

THE ASIAN AGE

NEW DELHI SATURDAY 2 NOVEMBER 2019

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John
Abraham
game for
comedies



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WINDOWS

'Emergency' in Delhi, all schools shut till Nov. 5

New Delhi: The Delhi government on Friday decided to shut all schools till November 5 after a Supreme Court-mandated panel declared a public health emergency in Delhi-NCR in the wake of spike in pollution level. As the air quality deteriorated and the pollution level in the region entered the "severe plus" category, the Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority banned construction activity till November 5 and bursting of crackers during the winter season. **Full report on Page 13**

IndiGo ordered to replace 97 engines

New Delhi: Aviation regulator DGCA told IndiGo on Friday to replace the Pratt and Whitney (PW) engines under both wings of 97 A320neo aircraft "at all costs" by January 31 or they would be grounded. The directive came after the airline faced four mid-air engine malfunctions in A320neo planes in the last one week. — PTI

India beats US 5-1 in qualifiers



India's Lilima Minz celebrate after scoring a goal against USA during Hockey Olympic Qualifiers 2019 (Women) in Bhubaneswar on Friday. India defeated USA 5-1. — PTI

COUNTERPOINT



One more 50:50 formula...
our party will rule half the
state, their party the rest!

WEATHER



Max: 31°C
Min: 17°C
RH: 68%
Rainfall: Nil

Forecast: Mist

ASTROGUIDE

Vikari: Dakshinayana
Tithi: Kartika Shudda Shasthi
till 1.33 am (early hours of
Sunday)
Star: Poorvashada till 11.04
pm
Variyam: 7.59 am to 9.40 am
Durmuhurtam: 6.18 am to
7.49 am
Rahukalam: 9 am to
10.30 am
SUNSET TODAY 5.37 PM
SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.33 AM
MOONRISE TOMORROW 11.35 PM
MOONSET TODAY 9.16 AM

Fadnavis will be sworn in as CM by Nov. 7: BJP

Shiv Sena adamant on sharing CM's post

SONU SHRIVASTAVA
MUMBAI, NOV. 1

Even as Shiv Sena on Friday issued a veiled threat to the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) that it could form the next Maharashtra government on its own, the latter remained confident that Devendra Fadnavis will take oath as chief minister before November 7. Senior BJP leader and state finance minister Sudhir Mungantiwar told The Asian Age that the allies will form the next government together. "Our talks with the Shiv Sena are on. The final decision on government formation will be reached soon, and ministers will be sworn in on November 6 or 7," Mr Mungantiwar said.

The Shiv Sena, on the other hand, has hardened its stand on the implementation of the 50-50 power-sharing formula — which includes the CM's post coming to it for 2.5 years — that it claims the BJP had agreed to. Mr Mungantiwar, however, maintained that Mr Fadnavis would be back as chief minister. "We are confident that we will convince our alliance partner. We have done that in the past and we will do so this time also," he said.

Asked about the possi-

Cong to let NCP take the lead in coming up with alternative

SREEPARNA
CHAKRABARTY
NEW DELHI, NOV. 1

Amid a stalemate in government formation in Maharashtra, the Congress has decided to let NCP chief Sharad Pawar take the lead in formalising an alternative arrangement to the BJP-Shiv Sena combine. Sources said that Congress president Sonia Gandhi told senior Maharashtra leaders who met her on Friday that the Congress would "readily" give support if any such scenario works out. Sources said that a delegation of Congress leaders, which included

Maharashtra Congress chief Balasaheb Thorat, former chief minister Ashok Chavan and senior leader Prithviraj Chavan, met general secretary (organisation) K.C. Venugopal and discussed the situation with him. The same delegation later met Mrs Gandhi. Ashok Chavan told reporters after the meeting that the Congress is watching the situation and will take a decision at the right time.



**Sahib, mat paliye
ahankar ko itna,
waqt ke sagar me
kai Sinkandar doob
gaye. (Don't
nurture your
arrogance. Many
Alexanders have
drowned in the
ocean of time.)**

— Sanjay Raut,
Sena leader

bility of President's Rule being imposed in Maharashtra if no government is formed before November 7, the minister replied, "There is no question of President's Rule." Earlier, Shiv Sena upped the ante with its spokesperson Sanjay Raut stating that if his party decides, it would get the required numbers to form a stable government in Maharashtra without

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KARTARPUR CORRIDOR INAUGURATION

Passport, advance registration not required: Imran

Fee waived on corridor opening day

VINEETA PANDEY
NEW DELHI, NOV. 1

In a special gesture, Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan on Friday announced waiver of the mandatory 10-day-long registration process for Indian Sikh pilgrims visiting Kartarpur Sahib Gurudwara, as well as carrying passports as identity proof. Mr Khan also waived off \$20 "Service Fee" for all Indian pilgrims coming on the day of inauguration, November 9, and on Guru Nanak's 550th birth anniversary, November 12.

"For Sikhs coming for pilgrimage to Kartarpur from India, I have waived off 2 requirements: 1) They would need a passport — just a valid ID; 2) They no longer have to register 10 days in

advance. Also, no fee will be charged on the day of inauguration and on Guruji's 550th birthday." Mr Imran Khan tweeted on Friday. However, sources in the Indian government said that so far no official communication has reached them. It is learnt that any change, as announced by Pakistan's PM, would mean modification in the agreement that was signed between the two countries on October 24. Sources added that in such a scenario a fresh agreement will have to be signed.

The Indian government is hoping that Pakistan will at some point give up its demand for \$20 "Service Fee" for pilgrims visiting Kartarpur Sahib Gurudwara through the corridor. In a

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No namaz allowed at Valley shrine

YUSUF JAMEEL
SRINAGAR, NOV. 1

A day after Jammu and Kashmir was formally split up into two Union Territories, the police on Friday used force to disperse a religious gathering at a Sufi shrine in Srinagar. The cops also thrashed reporters and photographers covering the incident.

The police also did not allow Friday congregation in the nearby Grand Mosque for the 13th con-

secutive Friday. As devotees — both men and women — began converging at and around the shrine in the city's Khawaja Bazaar area to offer Khoji Diggar (special late afternoon prayers), the police swung into action and used bamboo sticks and fired tear-gas canisters to disperse them.

The shrine is dedicated to Bahauddin Naqshband Bukhari (1318-1389), the Bukhara

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PDP MP suspended from party for attending L-G swearing-in

AGE CORRESPONDENT
SRINAGAR, NOV. 1

The PDP on Friday expelled its Rajya Sabha member Nazir Ahmad Laway from the party for attending the swearing-in ceremony of J&K's first L-G, Girish Chandra Murmu, here on Thursday.



A PDP spokesman said that by attending Mr Murmu's swearing-in ceremony, Mr Laway had "undermined the party leadership in entirety." Mr Laway was the only non-BJP political leader who attended the ceremony.

'PC fine, no need to be in hospital'

New Delhi: The Delhi high court was informed Friday that according to AIIMS Medical Board, the health condition of former finance minister P. Chidambaram, who is lodged in Tihar jail, is fine and does not require hospitalisation.

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Firefighter Giannis Giagos battles the Maria Fire in Santa Paula, California, on Friday. According to Ventura County Fire Department, the blaze has scorched more than 8,000 acres and destroyed many structures. — PTI

Time to get rid of Imran's fake govt, say leaders at rally

Pak Opp. marches to PM's doorstep

SAJJAD HUSSAIN
ISLAMABAD, NOV. 1

Pakistan's Opposition leaders on Friday launched a determined bid to oust Prime Minister Imran Khan, saying the time has come to get rid of his "fake" government that came into power through "blatant rigging" in the 2018 general elections.

The much-hyped "Azadi March" — led by influential right-wing Pakistani cleric Maulana Fazlur Rehman's Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) — reached its final destination Islamabad on



Supporters of Pakistani cleric Maulana Fazlur Rehman leave for Islamabad to participate in a march in Peshawar on Thursday. — AP

Thursday after it set off from the Sindh province and left Lahore on Wednesday.

Along with Fazl, leaders of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), Pakistan People's Party

Gone are the days when one used to use Islam to gain power. This is a new Pakistan. Sit however long you want. When your food runs out, we will send more. But we will not give you an NRO

—Imran
Khan



(PPP), and Awami National Party (ANP) participated in the march

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Jharkhand polls from Nov. 30, results Dec. 23

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, NOV. 1

The Assembly elections in Jharkhand will be held from November 30 onwards in five phases. Giving out the details, the Election Commission of India said on Friday that polling will be held on November 30, December 7, 12, 16 and 20 while counting will be on December 23.

The term of 81-member Legislative Assembly of Jharkhand is due to expire on January 5, 2020. Out of these 81 seats, nine are reserved for Scheduled Castes and 28 are for Scheduled Tribes.

The state has around 2.26 crore general voters out of which 41,336 are service voters.

The state is expected to see a close contest between the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party, headed by Chief Minister Raghubar Das and the possible alliance of Congress and Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM).

The ECI has decided to use Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) along with EVMs at every polling station in the Jharkhand elections "to enhance transparency of the election process."

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AYODHYA VERDICT

No processions, says RSS, tells pracharaks to stay in 'kshetras'

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, NOV. 1

After appealing for peace and harmony over Supreme Court's impending verdict on the politically and religiously sensitive Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri masjid title suit, the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) has asked its office bearers and senior pracharaks to remain stationed at their designated kshetras and prants (designated areas of work).

The RSS top brass has told its members and office bearers that whatever the verdict be, there will be no procession, either in favour or against, and also only the top brass will react to the verdict. In a statement issued, the RSS had asserted that whatever the verdict, it should be "accepted wholeheartedly by everyone."

The RSS top brass, including its chief Mohan Bhagwat, held a two-day long coordination meeting with senior pracharaks and representatives of Sangh affiliates, including the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) and the BJP on various issues. The impending verdict by the apex court on the title suit, Article 370 and the National Register of Citizens were key issues on the agenda.

From the BJP, national president and Union home minister Amit Shah, working president J.P. Nadda, general secretary (organisation) B.L. Santosh, joint general secretaries (organisation) Shiv Prakash and V. Satish, attended the meeting.

The VHP is spearheading the Sangh's Ram mandir movement and

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Politics

The state govt should not turn Madhya Pradesh into 'Madira Pradesh', says former chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan

Nation

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THE ASIAN AGE

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Statements by the Narendra Modi will not get PoK back into India

— Kapil Sibal, Congress leader

SHORT TAKES

MNS leader, 3 others held for assault

Mumbai: Maharashtra Navnirman Sena leader Sandeep Deshpande and three others were arrested on Friday for allegedly assaulting a Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation official in Shivaji Park area in central Mumbai, police said. The incident took place after BMC staff in Dadar area removed MNS posters and hoardings greeting people on the occasion of Diwali, an official said. "While these items were being removed, Deshpande had a heated argument with G North Ward officials and some of his supporters assaulted civic staff," he said. "After a BMC official filed a complaint, we charged Deshpande and others under Indian Penal Code," he said. — PTI

Bhopal BJP leader jailed over attack

Bhopal: A Bhopal court sentenced BJP MLA from Panna district Prahlad Lodhi and 12 others to two years' imprisonment for attacking a tehsildar in 2014. The special court helmed by additional sessions judge Suresh Singh also slapped a fine of ₹3,000 each on all convicts. Raipura tehsildar R.K. Verma was attacked by the BJP leader on August 28, 2014 after he seized a tractor full of sand and kept in Simriya police station. While going back home after the duty, Lodhi along with his associates thrashed the tehsildar and also hurled abuses for taking such a move. — ANI

Sidda gives zero score to BSY govt

Bengaluru: As the BJP government in Karnataka is all set to complete 100 days in office on November 2, Congress leader Siddaramaiah on Friday gave a score of "zero" for chief minister B.S. Yediyurappa-led ministry, alleging no development work had happened. Calling Yediyurappa a "weak chief minister", the Leader of Opposition in the state Assembly said transfers, "wooning" disqualified MLAs were the main achievement of this government so far. "Where is the performance or achievement to score, there is nothing...Zero, zero," the former chief minister said. — PTI

FAMILIES DENIED RATION FOR OPEN DEFECATION

Berhampur, Odisha: Over 20 families in Ganjam district have not been given ration supply after a panchayat body decided to stop the benefits from reaching people who were found defecating in open. According to a decision taken at a panchayat meeting on October 20, the distribution of ration under the public distribution system (PDS) was stopped to over 20 families in last 11 days, Sushant Swain, the sarpanch of Goutami panchayat in Sanakhemundi block, said. However, Ganjam district collector Vijay Amruta Kunage said, the benefits under National Food Security Act (NFSA) and State Food Security Act (SFSA) to any person should not be curtailed. If anyone was found defecating in open, particularly on roadside, the panchayat body will instruct the dealer concerned to stop giving ration to such people for a month, Swain said. The move is aimed at making people aware of the need to use toilets, he said. Around 300 women, all members of a self-help group (SHG), patrol the open spaces in the panchayat from 3 am to 5 am and 5 pm to 7 pm to keep vigil on the violators, the sarpanch said. — PTI

Amid BJP-Sena deadlock, Maha leaders meet Venugopal Cong adopts wait & watch plan, lets Pawar take lead

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, NOV. 1

Amid a stalemate in government formation in Maharashtra, the Congress has decided to maintain a "wait and watch" approach and let Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) chief Sharad Pawar take the lead in the formation of any alternate arrangement apart from the BJP-Shiv Sena combine. Sources said that a delegation of Congress leaders, which included Maharashtra Congress chief Balasaheb Thorat, former chief minister Ashok Chavan and senior leader Prithviraj Chavan, met general secretary (organisation) K.C. Venugopal and discussed the situation with him. Ashok Chavan told reporters after the meeting that the Bharatiya



Sharad Pawar

Janata Party (BJP) failed to keep its promise to the Shiv Sena, which has led to the political crisis in Maharashtra. He said that the Congress was watching the situation and it would take a decision at the right time. Earlier, Prithviraj Chavan had said that if Shiv Sena approached his party with a proposal, he would discuss that with the top leadership in

Ashok Chavan said that the Congress would take a decision at the right time
Sushilkumar Shinde and Sanjay Nirupam are opposed to the party associating with the Sena

Delhi. However, Sushilkumar Shinde and Sanjay Nirupam are against the idea of Congress associating with Shiv Sena as, they think, it would damage the secular image of their party. Sources, however, told this newspaper that the Maharashtra Congress was divided as far as extending support to the Shiv Sena for government formation was concerned. It has been close to two weeks since the Assembly

election results were announced and the BJP and Sena are yet to begin talks on government formation. While Shiv Sena is sticking to its demand for equal representation in the government and the chief minister's post for 2.5 years, the BJP is not willing to concede and is not willing to offer anything more than the deputy chief minister's post. Shiv Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray has opened communication lines with the Congress and NCP and has signalled he is ready to explore options if the BJP doesn't accede to its demand. On Thursday, senior Shiv Sena leader and Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Raut on Thursday met NCP chief Sharad Pawar and discussed political developments.

Khattar, ex-mantris delve into loss of seats

Chandigarh, Nov. 1: Haryana chief minister Manohar Lal Khattar on Friday held a meeting with the party leaders who held ministerial positions in the previous government to review the losses suffered by the BJP in the Assembly polls. A discussion was held on the reasons behind the losses suffered by the party and the defeat of a majority of ministers. BJP leader Krishan Kumar Bedi said here after the meeting. He said it was discussed as to how the party was reduced to just 40 seats and the former ministers gave detailed information about their defeat. In the just concluded polls, eight of the 10 ministers fielded by the BJP had tasted defeat with only two of them — Anil Vij and Banwari Lal — retaining their seats. Two ministers in the previous Cabinet, Vipul Goel and Rao Narbir Singh, were denied tickets by the party. Those who lost the elections were Ram Bilas Sharma, Capt Abhimanyu, Om Prakash Dhankar, Kavita Jain, Krishan Lal Panwar, Manish Kumar Grover, Krishan Kumar Bedi and Karan Dev Kamboj. In the 2014 polls, the BJP had won 47 seats, forming its first-ever government in Haryana. Earlier in the year, it had won the Jind bypolls, taking its tally to 48. After being reduced to 40 seats in the recently held elections, the party formed the government in the state with the support of 10 JJP MLAs and seven Independents. — PTI

Farmer wants to be Maha CM, writes to governor

AGE CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI, NOV. 1

A farmer from Beed wrote to the governor Friday, requesting the latter to appoint him chief minister of the state till such time a new one is appointed. In a letter addressed to governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari in Marathi, one Shrikant Gadale from the Dahifal Wadmauli taluka in Beed district's Kajitahsil, described his own socio-political status and said that he has been working in the fields for the past 10 to 12 years.



Bhagat Singh Koshyari

"Make me the CM to solve the problems of farmers who have lost their crops, till the BJP and Shiv Sena resolve the issue of selecting the chief minister," he has written. Mr Gadale has promised to solve the problem of crop losses and indicated that if the

governor does not take cognisance of his letter, he will protest in a democratic manner. Mr Gadale has pointed out that the tussle between the BJP and Shiv Sena has gone on long enough at the expense of farmers' issues which have not been solved. He has said that the governor must make him the CM for the common man's wellbeing. Mr Gadale Thursday handed over the letter to the collector of Beed district, and asked that the same be submitted to the governor.

Do not flirt with Sena: Nirupam

Mumbai, Nov. 1: Congress leader Sanjay Nirupam on Friday criticised party leaders who are mulling supporting the Shiv Sena in formation of the next government in Maharashtra, where the ruling saffron allies are engaged in a tug of war over sharing of power. Mr Nirupam said the ongoing war of words between the BJP and its ally Shiv Sena was nothing but "drama" and the Congress should stay away from it. "Have they lost? How can some Congress leaders think of supporting the Shiv Sena," the former Mumbai Congress president tweeted. "Congress should not get into Shiv Sena-BJP drama. It's fake. It's their temporary fight to grab more power share," said the ex-MP, who is miffed with party leadership over ticket distribution for the October 21 polls.



Sanjay Nirupam

"To the best of my understanding, Shiv Sena will never come out of BJP's shadow," said Mr Nirupam, who was associated with the Bal Thackeray-founded party before joining the Congress. He cautioned his party against "flirting" with the Uddhav Thackeray-led party. "It is going to be a futile exercise. Hope the state leaders realise the truth. Instead we must introspect why the party lost 2 per cent of votes as compared to 2014 assembly elections. "We are down from 17 to 15 per cent (in terms of vote share). As a party we have come down from the third to the fourth position (in term of seats)," he said. — PTI

CBI to question Rawat in horse-trading case

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, NOV. 1

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) is all set to question senior Congress leader and former chief minister of Uttarakhand, Harish Rawat in connection with its investigation into his alleged role in a 2016 sting video that purportedly shows him negotiating a deal to buy the support of rebel MLAs. According to sources, "The former chief minister of Uttarakhand is expected to be questioned next week. The agency will also question his then cabinet colleague Harak Singh Rawat, who is now a member of the state's BJP-led government, in connection with the case." Besides, the CBI will



Harish Rawat

also question three former Congress MLAs as they are suspected to have been in constant touch with Harish Rawat, it said. The CBI recently filed a FIR against Harish Rawat and Harak Singh Rawat for alleged horse-trading in 2016, which was caught on tape by the editor of a news channel. The CBI had registered a preliminary enquiry to probe the alleged horse trading attempt on March 23, 2016, when the

state was under President's Rule. It sent the tape for analysis to the Forensic Science Laboratory, Gandhinagar, Gujarat, which opined that the recording was "genuine" and there was no evidence of any "addition/deletion/insertion/tampering/morphing" in the video that purportedly showed the Congress leader discussing money to win back the support of disgruntled MLAs who had crossed over to the BJP so that the Congress could get back to power. Recently, the Uttarakhand high court gave its nod to the CBI to go ahead with its investigation and lodge a FIR against Rawat after the agency submitted a report in a sealed cover upon preliminary inquiry.



Bihar deputy chief minister Sushil Kumar Modi distributes fruits among Chhath devotees in Patna on Friday.

— PTI

In a fresh setback, court denies interim bail to PC

AIIMS says he is fine, doesn't need hospitalisation

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, NOV. 1

Incarcerated former finance minister P. Chidambaram does not require hospitalisation for his ailments, the Delhi high court was informed on Friday. The Tihar jail authorities, nonetheless, were directed to take a slew of steps for his wellbeing. The court was hearing 74-year-old Chidambaram's plea for interim bail in the money laundering case filed by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on medical grounds. The Congress leader had submitted that his condition is deteriorating and needs to be in a sterile environment. Solicitor general Tushar Mehta read out the report of AIIMS Medical Board, set up on the court's order to examine the Congress leader's health condition, and said he does not require a sterile environment. Justice Suresh Kait, who was hearing Mr Chidambaram's interim bail application, directed the Tihar jail superintendent to provide clean and hygienic surroundings to the veteran Congress leader as also home-cooked food, mineral water, a mosquito protec-

Gehlot pays visit to ex-FM in Tihar

New Delhi: Rajasthan chief minister Ashok Gehlot on Friday met senior Congress leader P. Chidambaram in Tihar Jail and expressed hope that he would be out of jail soon. Mr Gehlot, who was accompanied by Chidambaram's son and Congress MP Karti, said the case was a "perfect example of vendetta politics". "I am hopeful that he will get bail soon and will be out from jail. There is nothing in this case," he told reporters. — PTI

tion net and repellent. The court also directed that Mr Chidambaram's medical check up be done regularly. The court disposed of the plea after senior lawyer Kapil Sibal, representing Mr Chidambaram, said they did not require any further direction. The court had on Thursday directed the AIIMS director to constitute a medical board to give opinion on the health of Mr Chidambaram, who is suffering from Crohn's disease or the inflammation of the digestive tract leading to abdominal pain, diarrhoea and also weight loss. The high court had said that the Hyderabad-based gastroenterologist Nageshwar Reddy, who has been treating the Congress leader, be included in the board to give his opinion on Mr Chidambaram's medical condition. Mr Chidambaram has sought interim bail in the case.

DELHI POLICE
SHANTI SEWA NYATA

SETTLE TRAFFIC CHALLANS at SPECIAL LOK ADALAT on 3rd November, 2019 from 10:00 AM to 03:30 PM

Delhi State Legal Services Authority (DSLISA) in coordination with Delhi Traffic Police is organizing Special Lok Adalat for settlement of Traffic Challans on 03.11.2019

PENDING "ON-THE-SPOT" AND NOTICE BRANCH TRAFFIC CHALLANS
of all types of vehicles (Including Commercial Vehicles)

FOR "ON-THE-SPOT" TRAFFIC CHALLANS
All concerned Traffic Courts of the Metropolitan Magistrates

FOR NOTICE BRANCH TRAFFIC CHALLANS:
Any Court at Court Complexes i.e. Tis Hazari, Patiala House, Karkardooma, Dwarka, Saket & Rohini

Log on to Delhi Traffic Police Website : <https://delhitrafficpolice.nic.in> to know about pending notices/challans of your vehicles.

Note: • Virtual Court's Challan shall not be taken in this Spl. Lok Adalat.
• Notice Branch Challan upto 31.08.2019 will be taken.

Delhi State Legal Services Authority Helpline : 1516

Delhi Traffic Police Helpline : 1095, 25844444



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DP/9176/19



'Real unity'

Abrogation of Article 370 brought real unity of the nation, says vice-president Venkai Naidu



The investigation must go to the root of this matter (snooping) and find out culprits

— Shatrughan Sinha, Actor-turned-politician

SHORT TAKES

Drunk Bihar SI held for harassing girl

Samastipur: A police officer has been arrested for allegedly sexually harassing a girl in an inebriated state at a police station in Bihar's Samastipur district. Confirming the incident, Dalsinghsarai sub-division Deputy Superintendent of Police Kundan Kumar said that the accused police officer, Vedanand Choudhary, was forwarded to Samastipur divisional jail on Friday. Mr Choudhary, a sub-inspector at Ghatgha police station, was arrested on Thursday after a medical test conducted on him confirmed that he had consumed liquor, which is banned in Bihar, Kumar said. An FIR was registered against him in this regard, he said. — PTI

Student suffer bees attack in MP school

Bhind: A swarm of bees attacked the students here on Friday, who had assembled to celebrate the foundation day of Madhya Pradesh. Minister Dr Govind Singh was making the speech on the occasion, when the students started running helter-skelter to save themselves from the attack of bees. Almost two dozen students were bitten by the bees. They were seen whimpering and crying. Many of them were injured in the process. While the students were crying for help, politicians and bureaucrats on the dais did not even bother to get down from the stage and extend help to the students in distress. — PTI

INDIGO FLIGHT FORCELANDS AFTER SCARE

Chennai: Minutes after take-off, an IndiGo Chennai-Kuwait flight in wee hours of Friday made an emergency landing here following a smoke alarm. IndiGo's International flight, 6E-1751 with 163 passengers took off at 1:07 am on Friday from Chennai for Kuwait. After takeoff, the crew got an alarm and declared a full emergency. Later, the flight landed safely in Chennai at 1:34 am. However, on inspection, it turned out to be a false alarm. According to a press release by the airline, "IndiGo A320 was operating Chennai-Kuwait 6E-1751. After take-off from Chennai, the pilot observed a momentary message of the smoke detector in the aft cargo compartment. As a precaution, the pilot returned to Chennai. After arrival, it was confirmed that the message was false. The aircraft will be back in operations shortly." IndiGo made alternate arrangements for all the passengers. The matter was reported to the Directorate General of Civil Aviation and an investigation is underway. — ANI

J'khand to vote in 5-phase elections

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, NOV. 1

The Assembly elections in Jharkhand will be held from November 30 onwards in five phases. Giving out the details, the Election Commission of India said on Friday that polling will be held on November 30, December 7, 12, 16 and 20 while counting will be on December 23.

The term of 81-member Legislative Assembly of Jharkhand is due to expire on January 5, 2020. Out of these 81 seats, nine are reserved for Scheduled Castes and 28 are for Scheduled Tribes. The state has around 2.26 crore general

voters out of which 41,336 are service voters.

The state is expected to see a close contest between the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party, headed by chief minister Raghubar Das and the possible alliance of Congress and Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM).

