







Politics

Rural development minister Narendra Singh Tomar says more than 90% land records computerised in 23 states



A lot of processes need to be followed to do away with President's rule

— Sanjay Raut, Shiv Sena leader

SHORT TAKES

Govt avoids reply on Ratna to Savarkar

New Delhi: The government on Tuesday avoided a direct reply on whether it has taken steps to confer Bharat Ratna on Sangh Parivar ideologue Veer Savarkar but said recommendations for the country's highest civilian award are received regularly from various quarters. Union minister of state for home Nityanand Rai told Lok Sabha that no formal recommendation for giving Bharat Ratna is necessary. "Recommendations for award of Bharat Ratna is received regularly from various quarters. However, no formal recommendation for conferment of Bharat Ratna is necessary. The decisions regarding Bharat Ratna are taken from time to time," he said in a written reply.

MP MLA accuses neta of threatening

Shivpuri: A Madhya Pradesh BJP MLA has accused a Congress minister in the state of threatening him during a meeting on Monday over a suggestion to name a medical college after Mahatma Gandhi instead of late Madhavrao Scindia. State food and civil supplies minister Pradyuman Singh Tomar, however, termed the allegations of Kolaras BJP MLA Virendra Raghuvanshi as "baseless". Raghuvanshi said he had suggested that a local medical college be named after Mahatma Gandhi instead of late Congress leader Madhavrao Scindia during a meeting of the district planning committee.

Cong MLA injured in lathi-charge

Thiruvananthapuram: A Congress MLA was allegedly injured when police used lathis to disperse the party's state students wing members who tried to take a march to the Assembly on Tuesday demanding an independent probe into the alleged moderation marks scam of the Kerala university. The legislator, who was trying to pacify the students, was injured along with Kerala Students Union state president K.M. Abijit and at least 10 others when police used lathis to prevent them from moving towards the assembly. — PTI

GOOGLE DROPS APP PROMOTING SECESSION

Chandigarh: Google has removed the anti-India mobile app '2020 Sikh Referendum' from its Play Store after the Punjab government took up the matter with the IT giant, an official said on Tuesday. The app is not available anymore on Google Play Store for mobile phone users in India, a Punjab government spokesperson said. "Sikhs for Justice", a group based abroad and banned by India, has been lobbying for Punjab's secession through its "2020 Sikh Referendum" campaign. Punjab chief minister Amarinder Singh has accused Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence of being involved in the campaign. Earlier this month, he asked state government officials to approach Google and also coordinate with central government agencies to ensure that the new app is pulled out. A notice under section 79(3)B of the Information Technology Act was sent to Google on November 8, seeking removal of the app created by "ICETECH". The app asked mobile users to register themselves, in an apparent attempt to show support for secession. A government statement said a website, "yes2khalistan", was also launched for the same purpose. — PTI

Cong dominates Rajasthan civic poll

Party wins 965 out of 2,105 wards in urban local bodies, leaving BJP trailing at 736

Jaipur, Nov. 19: The ruling Congress on Tuesday secured control over 20 local government bodies out of the 49 where elections were held last week in Rajasthan, with the BJP reaching the majority mark in only six. The Congress won 965 out of the 2,105 wards in the urban local bodies, leaving the BJP trailing at 736, according to the results declared by the state election office. The Bahujan Samaj Party won 16 wards, the CPI(M) got three and the Nationalist Congress Party two in the elections held on Saturday, the first municipal polls since the

Congress came to power in the state last December. Altogether, 385 independents won in the polls conducted across 24 of Rajasthan's 33 districts. The results translated into clear majority for the Congress in 20 of the 49 ULBs. The BJP crossed the half-way mark in six urban bodies and the independents form the majority in 23. Both the Congress and the BJP claimed they could muster support from independents to control nine or 10 other municipalities, apart from the ones where they emerged as clear winners. Chief minister Ashok Gehlot said the results



Congress workers celebrate in Beawar on Tuesday after party's victory in the municipal elections. — PTI

were as expected. "It is a matter of happiness that people have given a mandate considering the performance of the government," he told reporters. Apart from 20 urban bod-

ies which went to the Congress, it claimed it is in a position to form the boards in about 10 more with the help of independent candidates. "This is a resounding victory of the Congress in the urban local bodies election. Out of 49, the Congress will form boards in about 30 municipalities," Deputy chief minister and Pradesh Congress Committee president Sachin Pilot said. "Our leaders and workers worked tirelessly for the last seven months and its result is that people have reposed their faith in the Congress," he said. — PTI

CRPF to raise 1 more unit for Gandhis' cover

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, NOV. 19

Central paramilitary force, CRPF, which has been assigned the task of protecting Congress chief Sonia Gandhi and her family following withdrawal of the Special Protection Group (SPG) cover is all set to raise a special unit for the same.

The force has also written to all states and Union Territories (UTs) about new security protocols for the Gandhi family and has sought home ministry's permission to raise another battalion for the VIP security unit.

Gandhi family's SPG security cover has been replaced with a Z-plus security to be provided by the CRPF. It has also sought permission to procure specialised armoured vehicles for the VIP which now also includes former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh.

