the job long-term. Yet there were some impressive Madrid showings nonetheless, not

THE RESULTS

Real Sociedad 1
(William Jose 47)
Levante 2
(Bardhi 24, Mayoral 40)

Valencia 1
(Sobrinho 81)
Sevilla 1
(Ocampos 45+3)

Athletic Bilbao 3
(Muniain 4, 17, Gomez 79-o.g.)
Espanyol 0

Real Betis 2
(Emerson Aparecido 8, Fekir 90)
Celta Vigo 1
(Aspas 70-pen)

Real Madrid 5
(Rodrygo 7, Kroos 8, Ramos 24-pen, Benzema 69-pen, Jovic 90+1)
Leganes 0

least from Benzema, who has been Zidane's most consistent performer by far in recent months and now has seven goals already in all competitions.

"It's not just the goal, it's what he does for the team," Zidane said. "He doesn't surprise me."

Rodrygo, the 18-year-old making only his fourth senior appearance, came into Bale's position on the right and, particularly in the first half, he shone, grabbing an early goal and providing the frightening turn of pace that Bale once offered before injuries took their toll.

"He is 18 but you don't have to be old to score here," Zidane said. "He has character and he is getting better and better."

Perhaps the only question mark was Eden Hazard, who still appears short of his best in a Madrid shirt. — AFP



Real Madrid's Karim Benzema (centre) celebrates after scoring against Leganes in their La Liga match at Santiago Bernabeu in Madrid on Wednesday. — AFP

Ronaldo scores last-gasp winner as Juventus go top

Milan, Oct. 31: Cristiano Ronaldo converted a 96th-minute penalty as Juventus defeated Thiago Motta's Genoa 2-1 to reclaim top spot in Serie A on Wednesday, while Napoli were left seething after conceding a disputed late equaliser against Atalanta.

Ronaldo sat out the 1-1 draw at Lecce over the weekend but Juve looked set to drop more points on his return in Turin as Christian Kouame's fluke equaliser cancelled out a header from Leonardo Bonucci.

The Portuguese forward saw a stoppage-time strike

ruled out by VAR for off-side before he won a last-gasp penalty after he was fouled by Toni Sanabria.

Ronaldo drilled the spot-kick low beyond Ionut Radu for his fifth league goal of the season to send Maurizio Sarri's Juve back above Inter Milan at the summit.

"It was a difficult game against a well organised team but Juve must keep going until the end," Ronaldo told Sky Sport.

"We suffered a lot tonight but we created a lot and deserved this win."

Genoa, in their second game under Motta, played

most of the second half with 10 men after Francesco Cassata was sent off, while Juventus substitute Adrien Rabiot was dismissed late on for two bookable offences.

Atalanta twice fought back from a goal behind to hold Napoli to a 2-2 draw at the San Paolo, where a fiery ending resulted in red cards for Carlo Ancelotti and his assistant.

Josip Illicic struck a contentious 86th-minute equaliser that was upheld following a lengthy VAR review, as Napoli appealed for a penalty.

— AFP

OLYMPIC TEST | EVENT

Shiva, Pooja Rani take top honours

Tokyo, Oct. 31: Shiva Thapa (63kg) and Pooja Rani (75kg) clinched gold medals, while Ashish (69kg) settled for a silver, ending India's brilliant campaign at the Olympic Test Event for Boxing here on Thursday.

Four-time Asian medalist Thapa outpunched Kazakhstan's national champion and Asian bronze-winner Sanatali Toltayev 5-0 to claim the top honours. Thapa is also the reigning national champion and a former bronze-medallist at the world championships.

Former Asian Games bronze-medallist Rani edged past Australia's Caitlin Parker to ensure that the Indian women's contingent also had a gold in its kitty. Rani had claimed a silver medal at the Asian Championships earlier this year.



Ashish (69kg), however, lost to Japan's Sewon Okazawa to sign off with a silver medal.

Earlier, former junior world champion Nikhat Zareen (51kg), Simranjeet Kaur (60kg) along with Asian silver-medallist Sumit Sangwan (91kg) and Vahlimpua (75kg), in the men's draw, lost their respective semifinal bouts to end with bronze medals on Wednesday. — PTI

SANTANA SCORES BRACE IN ODISHA'S MAIDEN WIN

Mumbai, Oct. 31: Odisha FC forward Aridane Santana scored a brace to guide his team to a 4-2 win over hosts Mumbai City in their maiden Indian Super League here on Thursday.

This is Odisha's first win of the season after they had lost 1-2 to Jamshedpur FC and 1-2 against NorthEast United FC.

For Odisha, Xisco Hernandez (6th minute), Santana (21st and 73rd) and Jerry Mawhmingthanga (41st) were the goal scorers as they dominated the proceedings from the first minute itself.

Odisha had an early chance after Santana found Jerry Mawhmingthanga on the right flank, who sent a low cross inside the box, but Mumbai's Mohammed Rafique intercepted and cleared the ball before Nandhakumar Sekar could reach.

The visitors were playing an aggressive game and they reaped dividends in the 6th minute when Xisco Hernandez scored to take them 1-0 ahead. — PTI