The ECI had earlier directed the state election machinery to complete special summary revision of the electoral rolls in time to ensure that all eligible but un-enrolled citizens in the State were registered, ECI officials said. The ECI has decided to use Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) along with Electronic Voting Machine (EVM) at every

► **The state is expected to see a close contest between the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party, headed by chief minister Raghubar Das and possible alliance of Congress and JMM**

polling station in the Jharkhand elections "to enhance the transparency and credibility of the election process," officials said adding the ECI has made arrangements to ensure availability of adequate number of EVMs and VVPATs for the smooth conduct of elections.

The ECI further said spe-

cial efforts have been made to identify the critical gaps in the electoral rolls and targeted SVEEP activities were carried out to address them. The ECI is also taking a new initiative for the physically disabled voters and senior citizens above the 80 years. They will now have the option of postal ballot facility. "The ECI has notified that all senior citizens above 80 years of age and PwD marked electors in the E-roll, will have the option of voting either by Postal Ballot or by voting at the their polling stations," ECI said. All such voters have to apply for the postal ballot within five days of notification for election in their constituencies.

Niece moves HC to stall making of movie on Jaya

AGE CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, NOV. 1

J. Deepa, niece of former chief minister late J.Jayalalithaa, has filed a suit in the Madras high court to restrain producers A.L.Vijay, Vishnu Vardhan Induri and Gowtham Vasudev Menon from producing a film in on the life of Jayalalithaa and/or her family members and their direct descendants allegedly without her consent.

The suit filed by Deepa is likely to come up for hearing next week. In her suit, Ms Deepa submitted that she is a legal heir and direct descendant of late J. Jayalalithaa. Jayalalithaa is her aunt (sister of her father). She had very close acquaintance with her during her life time.

"Jayalalithaa was a well known public personality and had acquired an iconic reputation among the people of Tamil Nadu as well as across India. She had established a great name for the party AIADMK, founded by former chief minister M.G. Ramachandran. She had a huge number of followers and her fame is written in golden letters in the history of Tamil Nadu," she said.

She said A.L.Vijay and Vishnu Vardhan Induri have announced to produce a film on the biography of her late aunt and announced the same through public media. She said that she has learnt that actress Kangana Ranaut has been identified to for the role of Jayalalithaa and the film has been titled as *Thalaivi* in Tamil and *Jaya* in Hindi. "They planned to release the said film on the life story of Jayalalithaa as a bilingual film for their commercial



J. Deepa

Kangana elated on Jaya role portrayal

Chennai:

Kangana Ranaut is all excited about doing Jayalalithaa in *Thalaivi*. The national award winning actress is now in Los Angeles and said to be neck-deep in the film's pre-production preparations, which include learning Bharatanatyam and going through prosthetic measurements at Jason Collin's Studio there. "Jason has previously worked for *Captain Marvel* creating prosthesis for Brie Larson. Needless to say, Jayalalithaa's biopic will definitely be something mind-blowing", said Team Kangana Ranaut, which shared some of those pictures on Instagram. The actress is not herself on social media.

and monetary benefits without her consent," she alleged.

Meanwhile, filmmaker Gowtham Vasudev Menon has announced to make web serial on the life story of Jayalalithaa and actress Ramya Krishnan is likely to perform the role of Jayalalithaa.



Nazir Laway was only non-BJP politician who attended swearing-in PDP MP attends L-G event, expelled

YUSUF JAMEEL
SRINAGAR, NOV. 1

The People's Democratic Party (PDP) on Friday expelled its Rajya Sabha member Nazir Ahmad Laway from the party for attending the swearing-in ceremony of Jammu and Kashmir's first lieutenant-governor Girish Chandra Murmu here on Thursday.

A PDP spokesman said that he has been expelled from the basic membership of the party for indulging in "anti-party activities".

Confirming that Mr. Laway has been expelled for attending Mr. Murmu's

swearing-in ceremony, the spokesman said, that "by doing so he has undermined the party leadership in entirety".

Mr Laway was the only non-BJP political leader who attended the ceremony held at Raj Nivas here.

The PDP spokesman said that his participation in the ceremony was in contravention to the party's stand on the revocation of Article 370 of the Constitution, splitting J&K into two Union Territories and the current political situation in the (erstwhile) state.

This is not for the first time that Mr Laway has



Nazir Ahmad Laway

gone against the party stand on issues?

In July this year, he had along with another PDP Rajya Sabha member Fayaz Ahmad Mir rendered his support for the passage of the RTI bill in the Upper House of Parliament despite objec-

tions raised by their party. PDP president Mehbooba Mufti had opposed the bill on the plea that J&K had its own RTI Act 2009 and, therefore, there was "no question of supporting the RTI bill in Rajya Sabha".

Mr Laway and Mr. Mir had also instead of voting against the Triple Talaq bill abstained from the House on the day of voting even after publicly asserting that they will oppose it as "it is against the principles of Islam".

Mr Laway said that he has not received the expulsion notice from the party yet and that he wondered who is authorized to take

such action against him when the party leadership has been incarcerated by the authorities. "I don't know who is doing this. It is the party president who is the ultimate authority to take such a decision. She is in detention for past three months," he said.

He added that some people within the party were against him and they have been trying to denigrate him. "In fact, I raised the issue of the party leadership's uncalled-for detention and also the incarceration hundreds of Kashmiri youth with the newly appointed lieutenant-governor," he said.

Capt. welcomes Pakistan waivers for Sikh pilgrims

Chandigarh, Nov. 1: Punjab chief minister Amarinder Singh on Friday said he was "happy and grateful" that the Pakistan government decided to waive passport requirement for Sikh pilgrims visiting Kartarpur Sahib and urged Prime Minister Imran Khan to extend the waiver for all Indians.

Mr Singh also reiterated his demand for the waiver of \$20 service fee, which is to be charged from Indian devotees visiting the historic shrine.

"Happy & grateful for waiver of passport & advance registration conditions for Sikh pilgrims by @ImranKhanPTI govt, but would urge Pakistan to apply this not just to Sikhs but all citizens of secular India. Also urge Pak PM to waive off \$20 fee on all days instead of just two," he said in a tweet.



Amarinder Singh

on day of inauguration and on Gururji's 550th birthday," Mr Khan tweeted.

The corridor will connect Darbar Sahib in Pakistan's Kartarpur with Dera Baba Nanak shrine in Gurdaspur district in Punjab and facilitate visa-free movement of Indian pilgrims, who will have to just obtain a permit to visit Kartarpur Sahib, which is located in Pakistan's Narowal district across the Ravi river. Kartarpur Sahib is located in Pakistan's Narowal district across the Ravi river, about four kilometres from the Dera Baba Nanak shrine.

Pakistan is building the corridor from the Indian border to the Gurdwara Darbar Sahib in Kartarpur, while the other part from Dera Baba Nanak in Gurdaspur up to the border is being built by India.

— PTI

Bhushan to move SC for probe in WhatsApp row

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, NOV. 1

The activist lawyer Prashant Bhushan will move the Supreme Court for investigation into the hacking of the WhatsApp accounts of the human right activists, lawyers and journalists seeking to know whose phones were tapped and at whose instance.

Seeking an investigation by a body of cyber experts, Mr Bhushan on Friday said that it needs to come in the public domain who had ordered the snooping of the accounts of the right activists, lawyers and journalists and why.

The petition before the Supreme Court could be on behalf of the affected people whose names have come to light or could be a public interest suit on behalf of an organisation.

The names of those whose accounts were hacked include rights activists, lawyers, academicians and journalists.

Those whose accounts were allegedly hacked include Telangana high court lawyer Ravindernath Bhalla, Bastar based lawyer Shalini Gera, civil and dalit right activist Anand

'Engaging Israeli agencies for snooping is violation of rights'

New Delhi, Nov. 1: Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Friday said if the BJP or the government engaged Israeli agencies to snoop into the phones of journalists, lawyers, activists and politicians, it is a "scandal" with grave ramifications for national security.

Her remarks come after WhatsApp said that Indian scribes and human rights activists were among those globally spied upon by unnamed entities using Israeli spyware Pegasus.

"If the BJP or the gov-

ernment has engaged Israeli agencies to snoop into the phones of journalists, lawyers, activists and politicians, it is a gross violation of human rights and a scandal with grave ramifications on national security," Priyanka Gandhi said in a tweet.

Waiting for the government's response, the Congress general secretary said.

The Congress on Thursday attacked the Modi government over the issue, alleging that it had been "caught snooping".

— PTI

with other activists including Gautam Navlakha. Mr Bhushan on Friday said that they are collecting the papers relating to the hacking of the WhatsApp accounts and would move the top court after it opens on November 4 after week-long Diwali holidays.

While the questions are being raised as to who was behind the snooping of the rights activists, lawyers and the journalists, the government has issued denial.

Man booked for giving triple talaq over wife's 'crooked teeth'

Hyderabad, Nov. 1: Hyderabad Police registered a case against a man here for allegedly giving triple talaq to his wife for having crooked teeth. Rukhsana Begum has alleged that her husband Mustafa and in-laws demanded dowry and in the lieu harassed her. Begum married Mustafa on June 27, 2019.

According to the police, on Oct 31 a case was registered against Mustafa under section 498 A of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), Dowry Act and Triple Talaq Act. Further investigation is underway. Circle Inspector Kusaiguda, K. Chandra Shekar said, "We have received a complaint from Begum accusing her husband of pronouncing triple talaq as she has crooked teeth and harassing her for extra dowry." — ANI

POSTGRADUATE INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL EDUCATION & RESEARCH, CHANDIGARH

CORRIGENDUM

Ref: Open Tender Notice No. PI (EP) 19-28/97

1. The tender item is at Sr.No.69. (Surgeon Skill Lab) due on 21.11.2019 has been withdrawn due to technical reasons.

Ref: Open Tender Notice No. PI (EP) 19-28/98

2. The tender item is at Sr.No.42 (Digital Photography Unit for Gross Specimen) due on 12.12.2019 has been withdrawn due to technical reasons.

All other details of the tender shall remain the same. Professor In-Charge (EP)

Public Notice

To be known to all that I, M/s. Brainwave Medical Technologies Pvt. Ltd. through its Director Sh. Sanjay Verma, Office No.4, 1st Floor, CSC Block B, Vojna Vihar, Delhi-110092 is the owner of Unit No.5, 1st Floor, Block B, CSC Planning Commission-I, Vojna Vihar, Delhi-110092 has applied for conversion of the aforesaid shop from lease hold to free hold in DDA. The original Demand Letter No.F-57(8)2015/CE/1/1578 dated 22.06.2015 in respect of the above said unit was destroyed in fire while in the custody of Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd. An NCR to this effect has lodged in P.S. Crime Branch, vide SO No.430/2014 Delhi Police, LR No.1819874/2019 dated 31.10.2019. Any person(s) claiming any right, interest, having any objection or found in possession of original documents, may write/contact with above named person at above address/phone 9717797001 within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. The person claiming any right, interest, objections with respect to this property can personally inform or write to Director(CE), or Dy.Director (CE) A Block, 2nd Floor, Vikas Sadan, INA, New Delhi.

DELHI POLICE
SHANTI SEWA NYAYA

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28TH OCT. TO 02ND NOV. 2019

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DP/917/19



Taking charge

Air Marshal B. Suresh takes charge of IAF's Western Command



Terrorism is a global threat that must be fought jointly by the world.

— Ram Nath Kovind, President

SHORT TAKES

UP to build digital museum on Ram

Lucknow: The Uttar Pradesh Cabinet on Friday gave approval to a proposal to build a digital museum on Lord Ram in Ayodhya to boost tourism and beautify the temple town. Cabinet minister Shrikant Sharma briefed reporters about the meeting chaired by Uttar Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath. “A proposal for beautification of Ayodhya and boosting tourism has been approved by the UP Cabinet. A digital museum based on Lord Ram, a food plaza, landscaping and a statue of Lord Ram will come up in the town. The Cabinet approved ₹446.46 crore to acquire 61,3807 hectare land in Meerpur village of Ayodhya,” he said. — PTI

Jawan held for killing man in UP

Mathura: An Army jawan accused of killing a man over a dispute in 2018 was on Friday arrested here by the Uttar Pradesh's Special Task Force (STF), officials said. Pinku Kumar, a native of Gulawathi in Bulandshahr district, is currently posted with the army's Mahar Regiment in Pathankot. He was arrested around 3 pm by the STF's Noida unit from Mathura, they said. “Kumar, a constable in the army, was accused of killing Tekram on May 5, 2018 owing to a rivalry between their families, living in same village,” STF DSP Raj Kumar Mishra said. — PTI

₹1.5 cr stolen from cooperative bank

Tiruchirappalli: In a major theft in a cooperative bank here, ₹1.5 crore cash was found missing on Friday, police said. When the staff came to the BHEL Cooperative bank on Friday morning, they found the door open, papers and documents strewn around and the cash missing. Police said the staff had not kept the cash in the locker but in a table drawer in the premises of the bank located in the high-security complex of the public sector major. They suspect the role of some insiders who knew about the location of the cash. — PTI

RSS leaders on Ayodhya

■ **Continued from Page 1**
its leaders have been asked to hold sessions at district levels to apprise its members about decisions taken at these meetings. In a statement issued earlier this week, RSS publicity head Arun Kumar had said, “The Supreme Court's decision on the issue of temple construction on the birthplace of Lord Ram is expected in the coming days. Whatever be the verdict, everyone should accept it wholeheartedly. It is everybody's responsibility to ensure that social harmony is maintained. The meeting is also discussing the issue.” On the NRC issue, the RSS, sources said, told the BJP top brass that the measure should be implemented across the country.

Kartarpur...

■ **Continued from Page 1**
statement issued some time back, the ministry of external affairs had urged Pakistan to shed rigidity and drop the ideas of charging the pilgrims \$20 “Service Fee”. “Government has consistently urged Pakistan that in deference to the wishes of the pilgrims, it should not levy such a fee,” the Indian government said in a statement, adding that India would be ready to amend the agreement accordingly at any time when Pakistan decides to change its mind.

Neso warns of agitation against passage of CAB

Says new law will give protection to illegal migrants

MANOJ ANAND
GUWAHATI, NOV. 1

The powerful North East Students' Organisation (Neso), a conglomeration of leading student organizations of north-eastern states, on Friday threatened to launch agitation to prevent the passage to the proposed Citizenship Amendment Bill (CAB) which it described as “communal.”

The Neso adviser Samujjal Bhattacharya who has been in the forefront of anti-foreigners movement, told reporters, “The proposed CAB is to give protection to illegal migrants at the cost of identities and safeguards of the indigenous people of the northeast. We cannot allow a communal, unconstitutional and anti-indigenous bill to become a legislation.”

Assam health minister and convener of the BJP-led North East Democratic Alliance

► **The decision to intensify agitation to block CAB was taken in the executive body meeting of Neso which was held on Thursday**

(Neda), Himanta Biswa Sarma, had announced last month that the Centre will introduce the (CAB) in Parliament in November and will ensure that it is passed. Mr Sarma also claimed that through the CAB, the Narendra Modi government will ensure that persecuted religious minorities from Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan, who have taken shelter in India till December 31, 2014, are granted citizenship.

The Neso chairman Samuel Jyrwa, taking cognisance to the minister's remark said, “We will go for an agitation to prevent the passage of the CAB in

the winter session of Parliament. On November 18, there will be protests against the CAB in the state capitals of the region. The Centre should not impose the bill because it is against the interest of indigenous people of the northeast.”

The Neso leaders said, “We have been telling the Centre not to impose CAB. The proposed legislation is being pursued by the government for political benefits as it will create a vote bank. But we will not spare anybody who supports the bill.” The decision to intensify agitation to block CAB was taken in the executive body meeting of Neso which was held here on Thursday.

The executive body meeting also decided to have a National Register of Citizens (NRC) for all the seven states in the region. “Assam has got the NRC done. Now, all the NE states need NRC,” Mr Jyrwa added.

Lonely Planet rates MP as top tourist destination

Bhopal, Nov. 1: Madhya Pradesh has been designated the “Top 3rd Best Value Destination” in the world by global travel expert Lonely Planet, state officials said here on Friday.

The honour for the state came as part of the top 10 countries, cities, regions and best value destinations listed in the Lonely Planet's Best in Travel 2020”, a Madhya Pradesh Tourism Board release said here on Friday.

“Madhya Pradesh, being one of the most diverse tourist destinations, has been honoured as Top 3rd Best Value Destination of the world,” it said.

It added that the state offers wildlife-spotting at a lower cost than Africa, and boasts sites like Khajuraho's temples with fewer crowds than neighbouring Rajasthan.

The state is blessed with rich wildlife experiences, marvelous heritage, divine pilgrim spots, architectural wonders and food to suit everybody's taste.

“It is a matter of great pride for us that MP has been ranked Top 3rd Best Value Destination,” MPTB officials said here. They also presented a copy of the book to MP chief minister Kamal Nath. — PTI

■ Concept developed by Krishi Vigyan Kendra at Kanker, in Naxal-hit Bastar region ‘Nutrition gardens’ provide balanced diet in C'garh schools

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY
BHOPAL, NOV. 1

Chhattisgarh has developed an innovative way to combat malnutrition among children by conceptualising “nutrition gardens” in schools in the state to provide balanced diet to students in midday meal.

The concept of “nutrition garden”, developed by the Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) or Agriculture Science Centre at Kanker in Chhattisgarh's Naxal-hit Bastar region, has been

highly appreciated by the Centre which has recommended other states to follow the model, a spokesman of Indira Gandhi Agriculture University (IGAU) at Raipur in Chhattisgarh told this newspaper on Friday.

“The model, developed to ensure uninterrupted supply of nutritious food to students in schools in mid-day meal round-the-year, has been found successful in combating malnutrition to some extent among school children,” spokesman of IGAU

New Delhi, Nov. 1: India and Germany on Friday identified artificial intelligence as one of the key areas of cooperation as the two sides signed a joint declaration of intent for cooperation in research and development.

In a joint press statement after the Inter-Governmental Consultations (IGC) with German Chancellor Angela Merkel, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the capabilities of technological and economic power houses like Germany will be useful for India's priorities.

“Therefore, we have laid special emphasis on increasing cooperation in areas like new and advanced technology, artificial intelligence skills, education, cyber security,” he said.

Ms Merkel also said AI and digital transformation are the areas where cooperation can be ramped up.

She said India has a huge potential especially when it comes to digitalisation where its development is very fast.

“But when it comes to 5G and AI it is a challenge and if we work together, this would be a wonderful way of cooperation,” she said.

The statement said both sides reaffirmed the importance of building digital partnership to intensify regular interaction and coordination towards collaboration on the next generation technologies.

Both sides reaffirmed the importance of building an international forum to ensure responsible and human-centric development and use of artificial intelligence in accordance with international law.

They also agreed on con-



AAP leader Atishi Marlena meets German Chancellor Angela Merkel in New Delhi on Friday. German Chancellor Merkel met five women, including senior AAP leader Atishi and Supreme Court lawyer Karuna Nundy here, sources said. She also met YourStory founder Shradha Sharma, Brookings India director of research Shamika Ravi and Natasha Zarine, they said.

— PTI

Modi & Merkel walk around Gandhi Smriti

New Delhi, Nov. 1: German Chancellor Angela Merkel on Friday undertook a guided tour of Gandhi Smriti here with Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The Prime Minister received the German Chancellor in front of the statue of Mahatma Gandhi sculpted by renowned artist Ram Sutar.

Explaining the significance of the place, Mr Modi informed Merkel that the memorial is located at the site where Mahatma Gandhi spent the last few months of his life and was assassinated on January 30, 1948. “Took Chancellor Merkel to Gandhi Smriti in Delhi. The thoughts and principles of Mahatma Gandhi also reverberate in Germany,” the PM tweeted.

— PTI

Prez: Must strengthen counter-terror steps

New Delhi, Nov. 1: Underlining that Indo-German relations are progressing well, President Ram Nath Kovind on Friday said both countries need to strengthen cooperation in counter-terrorism and coordinate their positions at meetings of the Financial Action Task Force, an intergovernmental organisation to combat money laundering.

Welcoming German Chancellor Angela Merkel, who is on a two-day visit to India, at Rashtrapati Bhavan, Mr Kovind said both countries are rightful claimants to a permanent membership of a reformed UN Security Council.

The President said both countries should work together to strengthen multi-lateralism.

— PTI

sulting each other on identifying best possible approaches on cyber security and also device methods to identify areas of mutual cooperation in this regard.

“India and Germany aspire to build a collaborative partnership by leveraging advantages on each

side recognising increasing integration of hardware and software in developing IoT (Internet of Things) and AI solutions for societal benefits,” it said.

It said the potential synergies in focus areas such as health, mobility, environment and agriculture

offer immense opportunities for enhancing cooperation and building on each other's comparative advantages. “Germany and India intend to engage in further cooperation especially by fostering multidisciplinary research and development in AI,” it added. — PTI

Pak Opp. marches...

■ **Continued from Page 1**
held to topple Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf government led by Prime Minister Khan.

“The time has come to get rid of this fake government. We will not let Imran Khan Niazi go free until Pakistan gets rid of (the prime minister),” said PML-N president Shehbaz Sharif while addressing the huge gathering attended by tens of thousands of people here.

“You started this container politics, you said you will burn down the Parliament, you said something about me. I will not respond to you in your language. Despite such blatant rigging, for the benefit of the nation, we said we are ready for a charter of economy. He rejected our offer with extreme pride and arrogance,” he said while delivering a fiery address at the joint Opposition rally.

The joint Opposition can stabilise the country's economy within six months if given a chance, Mr Sharif said, adding that he has never seen a worse state of affairs in the country's 72-year history. “If given a chance, we along with the joint opposition will fix Pakistan's economy within six months, [otherwise] we can rename me as ‘Imran Niazi,’” he was quoted as saying by the

Dawn newspaper.

He said the first and foremost demand of the “Azadi March” protesters was the resignation of Prime Minister Khan.

“Our election has been stolen,” he said, referring to the Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government coming into power. According to security institutions, thousands of people are taking part in the march. The crowd swelled in Islamabad, as supporters of Opposition parties, including the PML-N and the PPP joined the anti-government protest rally.

The protesters have encamped in the sprawling ground near Peshawar Mor area where different political parties have set up their camps to house their workers.

Addressing the demonstrators at the venue, PPP chief Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said Imran Khan was a “puppet” and the nation is not ready to bow its head before a “selected” Prime Minister and “those who have selected him”. Unfazed by the protest, Prime Minister Khan, while addressing a public rally in Gilgit-Baltistan, told the protesters congregated in Islamabad that when they run out of food, more will be sent to them, but their leaders should not expect any relief from him. — PTI

Fadnavis as CM by Nov. 7

■ **Continued from Page 1**
the BJP. In the 288-member House, the Shiv Sena has 56 MLAs and the party also has the support of seven Independent MLAs. If the Sena joins forces with the NCP and Congress — which have 98 MLAs between them — they can easily cross the magic mark of 145.

Mr Raut also said that party president Uddhav Thackeray had said that the chief minister would be from the Shiv Sena. “If we have to, we will prove our majority on the floor of the House. We can declare in writing that the chief minister will be from Shiv Sena. Those who do not have a clear majority should not attempt to form the government or they will fall

flat on their face,” Mr Raut said. “The people want a chief minister from the Shiv Sena. The 50-50 formula, which was decided before the public, should be implemented in the state. Shiv Sena and BJP should together run the government. This is the people's mandate. But if they refuse to accept this, we cannot have any discussions with the BJP,” the Sena MP added.

In an apparent reference to the Bharatiya Janata Party's top leadership, Mr Raut also tweeted, “Sahib, mat paliye ahankar ko itna, waqt ke sagar me kai Sinkandar doob gaye.” (Boss, don't nurture your arrogance. Many Alexanders have drowned in the ocean of time.)

No namaz allowed at...

■ **Continued from Page 1**
(Uzbekistan)-born founder of what would become one of the largest and most influential Sufi Muslim orders, the Naqshbandi. Traditionally, large number of women devotees also joins Khoji Diggar, the main ritual of the annual Urs at the shrine premises. The policemen also prevented media persons from covering the incident. At least one photographer was injured in

the police action, witnesses said. Police action evoked anger among the residents. A woman devotee, Hafiza, said, “This is unfortunate that the policemen didn't allow us to offer namaz. Yes, it was done by J&K police, our own J&K policemen.” The authorities had earlier re-imposed restrictions under Section 144 CrPC in a few areas of central Srinagar “as a precautionary measure to prevent breach of peace.”

AI will be key area of India and Germany cooperation



Good news

Pakistan's ailing former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's health has showed signs of improvement

World

PAGE 5

THE ASIAN AGE

SATURDAY | 2 NOVEMBER 2019 | NEW DELHI



I have been treated very badly in NY... I am moving to Florida — Donald Trump on his relocation to Florida

IN BRIEF

Turkey-Russian patrols in Syria

Sevimli: Turkey and Russia launched joint patrols on Friday in northeastern Syria, under a deal that halted a Turkish offensive against Syrian Kurdish fighters who were forced to withdraw from the border area following Ankara's incursion. The patrols will cover two sections, in the west and east of Turkey's operation zone in Syria, with a depth of 10 kilometers. Turkish troops and allied Syrian opposition fighters now control the border towns of Tal Abyad, Ras al-Ayn and nearby villages. The deal on the patrols excludes the city of Qamishli, according to the ministry's statement.

US withholding Lebanon aid

Washington: US President Donald Trump's administration is withholding \$105 million in security aid for Lebanon, two US officials said, after the resignation of Lebanese prime minister Saad al-Hariri. The state department told Congress that the White House budget office and National Security Council had decided to withhold the foreign military assistance. The officials did not say why the aid was blocked. One of the sources said the state department did not give Congress a reason for the decision. The administration had sought approval for the assistance saying it was crucial for Lebanon, an important US partner in Middle East, to be able to protect its borders.

N. Korea test-fires third rocket

Seoul: North Korea confirmed on Friday it conducted its third test-firing of a new "super-large" multiple rocket launcher that it says expands its ability to destroy enemy targets in surprise attacks. The latest launches extended a months-long streak of weapons displays by the North, which continues to use a standstill in nuclear negotiations to advance its military capabilities while pressuring Washington for concessions. Pyongyang's official Korean Central News Agency described the tests a day after the South Korean and Japanese militaries said they detected two projectiles launched from an area near the Pyongyang traveling more than 321 kilometers.