Sources said that for the time being SPG is providing its vehicles for both Dr Singh and the Gandhi family. But eventually these will be replaced by CRPF's own armoured vehicles.

Meanwhile, in a communication route to all states and UTs through the Union home ministry, CRPF has said that since it has the advance security liaison for these VIPs, it would need support of the state police also in intelligence gathering and other security and administrative protocols before these VIPs visit there respective areas for a visit.

As per the laid down security procedures, a CRPF unit will reach the location to be visited by the VIP to co-ordinate



Sonia Gandhi, Priyanka

with the local police and administrative agencies. Officials said the concerned states are expected to cooperate in terms of providing all local logistical support to the CRPF's security team like route plans and travel maps.

Earlier, the same exercise was being conducted by the SPG. All state and UT police security divisions have been told in detailed about the 'yellow book', which details the security procedures.

In addition all 28 VVIP security bases of the CRPF across the country will also assist in this exercise. Apart from the Gandhi family, Dr Singh and his wife Gursharan Kaur, the newly procured armoured vehicles by CRPF will also be used for home minister Amit Shah who has a high threat perception too.

As of now CRPF provides security cover to about 57 VIPs. Though initially the CRPF plans to raise one battalion for additional security duties but this could be increased to two as the forces has already deployed about 700 personnel to provide cover to the Gandhis, Dr Singh and his wife. CRPF has four battalions roughly around 4,000 personnel in its special unit for VVIP security duties.

Congress-NCP meet to discuss tie-up called off

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, NOV. 19

There was no breakthrough in the Maharashtra impasse on Tuesday. A meeting with the Congress scheduled on Tuesday to further discuss the possibility of government formation in Maharashtra was called off due to pre-occupation of Congress leaders with

Indira Gandhi's birth anniversary events, NCP leader Mr Nawab Malik said. He said Congress leaders requested that the meeting be postponed to Wednesday. The two sides have deputed leaders for holding talks on a possible alliance.

Accordingly, Mallikarjun Kharge, Ahmed Patel and Congress general secretary K.C. Venugopal besides some state leaders and Praful Patel, Sunil Tatkare, Ajit Pawar, Jayant Patil of the NCP were to meet to explore the possibility of an alliance with the Shiv Sena in Maharashtra.

NCP chief Sharad Pawar had met the Congress president Sonia Gandhi for the second time on Monday. But the result remained inconclusive as both the parties had decided to meet again.

The Shiv Sena had reached out to both the parties to extend support to it. Responding to the call, the Congress had sent a three member delegation to Mumbai to first speak with its pre-poll ally, the NCP.

In the last week, the parties have been discussing over the Common Minimum Program (CMP).

Selfishness is bad: RSS chief

Nagpur, Nov. 19: In a veiled reference to the recent Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-Shiv Sena fallout over differences on government formation in Maharashtra, Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat said that both sides will face loss if they "are going to fight over a matter".

"Everybody knows that both of them will face loss if they are going to fight over a matter," he said.

"Everyone knows that selfishness is a bad thing but very few people give up their selfishness. Take the example of the country or of individuals," he added. These sharp comments from the RSS chief came while addressing an event in Nagpur on Tuesday morning.

Shiv Sena and BJP parted ways after the conflict over power-sharing. — ANI

The BJP, which won the maximum 105 seats in the 288-member House, declined to stake claim to the form government, as its alliance partner Shiv Sena (56) refused to lend support.

The Shiv Sena and the NCP (54), too, couldn't muster requisite numbers. The Uddhav Thackeray-led party reached out to the NCP and the Congress, which has 44 MLAs, for government formation after the BJP refused to accept its demand for sharing the chief minister's post.

Naidu orders review of new uniform of marshals

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, NOV. 19

Facing criticism from some quarters over the new "military uniform" of the Rajya Sabha marshals, Chairman M. Venkaiah Naidu on Tuesday informed the Upper House that the Secretariat has been asked to revisit the change in uniform.

The first day of the winter session of Parliament, which also happened to be the 250th session of the Upper House, marshals, who assist the Chair during proceedings, were seen in a new blue uniform instead of the safari suit or bandgalas and the turban.

"...The Secretariat of the Rajya Sabha, after considering the various suggestions, have come out with a new dress code for the marshals. But, we have received some observations by some political as well as some well-mean-



A marshal in the new uniform at Parliament during its ongoing Winter Session in New Delhi on Tuesday. — PTI

ing people. So, I have decided to ask the secretariat to revisit the same, and then take a conclusive decision," informed Mr Naidu. Other than assisting the Chair, two march ahead of the Chairman to announce the commencement of proceedings and

Former Army officers criticised the new uniforms for marshals, terming copying and wearing of military uniforms by non-military personnel is illegal

also assist the Chair in organising the desk and bringing up order papers. Congress leader Jairam Ramesh had sought to raise a point on the marshals' new uniform on the first day but was not allowed by the Chair as the House was taking up obituary resolutions.

The Congress leader however, continued speaking on the issue and insisted that there has been "a very significant change" in their attire. Some former Army officers have also criticised the new uniforms for marshals, terming them as illegal.