MORE FIRES, EVACUATIONS IN CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles: Calif-ornian firefighters tackled fresh and fast-moving wildfires overnight making headway against a number of major blazes that have forced mass evacuations and power cuts. Three rapidly moving infernos broke out in the southern part of the state, burning several homes and forcing people to flee. One — the Hillside Fire — was in San Bernardino, some 60 miles east of Los Angeles, while the other — the 46 Fire — was in neighboring Riverside County. The third — dubbed the Maria Fire — broke out in Ventura County, threatening two small agricultural towns nearby, and forcing the evacuation of more than 7,000 people as it raged across 5,000 acres, according to Ventura County fire department. Hundreds of firefighters backed by water-dropping helicopters were attacking blazes driven by record so-called Santa Ana winds that have prompted unprecedented warnings of "extremely critical" fire risk — the most severe category. There have been no fatalities linked to this year's fires. — Agencies

China to boost patriotism in HK

Beijing pledges not to allow foreign interference in Hong Kong affairs



China would never tolerate any act that aims to split the country or endanger national security.

— SHEN CHUNYAO, Director, Law Commission

Beijing, Nov. 1: China warned on Friday it would not tolerate any challenge to Hong Kong's governing system, as it laid out plans to boost patriotism in the city and change how its leader is chosen or removed after months of pro-democracy protests. Beijing also said it would brook no foreign interference in Hong Kong affairs as it discussed the unrest in the semi-autonomous city at a major, four-day meeting of the Communist Party chaired by President Xi Jinping, according to a senior party cadre. The central government in Beijing has so far voiced its confidence in Hong Kong chief executive

Carrie Lam and the city police to put a lid on the increasingly violent protests. But all eyes have been on whether the party leadership will assert more control over the situation if the demonstrations spin out of control. The former British colony has been rocked by months of protests with citizens lampooning the city's pro-Beijing leaders and erosion of basic rights. Shen Chunyao, director of the Hong Kong, Macau and

Basic Law Commission, said party leaders at the meeting in Beijing agreed to "further improve the central government's system of governance over the region" and maintain its "long-term prosperity and stability." China, he added, would "never tolerate any act" that aims to split the country or endanger national security. Elements of the People's Armed Police were deployed over the summer in Shenzhen, the city bordering Hong Kong, fuelling

speculation that Beijing might be prepared to intervene if necessary. The paramilitary group was seen conducting drills with assault rifles fitted with bayonets at a sports stadium in Shenzhen. Hong Kong's chief executive is not directly elected, a source of major friction and a headache for the leaders themselves because they have no popular mandate. Currently the city's leader is chosen by a 1,200-strong committee that is

stacked with Beijing loyalists. Lam, who now boasts record low approval ratings, became leader in 2017 after securing 777 votes. She said China's communist leaders want "patriots to form the main body" of those selected to govern both Hong Kong and Macau. Beijing Wednesday expressed "approval and support" for the disqualification of Hong Kong democracy activist Joshua Wong from upcoming local elections. — AFP

Protesters take up self-defence classes

Hong Kong, Nov. 1: Protesters in Hong Kong are learning to fight. They have joined self-defence class where instructors give lessons on how to fight police, evade arrest, and navigate the unrest on the streets of the Asian financial hub. Lessons sometimes incorporate videos of real protest clashes. These classes are one of several that have sprung up in recent months, say protesters, pitched at demonstrators and others concerned about getting caught in the chaos. The rallies have been marred by violence which flares mostly during

weekends, with demonstrators throwing Molotov cocktails, destroying shops seen as pro-Beijing, vandalizing train stations and engaging in running battles with police. "Not only the frontliners or the youngsters, we all need to learn these skills to protect ourselves," said William Cheung, the organiser. Pino, who volunteers as a medic during protests and attends to those injured, said she has learned how to disarm an attacker. "I think in this society, we need to fight," she says. — Reuters

China pushes higher 'morals' for citizens

Beijing: From budgeting for rural weddings to dressing appropriately and avoiding online porn, China's Communist Party has issued new guidelines to improve the "moral quality" of its citizens. Officials have released several sets of guidelines this week alongside a secretive conclave of high-ranking officials in Beijing which discusses the country's future direction. On Sunday the government published its "Outline for the Implementation of Citizen Moral Construction in the New Era" — which advises readers how to use the internet, raise children, celebrate public holidays

and behave while travelling abroad. The guidelines from the Central Commission for Guiding Cultural and Ethical Progress calls for building "Chinese spirit, Chinese values, and Chinese power". The texts urge citizens to avoid pornography and vulgarity online, and follow correct etiquette when raising the flag or singing the national anthem. Public institutions like libraries and youth centres must carry out "targeted moral education" to improve people's ideological awareness and moral standards, according to the rules. — AFP

Johnson defends new Brexit deal



Boris Johnson

London, Nov. 1: British Prime Minister Boris Johnson's office has defended his Brexit deal with the EU, after US President Donald Trump warned it would make it impossible for the two nations to strike a future trade agreement. The president, whose impeachment in the US has moved a stage closer following a key vote in Congress, waded into the British election campaign on Thursday to criticise Johnson's divorce terms with the European bloc. "This deal... you can't do it, you can't trade. We can't make a trade deal with the UK," he said. But a Downing Street spokesman later said the deal would allow the UK to strike "our own free trade deals around the world from which every part of the UK will benefit". Mr Trump's comments appear at odds with his previous pledge in September that he was working closely with Johnson to strike a "magnificent trade deal" once Britain left the EU. The US President also launched a stinging attack on the country's main opposition leader Jeremy Corbyn and urged Johnson to unite with eurosceptic hardliner Nigel Farage, a key figure in the 2016 referendum on European Union membership. "Corbyn would be so bad for your country," Trump told Farage during a phone interview broadcast on his talk-show on British radio

station LBC. "He'd take you in such a bad way. He'd take you into such bad places." "I'd like to see you and Boris get together... I think it'd be a great thing," Mr Trump added. Mr Farage, whose new Brexit Party is campaigning for Britain to leave the EU without any deal in place, has urged Johnson to form an electoral alliance but has so far been rebuffed. He is due to launch his party's election campaign on Friday. Within minutes of the interview airing, Corbyn shot back on Twitter that "Trump is trying to interfere in Britain's election to get his friend Boris Johnson elected". — AFP

Public Notice
To be known to all that I, Poonam Arora W/o Shri Ashwini Kumar Arora R/o Flat No. C-3/442C, Second Floor, MIG Flat, Janak Puri, New Delhi-110058 owner of Flat bearing No. 442C, Second Floor, under MIG category, Block C-3, situated at Janak Puri, New Delhi-110058 has applied for conversion of the aforesaid flat from lease hold to free hold in DDA. The original documents i.e. Allotment of the above flat have been lost. An FIR to this effect has been lodged in P.S. Crime Branch in vide S.O. No. 430/2014 LR No. 1819552/2019 dated 31.10.2019. Any person(s) claiming any right, interest, having any objection or found in possession of original documents, may write/contact with above named person at above address/phone 9868146156 within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. The person claiming any right, interest, objections with respect to this property can personally inform or write to Dy. Director (LAB) H or Director (H)-I, D Block, 3rd Floor, Vikas Sadan, INA, New Delhi.

PROTESTS TO TOPPLE IMRAN KHAN GOVERNMENT



Supporters of Islamist political party Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam wave flags during an anti-government 'Azadi (Freedom) March' in Islamabad on Friday. Thousands of Islamists rallied as several huge marches from across Pakistan converged in the capital to demand that Prime Minister Imran Khan step down. — AFP

Chile protesters continue march

Santiago, Nov. 1: Thousands of young Chileans marched to demand improved social services as government and opposition leaders debated the response to nearly two weeks of protests that have paralysed much of the capital and forced the cancellation of two major international summits. Despite some vandalism and confrontations with police, the march on the presidential palace was mostly peaceful, the first day of a four-day holiday weekend in Chile. While

there were several thousand people on the street, some said the massive waves of protests of the last two weeks appeared to be at least temporarily flagging. "I think there's a fatigue factor. People are now more than 10 days into coming to protest every day, most from the outskirts of Santiago," said José Solís, a student. A proposed hike in subway fares in October set off the 14 days of protests that morphed into a call for deep-rooted changes. — AP

BAD | CHAPTER

Los Angeles, Nov. 1: Officials from a California school district were left red-faced after students who dialed a suicide prevention hotline listed on their ID badges instead stumbled on a sex line. "I was just kind of flabbergasted. I was very surprised," parent Janene Lavelle said that after her daughter, who attends middle school, alerted her to the mixup.

California students who dialed helpline got phone sex instead

School lists sex hotline for suicide help

Lavelle said the teen had dialed the number for kicks and was in disbelief when she got a sex hotline. "Someone who genuinely needs help like that, they shouldn't hear that kind of thing from what they thought was going to help them," the student said. "They should fact-check that kind of thing." The suicide prevention number was in a directory of emergency lines and

other resources on the back of badges for students

■ **BECAUSE OF** a mistake with just one digit, a sex hotline number instead of the correct suicide prevention number was given to students

dents at New Vista Middle School in Lancaster, a 90-minute drive north of downtown Los Angeles. However, because of a mistake with just one digit, a sex hotline number instead of the correct suicide prevention number was given to students. "We were made aware that the middle school student identification cards have the wrong phone number listed for the suicide hotline," the Lancaster Unified School district said in a statement. "The phone numbers have two digits transposed and this is a mistake. The number listed on the card is actually a sex line."

School officials said they have collected all the old badges and planned to issue new ones — this time with the correct number. — AFP

PAK TRAIN FIRE

Survivors recall ordeal

Multan, Nov. 1: A raging fire swept through a train in Pakistan's eastern Punjab Province killing 74 people, and survivors said afterward it took nearly 20 minutes for the train to stop amid contradictory reports about the condition of the train's brakes. Three carriages were consumed by flames from a fire caused by a cooking gas stove and dozens of people jumped in panic from the speeding train. Conductor Sadiue Ahmed Khan said the train's emergency braking system was in perfect



People walk past the burnt train carriages, a day after 74 people were charred to death in fire. — AFP

working order and the train stopped within three minutes after the first

signs of fire. "This is the worst tragedy in my life as a driver," he said. — AP

NORTHERN RAILWAY			
E-TENDER NOTICE			
The Dy. Chief Engineer (Const)-I, Northern Railway, Chandigarh for and on behalf of the President of India invites e-tender under Single Packet System for the under noted work:-			
1	Name of work and location	Construction of quarters and Office building, TWS, OHE depot & other misc civil works required for electrification from Amb Andaura to Daulatpur Chowk in c/w N.LDM-TLR new BG Rail Link	
2	Completion period of the work	06(six) Months	
3	Approx. Cost of work	₹ 241.00 Lacs	
4	Earnest Money amount (to be deposited online)	₹ 270500.00	
5	Date & Time for submission of E-tender and opening of tender	Tenders may be uploaded upto 11.30 hrs on 22.11.2019 date on IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in. The bidders can participate in the e-tender, the tender will be opened at 11.30 hrs. on 22.11.2019.	
6	Detailed Tender Notice & Tender Document	The detailed e-tender notice is available on Northern Railway web site i.e. www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in and tender document is available www.ireps.gov.in Above tenders document will be available on IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in from 08.11.2019 to 22.11.2019. All other terms and conditions in respect of above tenders are given in tender document. The detailed tender notice also can be seen on the Notice Board of the above office.	

Tender Notice No. 2-W/C/CDG/260/NLDM-TLR/TRD Civil Works
Dated : 31.10.2019 3518/19

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

EAST DELHI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

Office of the Executive Engineer (PR)-II

Shahdara South Zone, School Block, Shakarpur, Delhi-110092

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

NIT No.: EDMC/EE (Pr)-II/Shah. (S)/TC/2019-20/06 Dated: 30.10.2019

The Executive Engineer (Pr)-II Shahdara South on behalf of Commissioner, EDMC invites online item rate tender on two bid system & percentage rate tender for the work in the tender documents, fulfilling the eligibility criteria :

Last Date of Download of Tender Document : 13.11.2019 at 3.00 PM

Last Date of Bid Preparation and Hash Submission : 13.11.2019 at 3.30 PM

Last Date of Close for Bid : 13.11.2019 at 3.30 PM to 6.00 PM

Last Date of Re-encryption of Online Bid : 13.11.2019 at 6.00 PM to 15.11.2019 at 3.00 PM

Last Date for Submission of Technical Bid (For Item No. 05) & Finance Bid (For Item No. 01 to 04) : 15.11.2019 at 3.10 PM

Opening of Technical Bid (For Item No. 05) & Finance Bid (For Item No. 01 to 04) : Will be opened after evaluation of technical bid

Pre-bid meeting for Item No. 05 will be held on 08.11.2019 at 11.00 am in the Office of **EE-PR-II-Shahdara South, School Block, Shakarpur, Delhi-110092.**

S. No.	Name of Work	Head of Account	Tender Amount (Rs.)	Earnest Money (Rs.)	Tender No.
1.	Improvement and Strengthening of road between Pkt.-V & Shashi Garden from Auto Stand to Dena Bank in W.No. 12E/AC-57, SSZ. SH : Strengthening of Carriageway.	Open Category			
	XL-VIII-S-IV(MSPY)	1,49,88,807/-	2,99,800/-	317087	
2.	Improvement Development of lanes of D-Block, West Vinod Nagar by pdg. RMC and drain in lane adjoining to M.C. Pky. School and Drainage from H.No. D-71 to Sri Ram Chowk in W.No. 10E/AC-57, Shah. (S) Zone in Vinod Nagar.				
	XL-VIII-S-IV(MSPY)	81,41,985/-	1,62,850/-	317088	
3.	Improvement Development of main road adjoining to Delhi Govt. School from Narwana Road to DDA Park by pdg. Footpath in Ward No. 10E/AC-57 in Vinod Nagar.				
	XL-VIII-S-(i)(MLALAD)	26,51,758/-	53,050/-	317089	
4.	Construction of additional class rooms in M.C. Pky. School at A-Block, New Kondli in Ward No. 07-E/AC-56, Shah. (S) Zone.				
	XL-VII-EDU	2,06,37,288/-	4,12,750/-	317090	
		Rs. 1,98,31,369/- (Civil Work)			
		Rs. 4,36,653/- (Electrical Work)			
		Reserve Price Rs. 3,68,666/-			
5.	Providing & Fixing of Football Astro-Turf 50 mm thickness including chain line/wire mesh in Triokpur Sports Complex in Shahdara (South) Zone.				
	Open Category XL-VIII-V	Item Rate	1,15,100/-	317091	

Time of Completion : 03 Months each, for Sl. No. 1, 3 & 5, 04 Months for Sl. No. 2, 12 Months for Sl. No. 4; **Rates hold good for : 06 Months** each, for all the above works; **Cost of Tender** : Rs. 1,500/- for Sl. No. 1, Rs. 1,000/- for Sl. No. 2, Rs. 500/- for Sl. No. 3, Rs. 2,000/- each for Sl. No. 4 & 5.

The demand draft for tenders cost & earnest money will be deposited in the office of **SE(Project)-Shah. South, 3rd Floor, Zonal Office Building, Karkardooma, Delhi-110092.** Detailed NIT can be seen from the following website <http://engineering.mcdetenders.com>. (WAP & SMS enabled tenders portal) or from the office of the undersigned. Both tenders cost and earnest money can be deposited in the form of Bank Draft of a scheduled Bank in favour of Commissioner, EDMC.

R.O. No. 87/DP/East/2019-20 Executive Engineer (Pr)-II Shahdara South Zone

EDMC's Citizens Helpline No. : 155303

THE ASIAN AGE

2 NOVEMBER 2019

Our Orwellian reality will get scarier

Since the latest controversy on a theme that defines our lives and times — citizen privacy — revolves around our second lives on social media and digital platforms, let us start with a joke gone viral as a meme. A government-employed cyber-snoop is seen chiding activists and citizens protesting against violations of their privacy, saying, “But for decades, you complained the government does not listen to you?”

Big Brother is watching more, more of us, and for most of our time, armed with more eyes than Lord Indra, mythological king of heaven, who had all of a mere 1,000 eyes. There are CCTV cameras everywhere. Phones can be listened to and are listened to; conversations are recorded, emails are read. Your real-time bank statements, latest location details, payments, chats — everything is adding up as an offering to the Deity of the Century — the Big Data God, who in turn, subserviently, works for the Supreme Duo of the surveillance state — lords of national security and anti-terrorism. The ubiquitous mobile phone, proof of our economic renaissance since the great liberalisation of 1991, the measure of India’s rise as a nation in the new millennium, the telecom bridge to closing all gaps, obliterator of all inequalities, provider of opportunities for all, delivering governance and pizzas to your doorstep, the panacea in your pocket linking you to the world, running to the command of your fingertips — has been breached, unimpeachable reports cite, at the behest of Big Brother himself.

There is a war underway between two sets of codes of zeroes and ones: one protecting your privacy, and the other, protecting the government against your privacy. The good is losing.

As we read about how Pegasus, an Israeli spyware, sold only to governments, has breached the privacy protecting wall we believed was bigger than the Great Wall of China, and stronger than the wall US President Donald Trump is yet to build, the end-to-end encryption of WhatsApp, owned by Facebook, owned by a gawky teenage disruptor-turned-tech mogul Mark Zuckerberg.

Gone are days when science, fiction and fear fused to moments of epiphany when you stood under a divinely lit dark sky, wondering while counting the stars, if we are alone in the universe and if some alien is watching us from somewhere up there, from beyond the Milky Way. Today, you and I must just look at our WhatsApp group or the FB chat, and wonder, who else is there? Each WA group admin must know a larger, unseen, omnipotent, omnipresent vigilant of a tax-paid Theo is indeed a reality. The Bard of Avon must read the rejoinder they have emailed to him — the ghost of Banquo is no longer imaginary.

There is a war underway, AI-powered, between two sets of codes of zeroes and ones — one protecting your privacy, and the other, protecting the government against your privacy, and despite the festive season’s claims, the good is losing. Let us make no mistake, on this, all governments are together. The surveillance will get sharper, stronger and more intense. Such is the magical power of a password called “national security” that it will get the minions of Big Brother past any firewall, break any protest or resistance and stop any attempt to seek privacy in a world where the thoughts of the deepest recess of your soul are a threat to everyone else.

We will slide down this slope till the Pegasus of the future can read your minds, hack your hearts and snoop in your soul. To the brave new world, ahoy!

Climate will lead to conflict

Rising sea levels may prove a threat to millions of more people than previously thought as new research, based on a more accurate way of calculating land elevation, now reveals that earlier reports were far too optimistic in their projections. The danger of seas rising because of uncontrolled carbon emissions in environmental degradation caused by mankind predicts that large swaths of lands in coastal cities like Mumbai and Chennai in India and many more around the world, especially in Asia, will lie far below the high tide line by 2050. And this is not a scary scenario thought up by Hollywood writers creating scripts for a movie based in a dystopian future. Recall what happened to New Orleans in 2005 as the result of an extreme climate event and it might just tell the story of the kind of danger the world is facing.

The new report is, however, unlikely to scare the likes of Donald Trump and others of his ilk still convinced that climate science is a spoof. But the world knows that melting glaciers and rising seas are getting to be the new normal on a planet being pummelled in quick succession by extreme climate events like storms and exceptional rainfall patterns, all of them linked in away to the natural equilibrium of the oceans and seas that occupy more than five-eighths of the globe. The social and political instability and likelihood of armed conflicts render this as such a frightening scenario that climate change and the consequent rising seas cannot be considered just an environmental problem. The point is even as the warnings are getting more dire, we seem incapable of listening and acting in time. Can we just procrastinate, because this seems like a problem for the next generation? Can we afford to sit back and do nothing while our very inaction threatens to destroy our planet?

THE ASIAN AGE

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Subhani



‘Hybrid’ export growth models: Hope for India



Sanjeev Ahluwalia

Exports in the first half of this fiscal year were \$267 billion, 1.9 per cent higher than last year. This was dismal if exports are to be the engine driving GDP growth. Imports, at \$312 billion, reflected poor domestic demand and contracted by 3.2 per cent. The only good news was that the trade deficit shrank to \$45 billion.

During the period 2003-2011 when world export and GDP were growing well, we ranked sixth (out of a set of 60 large economies) in the growth of services exports. During the slow growth period of 2012-2017, we slipped to the 23rd rank. In the growth of manufacturing exports, we slipped from 16th to 25th rank; in merchandise from 10th rank to 38th; in agriculture from 11th rank to 30th rank. A depressing story of falling competitiveness all around.

And yet there is hope. While world exports grew at 11.5 per cent per year (pcpy), our export growth was slightly less than double of that level at 20.5 pcpy during 2003-2011. World exports growth slipped to 0.3 pcpy but our exports grew at 5X that level to 1.5 pcpy during 2012-2017. We did much better than the average, but not well enough to keep up with the top exporters.

By the standards of our conventionally minimalist stance on the role of exports being merely to fill the hole in foreign exchange reserves after paying for imports, there is no reason for alarm. Net inward remittances from our 18 million Indian expatriates bridge around two-thirds of the trade deficit. But this is a slender thread to hang by for an economy with global aspirations.

A new foreign trade policy was eagerly awaited some time this year.

But with time passing by, the next best thing is the report of a High Level Advisory Group unveiled on October 30. Helmed by economist Surjit S. Bhalla, now India’s executive director to the International Monetary Fund, but earlier a part of Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s Economic Advisory Council, the group report has much needed gravitas — a critical asset if core trade reforms are intended.

Government advisory committees come with implicit constraints to stay within the limits of what is politically doable. Consequently, identifying what the committee report does not try and do gives an indication of how deep is its reform imprint. First, the report does not call for realigning the overvalued exchange rate, which handicaps export competitiveness and simultaneously reduces protection for domestic manufacturers. The report uses Bank of International Settlements data to debunk the overvaluation argument.

Curiously, per the Real Effective Exchange Rate (REER) computed by the RBI, INR depreciated against the US dollar by around 15 per cent in the 12-year period from FY 2005 to FY 2017 — an average annual depreciation of around one per cent per year. Over the same period, inflation in India was more than four per cent per year higher on average than in the US, indicating insufficient depreciation of INR.

Curiously, the report decries the upward revision of import tariffs in 2017 and 2018 which reversed the low, stable import tariff regime implemented by the 1991 trade liberalisation. Ironically, REER based depreciation could have provided a natural protection to domestic manufacturers possibly making

ing upward revision of import tariffs unnecessary. The extant exchange rate policy is more focused on avoiding imported inflation than boosting exports.

Second, the report ignores the urgency to revamp the plumbing for managing external trade. Inducting 500 top class trade economists, lawyers and operational specialists into key positions in the Union and state governments and our key embassies could generate Total Factor Productivity improvements via well-known spill-over benefits from such communities of practice extending seamlessly into academia and the private sector.

However, the report redeems itself on the immediacy metric by unequivocally recommending that it is in India’s interest to join the RCEP, that is now being negotiated. Statistical analysis by NCAER shows that this proposition holds true whether or not the US-China trade war continues, and whether or not either or both impose tariffs on Indian imports. It also confirms that imposing tit-for-tat tariffs is not in India’s interest.

The institutional changes proposed include an external agency for big-data analysis; the establishment of a real-time management information and statistical analysis system and an apex body to identify and push through FDI; more powers for Sebi to regulate foreign investors directly and a 20-year “Elephant Bond” in tandem with an illegal foreign assets amnesty scheme to generate the \$4.5 trillion required for infrastructure and logistics till 2045.

Generic suggestions for reforms in the financial sector, industrial

Net inward remittances from our 18 million Indian expatriates bridge around two-thirds of the trade deficit. But this is a slender thread to hang by for an economy with global aspirations.

and labour regulation, single point regulation of pharmaceuticals and biotech products all align with a much needed “whole of government” approach to reform. This could be transformative. But sadly, India is better known for reform by stealth.

The report does signal service by identifying key operational barriers to higher export growth in textiles and garments — India’s staple exports; merchandise exports; pharmaceuticals; biotechnology; medical devices; electronics and agricultural produce — the last with the caveat that the export of water-intensive products like sugar or low value rice should be discouraged to preserve our fast-depleting ground water aquifers.

The report also does well to emphasise that higher trade-to-GDP ratios are a signal of competitiveness and an entry point for coupling the Indian economy with the international economy, including through global value chains. These generate good jobs and contribute to higher GDP growth, which in turn is a necessary precondition for ending poverty. In this context, sadly, the report ignores a splendid opportunity to apply a poverty reduction filter to the proposed interventions to demonstrate that export-led high growth need not be anti-poor.

Is the report likely to turn around India’s external trade in the near term? Probably not. Expansive institutional changes take time to mature. Opting to take the rents out of regulation of the factors of production needs massive political will. At present, India seems to be drifting into a hybrid model — staying afloat on borrowed foreign capital attracted by high real interest rates and a stable exchange rate, like the United States, while using the borrowings to fund a China-style Big State model of export growth. Who knows, maybe even hybrids can fly.

The writer is adviser, Observer Research Foundation

LETTERS

EGG ON FACE

Madhya Pradesh BJP leader Gopal Bhargava’s statement that eating meat and eggs may turn children into cannibals is ridiculous. Packed with high-quality proteins and other essential nutrients, eggs are the best food for children. Under Project Shaktiman, launched in 2007, MP kids were provided boiled eggs by the Shivraj Singh Chouhan government. But in 2015, the same government withdrew eggs from anganwadi meals. Nonetheless, the Kamal Nath government has decided to serve eggs to malnourished children from November this year. Eggs should be given to children who prefer them.

Khokan Das
Kolkata

HORSE HAS BOLTED

THE STARTLING claim made by WhatsApp that several Indian activists and journalists were among those snooped upon using the Israeli spyware Pegasus, sold only to official agencies, has raised eyebrows. The spyware can turn one’s phone into a spying device. The development has triggered a blame game between the BJP and the Congress and brings into sharp focus the credibility of deploying such software. Though the government has asked the messaging platform to explain the breach of privacy, it is another case of closing the stable door after the horse has bolted.

N.J. Ravi Chander
Bengaluru

SENA’S POWER GRAB

IN ORDER to grab power in Maharashtra either by hook or by crook, will the Shiv Sena fall prey to a trap laid by the Congress-NCP combine? Will it be prepared to sacrifice its hitherto-held Hindutva ideology for the sake of ruling the state? Will it be seen in the company of “secular” parties like the Congress, the NCP, the VBA and so on?

Arun Malankar
Mumbai

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

Aasim Sajjad Akhtar



View from Pakistan

Of discontent over Punjab’s hegemony

It’s as close to a truism as possible in Pakistani politics: Punjab was, is, and presumably will be, for the foreseeable future, the heartland of the establishment-centric structure of power.

The British made Punjabis the dominant component in the army, transformed its ecology and society by building the world’s biggest perennial irrigation system and also introduced a uniquely authoritarian method of government known affectionately in the annals of colonial bureaucracy as the “Punjab school of administration”.

When Pakistan came into being, Punjab became a hegemon for these interrelated reasons: first, it supplied the majority of both the rank and file and officers of the emergent Pakistan Army; second, Punjabis, alongside Urdu-speakers, dominated the civil bureaucra-

cy; and third, Punjabi landowning politicians at home with the authoritarian “Punjab school of administration” put their lot in with the civil-military state apparatus to thwart democratic rule.

Counter-hegemonic social forces in East and West Pakistan demolished both the material and discursive foundations of the oligarchic project in the 1970 election. Yet even after the eastern wing seceded, the Punjab-centric establishment refused to budge, now armed with demographic power whilst continuing to be the “guardian of the country’s physical and ideological frontiers”.

So Balochistan, Sindh, the NWFP and other peripheral regions continued to be coerced and cajoled, with the junior partner of the military establishment now a more urbanised and vernacular “bourgeois” politician that reflected

socioeconomic changes in Punjab. Cue Nawaz Sharif. More than 30 years after his emergence, Mian Sahib is now biting the hand that once fed him. So, is the “Punjab card” being played against the establishment that has always employed it to perpetuate its own authoritarian project?

Only time will tell, and otherwise counter-hegemonic political narratives proffered by Pakhtun, Baloch, Sindh and other ethnic-nationalist movements would benefit from thinking more deeply about internal cleavages within Punjabi society to help make the prospect of a “Punjab card” a reality.

Sharif illustrates that even bourgeois politicians can turn against their masters, let alone the working masses.

The PML-N never represented the class interests of working people in Punjab, and the PPP does not any

longer. The reception of Maulana Fazlur Rehman’s long march in Lahore and other parts of Punjab clarifies that the PML-N leadership did not mobilise its cadres to heed Nawaz Sharif’s call to support the march. In short, a counter-hegemonic secular politics appealing to Punjab’s ordinary people is conspicuous by its absence. It is partly because of this reason that flash-in-the-pan populist religious movements like the TLP make inroads into Punjabi society from time to time.

It is amongst more upwardly mobile segments of society that the hegemonic project is under question. Remember that it was vernacular middle-class elements in small towns, even big metropolitan areas, that Nawaz Sharif and the PML represented. These elements now understand that perennial enmity with India and pandering

to the establishment is not the best business strategy. Yet another segment of the urban middle class is still propping up the establishment-centric structure of power as manifested through Imran Khan.

The urban middle-class is relatively fickle, and so it is only if and when a genuinely counter-hegemonic political force takes root in Punjab that there will be clarity on whether urban middle-class discontent in contemporary Punjab coalesces into a wider anti-establishment project which speaks to the interests both the lowest orders of Punjabi society, Pakistan’s oppressed ethnic-nations and all other segments of society that want to replace the national security state once and for all, and usher in peace, democracy and an egalitarian social order.

By arrangement with Dawn

BJP-Sena drama: *Bhaisaab, yeh 50-50 kya hai?*



Shobhaa De

Shobhaa's Take

Remember? When we were all *bachchas* and our parents ordered us to share an ice cream sandwich — 50-50? Of course, we didn't do any such thing! We cheated! And took the biggest bite we could, hoping to get more into our mouths than the portion we were asked to pass on! Several brands tried to cash in on the 50-50 concept. I recall a Britannia biscuits pack which dared to name its product 50-50 (1993), hoping to catch students with limited pocket money to pay up and split the bill for the sweet and salty cookie. I wonder how it fared over the years — I never fell for that phony 50-50 pitch. Frankly, it is a doomed formula that has never

worked for anybody, as Devendra Fadnavis is discovering in Maharashtra. This is one political marriage which has been brokered by the wrong middleman (not naming which one!). The *jhagdas* between the BJP and the Shiv Sena were being openly fought over the past several months, even while the two parties were faking a bromance. Come on — it was always about the numbers and had nothing to do with a shared ideology. So why pretend? I am asking my latest BFF Alexa to play an old favourite: "It could have been love... but it's over now..." and smiling to myself as Mr Fadnavis and the Thackerays squabble. One guy declares there was an understanding in place. The other guy says, "What understanding?" First guy shakes his head and

admits he should have taken all the promises made, in writing. Oh-oh... too late, honey. Never heard of a pre-nup? That's how it's done *aaj kal*. No pre-nup, no *shaadi*. The idea of a pre-nup is in itself pretty cynical. But nobody wants to take chances these days. High profile alliances are primarily about wealth sharing. Same-same as seat sharing. Pre-nups carefully design how the cake gets cut if the marriage collapses. Who gets to keep what — and what happens to the family jewels.

This is what our mature, seasoned and supposedly shrewd politicians are busy haggling over, while we, the people of Maharashtra, wait for them to resolve these issues and get on with running the state — the job we elected them for in the first place. The day Aaditya Thackeray's team put out the suggestion about him becoming the chief minister of Maharashtra, it was obvious what the Sena's gameplan was. Don't forget, they had hired the master strategist Prashant Kishore himself to help seal the deal during this election. And to his credit, Mr Kishore has done a terrific job of posi-

I never fell for that phony 50-50 pitch. Frankly, it is a doomed formula that has never worked for anybody, as Devendra Fadnavis is discovering in Maharashtra. This political marriage has been brokered by the wrong middleman.

tioning the 29-year-old grandson of Balasaheb Thackeray. Convincing a Thackeray to actually stand for an election was challenge number one. Getting Aaditya to carefully pick the urban, cosmopolitan Worli constituency was the next brainwave that paid rich dividends (Aaditya won with an impressive margin). But preparing the voters' minds to start seriously thinking about the almost 30, third-generation Thackeray in politics as the next CM was the single-most brilliant touch! An inspired idea was planted surreptitiously in voters' minds when no such thought previously existed. It worked! Aaditya must have been briefed to demur

and say modestly that he was just on the first step of the ladder and had a long way to go before assuming this high office. But he also added he was "100 per cent ready for the job". However, the subtext remained clear: Maybe it was a little premature to pitch him as the next CM... but hey — surely nobody would mind him becoming the deputy CM right? The power of suggestion, I tell you!

Today, Mr Fadnavis wants to hang on to all the key portfolios and hand out the leftovers to the Shiv Sena. This isn't flying! There is much talk of "dharma" and "social service" being the most important values cherished by the Sena. Aaditya has also declared his party's reluctance to take the same old *dhamkis* and violence route, correctly assessing that the old ways will not work in today's environment. This is a positive move, which voters will hold him to, in case he and his lieutenants change their mind. Presenting a "new, improved", tamer, milder Sena is a risky makeover to undertake at this stage, given the brand's tough USP which has been regularly and aggressive-

ly reinforced as and when required.

So... as we all know, the real fight is for control over the Bombay Municipal Corporation (BMC) and the humungous money it controls. It is a fight for real estate, that's it. To hell with ideology, it's only about the money. As of now, the Shiv Sena has dominated the BMC for decades, and that's where the real power lies. He who controls the BMC, controls Mumbai. And, indirectly, Maharashtra. With an annual budget running into crores and crores (₹30,692 crores in 2019), the BMC is one of the wealthiest civic bodies on earth. That's one hell of a lot of money to go 50-50 on! The rest of the so-called issues are just hot air — a way to divert attention. While Mr Fadnavis firefights, and seeks orders from his bosses (Amit Shah, primarily), Maharashtra continues to struggle with problems new and ancient. The power, or Pawar, tussle to grab control of the state and continue to milk it does not really concern citizens. Whether or not a fresh numbers game is played with the NCP-Congress-Shiv Sena joining forces, buy-

ing independents and waiting for defections, voters want to know who will be cleaning up the mess? And how soon? Our coastline is all but gone, our forests are no longer identified as forests, our mangroves are denuded, the shrinking of open spaces and brazen land grabs continue. Do we really care a damn how the portfolios get carved up? Who gets what? Whether it is 15 berths or 17 in the Cabinet? Come on, you chaps. Do what you have to do. We all know 50-50 does not fly. Sharing the chief ministership (two and a half years each) is the worst idea ever. It cannot work in the long term. So, you can pose for all the photo-ops in the world, with turbans, *phetas*, *topis* or crowns. We remain skeptical. Prove us wrong! It will be good for Maharashtra if that happens. That is, if you are thinking of the welfare of Maharashtra in the first place. And yes, do engage a competent divorce lawyer from now itself. Why take a chance? Till then... *tamasha dekho... ghodey becho.*

Readers can send feedback to www.shobhaade.blogspot.com

J&K and the plight of native American



Farrukh Dhondy

Cabbages & Kings

"In every lying story, there's a grain of truth And in every moral story, the germ of a lie Extracting each from other is like pulling a tooth From your own inflamed gum and it makes you cry..."
From *Pau Roti to Pavarotti* by Bachchoo

A bu Bakr al-Baghdadi, head of what he called the Islamic Caliphate and which the world realised was Daesh the death-cult, has been pronounced dead.

US President Donald Trump, whose American special forces killed Baghdadi, said "he died like a dog, crying and whimpering as he ran into a dead-end tunnel with two of his children whom he took with him when he detonated his suicide bomb vest".

The reports on world television showed a load of rubble under which Baghdadi's body parts, certainly blown to bits by the detonation, were supposedly found. The US TV reports, repeated on the BBC in Britain, said his DNA had been identified as belonging to the leader of Daesh, Baghdadi himself. How the US forensic teams had gathered this individual's DNA in order to compare it to that of the body parts in the rubble, was not clear.

The reports also showed Mr Trump and his Vice President Mike Pence, together with several advisers and military high-ups sitting around a table and supposedly watching the assault and the end of Baghdadi recorded by the assault forces as the operation happened. Today, history can be pictured.

"Baghdadi", as this animal chose to call himself, was the most wanted man on today's earth, responsible for the murder, execution and rape of thousands in the name of a religion whose contemporary practitioners dissociate it from his ruthless, meaningless death-cult.

That he was hunted down, cornered and killed was what he asked for.

Several times in the past years, since Daesh began its murderous intrusion into the troubled lands of the Middle East and in the process of pushing its volunteer armies back, there have been several reports of Baghdadi's death. This time it seems beyond dispute. The US administration has hinted that it will release footage of the operation which assaulted Baghdadi's encampment and possibly footage of his flight and final suicide.

Gentle reader, I won't be watching.

Mr Trump's speech curiously said that one military dog was injured in the explosion when the suicide vest was detonated and that he regretted the injury to the animal and sympathised with it. No word from the President about the two certainly innocent children whom Baghdadi took to his death with him.

There was and remains an element in this totally justified operation of a manipulated drama. Of course, the perpetrator, advocate and focus of meaningless mass murder and terrorism in our times had to be hunted down. And yes, there ought to be considerations of modern humanistic compassion versus murderous medieval-cult viciousness, but these oppositions are not, gentle reader, absolute in our world.

In the announcement of the hunting down of Baghdadi by Mr Trump's troops, there was the feel of Batman cornering and killing the Joker. There is no doubt that Mr Trump's triumph is calculated to and will count towards his electability in next year's presidential election.

Baghdadi and his ideas, if death-cultism can be given the respectability of "ideas", were evil — but is the sale by the US of weaponry and training to the Saudis to murder thousands of

In the transformation of the continent of North America from a tribal settlement of native Americans to European settlement to the prosperity that US capitalism boasts, there existed no democratic mechanisms

Yemenis less so?

Was the betrayal of the Kurds who had sacrificed thousands of lives to fight Daesh in northern Syria by Mr Trump pulling US troops out of the territory to allow Turkey to invade a great moral act? It has led to the death of thousands of innocents — fewer or more than Daesh and Baghdadi killed.

Yes, gentle reader, the world is and has perhaps always been, a complicated place and its purposes contradictory. In the past, and in the example of Daesh today, religious orders declared their intentions. "Kill the kafirs regardless, they deserve to die", "Burn the Catholic monasteries and kill the papists", "Hinduism

demands the destruction of the heretical Buddhist cult", etc.

Today's states don't declare their every intention, though it is evident why the US and the UK sells arms to Saudi Arabia. It is evident why China gives loans and assistance to hitherto underdeveloped African countries. Money, material gain and even strategy.

Yet in our world, ideological moves and gestures by politicians in power often trump military, strategic and material considerations. These are calculated to appeal to constituencies in the countries regardless of the turmoil they cause. The immediate example is that of the UK's Boris Johnson staking his career on taking the country out of the European Union, regardless of the damage it will do to the UK's economy, regardless of the fact that Scotland and perhaps Northern Ireland will secede and break up the country, regardless of the fact that England and Wales, if they stay together, will become second-rate Bringapore, subservient to Mr Trump's trade deals.

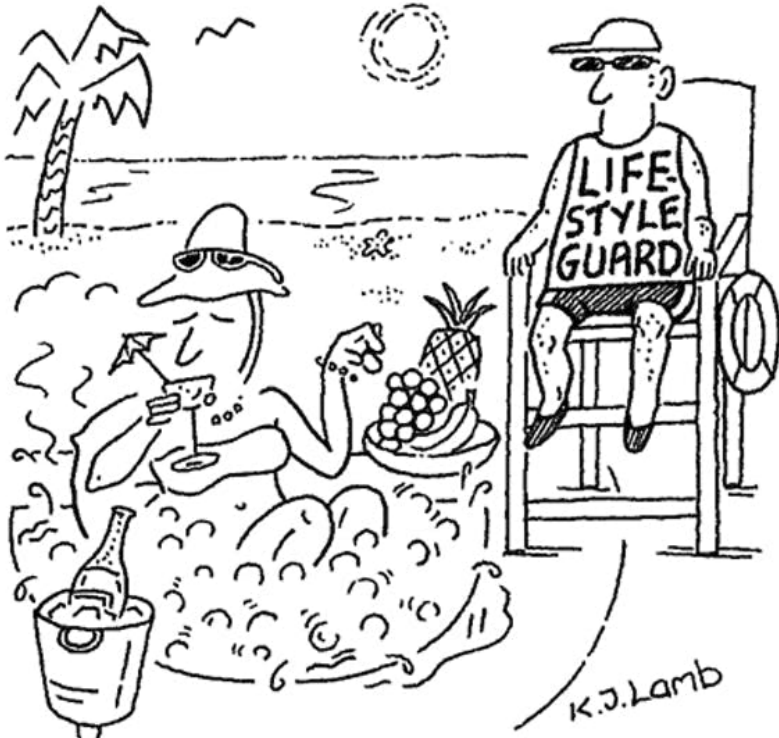
Another example may be the Indian government's appeal to its core vote through withdrawing Jammu and Kashmir's spe-

cial status. They may argue (as though they were ardent theoretical Marxists) that they are dragging reluctant Kashmir from the pastoral poverty of a feudal economy into the contemporary capitalist world. The move could not be made without a heavy military presence, curfews and the imprisonment of Kashmir's spokespeople.

While the integration of Kashmir into the economy of the rest of India may be the end — the repressive, undemocratic imposition of such a transition is unjustifiable as the means. The transition could and should have been brought about through the mechanisms available to democratic consultation.

In the cruel transformation of the continent of North America from a tribal settlement of native Americans to the land-grabbing development that ensued from European settlement to the prosperity that US capitalism boasts, there existed no such democratic mechanisms. Slaughter and slavery were the founding principles of that transformation.

In today's world and today's India, the democratic mechanisms were available but were bypassed in favour of bigotry.



Liberation is close if you feel hopelessness



Sadhguru

Most prayers may only bring hope. They do not bring dispassion. That is how the prayers are structured: all about hope and more hope and more hope. People have lost the ability to appreciate hopelessness. Hopelessness is like a bottomless pit, and a bottomless pit is the safest pit to jump into. The only problem with the pit is that it has a bottom. If it did not have a bottom, what is the problem? It will be a wonderful

leap. If you go skydiving, you do not know whether you are going up or down or nowhere because there is no context for you. Only if you look down, the damn planet is approaching you with great speed — then you know. If the planet was not there, jumping off and just floating would be wonderful.

In the traditions of yoga, we have always cultured people towards hopelessness because when there is no hope, you will stop clinging. When you do not cling, you will be liberated — a very simple technique. Nothing clings to you by itself. It is you who is clinging onto so many things.

If you do not cling to anything, nothing naturally clings to you. So liberation is a free process if you are joyfully willing to walk into hopelessness. But too much hope has been taught. I have already



desperation and inadequacy. If your emotions are sweet towards everything around you, it is a wonderful way to be. If you call that love, it is fine, but if you immediately make it into a commodity that you can exercise, then it becomes ugly.

How Shiva nurtured hopelessness: The yogic culture has always tried to culture people towards hopelessness — towards nothingness. That is why, when Shiva's closest disciples asked him, "If we are in trouble, will you be there?" he looks at them incredulously and says,

"If you are in trouble, I will sleep." He is nurturing hopelessness in them. Not, "I am going to be there; wherever you may be, I'll jump in and act." No, he is saying, "If you are in trouble, I'll go to sleep." If he explains, "When I sleep, I am with everything and anyway I'll be there," then they will nurture hope. So he does not explain. He says, "I will go to sleep," and they give up. What is the use hoping for any help from this man? When they give up — you call it "let go". Giving up is letting go, is it not? They give up — there is no point in looking up to this man and asking for help. Now they are wide open. Now things will happen.

Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev, an internationally renowned spiritual leader, is a visionary, humanitarian, author, poet and speaker. He can be contacted at www.ishafoundation.org



Fine start

Indian golfer Anirban Lahiri got off to a flying start with a five-under 66 in the first round of the PGA Tour's inaugural Bermuda Championship

50 YEARS AGO IN DECCAN Chronicle PM calls for special AICC meet

New Delhi, November 1: Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and her supporters today decided to call a special session of the All-India Congress Committee in New Delhi on November 22 and 23 to elect a new Congress President and appointed a three-member Committee to make arrangements for the session.

The decision was taken at a two-hour meeting at Mrs. Gandhi's residence attended by nearly half of the 21 members of the Party's Working Committee.

The preparatory committee consists of Mr. Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed and Mr. C. Subramaniam, both of whom were removed from the CWC by Congress President S. Nijalingappa and Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma who has announced his decision to resign his General Secretaryship of the AICC and membership of the CWC. A majority of the Congress Chief Ministers endorsed the requisition signed by 405 members of the AICC out of the total 705 for a special session.

Among those who attended the meeting were Mr. C. Subramaniam, Mr. K.C. Abraham, Mr. Uma Shanker Dixit, Mr. Satyanarayan Sinha, Mr. K. Brahmananda Reddi, Mr. Jagjiwan Ram, Mr. Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed, Mr. V. P. Naik, Mr. Bansilal, Mr. Y. B. Chavan, Dr. S. D. Sharma, Mr. B.P. Chalia, Mr. S. C. Shukla, Mr. G. L. Nanda and Mr. Kamala Pati Tripathi.

Altogether 11 members out of a total of 21 of the CWC attended the meeting at the Prime Minister's residence. In addition there were six Chief Ministers, four special invitees and four Presidents of Pradesh Congress Committees.

Tiger emerges from 'most challenging' career phase

■ Four back surgeries, countless knee operations, marital strife and run-ins with the law meant Woods had not won a major since 2008 and no tournaments since 2013 when he teed up at the Players Championship at East Lake, Atlanta, just over a year ago

Inzai, Japan: Tiger Woods said on Monday his latest injury comeback to win the Zozo Championship and tie the US PGA Tour's win record had ended the "most challenging" phase of his storied career.

Woods held off Hideki Matsuyama at Accordia Golf Narashino Country Club to equal Sam Snead's record of 82 wins and move to number six in the world rankings from 10th.

It was his first tournament since arthroscopic left knee surgery in August and came after he started the tournament on Thursday with three straight bogeys.



Tiger Woods of the US poses with trophy after winning the PGA Zozo Championship golf tournament at the Narashino Country Club in Inzai, Chiba prefecture on October 28. — AFP

Four back surgeries, countless knee operations, marital strife and run-ins with the law meant Woods had not won a major since 2008 and no tournaments since 2013 when he teed up at the Players Championship at East Lake, Atlanta, just over a year ago.

He had endured two years out of the game and hobbled out of the February 2018 Dubai Desert Classic with back spasms on his long-awaited return.

His ranking plummeted to 656 at the end of 2017, and with form and fitness

deserting him many observers felt he might never get the three further tour wins he needed to tie Snead, let alone another major.

Not only did he win the Tour Championship for his first victory in five years, but Woods went on to secure a fifth Green Jacket and 15th major at Augusta earlier this year to stand just three behind Jack Nicklaus's record 18.

And now he stands unsurpassed as the most successful PGA Tour golfer of all time after victory at the weather-delayed inau-

gural tournament in Japan.

"Well, it's satisfying to dig my way out of it and figure out a way," said Woods, who finished three shots clear on 19-under par.

"As far as playing, I didn't really know that I would come back and play at this level.

"But I've come back with different games over the years, moving patterns, and this one's been obviously the most challenging," he said, after four stunning rounds of 64, 64, 66 and 67 for a three-stroke win.

OLYMPIC AMBITION

"Then having another procedure a couple months ago and again coming back and winning an event, not easy to do, but I trust my hands and today was no different."

Woods recalled as a five-year-old in 1981 getting to play with Snead for the only time.

"I played with Sam at, I think, it was Calabasas Country Club," said Woods.

"He was doing an outing there and I had come out to play the 17th and 18th holes with him.

"I remember hitting the ball into a little creek and playing it out of the water and making bogey. I bogeyed the last and he went par-par."

"It was the only time I ever got a chance to play with Sam Snead — I was two-down through two," he smiled.

While Snead registered his 82nd win at the age of 52, Woods is nine years younger.

"As far as playing until 52, I hope that's the case," said Woods.

"If you would have asked me a few years ago, I would

have given you a different answer, but certainly the future looks brighter than it has."

And that includes coming back to Japan for the Tokyo Olympics next year before defending his Zozo Championship.

"I hope to qualify for the team and represent my country," he said.

"I know some of my friends have made Olympic teams before in the past and they said it's a once-in-a-lifetime experience."

"I'll be 44 and I don't know if I have many more chances after that." — AFP

Tottenham struggling to earn their spurs

spotlight

London: Tottenham Hotspur's players invited their manager and coaches to a bonding dinner in a fashionable London restaurant last week as a way of helping turn their season round, something their north London rivals Arsenal might want to copy.

Both the North London giants hopes of contesting the title are already over — barring a remarkable Liverpool and Manchester City burn out. They will instead be embroiled in the attritional battle to make up the already significant gaps to Leicester and Chelsea to secure a Champions League spot.

The problem for Spurs may largely be a lack of form: just two wins in their last nine games.

The Gunners, on the other hand, are struggling with both poor performances and internal division as they prepare to Liverpool in the League Cup on Wednesday.

Granit Xhaka's tantrum at being substituted after Arsenal had surrendered a two goal lead in a 2-2 draw with Crystal Palace highlighted the continuing rift between supporters and players.

When fans booed Xhaka, the Arsenal captain fired back 'Fxxx off.' On the sidelines team-mate Lucas Torreira wept. Three of the Xhaka's team-mates visited him at home that night.

According to the British media Arsenal manager Unai Emery will not unilaterally decide who is captain and will consult the squad, who chose Xhaka by secret ballot in the first place.

Some critics argue that this democracy highlights the Spanish manager's failure to show firm leadership by not choosing the captain himself.



The Xhaka saga piles more pressure on the 47-year-old former Sevilla and Paris Saint Germain coach.

Arsenal are fifth in the table but that gives a false picture of stability. They have only won two of their last eight Premier League matches.

Many have questioned whether Emery has had the impact the board hoped following the stagnation of the last years under their most successful manager Arsene Wenger.

"We were better under Wenger," an Arsenal director remarked acridly to The Sun following the Palace draw.

Hector Bellerin, the third captain in the squad-voted

hierarchy, called for calm and unity.

"We are all humans, we all have emotions, and sometimes it's not easy dealing with them," he tweeted.

"It's time to lift each other up, not to push each other away. We only win when we are together."

'HAS TO BE STRONG'

A source at the club, who spoke at length to Tuesday's edition of The Daily Telegraph, said Emery's refusal to play mercurial German Mesut Ozil — apparently with the consent of the board — has also caused internal consternation.

The often infuriatingly inconsistent Ozil has been

sitting on the sidelines while £72 million (\$92 million) summer signing Nicolas Pepe has struggled to find his feet in England. He has scored only a penalty in eight Premier League starts, although he hit two in the Europa League on Thursday.

"You've got to wonder who is making the decisions. Has the coach been told not to play Ozil or does he have a problem with the player?" the source asked.

"You also have to wonder why Pepe is starting every game. He was an expensive signing for the club, so does Emery have to start him or does he want to?"

"It may be that he is feeling pressure to do what the

board wants, but he has to be strong and make his own decisions.

"It is creating a strange atmosphere within the squad because nobody is really sure what is going on."

Compared to that, Spurs manager Mauricio Pochettino's problems might appear simple. Although there are background issues with players whose contracts are about to expire, he probably just needs one big win can turn around his side's season.

The charismatic Argentinian believes the players inviting him and the coaching staff for dinner last Thursday was a positive sign.

— AFP

Fifa do not care about racism in football: Toure

Shanghai: Yaya Toure says Fifa is not doing enough to stamp out racism and that England should have walked off the pitch in the face of monkey chants during their Euro 2020 qualifier in Bulgaria.