Parl passes Jallianwala Bagh Bill

Paves way for ouster of Cong prez as permanent member of trust

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, NOV. 19

Parliament on Tuesday passed the Jallianwala Bagh National Memorial (Amendment) Bill, 2019, which seeks to remove the Congress president as the permanent member of the Trust running the national memorial in Amritsar.

Rejecting the arguments of the Congress against the bill and also its request to withdraw the bill, which was passed by the Lok Sabha during the last budget session, the government and the treasury benches reminded the Opposition party that

India got its independence not because of the effort of any one particular political party but because of the efforts and sacrifices made by its people.

The Rajya Sabha passed the bill with a voice vote. The government asserted that the bill would end the political colour, which the trust earlier had.

Congress's Pratap Singh Bajwa, who initiated the discussion in the Upper House after culture and tourism minister Prahlad Patel moved the bill, called the amendments in the bill as "cynical" and said no one can undermine the history of the

The government asserted that the bill would end the political colour, which the trust had.

Congress with the Jallianwala Bagh or the Independence movement.

He also demanded that the country's highest civilian award, Bharat Ratna, for revolutionary freedom fighter Bhagat Singh. The Congress member said PM Narendra Modi on the 250th session of the Upper House wanted Opposition to show large heartedness and it is the time that the government shows "mag-

nanimity" and recognise the Congress party's contribution to the freedom struggle.

The Jallianwala Bagh massacre occurred on April 13, 1919 when about 1,500 people gathered at the garden to oppose the Rowlatt Act were indiscriminately fired upon at the orders of military officer General E.H. Dyer.

Calling the massacre as the "black chapter", TMC's Sukhendu Sekhar Ray urged the government to not concentrate on removing people from the Trust but to include martyrs' family members in the Trust.



Tapir Gao

MP: Don't allow next Doklam in Arunachal

New Delhi, Nov. 19: Please don't allow the next Doklam in Arunachal Pradesh as China has encroached more than 50 km of land of the state, BJP member Tapir Gao claimed in Lok Sabha on Tuesday.

Whenever the president, prime minister, defence minister or home minister visits the state, objections are raised by China, he said raising the issue during Zero Hour.

He said China raised objections by conducting an official press conference when defence minister Rajnath Singh visited Tawang area of the state on November 14, 2019. "I request the House and media to voice protest against this," he said.

"If a repeat of Doklam takes place, it will happen in Arunachal Pradesh because China has encroached 50-60 km of the state," he claimed. Troops of India and China were locked in a 73-day stand-off in Doklam near Sikkim last year after the Indian side stopped the building of a road in the disputed area by the Chinese Army.

Indian troops intervened to stop the road as it posed a security risk to Chicken Neck, the narrow corridor connecting India with its north-eastern states. The standoff ended on August 28, 2017 following a mutual agreement under which China stopped the construction of the road and India withdrew its troops. —PTI

INSIDE INDIA

Only 10 agencies authorised to tap phones, LS told

New Delhi, Nov. 19: The CBI, the ED and the Intelligence Bureau are among 10 central agencies upon which the power of telephone interception is vested and they have to take the Union home secretary's approval before putting anyone on surveillance, the Lok Sabha was informed on Tuesday.

Union minister of state for home G. Kishan Reddy said that Section 69 of the Information Technology Act, 2000, empowers the central government or a state government to intercept, monitor or decrypt or cause to be intercepted or monitored or decrypted, any information generated, transmitted, received or stored in any computer resource in the interest of the sovereignty or integrity of the country.

"This power of interception is to be executed as per the provisions of law, rules and SoPs. Such case is approved by the Union home secretary in case of central government and by the home secretary of the state concerned in case of the state government," he said in a written reply to a question. — PTI



BJP MP Sunny Deol with MoS parliamentary affairs Arjun Singh Meghwal arrives for the BJP parliamentary party meeting in New Delhi on Tuesday. —PRITAM BANDYOPADHYAY

'Relax 5-yr marriage norm in surrogacy bill'

New Delhi, Nov. 19: Cutting across party lines, Rajya Sabha members on Tuesday demanded relaxation of conditions in the surrogacy bill like close relative being a surrogate and five years of marriage for commissioning parents.

The Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill 2019, which seeks to ban commercial surrogacy, was passed by the Lok Sabha in the Monsoon Session

and was moved for consideration and passage in the Rajya Sabha by health minister Harsh Vardhan earlier in the day.

During the debate on the bill, some of the members sought its review as over a dozen major recommendations by a standing committee were incorporated in the draft law.

Participating in the debate, BJP leader Suresh Prabhu made a

Birla takes note of Rahul absence

New Delhi, Nov. 19: Taking note of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's absence from the House, Lok Sabha speaker Om Birla on Tuesday said he had wanted to give Mr Gandhi a chance during Question Hour.

"Rahul's question was listed for the Question Hour and I wanted to give him a chance had he been present," Mr Birla remarked when K. Suresh got up to speak during Zero Hour from Gandhi's seat.