The 36-year-old former Barcelona and Manchester City midfielder made the comments to AFP after helping Qingdao Huanghai clinch promotion to the Chinese Super League at the weekend.

England's 6-0 victory in Sofia earlier this month was marred by racist chants and Nazi salutes from a section of Bulgarian fans.

The game was halted twice during the first half, but England players opted to complete the match instead of walking off the pitch.

"This is a shame, why are you playing for England?" Toure, who has been outspoken on football's racism problem, said of the decision.

"They are always talking, 'Blah, blah, blah', and what? Nothing changes."

Turning his real fire on football's decision-makers, the four-time African player of the year said: "People from fifa don't care anyway because we've been talking about this, but it's still continuing."

"I don't want to say that I'm not concerned, I'm concerned," said the former Ivory Coast international.

Raheem Sterling, the England and Manchester City forward, has been widely praised for playing a prominent role in calling out the racists at home and abroad.

But Toure, his former team-mate at City, said



that was "not good enough".

Toure, whose trophy haul includes three Premier League titles with City and a Uefa Champions League with Barcelona, believes it is time the players took more decisive action.

"They have to be serious about it, players need to make serious moves about it otherwise they (the racists) will continue to do that," he said.

"They have to get the players out of the field."

In response, Fifa said that "the fight against racism is of utmost importance" to football's world governing body.

In the aftermath of the Bulgaria match, Fifa president Gianni Infantino said that racists must be "kicked out" of stadiums.

'THEY RESPECT NOBODY'

Toure was speaking after he played a pivotal role for Qingdao in a 2-0 win on Saturday at Shanghai Shenxin, attended by just a few hundred spectators.

Victory ensured promotion to the top-tier Chinese Super League for the team that Toure joined in July, but he is unlikely to make the move up with them next year.

"I think I'll finish in December or January, then go, have another challenge," he said, vowing to play on until he is 40.

"People are thinking that I'm done, but I'm not done yet," he said.

Toure has enjoyed his spell in Chinese football and stressed that he has never experienced any form of discrimination in the country.

"It's been a nice experience because I've seen people with a different mentality from Europe — the way to play football, the way they feel and their behaviour on the field," he said.

"When I play in the stadiums, nobody boos me because I'm black, it's a different culture, they respect."

"In Europe, they respect nobody."

— AFP

Export index to rank states from Jan. 2020

Overleaf

Replace engines or face grounding, IndiGo told



quick BITES

INDICATORS		%
Sensex	40,165.03	+0.09
Nifty 50	11,890.60	+0.11
S&P 500	3,056.30	+0.62
Dollar (₹)	70.81	-0.15
Pound Sterling (₹)	91.40	-0.80
Euro (₹)	78.86	-0.64
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	39,395 ▲181	-0.47
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	\$59.94	-0.54
IN 10-Yr bond yield	+6.44	-0.14
US 10-Yr T-bill yield	+1.73	+2.48

* As of 9:30 pm IST

Centre orders SFIO probe into crisis-hit DHFL

New Delhi: The government has ordered an SFIO probe into alleged financial irregularities at mortgage lender DHFL after finding instances of suspected fund diversions, according to a source. DHFL came under the scanner in the wake of allegations that the company had siphoned off ₹31,000 crore worth bank loans through layers of shell entities. — PTI

Sanjeev Sahai takes charge as power secretary



New Delhi: Sanjeev Nandan Sahai has assumed charge as Secretary of the Power Ministry on Friday. “Sanjeev Nandan Sahai assumed charge as Secretary, Ministry of Power here today. Prior to this, he was serving as the special secretary in the Ministry of Power,” the ministry said in a statement. Mr Sahai is a UT cadre IAS officer of 1986 batch.

Voda Idea stock surges over 10% after clarification

New Delhi: Shares of Vodafone Idea on Friday zoomed over 10 per cent after Vodafone clarified that it is not going to exit the Indian market. Shares of the telecom operator settled 10.54 per cent higher at ₹4.30 apiece on the BSE. The telecom company added over ₹1,100 crore to its market capitalisation, which now stands at ₹12,356.22 crore.

Gold demand tapers off after festival spike

Mumbai: Gold discounts in India widened this week as physical demand cooled because of high prices after a busy festival week. “We lost momentum this week due to a recovery in prices. Last week demand for Dhanteras and Diwali was lower than last year but better than our expectations,” said Ashok Jain, proprietor of gold wholesaler Chenaji Narsinghji. — Reuters

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PMI Factory activity growth hits two-year low; escapes industrial contraction by 0.6 point

Factory output close to stagnation in Oct.

Bengaluru, Nov. 1: India's factory activity growth hit a two-year low in October as new orders and output rose at a slower pace, dragging business confidence to its weakest since early 2017, a survey showed on Friday, suggesting more policy easing is on the cards.

That mirrors a recent sharp deceleration in global manufacturing activity as a protracted US-China trade war took a toll on business sentiment, investment and overall growth.

The Nikkei Manufaturing Purchasing Managers' Index, compiled by IHS Markit, dropped to 50.6

Weakening demand had a domino effect in the manufacturing industry, knocking down rates of increase in production, jobs and business sentiment.

— Pollyanna De Lima, IHS Markit

last month from September's 51.4, confounding expectations in a Reuters poll for a rise to 51.8.

Just the same, it has held above the 50-point thresh-

old mark that separates growth from contraction for the 27th straight month, an uninterrupted run not seen for around five years.

“PMI data for October showed a continuation of manufacturing sector weakness in India, with sales growth softening to the slowest in two years,” noted Pollyanna De Lima, principal economist at IHS Markit.

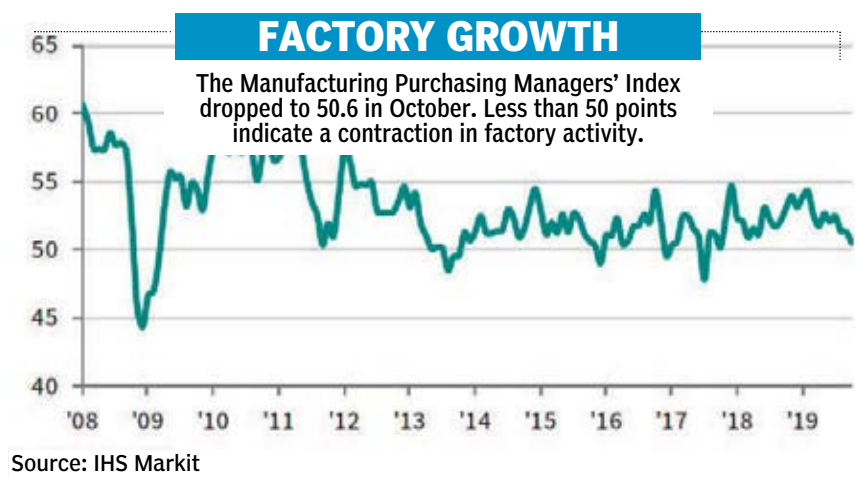
“Weakening demand had a domino effect in the manufacturing industry, knocking down rates of increase in production, employment and business sentiment.”

The new orders sub-

index, a proxy for domestic demand, slumped to 51.3 from September's 52.3, its lowest since October 2017. That pushed firms to slow the pace of hiring to a six month low, which is likely to raise concerns for the BJP government given it is under pressure to create more jobs.

Moreover, in a further sign the ailing economy will take a while to recover, optimism slipped in October to its weakest since soon after a 2016 high-value currency ban that affected day-to-day operations of small- and medium-sized businesses.

— Reuters



I-T officials cancel six Tata Trusts registration

New Delhi, Nov. 1: The income tax department has cancelled registration of six Tata Trusts, including Jamsetji Tata Trust, R.D. Tata Trust and Tata Education Trust, following their decision to surrender the same.

The Tata Trusts said the cancellation was a culmination of the decision taken by these six Trusts in 2015 to surrender their registration and to not claim the associated income tax exemptions.

The other Trusts are Tata Social Welfare Trust, Sarvajani Seva Trust, and Navajbai Ratan Tata Trust.

“The decision to surrender the registration (an option available in law) was taken in the best interests of the Trust and to maximise the resources available to the Trust for their charitable work which is the principal object and focus of the Trusts,” Tata Trusts said in a statement on Friday.

According to the statement, the Office of the Principal Commissioner of Income Tax, Mumbai, by its order on Thursday cancelled the income tax registration of six Tata Trusts companies.

“While the tax department's order has cancelled the Trusts' registration with immediate effect, we believe that as a matter of law and consistent with the department's own decision in the past, the cancellation should take effect from 2015, when the registrations were surrendered and the Trusts themselves consented to cancellation,” it said.

The Trusts are examining the order and will take necessary next steps in accordance with the law and the Trusts have effective legal options to vindicate their grievances against the order both factually and legally, it said.

“Since inception in 1892, Tata Trusts, India's oldest philanthropic organisation, has played a pioneering role in bringing about an enduring difference in the lives of the communities it serves,” it said. — PTI

Car firms get festive boost, Oct. sales rise

MICHAEL GONSALVES PUNE, NOV. 1

The 42 days festive season between Navratri and end of Diwali, which typically brings in about 20 to 25 per cent of car sales rescued Maruti Suzuki, India's largest car maker, which for the first time reported a 2.3 per cent growth in passenger vehicle sales in October ending a declining trend in monthly sales that started back in March.

But other major car makers like Hyundai, the second biggest car maker, followed by Mahindra, Tata Motors, Toyota Kirloskar and Honda Cars continued to report declining sales but improved their sales tally due to demand in festive season, especially during Dhanteras and Diwali.

Maruti, which sells one out of two cars bought in the country, sold 2.3 per cent more cars to 1,39,121 units last month against 1,35,948 units sold in October last year.

In absolute terms, this was Maruti's highest sales in any month this fiscal. The last time it had posted higher sales than this was in March 2019 when it had sent 145,031 units to its dealers.

In India, auto makers count car dispatches to



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dealerships as sales. Maruti saw growth coming from two of the most crucial sub-segments – compact cars and utility vehicles. While this could still be a temporary revival in the market sentiment, Maruti's numbers do hint at a good month for other auto firms too.

Sales at Hyundai Motor fell 3.8 per cent at 50,010 units last month, down from 52,001 units in October 2018, the company said. Sales at Mahindra

and Mahindra, India's biggest utility vehicle maker, fell 23 per cent to 18,460 units from 24,066 units last year. “The festive October month was excellent for Mahindra, with retail volume exceeding wholesale by approximately 40 per cent. This robust retail performance was contributed by both passenger and commercial vehicles. Further, our billing numbers are in line with what we had planned for the month, since the objective was to significantly correct our channel inventory. We hope to see the positive consumer sentiment continue going forward,” Veejay Ram Nakra, Chief of Sales and Marketing, Automotive Division at Mahindra and Mahindra, said.

Sales at Tata Motors,

India's biggest automaker by value, also declined by 28 per cent at 13,169 units, down from 18,290 units it sold last year. “Retail sales results have been encouraging with retails at 36 per cent more than wholesale,” Mayank Pareek, president, passenger vehicles at Tata Motors, said.

Customer response was positive to festive offers and retail sales last month were the highest in this fiscal recording a 70 per cent increase month-on-month, he said.

“We remain optimistic that the positive sentiments of the festive season will lead to a structural recovery in the market,” Pareek said.

Sales at Japanese auto major Toyota dropped 6 per cent at 11,866 units, down from 12,606 units it sold last year.

“Compared to the last few months of slowdown, it was quite encouraging to see the marked improvement in customer orders on account of festive season,” N Raja, deputy MD at Toyota Kirloskar Motor, said. He said he is hoping this pace in retail sales continues beyond the festive season.

Sales at Honda Cars also declined by 29.44 per cent at 10,010 units in October as against 14,187 units in the same month last year.

Navratri, Diwali fail to cheer Centre, GST rises just 3.7%

FC BUREAU NEW DELHI, NOV 1

The Goods and Services Tax (GST) collection declined by 5.29 per cent to ₹95,380 crore in October 2019, as against the same month last year. However, the GST collection increased 3.76 per cent notably in comparison to September 2019, when it was ₹91,916 crore, according to data released by the finance ministry on Friday.

This is the third consecutive month when GST

This is the third consecutive month when GST collection remained below the ₹1 lakh crore mark, despite October being a festive month.

mop-up remained below the ₹1 lakh crore mark, despite October being a festive month.

The GST revenue collection in October 2018 stood at ₹1,00,710 crore. The revenue collection in

September this year stood at ₹91,916 crore.

“The gross GST revenue collected in the month of October, 2019 is ₹95,380 crore of which CGST is ₹17,582 crore, SGST is ₹23,674 crore, IGST is ₹46,517 crore and Cess is ₹7,607 crore,” the finance ministry said in a statement.

It further said the total number of GSTR 3B returns (summary of self-assessed return) filed for the month of September (up to October 30) was 73.83 lakh.

Flipkart sales rise 42% in fiscal 2019

FC BUREAU CHENNAI, NOV. 1

Flipkart's revenue jumped 42 per cent year-on-year to over \$6 billion in FY19, while its losses came down by 63 per cent. Reduction in finance costs helped the e-commerce company cut its losses in FY19.

The stricter regulations for the e-commerce sector, especially for the FDI-funded entities, in the country have not affected Flipkart's revenue growth much.

Tripura, Haryana fare badly, TN best in India

FC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, NOV. 1

Unemployment rate in October rose to 8.5 per cent — the highest since August 2016 — and up from 7.2 per cent in September, according to data released by the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE) on Friday, reflecting the impact of a slowdown in the economy.

The increase in unemployment rate mirrors the fall in industrial growth and consumption in the country.

The latest Periodic Labour Force Survey claimed an unemployment rate of 6.1 per cent that India witnessed between July 2017 and June 2018 was the worst in 45 years.

According to CMIE, urban India has a higher unemployment at 8.89 per cent than rural joblessness which is at 8.28 per cent. The average unemployment rate is 8.48 per cent.

The decline in employment began in November 2017 — a year after the Narendra Modi government demonetised high value currency and four months after it rolled out the GST regime.

Tripura topped the list with 27.2 per cent of unemployed. Delhi and adjoining states are the most impacted with the economic slowdown — Haryana having 23.4 per cent of unemployed, followed by Himachal Pradesh 16.7 per cent, Punjab 13 per cent and Delhi 12.8 per cent.

Among the bigger states, Rajasthan tops the joblessness list with double digit unemployed figure at 14.4 per cent, followed by Bihar with 12.7 per cent and Uttar Pradesh 10.1 per cent.

Uttarakhand has the lowest unemployment among northern states at 1.5 per cent, followed by Madhya Pradesh at 3.5 per cent, Chhattisgarh at 7.8 per cent and Jharkhand 9.8 per cent.

The southern states fared comparatively well by registering lower unemployment rates. Tamil Nadu is the most well-performing state in the country. It has merely 1.1 per cent unemployed.

Puducherry followed closely at 1.2 per cent, Andhra Pradesh at four per cent, and Karnataka at 5.8 per cent. Telangana and Kerala fared badly in the south with an unemployment rate of 7.5 per cent and 7.4 per cent respectively.

In the east, Odisha performed well with 4.2 per cent, followed by Meghalaya 4.3 per cent, West Bengal 6.8 per cent and Sikkim 7.1 per cent.

In the western region, Goa has the highest unemployment at 9.1 per cent, followed by Maharashtra 5.6 per cent and Gujarat 5.2 per cent.

Labour productivity at multi-year low

SANGEETHA G. CHENNAI, NOV. 1

Labour productivity growth in organised manufacturing sector has dropped to multi-year lows. India Ratings and Research's analysis of data of Annual Survey of Industries (ASI) indicates a slowdown in labour productivity growth in the Indian organised manufacturing sector.

As per the data, labour productivity grew at an average annual rate of 3.7 per cent during the financial year 2016-2018. In the financial year 2017, labour productivity growth fell to 2.6 per cent and 2.9 per cent in FY18.

Labour productivity had been growing by 9.6 per cent in FY01-06 and had peaked at 14.2 per cent between FY04-FY08. It grew by 10.3 per cent

between FY06 and FY10. However between FY11 and FY15, it slowed down to 7.4 per cent.

According to Ind-Ra, longer and sustainable labour productivity growth is dependent on investments in innovation, knowledge, and intangible capital by businesses. It is also dependent on governments' commitments towards structural reforms.

Further, average monthly wage of a worker in the organised manufacturing sector rose to ₹12,405 during FY16-18 from ₹4,006 during FY01-FY05. However, the wage growth has slowed down lately.

The average wage growth has been 6.5 per cent over FY16-FY18 as compared to 11.7 per cent and 8.1 per cent during FY11-FY15 and FY05-FY10, respectively.

Yes Bank registers ₹600cr loss

FC BANKING BUREAU
MUMBAI, NOV. 1

Private sector lender Yes Bank on Friday reported a net loss of ₹600 crore in the second quarter ended September 30, hurt by a one-time deferred tax adjustment (DTA) of ₹709 crore and higher provisions on impaired loans.

Excluding the one-time DTA impact, the adjusted net profit was at ₹109 crore. Yes Bank had reported a net profit of ₹965 crore in the same quarter of the previous year. Net interest income during the quarter declined 9.6 per cent year-on-year to ₹2,185.91 crore, including the impact of around ₹228 crore due to fresh slippages. The Non-interest income or other income in the second quarter declined by 35.8 per cent year-on-year to ₹946 crore.

Provisions rose by 42 per cent to ₹1,336 crore in the September quarter, as compared to ₹939 crore in the year ago period. The pre-provision operating profit fell 38.4 per cent voy to ₹1,458.44 crore.

DRL profit more than doubles

Hyderabad, Nov. 1: Dr Reddys Laboratories Limited on Friday said its profit after tax (PAT) for the quarter ended September 30 was up 117 per cent to ₹1,092.50 crore.

Attributing the increase to one-time revenues from selling the rights of three brands and tax advantage, president, CFO and global head (HR) of the city-based drug-maker Saumen Chakraborty said the PAT was ₹503.80 crore for the second quarter of FY19.

Revenue for the quarter under review was up by 26 per cent at ₹4,801 crore against ₹3,798 crore in the same quarter last fiscal, he said.

DRL garnered ₹720 crore towards licence fee for selling US and select territory rights for two of their neurology brands Symtouch (sumatriptan injection) and Tosymratm (sumatriptan nasal spray) 10 mg and Zembrace to Upsher-Smith Laboratories, he said.

The drug-maker also had an income tax benefit of ₹326 crore during the quarter. —PTI

Oil blocks bid fails, only 2 PSUs show up

New Delhi, Nov. 1: India's offer of seven oil blocks on revamped licence terms attracted just eight bids from state-owned firms including six single bids in the latest licensing round ignored by both private and foreign companies.

The Directorate General of Hydrocarbons (DGH) in a statement said state-owned ONGC bid for all the seven blocks while Oil India Ltd (OIL) put in an offer for one block at the close of bidding on Thursday. The block in Rajasthan saw competition from ONGC and OIL but the five in Madhya Pradesh and one in West Bengal saw single bids from ONGC, DGH said.

"Seven onland blocks were on offer (in the fourth round of Open Acreage Licensing Policy) with an area of approx 18,500 sq km," DGH said. "The results demonstrate continued interest of established players in Indian E&P (exploration and production) with bids received for all 7 blocks. The evaluation of the bids would be undertaken in a time-bound manner." —PTI

■ Central bank creates new supervisory and regulatory cadre

RBI rejigs internal setup to monitor banks better

FALAKNAAZ SYED
MUMBAI, NOV. 1

Facing public ire for not being able to detect scams and frauds on time, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has created two separate departments for supervisory and regulatory function to improve the oversight for banks, non-banking finance companies (NBFCs) and co-operative banks. The development follows the RBI's central board decision to create separate supervisory and regulatory cadre.

There have been a long list of scams within banks and NBFCs that remained undetected for years by the RBI inspections such as the ₹14,000 crore Nirav Modi fraud at Punjab National Bank, collapse of IL&FS scam, the recent PMC Bank crisis and failure of large NBFCs to service their debt.

"With a view to having a holistic approach to supervision and regulation of the regulated entities so as to address growing complexities, size and inter-



connectedness as also to deal more effectively with potential systemic risk that could arise due to possible supervisory arbitrage and information asymmetry, it has been decided to integrate the supervision function into a unified Department of Supervision and regulatory functions into a unified Department of Regulation with effect from November 1, 2019," said the central bank.

The central board of the RBI on May 21 had approved the creation of the separate supervisory and regulatory cadre. The restructuring of the regu-

lation and supervision function is among a series of steps RBI will take to implement this decision, the central bank added.

Currently, the supervision of financial sector entities is undertaken through three separate departments, Department of Banking Supervision, Department of Non-Banking Supervision and Department of Co-operative Bank Supervision. Similarly, the regulatory functions relating to financial sector entities are carried out through three separate departments, viz., Department of Banking

Replace jet engines or face grounding: DGCA to IndiGo

FC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, NOV. 1

A day after IndiGo Airlines A320 Neo plane had to return midway due to engine issues, the Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has ordered the airline to replace all of its 97 A320 Neo planes that have old Pratt and Whitney (PW) engines by January end.

The latest order comes as a follow-up of an earlier DGCA order to change engines in its 16 airplanes.

On Wednesday, one of the PW engines of an IndiGo A320neo plane that was heading to Pune stalled mid-air, forcing the pilot to return to Kolkata. Upset with such incidents, the DGCA said that last one week has witnessed four Air Turn Back/Inflight Shut down and has caused serious concern and resultant disruption.

"This situation cannot be allowed to go on indefinitely. Therefore, after considerable deliberations, it has been decided that all aircraft in your fleet numbering 97 as on date, need to be placed with modified LPT for both the engines. Appreciating that the task

is difficult and cannot be achieved instantly, it has been further decided that the operator must ensure that all these aircraft are provided with Modified LPT by January 31, 2020 at all costs. In case, it is not done, such aircraft shall not be allowed to fly with unmodified engines," the DGCA said in its letter to IndiGo.

It added that in such a situation the airlines may have to stagger or defer its future induction plans and procure sufficient number of modified engines to keep the existing fleet in operation. "You will appreciate that four successive events have not happened ever before and therefore, call for an urgent and effective action. We regret the

Regulation, Department of Non-Banking Regulation and Department of Cooperative Banking Regulation.

The RBI said that the restructuring will make supervisory and regulatory process more activity based rather than being segmented purely based on the organisational structure of regulated entities. The exercise will bestow graded supervisory approach to all the RBI-supervised entities linked to their size and complexity, and also facilitate more effective consolidated supervision of financial conglomerates among the RBI-supervised entities.

"The restructuring will result in a more efficient allocation of human resources attending to regulation and supervision of financial sector entities under the Bank's purview", the RBI said.

It also said the revamping will help build an experienced and skilled human resources in the area of regulation and supervision of financial sector entities.



inconvenience but we need desperate measures to put things in order," the DGCA letter to IndiGo said.

IndiGo and GoAir are the two airlines that have been facing glitches in PW engines. Out of its fleet of 247 aircraft, IndiGo has 92 new generation A320 NEOs while GoAir has 35. At present there are 127 such aircraft in India — which means about 40 per cent of the domestic seat capacity — and 436 globally. Post induction of A320 Neo aircraft fitted with PW1 100G engines into service significant technical issues have been experienced on these engines worldwide. These include Low Pressure Turbine failure, Gear Box failure, engine vibration.

BFSI, FMCG, tech sectors resilient to layoffs: Experts

Mumbai, Nov. 1: Even as there are reports of companies laying off and putting a halt to new hiring, some sectors remain resilient during this difficult times, including banking and financial services, FMCG, food and technology, according to industry experts.

Despite the economic downturn, the BFSI sector has shown a positive outlook in terms of hiring, TeamLease Service vice president Ajay Shah said.

Banks' penetration into rural markets will result in a surge of job opportunities in tier II-III cities, he said. Top banks like HDFC Bank and Axis Bank are slated to add around 10,000 jobs in the next 9 to 12 months, he added.

Similarly, retail and online busi-

ness have shown demand in the hiring of temporary and contractual workers so fresh hiring can be seen in this sector. For this festive season, e-commerce portals increased their temp headcount by 30-50 per cent year-on-year," he added.

However, automotive, real estate and manufacturing sectors are affected the most, he said adding it has seen around 2.3 lakhs of lay-offs, the highest in the last 20 years due to a dip in sales.

In the real estate sector, lakhs of jobs have been lost because of the low demand and liquidity crunch and according to estimates more than a million jobs will still be lost

in the coming few months, he added.

Since there is a dip in the production in the manufacturing sector, jobs are being cut in this industry across the ancillary companies in food processing, auto and agriculture, he said.

Michael Page India managing director Nicolas Dumoulin opined that everything within the technology space is resilient today because there is already a shortage of good people within that particular field. "Most companies know that they need to invest in technology to be future-ready. And there's a huge start-up community in India,

which requires and thrives on tech. So these types of industries, which are looking at long term growth are typically tech-based. We have not had any reduction in hiring in this sector," he added.

He said due to the liquidity crunch in the markets investments have been altered in heavy capital equipment, real estate and so on.

Claricent Partners Managing Partner Jyoti Bowen Nath said many small and medium-scale companies have been forced to lay off lakh of employees over the past few months to reduce production costs. Contractual manufacturing jobs, associated with the auto sector would also be at risk because of lower consumption. —PTI

Automotive, real estate and manufacturing sectors are affected the most, he said

Trai: Mobile calls to ring for 30 sec, landline 60 sec

New Delhi, Nov. 1: Telecom regulator Trai on Friday fixed phone call ring time at 30 seconds for mobiles and 60 seconds for landline phones in case the call is neither answered nor rejected by a subscriber.

The new rules will come into effect after 15 days.

"The time duration of alert for an incoming voice call, which is neither answered nor rejected by the called party, shall be thirty seconds for Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (CMTS) and sixty seconds for basic telephone service," Trai said in an amendment to quality of service norms for basic telephone service and cellular mobile telephone service.

The UN body International Telecommunication Union (ITU) has specifications for international calls or circuits in the range of 1.5 minutes to 3 minutes but there is no prescribed value for the timer for domestic calls.

The present range of duration of call alert by different telecom service providers (TSPs) varies from 30 seconds to 45 seconds in case of the mobile networks, except one telecom operator has set "alert duration" as 25 seconds and in case of basic telephone networks, it varies from 60 seconds to 120 seconds.

Reliance Jio has accused old operators, including

The present range of duration of call alert by different telecom service providers (TSPs) varies from 30 seconds to 45 seconds in case of the mobile networks, except one telecom operator has set "alert duration" as 25 seconds

Bharti Airtel and Vodafone Idea, of "illegally" masquerading wire-line numbers as mobile numbers for "undue enrichment" and has exhorted Trai to slap "severest penalty" on them for violating regulations and licensing norms.

Bharti Airtel has hit back saying Jio is trying to misguide the regulator ahead of the consultation on call connect charges (also called interconnect usage charges).

Telecom operators on their own were reducing incoming call ring time to attract reverse call from subscribers of other networks.

Under the new rules, telecom operators on whose network call is made will have to release the network channel which has been used to send incoming call alert after 30 seconds on mobile network and 60 seconds on landline network.

States to be ranked for export-preparedness

New Delhi, Nov. 1: The government is likely to release the first index in January to rank states and Union territories based on their preparedness to promote exports, an official said.

The exercise would help in promoting healthy competition among states and UTs to work on parameters for promoting the country's exports, which is one of the key indicators for boosting economic growth.

The index will rank them on some key parameters such as business environment, infrastructure, transport connectivity, access to finance, export infrastructure and trade support, the official said.

Both the Niti Aayog and the commerce ministry is working on this index.

Besides overall ranking, it will also be there for coastal states, landlocked states and hilly states.

According to experts, the exercise would help in giving a direction to states and

UTs to work on their policies and infrastructure to attract both investors and exporters.

"It would give an empirical tool to states and UTs for introspection for their export preparedness. Exporters will also get a direction and guideline," Professor at Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT) Rakesh Mohan Joshi said.

The government is already carrying out similar exercise to rank states and UTs on the ease of doing business.

Several steps are being taken to promote foreign trade as it constitutes 45 per cent of the country's economy. There is a target to increase share of the country's exports in global trade.

India's share in global merchandise exports and services was 1.7 per cent and 3.4 per cent, respectively. —PTI

OPENING
BELL
PROJECTION FOR TODAY

Nov. trade begins on a weak note

After a big rally in October, first day of November saw lack lustre trading session. Sensex gained for sixth consecutive session as it closed 35.98 points up at 40,165.03 gaining just 0.09 per cent. The BSE index touched an intra-day high of 40,283.30 and low of 40,014.23.

Nifty-50 index closed 13.15 points or 0.11 per cent higher at 11,890.60. The broader market outperformed with BSE Mid Cap Index up 0.18 per cent and BSE Small Cap Index up 0.32 per cent. Sector wise BSE Auto index fell 0.75 per cent as October month sales announced so far were mixed. Other laggards included BSE Capital Good (-0.72 per cent), Consumer Durables (-1.16 per cent), IT (-0.77 per cent). The gainers included BSE Metal (2.50 per cent), Telecom (1.49 per cent), Bankex (0.84 per cent), FMCG (0.46 per cent) and Healthcare (0.56 per cent). Foreign portfolio investors were net buyers of equities worth ₹533.37 crore while the domestic institutions booked were net sellers by ₹136.50 crore.

Technical View

Mustafa Nadeem, CEO, Epic Research said, "November rollover data showed much better numbers with Nifty seeing above average while the underperformance from Bank Nifty continued. So we do expect Nifty to continue its outperformance with muted action in Nifty bank, which is skewed to private banks."

"In the coming week, we will have earnings numbers from HDFC, Dabur, Tata Steel, Can bank and also Divis and Titan which have been outperforming. A lot will also depend on how global markets are performing as they will direct domestic sentiments. We remain bullish as far as Nifty is sustaining above 11700 and dips should be utilized," he said.

Sameet Chavan, chief analyst-Technical and Derivatives, Angel Broking said, "Sensex already posting a fresh high, the Nifty is not going to shy away for a long time. Soon, we would be witnessing Nifty traversing the 12,000 mark to go beyond its record high of 12103.05. Before this some brakes seems to have applied on the recent momentum."

Market view

Sanjeev Zarbade, vice president, Private Client Group Research, Kotak Securities said, "Global equities were flat or sideways during the week. Market sentiment in the US was more driven by the developments on the US China trade deal. While in recent weeks, the trade talks seemed to be moving in the right direction but during the week, the Chinese have expressed doubts whether long term trade deal is possible, leading to some weakness in US stocks. The BSE-30 Index gained 2.9 per cent in the past week. Markets were upbeat on reports of better-than-expected festive sales and slightly better-than-expected 2QFY20 results as well as progress on trade disputes between US and China and a 25 bps rate cut by the US Fed. FPIs bought equities worth \$1.1 billion over the past five trading sessions while domestic institutional investors sold \$67 million worth of equities," Zarbade said.

—RAVI RANJAN PRASAD



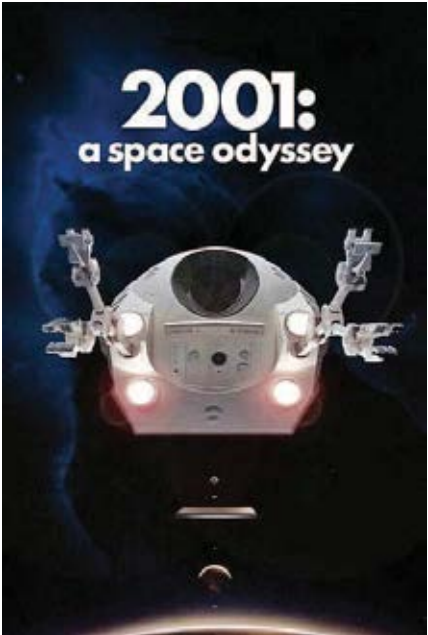


Stanley Kubrick refused to talk about his movies on set as he was directing them and never watched them when they were completed

OUR CRITIC'S RATING

Outstanding ★★★★★ | Great ★★★★ | Good ★★★ | Okay ★★ | Poor ★ | Truly Terrible TT

Roger Ebert's Great Movies



2001: A SPACE ODYSSEY

Released in 1968
Review
written on
March 27, 1997

The genius is not in how much Stanley Kubrick does in *2001: A Space Odyssey*, but in how little. This is the work of an artist so sublimely confident that he doesn't include a single shot simply to keep our attention. He reduces each scene to its essence, and leaves it on screen long enough for us to contemplate it, to inhabit it in our imaginations. Alone among science-fiction movies, *2001* is not concerned with thrilling us, but with inspiring our awe. No little part of his effect comes from the music. Although Kubrick originally commissioned an original score from Alex North, he used classical recordings as a temporary track while editing the film, and they worked so well that he kept them. This was a crucial decision. North's score, which is available on a recording, is a good job of film composition, but would have been wrong for *2001* because, like all scores, it attempts to underline the action — to give us emotional cues. The classical music chosen by Kubrick exists outside the action. It uplifts. It wants to be sublime; it brings a seriousness and transcendence to the visuals. The film did not provide the clear narrative and easy entertainment cues the audience expected. The closing sequences, with the astronaut inexplicably finding himself in a bedroom somewhere beyond Jupiter, were baffling. The overnight Hollywood judgment was that Kubrick had become derailed, that in his obsession with effects and set pieces, he had failed to make a movie.

What he had actually done was make a philosophical statement about man's place in the universe, using images as those before him had used words, music or prayer. And he had made it in a way that invited us to contemplate it — not to experience it vicariously as entertainment, as we might in a good conventional science-fiction film, but to stand outside it as a philosopher might, and think about it.

The film falls into several movements. In the first, prehistoric apes, confronted by a mysterious black monolith, teach themselves that bones can be used as weapons, and thus discover their first tools. I have always felt that the smooth artificial surfaces and right angles of the monolith, which was obviously made by intelligent beings, triggered the realisation in an ape brain that intelligence could be used to shape the objects of the world. The bone is thrown into the air and dissolves into a space shuttle (this has been called the longest flash-forward in the history of the cinema). We meet Dr Heywood Floyd (William Sylvester), en route to a space station and the moon. This section is willfully anti-narrative; there are no breathless dialogue passages to tell us of his mission. Instead, Kubrick shows us the minutiae of the flight: the design of the cabin, the details of in-flight service, the effects of zero gravity.

Then comes the docking sequence, with its waltz, and for a time even the restless in the audience are silenced, I imagine, by the sheer wonder of the visuals. On board, we see familiar brand names, we participate in an enigmatic conference among the scientists of several nations, we see such gimmicks as a videophone and a zero-gravity toilet.

The sequence on the moon (which looks as real as the actual video of the moon landing a year later) is a variation on the film's opening sequence. Man is confronted with a monolith, just as the apes were, and is drawn to a similar conclusion: This must have been made. And as the first monolith led to the discovery of tools, so the second leads to the employment of man's most elaborate tool: the spaceship Discovery, employed by man in partnership with the artificial intelligence of the onboard computer, named HAL 9000.

Life onboard the Discovery is presented as a long, eventless routine of exercise, maintenance checks and chess games with HAL. Only when the astronauts fear that HAL's programming has failed does a level of suspense emerge; their challenge is somehow to get around HAL, which has been programmed to believe, "This mission is too important for me to allow you to jeopardise it." Their efforts lead to one of the great shots in the cinema, as the men attempt to have a private conversation in a space pod, and HAL reads their lips. The way Kubrick edits this scene so that we can discover what HAL is doing is masterful in its restraint: He makes it clear, but doesn't insist on it. He trusts our intelligence.

Later comes the famous "star gate" sequence, a sound and light journey in which astronaut Dave Bowman (Keir Dullea) travels through what we might now call a wormhole into another place, or dimension, that is unexplained. At the journey's end is the comfortable bedroom suite in which he grows old, eating his meals quietly, napping, living the life (I imagine) of a zoo animal who has been placed in a familiar environment. And then the Star Child.

There is never an explanation of the other race that presumably left the monoliths and provided the star gate and the bedroom. *2001* lore suggests Kubrick and Clarke tried and failed to create plausible aliens. It is just as well. The alien race exists more effectively in negative space: We react to its invisible presence more strongly than we possibly could to any actual representation.

2001: A Space Odyssey is in many respects a silent film. There are few conversations that could not be handled with title cards. Much of the dialogue exists only to show people talking to one another, without much regard to content (this is true of the conference on the space station). Ironically, the dialogue containing the most feeling comes from HAL, as it pleads for its "life" and sings *Daisy*.

The film creates its effects essentially out of visuals and music. It is meditative. It does not cater to us, but wants to inspire us, enlarge us. Nearly 30 years after it was made, it has not dated in any important detail, and although special effects have become more versatile in the computer age, Trumbull's work remains completely convincing — more convincing, perhaps, than more sophisticated effects in later films, because it looks more plausible, more like documentary footage than like elements in a story.

Only a few films are transcendent, and work upon our minds and imaginations like music or prayer or a vast belittling landscape. Most movies are about characters with a goal in mind, who obtain it after difficulties either comic or dramatic. *2001: A Space Odyssey* is not about a goal but about a quest, a need. It does not hook its effects on specific plot points, nor does it ask us to identify with Dave Bowman or any other character. It says to us: We became men when we learned to think. Our minds have given us the tools to understand where we live and who we are. Now it is time to move on to the next step, to know that we live not on a planet but among the stars, and that we are not flesh but intelligence.

Muddled and unsure!

Ujda Chaman

(U/A) 120 min
CAST: Sunny Singh, Saurabh Shukla, Maanvi Gagroo
DIRECTOR: Abhishek Pathak
RATING: ★★

ARNAB BANERJEE

What does a 30-year-old man do when he gets to know that his fast progressing problem of alopecia (or unpredictable hair loss) could lead to his remaining a bachelor all his life? He panics, of course. But is there any hope, or any remedy that would bring some semblance of happiness in his life? Director Abhishek Pathak's directorial debut *Ujda Chaman* is about a bachelor Chaman Kohli, who is a Hindi lecturer in a prestigious college in Delhi, and suffers from premature balding, but is in the quest for a beautiful wife. The two have to be juxtaposed to let you know that the film written by Danish Singh and Raj B. Shetty is all about a young man trying hard to find a suitable bride for himself. Despite his "problem" in place!

After facing several rejections as a prospective groom because of his baldness, Chaman (Sunny Singh) hits rock bottom when an astrologer (Saurabh Shukla) spells doom for him, and pro-

nounces a deadline to either find himself a girl or remain celibate forever. His parents (theatre actor Atul Kumar and Grusha Kapoor) are worried stiff too, and so is his younger brother (Gagan Arora), who gives emotional trauma to him even as he struggles hard to come to terms with his insoluble problem.

The rest of the film is all about Chaman's struggle at the workplace, his pride collapsing at his sense of rejection by young girls, and eventually his self-discovery and acceptance.

That Chaman is striving hard to deal with his lack of confidence is what one gathers right off the bat when Chaman and his family are shown visiting a typical Punjabi middle class family in West Delhi's Rajouri Garden. They are virtually thrown out for not letting them know about Chaman's receding hairline. He is shattered and must do something. He tries to find himself a solution by visiting a hair transplant clinic where the astronomical damages in terms of a huge fee make his head go for a spin. His idea of sporting a wig elicits only laughs from his

students, making him a laughing stock.

Now, this was one opportunity for the writers to come up with a script that could have just floated on the changing tides of time, social stigmas, values and taste, and still remained relevant and hilarious. Instead, what we have is a muddled story populated with thinly written characters which are wasted and are over the top.

When Chaman wants to go on a date and invites a fellow lecturer (Aishwarya Sakhuja) for a coffee, he is further hurt when she rejects the offer, and he takes it personally. There are other instances too that knock him out to the extent that he almost gives up hope.

Finally, when his fortunes turn around as he finds a pretty girl, Apsara (Maanvi Gagroo), but he seems to be under acute distress over her overweight issues. The introduction of a character who is otherwise fine but is seemingly unfit for him looks too contrived, and is clearly something to rub it in — that everyone has some drawback or the other. In yet another track, the director forces his moral code on us by making Chaman befriend his college peon who it seems is too content-

ed and blissfully cheerful because of his spouse and her concern for him.

The film is a remake of the Kannada hit *Ondu Mooveya Kathe*, but has been only adapted partially. Chaman may not be perfect but wants a girl who has to be picture-perfect. His confused state of mind and his rejections point out a grave flaw in his own character. How I wish the film had dealt with that part of his psyche in its 120 minutes of runtime.

Whether it's his lack of self-assurance, or his targeting Apsara for not being the most ideal match, the film's narrative recedes from other sensitive issues that are most vital to such men. In a story where there is a larger challenge to not allow prejudices and stereotypical representations of men and women, the screenplay doesn't allow itself to steer towards an end where some of the questions could have been answered. Ultimately, wasn't Pathak trying to tell us that it's our inner being that matters the most? Our physical attributes don't make us human, and remain superficial.

The past decade or so, we have seen quite a few Hindi films in which a personal anomaly, a disorder, or an ailment has been the focus, that too, of the lead character. As an instant recall one can count *Gone Kesh*, *Dum Laga Ke Haishya*, which may be very different from this film. But adding a certain irregularity to the lead actress' role, the character — particularly Bhumi Pednekar's in the latter — adds enough spunk to her which even gives her strength to counter personal jibes at her.

All those who may want to look for something relatable in the story will be sorely disappointed. And the ones who want a laugh-riot will be annoyed at the juvenile jokes and quite unintelligent and dim personal snide remarks being passed off for comedy. One also felt sad that an actor of Atul Kumar's calibre is reduced to playing a loud-mouthed father. Kapoor as his wife too is over the top. Movies on such subjects can turn out to be tricky productions, more so, since just a week before we had to endure the same saga. But *Bala*, next week's film, has the current flavour of Bollywood Ayushman Khurrana in the lead.

Hopefully, it will pass muster.





Bee Gees' biopic

Paramount Pictures is working on a biopic of the legendary band, Bee Gees



Joaquin's *Joker* is one of the greatest performances I have ever seen

Jessica Chastain, American actress

IN BRIEF

Martin to work on *GoT* prequel later

Los Angeles: Author George Martin has made it "perfectly clear" that he will start working on *Game of Thrones* prequel *House of the Dragon* only after he is finished with *Winds of Winters*, the long-pending penultimate installment of his *A Song of Ice and Fire* saga. The epic fantasy series, which served as the basis for HBO's multiple award winning show, awaits the final two books — *The Winds of Winter* and *A Dream of Spring* — that the author had announced long back but has not yet penned. — PTI

Gooding denies new sexual assault charge

Los Angeles: Actor Cuba Gooding Jr pleaded not guilty to fresh charges of sexual misconduct involving a third woman on Thursday. It comes less than a month after the star denied accusations of groping one woman's breasts and pinching another woman's buttocks, the BBC reported. The 51-year-old *Jerry Maguire* star pleaded not guilty to the new charges of forcible touching and sexual abuse in Manhattan Supreme Court. He is due back in court on 22 January. — Agencies



Meg Ryan and John Mellencamp split

Los Angeles: Hollywood star Meg Ryan and musician John Mellencamp have parted ways and called off their engagement. The duo decided to go their separate ways after being together for eight years. According to *E! Online*, Ryan ended the engagement. "It got exhausting for her to deal with. There were too many ups and downs and it wasn't healthy. She just needed to get out and not be in that environment anymore. It's for the best and she can focus on herself for a while. "She cares about John but it was time for her to move on," a source told the publication. — PTI

OLIVIA COLEMAN COLLECTS HER CBE FROM ANNE

London: Actress Olivia Colman has received her CBE medal from the Princess Royal at Buckingham Palace. Colman, who will portray the Queen in the new series of *The Crown*, was given the award by Princess Anne, rather than the monarch herself. The 45-year-old star accepted the gong under her real name, Sarah Sinclair, for services to drama. It caps quite a year for Colman, who won an Oscar in February for playing Queen Anne in *The Favourite*. The ceremony also comes just weeks before *The Crown*, which charts the story of the royal family during the Queen's reign, returns on Netflix, the BBC reported. Colman will take over from Claire Foy as the monarch for the third and fourth series. The third series, which launches on 17 November, will cover the years 1964-1977. British cave divers Joshua Bratchley and Connor Roe also received their MBEs after helping to save a young football team trapped in a flooded cave in Thailand last year. — Agencies



Olivia Colman

Ex-Gambia Prez raped me, says former beauty queen

Says President wanted to manifest his ego & teach me a lesson

Banjul, Gambia: A Gambian former beauty queen on Thursday accused former President Yahya Jammeh of raping her to punish her for rejecting his marriage proposal, in evidence to the country's truth and reconciliation commission.

"What he wanted to do was to teach me a lesson, what he wanted to do is manifest his ego," Fatou Jallow said. "There were words like 'who do you think you are?', that he is the President and that he gets any woman that he wants," Jallow told Gambia's Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission. Jammeh fled the country in January 2017 after losing presidential elections and initially refusing to step down.

He had come to power in a bloodless coup in July 1994 and was repeatedly



Former Gambian beauty queen, Fatou Jallow, accused former President Yahya Jammeh of raping her as punishment for rejecting his marriage proposal during a testimony.

► Jammeh fled the country in January 2017 after losing presidential elections and initially refusing to step down

► He had come to power in a bloodless coup in July 1994 and was repeatedly re-elected in disputed circumstances until being defeated in Dec. 2016 by the relatively unknown Adama Barrow

► After other countries intervened, he fled into exile in Equatorial Guinea



Yahya Jammeh

re-elected in disputed circumstances until being defeated in December 2016 by the relatively unknown Adama Barrow.

After other West African states intervened, he fled into exile in the central African state of Equatorial Guinea.

The Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission was set up to review abuses under Jammeh. — AFP

Cromwell held for protests against dog lab at Texas varsity

Los Angeles: Veteran actor James Cromwell was arrested during a protest at Texas A&M University.

The 79-year-old actor and another man were charged with disorderly conduct after police said they disrupted a meeting of the Texas A&M University System Board of Regents.

According to the *Hollywood Reporter*, Cromwell was a part of a demonstration on Thursday by people for the ethical treatment of animals (Peta), to protest A&M's use of dogs for medical research.

The actor, who is an animal welfare activist, was released after posting a bond of \$5,000.

"Texas A&M continues to torment golden retrievers and other dogs, even though decades of these experiments have not led to a cure for humans with muscular dystrophy.

"It's time to let the dogs out, and my friends at people for the ethical treatment of animals and I want them released to good homes where they can live out the rest of their lives in peace," Cromwell said in a statement issued by Peta.

Texas A&M University announced had recently that it was reducing its breeding of dogs for medical research, but the group wants the experiments to stop entirely. — PTI



James Cromwell

Letterman apologises to Nell Scovell over her 'sexual favouritism' claims

Los Angeles: David Letterman has tendered an apology to Nell Scovell, ten years after she had called him out for creating toxic work environment and indulging in sexist behaviour on the sets of his late night show.

Scovell, who worked as a writer on *Late Night With David Letterman* in the 1990s, had penned an essay in *Vanity Fair* in 2009 and accused him of promoting "sexual favouritism" among his

staffers. On Wednesday, Scovell wrote another essay for the outlet and said that she and Letterman recently had a conversation about the whole issue.

"You know, the other night I read the piece that you wrote 10 years ago. And I thought, this is so disturbing and, sadly, a perspective that I did not have. I'm sorry I was that way," Letterman told Scovell during their meeting. — PTI



Australian reality TV show contestant Suzi Taylor 'extorted' her Tinder date

Canberra: An Australian reality TV show contestant has been arrested for allegedly assaulting her Tinder date and extorting money from him.

Suzi Taylor, 49, demanded money after arranging through the dating app to meet the man at a Brisbane house on Wednesday, police said. When he refused to pay, another man allegedly entered the room and assaulted the 33-year-old victim.



Ms Taylor appeared on a hit home renovations show, *The Block*, in 2015.

On Thursday, she and a 22-year-old man were arrested and charged with extortion, assault, deprivation of liberty and other offences, BBC reported.

According to Queensland police, the pair had held the victim against his will and had forced him to transfer money into a bank account. — Agencies

Karni Sena now wants Bigg Boss 13 to be banned

Jaipur: Rajasthan-based organisation Karni Sena has sought a ban on the reality TV show *Bigg Boss 13* for allegedly promoting obscenity during a task name 'Bed friend Forever'.

Calling it "highly deplorable", the organisation in its letter to the Union minister of information and broadcasting Prakash Javdekar also urged the government to immediately put ban on broadcasting of Reality show *Bigg Boss 13* and lodged an F.I.R. against CEO of colors channel and all producers, directors, actors and participants of the show.

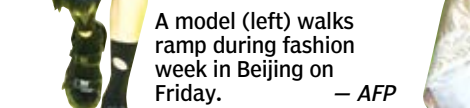
The makers of *Bigg Boss Show* have no shame or remorse of not bothering what kind of an impact will it leave on our generations to come. The format of the show is such that the makers cannot show bonding, family values..., the letter read. — ANI



Judith Light (above) at an event in New York on Thursday. — AP



People in costumes taking a selfie during Halloween in China's Jiangsu. — AFP



A model (left) walks ramp during fashion week in Beijing on Friday. — AFP



People in costumes participate in the annual village Halloween parade on Sixth Avenue in New York on Thursday. — AP



Michael Douglas (left) and Catherine Zeta-Jones attend Bette Midler's annual Hulaween party in New York on Thursday. — AP

Brazilian Prez stops taking biggest daily

Brasilia: Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro cancelled its subscriptions to one of the country's main newspapers in the latest episode of his openly hostile relationship with his country's major media outlets.

"Today I decided that the *Folha* subscription is canceled under my executive power. Whoever wants to read *Folha* can stop by the Brasilia bus station and buy it," he said in Thursday's weekly Facebook live broadcast. US President Donald Trump — an ally of Bolsonaro — similarly cancelled subscriptions to two of America's biggest newspapers, the *New York Times* and



Jair Bolsonaro

Washington Post, last week. Bolsonaro frequently lambasted Brazil's media outlets — including *Folha*, *TV Globo*, and *Veja* — both during his presidential campaign and since taking office in January. "We are not going to spend more money on a newspaper like that, and whoever advertises with *Folha*, pay attention," he said. — AFP

With python around neck, US woman found dead

Oxford, US: A woman has been found dead with an 8-foot-long python wrapped around her neck at a snake-laden home in northern Indiana.

Indiana state police Sgt. Kim Riley says 36-year-old Laura Hurst of Battle Ground was found unresponsive Wednesday at home, with snake wrapped loosely around her neck. Woman's cause of death remains under investigation with an autopsy scheduled Friday. — AP

Zombie science: Will the undead rise?

Washington: Hordes of brain-munching undead terrorising neighborhoods make for fun television and movies, but zombies could never be real... Or could they?

There are in fact a growing number of documented examples in the animal kingdom of parasites that change their hosts' behavior — and increasing evidence that humans are not immune to zombie-like manipulations.

It's a subject that fascinates theoretical evolutionary biologist Athena Aktipis of Arizona State University, who hosts a podcast called "Zombified" that applies real world science to the types of apocalyptic stories first popularized by filmmaker George Romero in the 1960s and now a sta-

► There are documented examples in the animal kingdom of parasites that change their hosts' behavior and an evidence that humans are not immune to zombie-like manipulations



ple horror genre. "More than half of the species that we know on Earth are parasites," Aktipis said. One example is the *Ophiocordyceps* fungus, which releases spores that infect the carpenter ant's body, allowing it to take over the insect's locomotive activity. Eventually, it kills its host by forcing it to leave

its nest and bite down on a piece of vegetation which it gets stuck to as a result of a tetanus-like infection that gives it lockjaw. The parasitic fungus erupts out of its host's head with a mushroom-like growth called a stroma. At night, when unfed ants are out foraging, this growth shoots out more infectious spores

and the 2-3 week cycle repeats itself. "We're totally convinced that the behaviors that the ant show are all to benefit the fungus," said Charissa de Bekker, an assistant professor of biology at the University of Central Florida who is carrying out genetic research to better understand the takeover process. — AFP

HEALTH NUGGETS

MEASLES CAUSES DAMAGE TO IMMUNE SYSTEM

Washington: Infection by the measles virus causes long-term damage to the immune system, and makes people vulnerable to other infections, according to a study which cautions parents to vaccinate their children against the highly contagious airborne disease.