The speaker asked Suresh to move to his designated seat and continue. As per the LSa schedule, question number 28 was listed against the name of Gandhi. —PTI

case for sending the bill again to the standing committee.

"(Not having) Indian citizenship should not deprive, people of having surrogacy... because there could be cases where an Indian woman or man married to a foreign citizen not residing in India," he said.

The bill provides that the commissioning parents or the couple must be Indian citizens. — PTI

Akali leader in Punjab shot dead, legs chopped off

'No political motive behind killing'

Batala (Punjab), Nov. 19:

A local Shiromani Akali Dal leader was allegedly shot dead and then his legs were chopped off following an altercation with his neighbour in Punjab's Gurdaspur district, police said on Tuesday. Batala Senior Superintendent of Police Opinderjit Singh Ghuman ruled out any political motive behind the killing of Dalbir Singh Dhilwan, 51, who was the vice president of the Gurdaspur unit of the SAD and also a two-time village head.

The incident occurred in Dera Baba Nanak area on Monday evening, police said. Dalbir Singh and his neighbour, Balwinder Singh, had earlier entered into a verbal spat over the hiring of a servant. A compromise was reached between both of them with the help of villagers on Monday, the SSP said.

But when Dalbir Singh and his son was having a walk on the outskirts of the village on Monday

One of the accuseds pumped six bullets into Dalbir Singh and chopped off his legs with a sharp-edged weapon.

evening, Balwinder Singh's two sons, Major Singh (25) and Mandeep Singh (24), waylaid the man, according to the police.

One of them pumped six bullets into Dalbir Singh. Then Balwinder Singh chopped off the victim's legs with a sharp-edged weapon, police said. Dalbir Singh was taken to a hospital, where he was declared brought dead, police said.

A case has been registered against three accused and six unidentified persons under Section 302 (murder) and other relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code and the Arms Act, the SSP said. The accused are absconding and several teams have been formed to trace them, the police said. —PTI





## Political engagement

Political engagement should resume in J-K sooner than later, says BJP leader Ram Madhav



The Union government has funded the development of Bihar in all the sectors

— Nikhil Anand, Bihar BJP leader

## SHORT TAKES

### Aussie thrashed by K'nataka villagers

**Bengaluru:** An Australian national was thrashed by villagers near Badami in Bagalkot district for allegedly misbehaving with a local woman, police said. The tourist, aged about 35, was allegedly in an intoxicated state when he was found misbehaving with women at Konkankoppa village on Monday night, they said. The villagers have then thrashed him by tying him to an electricity post, the police said. The foreigner W.K. James from Melbourne is currently undergoing treatment at a private hospital. He was said to be on a visit to Badami, a historical tourist destination after which he went to the Konkankoppa, about 15 km from where the incident occurred. — PTI

### MP Cong releases new Nath b'day ad

**Bhopal:** A fresh advertisement sans "low points" in 38-year-long political career of chief minister Kamal Nath was on Tuesday issued by Madhya Pradesh unit of Congress in the wake of controversy erupted over the ad released by the party on the occasion of his 73rd birthday on Monday. The latest advertisement has highlighted Mr Nath's achievements in his political career and found no mention of "low points" in his life that also featured in the first advertisement released on Monday, causing huge embarrassment to him. State law minister P.C. Sharma has blamed the advertising agency handling the matter.

### No bidders for Iqbal Mirchi flats

**Mumbai:** The auction of two plush properties of late gangster and drug trafficker Iqbal Mirchi here was cancelled on Tuesday due to lack of proper bids, an official said. The ministry of finance's office did not get proper bids for the two flats, leading to cancellation of their auction, he said. These flats belonging to Mirchi, a close associate of global terrorist Dawood Ibrahim, are located in a building named Milton Apartments on Juhu Tara Road in suburban Santa Cruz (West), he said. — PTI

## RAJINI, HAASAN MAY JOIN HANDS FOR TN WELFARE

**Chennai:** Rajinikanth and Kamal Haasan have enacted myriad characters on screen, but it now seems the two titans of Tamil filmworld will join hands for the state's welfare if their remarks are any indication, triggering speculation about a new political alignment in Tamil Nadu. The first pitch was made by Haasan who on Tuesday backed superstar Rajinikanth over his comments describing chief minister K. Palaniswami coming to the top post as a wonder, saying it was a "not a criticism but the reality." Haasan also said that he would join hands with Rajinikanth for Tamil Nadu's welfare. Rajinikanth also echoed similar views when reporters sought his reaction. "If a situation arises wherein me and Kamal have to join hands for the welfare of people of Tamil Nadu, we will surely come together," Rajinikanth said. Rajinikanth, who has announced he would launch his political party to contest the state Assembly elections due in 2021, was responding to questions from reporters on Haasan's remarks earlier. While backing Rajinikanth's comments on CM K. Palaniswami, which have drawn the ire of ruling AIADMK, Haasan said he would "travel together" with his contemporary for Tamil Nadu's welfare. — PTI

## J&K curbs impinge on freedom of press: FFMP

AGE CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI, NOV. 19

The Foundation for Media Professionals (FFMP) on Tuesday said that the mobile and internet services were an essential part of life and the over 100 days long communication blackout in the J&K just before the abrogation of Article 370 and the bifurcation of the state into two Union Territories was violative of the freedom of press including personal liberty. Telling a bench of Justice N.V. Ramana, Justice R. Subhash Reddy and Justice B.R. Gavai that the blackout of the communication facilities was "unconstitutional", the FFMP said that the communication restrictions directly impinge on the freedom of the press because without access to telecom services, journalist can't contact their sources or editor.