The researchers, including those from the Howard Hughes Medical Centre in the United States, had analysed blood from 77 unvaccinated children from the Netherlands before and after a measles outbreak swept through their community. — PTI

'HEAVY SMOKING CAN MAKE YOU LOOK OLDER'

London: Heavy tobacco smoking may give you a "Smoker's Face" — a condition where people look older than they are, according to a study.

Researchers from the University of Bristol in the UK noted that some people carry one or two copies of a genetic variant linked with heavier tobacco use.

To identify the effects of heavy smoking, scientists can separate out the effects of the genetic variant through tobacco use from other possible effects associated with carrying that variant that are unrelated to tobacco use.

The study has been published in the journal *PLOS Genetics*. — PTI

DECODED: HOW MALARIA PARASITE INFECTS HUMANS

Washington: In a first, researchers have found that the malaria parasite which kills nearly 4,35,000 people worldwide every year, prepares for its life cycle in humans even before it enters the host, an advance that may lead to new drug targets against the mosquito-borne disease.

The study, published in the journal *Nature Communications*, noted that the malaria parasite *Plasmodium* makes a blueprint of the proteins it needs to infect the liver while still living in the mosquito, well in advance of its life cycle stages in the human host.

The researchers, including those from Pennsylvania State University in the US, studied the proteins, and other molecules produced by the parasite in its life cycle stage in mosquitoes called sporozoites. "We found that the sporozoites make and store all these plans for proteins, but then don't actually make the protein," said study co-author Kristian Swearingen from Seattle's Institute for Systems Biology in the US.

The researchers said that the strategy makes the *Plasmodium* adaptable, helping it launch its attack seconds after the mosquito bites a human. — PTI



The indestructible happy meal protected in Iceland



A burger with a side of fries protected in a glass case, belonging to Iceland's Hjortur Smarason, is on display in the Snotra House on Thursday. The American chain closed its only three branches in Iceland during the subarctic island's financial crisis in 2009, making it one of the only Western countries without a McDonald's. — AFP

DELHI SPECIAL

NEW DELHI SATURDAY 2 NOVEMBER 2019

DELHI AGE

Matinee

Yami takes a stand for Bhumi

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SPORT | Cricket

Adapting to pink ball is a challenge in D/N Test, says Pujara

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SPORT | Basketball

New Orleans beat Nuggets for first victory of season

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GUIDE TO FORTUNE

Tick the answer and check them below.

1 For which crop production is 'Saopalo' famous?

- Maize
- Coffee
- Cotton

2 The Indo-Nepal Treaty of Peace and Friendship was signed in which year?

- 1950
- 1951
- 1952

3 Which of the following rocks is different from the remaining three on the basis of its mode of origin?

- Sandstone
- Limestone
- Marble

SHORT TAKES

Awareness drive for cops organised

New Delhi: As a part of observance of Vigilance Awareness Week, a sensitisation workshop on anti-corruption awareness for Delhi police personnel was conducted on Friday. The 243 personnel including 30 ACPs, 44 inspectors, 43 SIs, 50 ASIs, 72 head constables and 4 constables from various districts and units were there, said Addl CP (Vigilance) Dheeraj Kumar. The workshop started with a film on the history of Delhi police which set the mood for the workshop, pressing home the grand legacy that has to be carried forward for the future Delhi police. It was followed by a presentation on "Corruption Mindset" by Spl. CP Vigilance and later a lecture on "Aberrations in functioning of Delhi police observed during various enquiries/investigations" by Addl CP (EOW) Dr. O.P. Mishra.

Youth shot at by bike-borne men

New Delhi: A 19-year-old man was shot at allegedly by two bike-borne men in southwest Delhi's Kishanganj area, police said on Friday. The victim has been identified as Prashant, a resident of Kishanganj. The incident took place on Thursday evening, they said, adding that the victim has been admitted to the Fortis Hospital and is recovering. Preliminary investigations revealed that one of two accused - Sanjay - had a fight with the victim's brother on Diwali over a petty issue after which he planned to take revenge. Sanjay also lived in the Kishanganj area, a senior police officer said. On Thursday evening, Prashant was going with his brother when Sanjay and his associate, who were on a bike, shot at him twice and fled from the spot. Prashant sustained bullet injuries in his legs and hip, the officer said.

26-year-old man commits suicide

New Delhi: A 26-year-old man allegedly committed suicide after hanging from the ceiling of his rented house in Dwarka's Uttam Nagar area, police said on Friday. Sashank Mishra was a native of Deoria in Uttar Pradesh and used to work in an insurance firm at Nehru Place here. His neighbour called police after a foul smell started coming out of his house. Police broke open the gate and found Mishra hanging from the ceiling, he said. It seems like the victim hanged himself around two to three days ago. No suicide note was recovered from the spot, a senior police officer said.

THE ANSWERS TO TODAY'S GUIDE TO FORTUNE

- Marble
- 1950
- Coffee

Schools shut till Nov. 5 as pollution reaches alarming level

Public health emergency declared in Delhi-NCR

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, NOV. 1

The Delhi government on Friday decided to shut all schools till November 5 after a Supreme Court mandated panel declared a public health emergency in the Delhi-NCR region in the wake of rising levels of pollution.

As the air pollution reached alarming levels, hospitals reported a surge in the number of patients suffering from respiratory and breathing complications, with doctors advising residents, especially children and the elderly, to stay indoors as much as possible.

"Patients are coming with complaints of watery eyes, cough, breathing difficulty, allergy, exacerbation of asthma, and chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases (COPD)," AIIMS director Randeep Guleria said, adding that children and those above the age of 60 are the worst affected when pollution levels are high.

Besides affecting the lungs, high levels of pollutants in the atmosphere cause inflammation in blood vessels and may lead to hardening of arteries, which can act as a trigger for stroke or heart attack in persons already at risk of the disease, Dr Guleria explained.

In a tweet, chief minister Arvind Kejriwal said that Delhi has turned into a "gas chamber" due to smoke arising out of crop burning in Punjab and Haryana.

He said that the Manohar Lal Khattar government and Captain Amrinder Singh government were forcing their farmers to indulge in stubble burning causing spike in pollution in the national capital.



Students go to school wearing masks to get protection from air pollution in New Delhi on Friday.

Stubble burning in the neighbouring states has been one of the major contributors to pollution in the national capital. On Thursday, stubble-burning in Punjab and Haryana contributed to 27 per cent pollution in Delhi while on Wednesday the contribution was recorded at 35 per cent, the highest so far.

Mr Kejriwal also distributed masks to school children as part of the government's initiative to protect them from pollution and also explained the children about stubble burning.

He told students that smoke emanating from stubble burning in Punjab and Haryana was causing air pollution here and asked them to write letters to the chief ministers of the two states urging them to control it.

As the pollution level in the region entered the 'severe plus' category, the

CM asks schoolchildren to write to 'Captain uncle, Khattar uncle'

New Delhi, Nov. 1: Chief minister Arvind Kejriwal on Friday told schoolchildren in the city that smoke emanating from stubble burning in Punjab and Haryana was causing air pollution here and asked them to write letters to chief ministers of the two states.

Mr Kejriwal distributed masks to schoolchildren and also explained them about stubble-burning. The Delhi government has procured 50 lakh N95

masks for distribution among children in private and government schools.

"Please write letters to Captain uncle and Khattar uncle and say, 'Please think about our health,'" he told children. He also urged Haryana CM Manohar Lal Khattar and Punjab CM Capt Amarinder Singh to think about the health of children and take steps to stop stubble-burning. —PTI

Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority (EPCA) banned construction activity till November 5 and bursting of crackers during the winter season.

"In the wake of the rising level of pollution caused by stubble burning, the Delhi government has decided to shut all schools till November 5," Mr Kejriwal tweeted in Hindi.

Goel observes 1-day fast against AAP govt's failure

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, NOV. 1

Rajya Sabha member and former Delhi BJP president Vijay Goel, on Friday, observed one-day fast against AAP government's failure to control air pollution.

He claimed that his fast against pollution was supported by Delhi BJP president Manoj Tiwari, Lok Sabha member Parvash Verma, BJP national spokesperson Shahnawaz Hussain, hundreds of RWA workers, and common people.

Mr Goel said that he is fasting because of two reasons—firstly, he is appealing to the people of Delhi to co-operate in



BJP Rajya MP Vijay Goel sits on fast in New Delhi on Friday.

reducing pollution levels and secondly to pressurise the Arvind Kejriwal government to take some action.



Noted environmentalist and social activist Chandi Prasad Bhatt being conferred Indira Gandhi Award for National Integration by Congress president Sonia Gandhi and former PM Manmohan Singh at Jawahar Bhawan auditorium in New Delhi on Friday.

No surge in auto, cab fares during Odd-Even drive

2,000 more buses, 61 extra Metro trips

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, NOV. 1

In the wake of the Odd-Even implementation in Delhi from Wednesday, chief minister Arvind Kejriwal held a review meeting with all the concerned agencies on Friday. The CM was apprised of several details such as the actions to be taken on violators as well as other preventive measures by the concerned departments.

Mr Kejriwal was informed that this year, four departments will be authorised to levy challans or fines on the violators. The SDMs and tehsildars from the revenue department, the traffic police, the transport department, and assistant traffic inspector teams will be able to levy fines on the violators. The violations will be booked under the Motor Vehicles Act, compoundable with a fine of ₹4000, which was ₹2000 in the earlier two editions of the scheme.

The Delhi transport department has taken several steps this year to ensure safe and convenient travel for the people during the implementation of the Odd-Even scheme. They have issued advisories to companies such as Ola and Uber to not surge prices and to TSRs and e-rickshaws to avoid over-charging. The government will also deploy civil defence volunteers on major intersections in Delhi with placards informing people of the Odd-Even rule and urging them to follow it.

The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation will conduct 61 additional trips and a

Delhi govt employees to have staggered work hrs

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, NOV. 1

The Delhi government on Friday decided to stagger working hours of its offices during the implementation of the 12-day Odd-Even scheme, a move aimed at reducing traffic congestion and pollution in the city.

However, private offices in the national capital will not come under the government order, with chief minister Arvind Kejriwal saying this is the first experiment of staggered office timings, but next time the AAP dispensation will consider the same for them.

"This is the first experiment of staggered office timings. Private offices are not included but next

time we will consider staggered timing for them also," Mr Kejriwal said at a press conference here.

A senior official said that on an average, around 75 per cent government offices open at 9.30 am and close at 6 pm, while the rest of the offices such as health and education open at 9 am.

According to an order issued by the general administration department, working hours of a total of 42 government offices have been staggered, with 21 having office timings from 10.30 pm to 7 pm and the rest from 9.30 am to 6 pm.

The order said the new office timings will be only applicable during the Odd-Even scheme from November 4-15.

total of 5100 trips through 294 trains and will display electronic messages on the Odd-Even scheme at various Metro stations. To ensure smooth functioning of all the Metro lines and trains, 35 teams will be deployed at all the major Metro stations. Additional manpower will also be deployed to manage the ticketing system due to the increasing inflow of people during the Odd-Even implementation.

The most significant measure, however, has been taken by the Delhi Transport Corporation, in which 2000 additional buses will be engaged for public commuting. The number of buses deployed has been increased by 1500 from the last Odd-Even implementation, where it was 500 buses in 2017. All cluster buses will

also be deployed along with the entire fleet of DTC buses.

Around 300 traffic inspectors and assistant traffic inspectors will be deployed in two shifts during the Odd-Even drive.

A special training programme was conducted for TI, ATI and revenue department officials of Delhi.

Transport Corporation from 30th to 31st October as directed by Delhi transport minister Kailash Gehlot. The challan books, receipts books, and guidelines have been issued to the DTC officials during the training programme.

The training program for the induction of ATIs/TIs of DTC was also held on Friday at the Delhi Secretariat Auditorium from 10:30 AM to 12:00 PM.

Unattended bag creates panic at IGI, later claimed by passenger

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, NOV. 1

An unattended bag triggered panic on Friday at the Delhi airport on the suspicion of containing RDX, but officials later said it has been claimed by a passenger who had forgotten it outside the Terminal-3.

It is almost certain that the bag does not have the explosive, they said.

Shahid Hussain contacted airport authorities after over 16 hours of allegedly losing his bag. He said he had forgotten it outside the Indira Gandhi International Airport's Terminal-3 after he arrived from Mumbai on a SpiceJet plane, sources said.

The man, the sources

► Preliminary inputs suggested the contents of the bag could be RDX, the sources said. It was checked by an explosive detector and a sniffer dog.

said, told a joint investigation team of security officials that the bag contained a laptop, among other items. He was taken to the isolated area where the black coloured trolley bag was kept inside a total containment vessel (TCV) or a thick metal sheeted bomb defusing container.

The entire security paraphernalia at the sensitive airport went into a tizzy after initial inputs suggest-

ed that the bag could be holding RDX. What added to the suspicion was that the place where the bag was spotted was in a "dark zone" outside the arrival terminal, where there is little CCTV coverage.

The bag was detected around 1 am by a Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) staffer.

"The bag was removed with the help of the CISF and shifted to another place. It has not been opened yet. It seems like there are some electric wires inside it. We have increased the security of the airport premises," Sanjay Bhatia, DCP (airport), said.

Preliminary inputs suggested the contents of the bag could be RDX, the sources said.

2 Uber drivers held for robbing passengers

Noida, Nov. 1: Two Uber drivers and an AIIMS technician were among 10 people held for assaulting and robbing passengers in Noida and Greater Noida on the pretext of offering them a ride, police said on Friday.

The 10 accused are part of the three gangs involved in over 100 such cases in the region and were held by officials from the Site 5 police station, they said.

All the accused though from different gangs were known to each other and would pickup target passengers from places like Sector 37, Pari Chowk, Mahamaya Flyover—major junctions for public hailing transportation,

early in the mornings or late at night, a senior officer said.

"All 10, including two Uber drivers and one former Uber driver and a technician working on ad-hoc at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in Delhi, were currently staying in Gejha village under Sector 49 police station area," Senior Superintendent of Police, Gautam Buddh Nagar, Vaibhav Krishna said.

"Probe findings indicate their involvement in over 100 such cases—one of the biggest—in which they have offered rides to people, then assaulted and robbed them off cash, valuables, credit/debit cards,

► The 10 accused are part of the three gangs involved in over 100 such cases in the region and were held by officials from the Site 5 police station

mobile phones, 18 of these cases that took place recently have been worked out with their arrest," he told reporters.

Nearly two dozen mobile phones, two illegal firearms along with ammunition were recovered from their possession and their two hatchbacks with three separate number plates,

which were used by them during crime, impounded, Krishna said.

Those held have been identified as Chandrakesh Yadav, Bhagirath Yadav, Suresh Yadav, Kuldeep, Shashikant Singh, Suraj Singh, Sonu Gautam, Badal Singh, Janardan and Sonu Jatav, police said.

The district police chief also rewarded the Site 5 police station team with ₹25,000 cash for working out this case. Noida Police also appealed to the people to be cautious while hitching rides on unverified cabs, and opt only for taxis that they have booked themselves and match the details before a ride.

—PTI



Cleared

New Zealand captain Kane Williamson's bowling action was given the stamp of approval by the ICC after he was reported during the first Test against Sri Lanka in August

Cricket

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Air of uncertainty

India eager to play in Delhi despite growing concerns over air pollution

New Delhi, Nov. 1: India captain Rohit Sharma on Friday assured BCCI boss Sourav Ganguly that his team are ready to play Sunday's T20 International against Bangladesh despite growing concerns about severe air pollution in the National Capital Region. While the Bangladeshi players wore anti-pollution masks during the fielding session in the morning, there was no such concerns for the Indian team as they trained in the afternoon. "The BCCI president called the team to check on its well being. Sourav Ganguly had a discussion with stand-in skipper Rohit Sharma on how the team is coping up with the situa-

tion. Indian captain has confirmed that the team was fine and had a full outdoor training session without any issue," a BCCI source said.

Meanwhile, the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has advised the Delhi and Districts Cricket Association (DDCA) to "wash trees inside the Feroz Shah Kotla premises" and "track polluting items within its 2 km radius" ahead of the game.

Rohit survives scare Rohit, who was hit on his left abdomen during a net session, has been declared "fit and available" for the first T20. Rohit received the blow early into the net session while taking throw-downs. After a few throw-downs, one sharp delivery hit Rohit on the inside region of left thigh. — PTI



Bangladesh coaches Daniel Vettori (left) and Russell Domingo wear masks during a training session in New Delhi on Friday. — AFP

Bangladesh coach says no one will die

New Delhi, Nov. 1: The prevailing smoggy conditions in the national capital are not perfect, admitted Bangladesh coach Russell Domingo but said "no one is dying" as pollution is an issue in their country as well.

Domingo said getting exposed to poor quality air in India was not as big a shock for them as it is for some other countries. Bangladesh players Al Amin, Abu Hider Rony and team's spin consultant Daniel Vettori were seen wearing masks during their

Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority to declare a public health emergency. The Supreme Court mandated panel also banned the bursting of crackers during the winter season apart from banning the construction activity till November 5.

On Thursday, Bangladesh batsman Liton Das briefly wore the mask during practice session but later said it was due to a personal health issue and not because of pollution. Domingo admitted that the situation is not ideal and it's same for both teams.

"There's no breeze but obviously not perfect weather with the smog. But it same for both teams. Not perfect, not ideal but you can't complaint about and get on with the game," the coach said.

When India's batting coach Vikram Rathour's response was sought on prevailing conditions, he said, "You are asking the wrong person. I have played all my cricket in North India (Punjab and Himachal Pradesh). Basically nothing special. There is pollution but a game has been scheduled and we have to play."

BCCI president Sourav Ganguly made it clear on Thursday that match will not be cancelled at the last minute but promised practical scheduling in future, hinting that North India venues may not be considered for matches post Diwali.

Shakib episode will affect Bangla: Domingo

Domingo expects the recent ban on Shakib Al Hasan to affect the team's performance against India but is hopeful that his players will step up to the challenge against the formidable hosts.

"He has been a big player for Bangladesh and is close friends with a lot of players. Obviously he has made a mistake and he is paying the price for it," Domingo said. — PTI



Rohit Sharma during a training session in New Delhi on Friday. — AFP

We need to identify core of players for T20 WC: Rathour

New Delhi, Nov. 1: Getting the core of players right without too much tinkering will be India's priority going into the 2020 T20 World Cup, batting coach Vikram Rathour said here on Friday.

India will start their three-match T20 campaign against Bangladesh here on Sunday with an aim to test young players like Shivam Dube and Sanju Samson. Rathour

said that experiments can happen but he is not in favour of frequent chop and change.

"You can't be changing too much as well. I agree. But a big tournament is coming so we need to know the core of our team and we need to maintain that core," Rathour said during the media conference.

"And in between, try out new players who are com-

ing through. If they work out good for our combination, it will work for our team," said Rathour.

The former India opener said that winning matches while batting first is one area the team needs to improve on. "In the last series, we deliberately batted first in one game which we lost. That's one are we need to work on." — PTI



You can't be changing too much as well. I agree. But a big tournament is coming so we need to know the core of our team and we need to maintain that core.

—VIKRAM RATHOUR, India batting coach

fielding session this morning.

"We know the Sri Lankans struggled last time and look there's a bit of pollution in Bangladesh as well, so it's a not a massive shock unlike some other countries. The players have just got on with the game and haven't complained too much about it," Domingo told reporters.

As the situation got better, the players removed their masks, except Vettori and other non-Bangladeshi support staff. "It's only three hours so it's going to be easy. There maybe scratchy eyes, sore throat but that's ok. No one is dying," Domingo added.

The pollution levels in the Delhi-NCR region entered the "severe plus" category on Friday, propelling the Environment

England draw first blood in NZ T20

Christchurch: A maiden half century from James Vince powered England to a convincing seven-wicket victory over New Zealand in the opening Twenty20 international in Christchurch on Friday. Vince top-scored for the tourists with 59 as England chased down New Zealand's 154-run target in 18.3 overs to take a 1-0 lead in the five-match series. While Vince's man-of-the-match performance caught the eye, captain Eoin Morgan was also full of praise for his bowlers, who laid the platform for victory by restricting the Black Caps to 153 for five. "The game was won and lost in the first innings... James Vince played outstanding well but all credit to the bowlers today," he said. A three-wicket haul from spinner Mitchell Santner was not enough to rescue the Black Caps, whose batting line-up failed to fire after Morgan won the toss and sent them in. England's win came despite the absence of several senior players, who have been rested for the series after a gruelling period that saw them win the World Cup and fail to reclaim the Ashes. — AFP



Australia celebrate after winning the three-match Twenty20 series against Sri Lanka on Friday. — AFP

Warner leads Australia to T20 clean-sweep over Sri Lanka

Melbourne, Nov. 1: Australia cruised past Sri Lanka to clean-sweep their three-match Twenty20 series Friday, with an inform David Warner grinding out a third successive half-century in the seven wicket win.

The home team have been dominant throughout, winning by 134 runs in Adelaide and by nine wickets with seven overs to spare in Brisbane ahead of

the clash in Melbourne.

Sri Lanka's batting had been insipid until now, but they finally posted a competitive score of 142 for six, with Kusal Perera hitting 57.

However their bowlers, led by Lasith Malinga, have been no match for a quality Australian batting line-up, spearheaded by Warner who has now scored 217 in three innings without losing his wicket.

"The way the bowlers set it up for us over the last two games, it was outstanding," said captain Aaron Finch. — AFP

Brief scores: Sri Lanka 142/6 in 20 overs (K. Perera 57; Starc 2/32, Richardson 2/25, Cummins 2/23) lost to Australia 145/3 in 17.4 overs (A. Finch 37, D. Warner 57 not out; Malinga 1/22, Kumara 1/49, Pradeep 1/20).

DEODHAR TROPHY

Agarwal, Gill hit tons as India 'C' storm into final

Ranchi, Nov. 1: Openers Shubman Gill and Mayank Agarwal smashed spectacular hundreds before Jalaj Saxena took a career-best seven-wicket haul, steering India 'C' into the final of the Deodhar Trophy with a massive 232-run win over India 'A', here on Friday.

India 'C' skipper Gill (143 off 142) and Test opener Agarwal (120 off 111) shared a 226-run stand before a special knock from Suryakumar Yadav (72 not out off 29) propelled the team to 366 for three in 50 overs.

India 'A' were never in the chase and off-spinner Saxena (7/41) ran through their batting line-up with a memorable spell.

It was India A's second successive defeat in as many days, knocking them out of the tournament. India 'C' and India 'B', who beat India 'A' on Thursday, will play the final here on Monday.

Before the title clash,

they meet each other in the final league game on Saturday.

India 'C' effectively batted Hanuma Vihari-led India 'A' out of the game with Agarwal and Gill piling up the runs.

Gill, who was part of the India Test squad for the home series against South Africa but did not get a game, hammered as many as half a dozen sixes besides 10 fours on way to his highest score in List A cricket.

Agarwal carried his stellar form in Test cricket into the 50-over format, collecting 15 fours and a six.

Following the openers' double century stand, Suryakumar got into the act and showed why he is considered as a dangerous white-ball batsman. — PTI

Pujara says adapting to pink ball is a challenge in D/N Test

Kolkata, Nov. 1: Cheteshwar Pujara can't wait for India's first ever Day/Night Test despite all the talk of it being a challenge as he is confident that the country's formidable batting line-up will have no trouble adapting to the pink ball.

The prolific batsman topped the run charts (453) with two daddy hundreds, including a 256 not out for India Blue in the Duleep Trophy more than three years back when pink ball was experimented with for the first time by the Sourav Ganguly-led BCCI technical committee.

Now, after taking over as the BCCI president, Ganguly has convinced the Bangladesh Cricket Board and both the countries will play their maiden pink ball Test at Eden Gardens from November 22-26.

"It's going to be exciting...What we played was a first-class match, this is going to be a Test match.

I'm sure all the players are excited about it," the Indian Test No.3 said.

Pujara said pink ball could pose some problems during the twilight period. "In the twilight period, I feel that maybe, sighting the ball could be a little challenging. But the more you play, you get used to it. It's always about experience and knowing how the ball is behaving," he said.

Pujara had complained about sighting the ball under lights in the 2016-17 season but he claims to be better-prepared now. "The more we play, the more we gain experience of how to tackle the ball. I don't think it will require a huge change to shift from red ball to pink ball. The reason is it's the same format. We are still playing a five-day match," the 31-year-old said.

"Yes, under lights, it will be different. But it's about getting used to the pink ball. That's what I feel. Rest, I don't think will be a major difference." — PTI



Cheteshwar Pujara



Leader

World number two Rory McIlroy closed his day with a crucial eagle to cap a see-saw round and move to within one shot of the half-way lead at the WGC-HSBC Champions in Shanghai

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We have been knocked out of a Cup that I wanted to win, the players too. It is shameful.

— Marseille coach Andre Villas-Boas on French League Cup

SHORT TAKES

Games marathon to be moved

Tokyo: The 2020 Olympic marathon and race-walking will be moved to northern Japan over heat concerns, officials said Friday, after Tokyo's governor offered her reluctant support. The International Olympic Committee's plan had caught Tokyo and 2020 organisers by surprise, with Governor Yuriko Koike repeatedly expressing her opposition. But on Friday, she said the city would not stand in the way. "We cannot agree with the IOC but we will not obstruct the decision made by the IOC, which has the final decision-making authority," she said at a meeting with Olympic officials and organisers. "In other words, this is a decision without an agreement." The IOC announced last month that it wanted to move the events north to Sapporo, citing concerns about the hot and humid conditions of the Tokyo summer. John Coates, head of the IOC's coordination commission, welcomed Koike's statement as well as assent from Japan's Olympic minister and organisers. "I think then it's clear we do have an acceptance of this proposal," he said. — AFP

Jorge faces Nate in UFC fight night

New York: After the action-packed weekend in Singapore where Maia proved everyone wrong and giving Askren the second humiliating defeat of his career, UFC is all set to host one of the best events of the year. It will be a dream come true for all MMA enthusiasts to finally witness Jorge Masvidal and Nate Diaz face each other in the cage at the Madison Square Garden this weekend for the main event under the Welterweight category. To add to the electrifying main event, the co-main event will showcase Middleweight division contenders Kelvin Gastelum and Darren Till who are all set to punch and grapple their path to the top of the Middleweight division. Live on TV: UFC 244 featuring Jorge Masvidal vs Nate Diaz, from 7.30 am (Sunday) on Sony TEN 2, HD. — Agencies

NZ CAPTAIN READ BOWS OUT IN STYLE

Tokyo: Kieran Read did not want a World Cup third-place play-off to be his last Test but you would never have known it from the way the New Zealand captain played during the All Blacks' 40-17 win over Wales in Tokyo on Friday. The number eight had hoped his 127th international, his final match before he quits Tests and continues his club career in Japan, would have seen him leading New Zealand to a third successive World Cup title. Last week's stunning 19-7 semi-final loss to England, however, put paid to that ambition. Instead the 34-year-old Read, a double world champion, found himself leading his country in a match often labelled as the fixture no one wants to play in but which, in this case, preserved NZ's 66-year unbeaten run against Wales. And yet from his passionate display in the traditional pre-match haka, or the fact he was the last man up from the bottom of the opening ruck, it was clear this was business as usual for Read, whose 52 Tests as captain are second only to that of former teammate Richie McCaw's 110. "Immensely proud," Read told broadcasters immediately after the match. "Just awesome to pull on the jersey again. The guys really appreciate what it means to be an All Black," he added after a victory that saw him end his Test career with an astonishing win rate of more than 84 percent. Read's 11 years as an international have also seen him emerge as one of the finest ball-handling back-row forwards of his generation. — AFP

PELICANS ROAR

New Orleans beat Nuggets for first victory of season

New Orleans, Nov. 1: The New Orleans Pelicans' matchup against Nikola Jokic and the Denver Nuggets looked troublesome on paper, yet a stunning performance by Jahlil Okafor lifted the Pelicans to their first win of the young season. Okafor scored 26 points, Brandon Ingram added 25 and the Pelicans beat the Nuggets 122-107 on Thursday night as New Orleans claimed its first victory in five games. The Pelicans' defensive performance - particularly against Jokic, the reigning first-team All-NBA center - helped them end their early-season struggles in which they allowed at least 123 points in each of the first four games. "More so than anything, I thought we were locked in defensively," New Orleans coach Alvin Gentry said. "I thought we did a really good job, especially on Jokic." Jokic finished with 13 points, six assists and six rebounds for a Nuggets team that has now lost two straight after a 3-0 start. "I thought our starting group struggled; I thought they were low energy," Nuggets coach Mike Malone said. "We were lucky to be down by four at halftime, and they come out and punch us in the mouth to start that third quarter. I thought tonight was a disappointing, embarrassing effort." Okafor scored 20 points in the second half, and the fifth-year center went to the free-throw line a career-high 13 times, making 10. Ingram has scored at least 22 points in each of his first five games for New Orleans after coming over from the LA Lakers. The Pelicans led the final three quarters. They made four of their first five shots in the third quarter to take a 10-point lead, and Denver struggled to recover. New Orleans' best defensive performance of the season came after a listless wire-to-wire loss to the Golden State Warriors. "We got killed the other day in film after that bad performance against Golden State, but it was necessary," Okafor said. "It was much needed, and we were able to fix the things that we talked about." Jrue Holiday added 19 points and seven assists after missing the previous two games because of a sprained left knee sprain. Frank Jackson had 21 points on 8-of-10 shooting, and Gentry said Jackson's improvement is a related to his offseason workouts with Holiday.



New Orleans Pelicans center Jahlil Okafor (right) goes to the basket past Denver Nuggets center Nikola Jokic during the second half of an NBA game in New Orleans on Thursday. — AP

Milan, Nov. 1: It is early days in Inter Milan's pursuit of perennial Serie A pacesetters Juventus, but already the chasers are worrying about flagging. Inter travel to Bologna on Saturday in the 11th round and can briefly overhaul Juventus ahead of the Turin derby later in the day. Third-place Atalanta face in-form Cagliari on Sunday. Roma, in fourth, open the weekend against Napoli. The top two flip-flopped in midweek. Inter won 2-1 at Brescia on Tuesday. Juventus, playing with 10 men, regained a one-point lead when Cristiano Ronaldo converted a 90th-minute penalty at home to only once in 12 appearances for Dortmund prior to Wednesday night. With pressure mounting on coach Lucien Favre, and a mounting injury list, Brandt said the win was just the tonic Dortmund needed. "These games, these difficult games, give you a lot of confidence," said Brandt. "We are a young team, and we definitely have a lot to learn. We don't do everything right, but if you can manage to win despite these difficulties, it's like a balm for the soul. "And if you win, the pressure will of course subside." Brandt himself had come in for stinging criticism after his performance in the Champions League against Inter Milan the previous week. — AFP

EUROPEAN FOOTBALL

Dortmund hope for turnaround

Berlin, Nov. 1: Borussia Dortmund attacking midfielder Julian Brandt says he hopes his side's 2-1 midweek win over Borussia Muenchengladbach in the German Cup will mark a turning point in the season. Borussia Dortmund host fourth-placed Wolfsburg at Signal Iduna Park on Saturday. While some had the black and yellows as favourite to win the Bundesliga after an aggressive off-season recruitment effort, Dortmund sit in fifth place after nine rounds, with four wins, four draws and a loss. New recruit Brandt scored two goals in three minutes in the second half of the German Cup tie, a welcome return to form for a player who had scored

Busy Inter have chance to overtake Juventus

Milan, Nov. 1: It is early days in Inter Milan's pursuit of perennial Serie A pacesetters Juventus, but already the chasers are worrying about flagging. Inter travel to Bologna on Saturday in the 11th round and can briefly overhaul Juventus ahead of the Turin derby later in the day. Third-place Atalanta face in-form Cagliari on Sunday. Roma, in fourth, open the weekend against Napoli. The top two flip-flopped in midweek. Inter won 2-1 at Brescia on Tuesday. Juventus, playing with 10 men, regained a one-point lead when Cristiano Ronaldo converted a 90th-minute penalty at home to

Live on TV
SERIE A
Roma v Napoli 7.30 pm on SONY TEN 2 & HD
Bologna v Inter Milan 10.30 pm on SONY TEN 2 & HD
Torino v Juventus 01: 15 am (Sunday) SONY TEN 2 & HD

Genoa on Wednesday. After the victory at Brescia, Inter manager Antonio Conte, always a glass-half-empty type, complained that his squad is being asked to do too much. "It becomes difficult to

talk about the game because we've now played our fourth match in nine days with the same players," he said. "We now have to recover because we're only halfway there. I haven't seen any other side having to play seven matches in 20 days. Next up it's Bologna on Saturday and then we've got a Tuesday fixture away to Dortmund." Meanwhile Juventus' weekend opponents are in some disarray. Walter Mazzarri, the Torino manager, received the dreaded vote of confidence ahead of the Turin derby. Torino lost 4-0 at Lazio on Wednesday. Torino president Urbano Cairo was not happy. — AFP

TENNIS ROUND-UP

Nadal eases past Stan, Novak wins

Paris, Nov. 1: Rafael Nadal and Novak Djokovic continued their battle for the year-end world number one ranking as both players reached the Paris Masters quarter-finals with wins over Stan Wawrinka and Kyle Edmund respectively. The 33-year-old Nadal is already guaranteed to usurp Djokovic at the rankings summit next week, but winning a maiden Bercy title would also secure the year-end top spot before next month's ATP Tour Finals in London. He produced an impressive display on Thursday to take his career head-to-head record against three-time Grand Slam champion Wawrinka to 19-3 with a clinical 6-4, 6-4 victory. Djokovic had earlier booked his last-eight place with a 7-6 (9/7), 6-1 win over Britain's Edmund. Nadal has never won the Paris Masters or the ATP Finals and only two of his 84 titles have come indoors. "That's the beautiful

thing about this sport, (to) have the capacity to adapt yourself to the different conditions," said the 12-time French Open winner, who called the doctor onto the court in the second set to help deal with a stomach problem. Nadal will face 2008 champion Jo-Wilfried Tsonga in the quarter-finals after the French wildcard saved two match points to edge out Germany's Jan-Lennard Struff 2-6, 6-4, 7-6 (8/6). Djokovic v Tsitsipas Top seed Djokovic needed seven set points in the first set before beating Edmund with relative comfort by racing through the second to make his eighth quarter-final in the tournament. The 16-time Grand Slam title-winner is chasing a record-extending fifth Bercy crown and will next face world number seven Stefanos Tsitsipas, who beat Alex de Minaur 6-3, 6-4. The 21-year-old Tsitsipas leads his head-to-head with Djokovic 2-1. — AFP



Spain's Rafael Nadal reacts after defeating 6-4, 6-4 Swiss Stan Wawrinka in the Paris Masters on Thursday. — AP

Tennis Australia puts brave face

Sydney, Nov. 1: Tennis Australia put a brave face on Friday as Roger Federer's withdrawal from the inaugural ATP Cup, but some fans demanded refunds after paying top dollar to see him. The Swiss great, 38, announced on Thursday he was pulling out of the new men's team competition, to be held in Australia in January, citing "family reasons". He was scheduled to play in Sydney for Switzerland in the innovative 24-team tournament. Matches will also take place in Perth and Brisbane with Aus\$22 million (\$15 million) in prize money and a maximum of 750 singles and 250 doubles ATP rankings points at stake. Federer's no-show leaves a big void, although world number one Novak Djokovic and Rafael Nadal are still scheduled to take part — in Brisbane and Perth respectively. Some disgruntled fans demanded refunds on Twitter. "Very disappointing for

Fans are angry after Federer pulled out from inaugural ATP Cup in Australia Federer's no-show leaves a big void, although Djokovic, Nadal are taking part Fed fans who paid the exorbitant ticket prices for his Sydney sessions. Will @TennisAustralia@ATPC up refund them?," asked one. Another complained: "So how do we get a refund then? The prices were jacked up for Roger, and now he is not playing." Others called for a return of the Perth-based mixed-teams Hopman Cup, which routinely got rave reviews from players, including frequent visitor Federer, but was axed to make way for the ATP Cup. "Terrible decision to remove Hopman cup, the players loved the relaxing start to the Australian season," said one Twitter user. "Don't want to say I told you so... but." — AFP

VILLAS-BOAS STRUGGLING TO REVIVE HIS TEAM

Paris, Nov. 1: He has only been in charge for 12 games but the pressure is building on Andre Villas-Boas at Marseille after a disastrous week for the former European champions. Marseille were dumped out of the French League Cup at the first hurdle on Wednesday, going down 2-1 at Monaco as a potential route to silverware and European qualification was cut off. That result followed a 4-0 humbling away to Paris Saint-Germain, a loss which left OM winless in 16 Ligue 1 meetings with their greatest rivals. Villas-Boas has overseen only four wins this season and Marseille have managed only one victory in their last seven outings. They lie seventh in Ligue 1. — AFP

MOTOR RACING

F1 unveils new rules for 2021

Austin (Texas), Nov. 1: Formula One launched a radical, cut-price, slower vision of the sport when a package of new financial, sporting and technical regulations to be introduced from 2021 were unveiled. In a dramatic overhaul revealed in Austin on Thursday, the American owners of the commercial rights, Liberty Media, introduced budget caps, a new car and rules designed to develop closer and more environmentally-friendly racing. It was the first time all of the main parts of the sport and its business had been reviewed and reformed in a single three-part package that was approved by the World Motor Sport Council of the governing body, the International Motoring Federation



George Russell, Lance Stroll, Max Verstappen and Lando Norris inspect the mockup of the F1 car. — AFP

(FIA) earlier Thursday. Ahead of this weekend's United States Grand Prix Formula One's chief executive Chase Carey hailed the successful passage and publication of the package as "a watershed moment". And FIA president Jean Todt said it would signal a "major change in how the

pinnacle of motorsports would be run". The teams are to be limited to a budget of 175 million dollars per season for their on-track performance — about half of estimated current budgets for the top outfits — with new heavier and slower cars, which will continue to be powered by the cur-

rent hybrid turbo-charged engines. The season will also expand to a maximum of 25 races, a figure that is sure to alarm many in the sport. The current season has 21 races. Carey said he believed the new rules showed respect for the DNA of F1, which had been a key point of argument during the last two years of talks between the stake-holders with the richest teams preventing a more extreme set of changes. "For the first time, we have addressed the technical, sporting and financial aspects all at once," said Todt, speaking via video link. "The 2021 regulations have been a truly collaborative effort and I believe this to be a great achievement." — AFP

Mikail to drive in Asia Talent Cup

Sepang, Nov. 1: Honda 2 Wheelers India Pvt. Ltd. announced that Mohamed Mikail — the 2018 IDEMITSU Honda India Talent Huntfind and running 2019 IDEMITSU Honda India Talent Cup (NSF250R) champion has made a new record. Just two years into racing with Honda, the 15-year-old rider Mohamed Mikail from Chennai is now the first Indian rider to join the prestigious 2020 IDEMITSU Asia Talent Cup (IATC) grid. Talented Mikail was among the five young riders from India to participate in the selection for 2020 season of IATC at

Sepang circuit of Malaysia. These included 13-year-old Sarthak Shrikant Chavan from Pune, 14-year-old KavinSamaar Quintal, 15-year-old Geoffrey and 16-year-old Varoon S. from Chennai. Since its inaugural season in 2014, the IDEMITSU Asia Talent Cup is Dorna's development platform for young riders in the Asia Oceania region. One of the key objective is to ensure development of future generations of such new talented riders, who will eventually take the place of current stars of MotoGP™ and WorldSBK. — Agencies



Booted out

Strugglers Stoke City sack coach Nathan Jones only 10 months after his charge at the club



He's an incredibly important player. He enjoys it so much to play in this team, to be really there.

— Jurgen Klopp, Liverpool manager, on striker Roberto Firmino

SHORT TAKES

AIFF sign 7 MoUs with German body

New Delhi: The All India Football Federation (AIFF) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with its German counterpart, DFB, here on Friday. The signing of the agreement coincided with German Chancellor Angela Merkel's visit to India. Kushal Das, General Secretary AIFF and Friedrich Curtius, General Secretary DFB, signed the document to formalise the relationship between the two football bodies. "The MoU covers a wide range of areas pertaining to Indian football such as coach education (including grassroots), talent scouting and promotion, deployment of professional referees to India, exchange between national teams and visit of DFB all-star team (if feasible), joint marketing initiatives and sports administration via discussions on their competition management solutions," said the AIFF in a statement. "Germany are renowned for their footballing prowess, and the work done by them," Das said. — PTI

Anand urges GMs to improve ELO

Chennai: Indian chess legend and former World champion Viswanathan Anand on Thursday praised P. Iniyar, Prithu Gupta and Raunak Sadhwani, who recently became the country's 63rd, 64th and 65th grand masters respectively, and urged them to work hard to break the 2600 Elo points barrier. He was speaking at a felicitation function organised here by Microsense Private Limited, a global technology company. Hailing the individual strengths of the players, Anand spoke also about the importance of the role played by parents and institutions like Microsense. He urged the youngsters to keep working hard, improve their Elo rating and break the 2600 barrier. Anand, whose next tournament would be in Romania, said he had not yet firmed up plans for 2020 but made it known he would playing Wijk Ann Zee. — PTI

MANVIR NETS EQUALISER FOR GOA FC

Guwahati: Manvir Singh's late equaliser preserved the Gaurs' unbeaten run in season six of the Indian Super League as F.C. Goa drew 2-2 with NorthEast United at the Indira Gandhi Stadium in Sarusajai, Guwahati on Friday. Hugo Boumous and Manvir Singh scored for the Gaurs, while Asamoah Gyan and Redeem Tlang netted for the Highlanders. Len Doungel was sent off for FC Goa. Sergio Lobera made two changes to the line-up that drew 1-1 with Bengaluru FC at the Fatorda Stadium. Hugo Boumous made his first start of the season and Jackichand Singh came back into the 11 at the expense of Seimenlen Doungel and Manvir Singh. NorthEast United made two alterations to their winning combination against Odisha FC. Wayne Vaz and Panagiotis Triadis made way for Mislav Komorski and Nikhil Kadam. Asamoah Gyan led their line, aided by Kadam, Martin Chaves and Redeem Tlang. The Gaurs started at a fast pace, almost taking the lead at the start of the game. NorthEast United was able to clear their lines twice within the first minute as Coro, Boumous and Jacki combined to put the Highlander defence under early pressure. With this draw, FC Goa now have 5 points from 3 games and are in 3rd position in the table. The Gaurs face the Islanders next on November 7 at the Mumbai Football Arena in Andheri. — PTI

Liverpool resume charge

Reds look to consolidate lead at English top in game against Villa

Birmingham, Nov. 1: Liverpool resume their Premier League title charge at Aston Villa on Saturday with Jurgen Klopp hoping to avoid a repeat of the defensive mayhem that nearly wrecked their dramatic League Cup win against Arsenal.

Klopp played a reserve side for the fourth round tie on Wednesday, featuring a number of emerging stars, and saw them advance via a penalty shoot-out having twice overcome two-goal deficits to draw 5-5 in 90 minutes. Liverpool conceded as many goals in one cup game as they have all season at Anfield in the Premier League so, while it was a memorable evening, Klopp will be banking on his regular defence returning to their miserly ways at Villa Park. Klopp's system is based on defending from the front and launching a devastating press whenever the opposition are in possession.

It is an approach that carried Liverpool to Champions League glory last season and has put them in pole position to win the title this term. Klopp's high-tempo game-plan also makes the most of the abilities of Brazilian striker Roberto Firmino.

The 28-year-old has scored just three league goals in 10 appearances this season, below his normal productivity rate.

While Firmino's goal record may have come under scrutiny outside Anfield, within the club his status and reputation appears to be rising with every passing month.

Experts have described Firmino as the best player in the world at what he does: implementing Klopp's complicated, but hugely successful, tactical, pressing system.

By comparison, Xherdan Shaqiri has been with Liverpool for nearly 18 months and is still not trusted by Klopp, in big games at least, because of his inability to carry out precise and demanding instructions.

The Liverpool manager requires his forwards, when out of possession, to constantly close down angles to prevent opposition defences passing the ball forward.

GUARDIOLA'S CITY TAKE ON SOUTHAMPTON

Meanwhile, Sergio Aguero holds the key to Manchester City's bid to overhaul Premier League leaders Liverpool as the Argentine striker reaps the rewards of his "best decision of his life".

When Aguero walks onto the Etihad Stadium pitch ahead of Saturday's clash with Southampton, he will feel more at one with his surroundings than he would ever have imagined when he arrived eight years ago.

Back then, Aguero was a talented but not yet fully rounded player hoping to thrive in England after a promising start to his European career with Atletico Madrid.

The intervening years have been a dream come



Lionel Messi (centre) practices with his Argentinian teammates in this file photo.



Sergio Aguero will play a key role in Manchester City's English Premier League clash against Bournemouth on Saturday.

true for Aguero, who is now City's record goalscorer and has amassed four Premier League titles, one FA Cup and four League Cups while helping the club's become top dogs in Manchester.

Aguero marked his 350th appearance with two goals against Southampton earlier this week.

UNITED TRAVEL TO BOURNEMOUTH

Elsewhere, Manchester United, enjoying a mini-revival after their poor start, can make it four successive away wins when they visit Bournemouth.

Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's side beat Chelsea in the League Cup on Wednesday thanks to Marcus Rashford's superb free-kick and the United strik-

er feels confidence is growing in the squad.

"If you get a couple of wins back-to-back early on in the season it can change the direction the season is going," Rashford said.

"When you're winning back-to-back games, the team's confidence levels go up," the Manchester United star said.

In another match, Arsenal boss Unai Emery will be under pressure to deliver a win against Wolves after his side blew leads against Liverpool and Crystal Palace.

The Palace match was marred by Granit Xhaka's astonishing feud with Gunners fans and the fall-out continues, with Emery still deciding whether to strip him of the captaincy. — AFP

Live on TV

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

Bournemouth vs Manchester United from 6 pm

Aston Villa vs Liverpool from 8.30 pm

Arsenal vs Wolves from 8.30 pm

Manchester City vs Southampton from 8.30 pm

Watford vs Chelsea from 11 pm

All matches will be live on Star Sports Select 1 & 1 HD, Select 2 & 2HD.

Lionel back in Argentina side

Buenos Aires, Nov. 1: Lionel Messi was called up by Argentina on Thursday for friendly games against Brazil and Uruguay next month, the country's football association announced on Twitter.

Messi has not played for Argentina since he was sent off against Chile in their victorious third-place play-off match in the Copa America on July 7.

The striker was then handed a three-month suspension for comments he made after the game, in which he accused CONMEBOL, the governing body of South American football, of corruption.

In-form Manchester City forward Sergio Aguero has been recalled after missing out on the last four friendlies, while Manchester United defender Marcos Rojo remains in the squad following his surprise recall after the Copa America.

In Messi's absence, Argentina have played four friendlies, drawing against Chile (0-0) and Germany (2-2) while thrashing Mexico 4-0 and Ecuador 6-1.

They face Brazil in Saudi Arabia on November 15 and then Uruguay in Israel on November 18. Messi's ban ends on November 3.

The five-time Ballon d'Or winner has endured an injury-hit start to the season after hurting his foot

● **Five-time Ballon d'Or winner, Lionel Messi has not played for Argentina since he was sent off against Chile in their victorious third-place play-off match in the Copa America on July 7.**

in August and then his thigh in September.

But his recovery has coincided with a return to form for Barcelona, who have won their last seven consecutive games in all competitions.

Messi scored twice in a 5-1 win over Real Valladolid on Tuesday. — AFP

THE SQUAD

Goalkeepers: Agustín Marchesin, Juan Musso, Emiliano Martínez, and Esteban Andrada.

Defenders: Juan Foyth, Renzo Saravia, Nicolas Otamendi, German Pezzella, Marcos Rojo, Walter Kannemann, Nicolas Tagliafico, Nehuen Perez, and Guido Rodriguez.

Midfielders: Giovanni Lo Celso, Leandro Paredes, Nicolas Dominguez, Rodrigo de Paul, Marcos Acuna, Roberto Pereyra, and Lucas Ocampos.

Forwards: Lionel Messi, Sergio Aguero, Nicolas Gonzalez, Lucas Alario, Lautaro Martinez, and Paulo Dybala. — AFP

Battle heats up in Spain for top spot

Madrid, Nov. 1: Real Madrid's 5-0 thumping of Leganes on Wednesday was their biggest win in La Liga since his first spell as coach but Zinedine Zidane was hardly in a celebratory mood.

In the press conference after the match, one expectant journalist asked if it was Madrid's best performance of the season. "No I don't think so," Zidane said.

The fact is there are few candidates, from a campaign in which Real Madrid have produced only in spurts, flitting between commanding and chaotic even within individual matches, let alone from week-to-week.

"The problem is we have to show every three days that we are good. That is the difficulty and that is what we do not do," Zidane said earlier this month.

After 10 games, the juncture when teams can supposedly be judged, the picture is still not clear, yet there are signs, in Zidane's selection at least, that his second tenure is taking shape.

A spine has been established with the places of Thibaut Courtois, Sergio Ramos, Raphael Varane, Toni Kroos and Karim Benzema seemingly assured.

Dani Carvajal has been more reliable at right-back than the erratic Alvaro Odriozola while on the other side Ferland Mendy has yet to dislodge Marcelo, despite his 50 million arrival.

Casemiro remains the squad's only defensive midfielder and Fede Valverde has brought much-needed energy into the midfield.

Lionel Messi's mesmerising performance against Real Valladolid served as an announcement that he is fit and firing again.

Diego Simeone insists Atletico Madrid are a work in progress but their draw away at Alaves in midweek leaves them playing catch-up. — AFP



The problem is we have to show every three days that we are good. That is the difficulty and that is what we do not do.

— ZINEDINE ZIDANE

Real Madrid coach

Live on TV

SPANISH LEAGUE

Levante vs Barcelona from 8.30 pm

Sevilla vs Atletico Madrid from 11 pm

Real Madrid vs Real Betis from 12.30 am (Sunday)

India hammer USA

Bhubaneswar, Nov. 1: Indian women's hockey team took a giant leap towards Olympic qualification with a near-flawless performance to hammer USA 5-1 in the first-leg of the two-match FIH Qualifier here on Friday.

It was expected to be a tricky tie for the hosts but the women punched above their weight to simply demolish USA's challenge in front of a partisan crowd at the Kalinga Stadium.

Dragflicker Gurjit Kaur (42nd and 51st) struck brace while Lilima Minz (28th), Sharmila Devi (40th) and Navneet Kaur (46th) were the other scorers.

USA's consolation goal came from a penalty stroke converted by Erin Matson in the 54th minute.

● **Dragflicker Gurjit Kaur struck twice while Lilima Minz, Sharmila Devi and Navneet Kaur hit a goal each as India humbled USA 5-1 in their Hockey Olympic Qualifiers in Bhubaneswar.**

Ranked ninth in the world, India now need to defend their four-goal advantage in Saturday's second and final-leg to seal their Tokyo 2020 ticket.

USA got their act together with passage of time and had a clear sight of goal in the seventh minute but Alyssa Parker shot wide from top right of the striking circle with only Indian goal-

keeper Savita to beat.

India got their first scoring chance a minute into the second quarter but Sharmila Devi failed, in the far post, to get her stick on to a cross from Lahremisiani.

Sushila Chanu's shot from top of the box was saved by the American goalie but from the rebound India secured their second penalty corner.

Sushila failed to stop the push but from the ensuing move, an unmarked Lilima, stationed at the far post, tapped it in to break the deadlock.

The late goal in the second quarter seemed to have worked wonders for the Indian girls as they completely dominated the remaining minutes of the game. — PTI



Lilima Minz (left) of India celebrates with her teammates after scoring a goal during their Hockey Olympic Qualifiers against the USA at Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar on Friday. India won 5-1. — PTI