Intervening in the petition filed by Anuradha Bhasin — the managing editor of the *Kashmir Times* challenging the communication blackout — the Foundation for Media Professionals said that "Even today, due to continued suspension of internet services, many newspapers and magazines are unable to publish their web edition and this substantially reduces their circulation." Anuradha Bhasin has moved the top court invoking its jurisdictions under Article 32 of the Constitution for the protection and the enforcement of the fundamental rights including free speech and expression. The top court is hearing a number of petitions including by senior Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad, Asifa Mubeen and Mohammad Aleem Syed arising from the current situation in the state.

# Net services make 'selective' return to J&K

Journalists yet to gain access, govt officials hint all broadband subscribers may benefit soon

YUSUF JAMEEL  
SRINAGAR, NOV. 19

The authorities in Jammu and Kashmir have begun to restore Internet service in the Valley through broadband on fixed phone lines. But apparently the subscribers are being picked up for this "favour" only in a piecemeal way. Whether media persons are going to benefit too is not clear yet. A senior government official, however, indicated that the service might be made available to the broadband subscribers across the board. Kashmir-based journalists and other media persons and organisations have been caught in a very difficult and challenging situation since August 5 when the Centre stripped J&K of its special status under Article 370 of the Constitution and split it into two Union Territories (UTs).

Internet and both mobile and landline services were snapped a night before as part of compete communication blackout in a slew of tough measures initiated by the government in anticipation of widespread turbulence in the erstwhile state over its contentious move. Apart from adversely affecting medical fraternities, students, travel organisations, trade start-ups, online services and others, the blockade reduced majority of media persons virtually into useless creatures. However, about a week later the government set up a facilitation centre for the media persons at a hotel in summer capital Srinagar which made access to internet possible. Yet it was a restricted and insufficient kind of an arrangement as only four desktops connected with an internet leased line con-

## 'PIECEMEAL' RESTORATION

► The authorities in Jammu and Kashmir have begun to restore Internet service in the Valley through broadband on fixed phone lines. But apparently the subscribers are being picked up for this 'favour' only in a piecemeal way

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nection were available for over two hundred local and visiting media persons, leaving most of them high and dry. Subsequently, the number of access points was increased and since the centre has been shifted to the summer headquarters of J&K's department of information and public relations along Srinagar's Residency Road compar-

atively better internet facility is offered to media persons. The staff of the department work too hard and overtime for the comfort of media persons. In the meantime, landline and mobile phone services were also restored in the Valley fully and partially, respectively. But, on the other hand, the government has lately embraced several bizarre methods to discount and even run down independent journalists and other media persons including those duly accredited by its own Information Department. They are not being invited to cover important official functions nor do top administration and security forces officials solicit their queries. One senior police officer on being contacted by the correspondent of a national news magazine to obtain information on an issue he was writing on retorted by saying "Why should I waste my time for your story?"

In contrast, "media persons" with dubious credentials are being encouraged to take the limelight for obvious reasons. A case in point is the recent visit of European MPs, drawn mainly from far-right parties. With a couple of exceptions, only this brand of so-called media persons was invited to the press conference four members of the delegation held before ending their two-day visit. The same group of media persons had earlier been introduced to the visiting lawmakers as the members of Kashmiri civil society. The swearing-in ceremony of J&K's newly appointed lieutenant governor Girish Chandra Murmu on the laws of Srinagar's Raj Bhawan on October 31 was also restricted to few chosen faces in Kashmir's media fraternity. Routinely, it is a few known national TV channels whose Valley-based reporters are entertained by government officials and security forces' top-brass. Some reporters who wrote stories critical of the policies and actions of the government and various other official agencies and the police had to cope with tough situations in the recent past.

## Murmu stresses on digital delivery of J&K services

AGE CORRESPONDENT  
SRINAGAR, NOV. 19

At a time when communication blockade in the Valley has been lifted only partially, Jammu and Kashmir lieutenant governor, Girish Chandra Murmu, on Tuesday asked the Union Territory's general administration department (GDA) to update all government websites with latest information and content by Friday. He further asked the GDA to come up with delivery of "citizens' services" via mobile application also to strengthen the public service delivery mechanism. According to an official handout, the LG passed these directions during a

series of meetings he chaired to review the functioning of Information Technology and Science and Technology departments held at the Civil Secretariat in winter capital Jammu. Earlier, Bipul Pathak, principal secretary to Lt. Governor (administrative secretary, information technology and science and technology departments) gave a detailed presentation on the overall functioning and structure of the IT and Science and Technology Departments and several initiatives being undertaken by the said departments. The LG stressed upon the officers to prioritise e-Court programme besides updating CPIS and make it fully functional by

December. He further called for 100 per cent biometric attendance system to track attendance of the employees at secretariat. Mr Murmu entrusted upon the officers to prepare a UT-led model for implementation of BharatNet to connect Gram Panchayats across J&K through high speed fibre optical network for taking up with government of India. While reviewing the functioning of science and technology department and the working of Jammu and Kashmir Energy Development Agency (JAKEDA), the LG directed JAKEDA to conduct a survey to assess the on-ground situation of the implementation of solar energy schemes and find gaps.



Defence minister Rajnath Singh is greeted by Major Ishwar Lal during a wreath-laying ceremony at INA marker in Singapore on Tuesday. Major Lal had served the Indian National Army under the leadership of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose.



Kiran Bedi, V. Narayanasamy

## Pudu CM: Kiran Bedi seems like Hitler's sis

**Puducherry, Nov. 19:** Escalating his long-running feud with Lt Governor Kiran Bedi over her style of functioning, Chief Minister V. Narayanasamy on Tuesday said she "appears to be sister of German dictator Adolf Hitler" and his blood pressure "shoots up" whenever she negates Cabinet decisions. Mr Narayanasamy, who has been at loggerheads with Bedi over her style of functioning since being appointed to the post in the Union Territory, alleged she was rejecting decisions of the elected government and "unnecessarily" interfered with routine governance. "She is functioning like a dictator and appears to be sister of German dictator Adolf Hitler," he told workers of the ruling Congress at the birth anniversary celebration of late prime minister Indira Gandhi in the party office here.

Mounting a sharp attack on the former IPS officer, he said she was "standing in the way" of each and every decision of the ministry. "Whenever I get the files back from Bedi without her nod to our decisions my blood pressure level shoots up and I get irritated," the chief minister said. — PTI

## JDU insists Bihar deserves it, BJP views it otherwise Special status stirs JDU-BJP 'rift'

NAYEAR AZAD  
PATNA, NOV. 19

JD(U)'s renewed demand for the special status and central government funds for the state has raised the political temperature in Bihar. The situation arose after JD(U) MP Kaushalendra Kumar raised the issue in the Parliament on Monday. He said that Bihar's per capita income is lower than the national average. Therefore, keeping in mind the provisions of the Bihar Reorganisation Act 2000, the recommendations of the 14th Finance Commission and the Raghuram Rajan Committee, special support is required to bring backward states like Bihar to

the national level. But, the BJP which has been JD(U)'s alliance partner in Bihar since July 2017 has a different view on the issue. Talking to this newspaper, BJP spokesperson Nikhil Anand said, "The connotation of special status may seem attractive but the double engine government has done a lot more for Bihar in terms of special packages and developmental initiatives. The Union government has funded the development of Bihar in all the sectors. As per the present norms laid down by the Finance Commission, special status tag to any state in the future seems a difficult task. If we pragmatically assess the development

► JDU-BJP difference emerged after JD(U) MP Kaushalendra Kumar raised the issue in the Parliament on Monday

need of Bihar, the double engine government is doing more than what it could after getting special status for the state." JD(U) leaders believe that Bihar meets the criteria because of its poor infrastructure. They said that the "the special status category will help Bihar get various tax concessions which may attract investments and industries". Bihar has not seen any

big-ticket investment despite Nitish Kumar's effort to woo industrialists. Market observers are of the view that the situation deteriorated after liquor companies were forced to shelve their production and expansion plans after the ban was imposed in the state in April 2016. The state has been looking for an option to make up for the revenue loss to the tune of ₹5000 crore due to liquor prohibition since 2016. The Opposition parties on Tuesday criticised the JD(U) for raising the issue for political gains during Assembly elections scheduled to be held in 2020. Hindustani Awam Morcha (HAM) chief Jitan Ram Manjhi was the first to react on the issue.



Central Industrial Security Force personnel salute retired canines posted with Delhi Metro Rail Corporation during a felicitation ceremony in New Delhi on Tuesday.

## Railway Board shrunk from 200 to 150 officers

ANANYA SENGUPTA  
NEW DELHI, NOV. 19

In a long-pending move aimed at enhancing efficiency, the strength of the Railway Board has been cut down from 200 to 150 with director-level officials and above transferred to zones, according to a government order. The transfer orders of these 50 officials were issued on Monday, sources said. "This is part of the Prime Minister's vision of less bureaucracy. Less government, maximum governance. These officials have gone where their work will be most effectively utilised," a senior official said. The transferred officers are from across railway cadres — 10 each from IRSE and IRTS, seven from IRAS, six from IRSME, five each from IRSEE and IRSSE, three each from IRSS and IRPS and one from RPF. The plan was first mooted in 2000 by the Atal Bihari Vajpayee government, which recommended right-sizing of the apex decision making body of the national transporter. PTI had last month reported that the railway ministry was mulling restructuring the railway board, a move which was

part of railway minister Piyush Goyal's 100-day agenda and a top priority for present Railway Board Chairman V.K. Yadav. Restructuring of the Railway Board was also recommended by the Bibek Debroy Committee on Indian Railways in 2015. The panel said in its report that the Indian Railways' centralised structure and departmentalisation was adversely affecting the railways' work culture and narrowing its approach to department-specific goals. "It has always been seen that the railways, including the Railway Board, was overstaffed. This was adversely affecting the efficiency of the organisation," an official said. The official added that there had been no serious attempts to review the exact number of staff actually required by the railways for efficient functioning as well as financial viability. Restructuring of the Railway Board is just the beginning of an overhaul of the ministry, sources indicated. In a recent meeting with senior officials of the ministry, Mr Goyal instructed Mr Yadav, Board members and general managers of zones to review staff. — PTI

RABINDRA NATH  
CHOUDHURY  
BHOPAL, NOV. 19

The traffic island of Indore, financial capital of Madhya Pradesh, has produced a new social media sensation, a girl who "loved" to remind the people of hazards of violation of traffic rules with a unique style. Twenty three-year-old Shubhi Jain, an MBA student and a volunteer, was currently seen passionately persuading people to follow traffic rules 'religiously' with a unique style involving a little shaking of legs and movement of hands resembling sign language. She has become a social media sensation when a video clip featuring her exploits in YouTube has gone viral. Her dancing moves in busy traffic square of Indore city appear to be leaving positive impact on the people, creating an identity as "Queen of



Shubhi Jain in action

traffic island of Indore" in the city for her. "I feel elated when people tell me that they have started wearing helmets and seat belts after being reminded by her in the traffic", Ms Jain told this newspaper on Tuesday. Ms Jain was inspired by the famous traffic cop of Indore Ranjeet Singh who made headlines in the national and international media for regulating traffic by dancing around. "Singh sir's boot is too

long to step in. I have a passion to make aware people about traffic rules for their personal security", the management student, who hailed from city of Bina in MP, said. She has created her own style of regulating traffic. "I am a sports woman. Hence, agility comes naturally to my style. It is a mix of break dance and acrobatics", she describes her distinct style of regulating traffic.

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**  
Name of work and its location : 30-Elect-28-T-2019-20-E3 Electrical work in connection with i) Renovation of dialysis, male/female changing room, ultrasound room, x-ray registration room at Northern Railway Central Hospital New Delhi. ii) Providing oxygen & vacuum pipe line with accessories in almost all beds but NRDH in the section of SSE/WH under ADENIE-III. Approx cost of the works in : Rs. 13.64 lacs. Address of the office: Sr Divt Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi. Earnest Money : Rs. 27300.00 Date & time of submission of tender: 16.12.2019, 15.00 Hrs. Opening of tender : 16.12.2019, 15.00 Hrs. Website & notice board: www.ireps.gov.in & Sr Divt. Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi. 3700/19  
Serving Customers With A Smile

**CAN FIN HOMES LTD.**  
Above Rewari Co-operative Bank Near Hanuman Mandir,  
Sohna Road, Dharuhera-121006 PH: 01274-242381 / 237604  
M. : 7625079165 E-mail : dharuhera@canfinhomes.com  
CIN : L85110KA1987PLC008699  
[Rule 8(1)] POSSESSION NOTICE  
[FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY]  
Whereas, The undersigned being the authorized officer of the Can Fin Homes Ltd., Dharuhera Branch, under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (Act 54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice dated 26.06.2019 calling upon the Borrower's Mrs. Sushila W/O Mr. Rakesh Kataria, Mr. Rakesh Kataria S/O Mr. Phool Kaur Kataria, Guarantor's Mr. Dinesh Verma S/O Mr. Raj Kumar Verma to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs. 9,55,838.00 (Rupees Nine Lakh Fifty Five Thousand Eight Hundred and Thirty Eight Only) as on 25.06.2019 with further interest, expenses and other charges thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower's, guarantor's having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower's, guarantor's and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under sub-section (4) of section 13 of Act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on this 15th day of November of the year 2019. The borrower's, guarantor's in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and its dealings with the public will be subject to the charge of the Can Fin Homes Ltd., Dharuhera Branch for an amount of Rs. 9,55,838.00 (Rupees Nine Lakh Fifty Five Thousand Eight Hundred and Thirty Eight Only) as on 25.06.2019 with further interest, expenses and other charges thereon. The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.  
**DESCRIPTION OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY**  
All the part and parcel of Property i.e. House No. 922/1, Gali No. 3, Khazra No. 2903 (2-0), Ashok Vihar-1, Gurugram, District Gurugram, Owned by Mrs. Sushila W/O Mr. Rakesh Kataria with following boundaries: - East : Road, West : Other Property, North : House of Ram Kumar, South : House of Mukesh Kumar  
Date : 19.11.2019  
Place: Dharuhera  
Authorised Officer  
Can Fin Homes Ltd.





## Tackling pollution

Confident that IITs, NITs will find solutions to address pollution issue, says President Ram Nath Kovind



The SC judgment in the Babri Masjid title suit is by no means complete justice

— Asaduddin Owaisi, AIMIM chief

### SHORT TAKES

## School van driver, 2 others rape girl

**Raigarh:** A 14-year-old tribal girl was raped allegedly by three men, including her school van driver, in Chhattisgarh's Raigarh district, the police said on Tuesday. One of the accused was arrested on Monday, a day after the incident, it said. The incident took place when school van driver Santosh Gupta (42) took the victim along with him on the pretext of going on a picnic, which he claimed, would be attended by other students, an official here said. He then took her to Laripani Dam and raped her with another accused Pushpam Yadav. Gupta then took the girl to Birsingha village where he and the third accused, Sanjay Paikra, raped the minor in a hut. — PTI

## Teenager killed, 8 hurt in UP clash

**Pratapgarh:** A teenager was killed and eight others were injured after rival groups clashed over a pathway in the Mandhata area here on Tuesday, the police said. The incident took place in the afternoon in Usapur village under the Mandhata police station area, it said. There had been a longstanding dispute over a pathway in the village. On Monday afternoon, two rival factions clashed and attacked each other using sticks, resulting in the death of a teenager and injuries to eight people, the assistant superintendent of police said. — PTI

## Odisha says no to ganja cultivation

**Bhubaneswar:** Cultivation of cannabis will continue to remain illegal as the state government did not give permission for the same, excise secretary Sushil Lohani informed on Tuesday following a meeting held at the state secretariat here. Speaking to media persons, Mr Lohani said even as several industrial companies had sought permission for ganja cultivation in the state due to its medicinal values, the law department has rejected the proposal. The meeting was held under the chairmanship of the excise secretary.

## SC WILL HEAR MARATHA QUOTA PLEAS JAN. 22

**New Delhi:** The Supreme Court on Tuesday fixed January 22 to commence hearing a batch of pleas challenging the constitutional validity of a Maharashtra law granting reservation for Marathas in education and jobs in the state. A bench comprising Chief Justice S.A. Bobde and Justices Sanjiv Khanna and Surya Kant, meanwhile, asked the parties to complete the pleadings in the case. Senior advocate Arvind Datar, appearing for one of the parties opposed to the quota for Marathas, said the matter required a hearing as the Maharashtra law breached the 50 per cent ceiling on reservation put by the apex court in its Mandal judgment. "We can refer it (matter) to a Constitution bench only after being convinced of the plea," the bench said, adding that the petitions would be now listed for hearing on January 22. Earlier on July 12, the apex court had decided to examine the constitutional validity of the Socially and Educationally Backward Classes Act, 2018 granting reservation for Marathas in education and jobs in the state. The top court, however, had refused to stay the Bombay high court order upholding the statute with some modifications. — PTI

# 'Odisha malnutrition rises, needs urgent intervention'

No. of kids suffering from severe 'wasting' up from 5.2 to 6.4% in 10 yrs

AKSHAYA KUMAR SAHOO  
BHUBANESWAR, NOV. 19

The malnutrition problem in Odisha, especially in rural areas, is a public health emergency and requires urgent interventions, experts working in the field of child nutrition told this newspaper on Tuesday.

As per the National Family Health Survey-4, the total number of under-five children in Odisha suffering from severe wasting (severe acute malnutrition or SAM) has increased from 5.2 per cent to 6.4 per cent in the last 10 years. As a result, the state is leading to high rates in malnutrition, poor health and hunger.

As many as 66% of kids with severe acute malnutrition who consumed locally-produced therapeutic food under the Bal Sanjeevani scheme showed positive response to the treatment protocol

"Malnutrition is a socio-cultural problem which can create major setbacks for India. Odisha's diluted public accountability, poor access and control over food and livelihoods' entitlement programmes like Targeted Public Distribution Programme, ICDS (Integrated Child Development Services), Supple-

mentary Nutrition Programme and Mid-Day Meal programme and National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme have not generated the desired impact on curtailing malnutrition," Mrudula Phadke, a renowned child health expert and senior adviser to National Rural Health Mission, said.

In Odisha, community workers like the accredited social health activist, anganwadi and auxiliary nurse midwife play a central role in treating children with SAM. While the Nutrition Rehabilitation Centres (NRCs) have been effective in treating children with complicated SAM, their cumulative efficiency may be in ques-

tion. Scientific evidence shows that almost 90 per cent of SAM cases are uncomplicated and can be treated through community-based management (CMAM), adds Dr Phadke. SAM children, as the experts pointed out, have a much higher risk of death. They can develop complications that can be fatal if untreated.

"SAM children without complications can be treated in the community. They need special therapeutic food with fine particle size. As many as 66 per cent of the children with SAM who consumed locally-produced therapeutic food under the Bal Sanjeevani showed positive response to the treatment protocol," she adds.



Congress interim chief Sonia Gandhi, former PM Manmohan Singh and party leader Ghulam Nabi Azad greet BJP leader L.K. Advani after paying tribute to former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi on her birth anniversary at the Central Hall of Parliament House in New Delhi on Tuesday.

— PRITAM BANDYOPADHYAY

## Big B, Rajini set to kick off 50th star-studded Iffi today

NITIN MAHAJAN  
PANJIM, NOV. 19

The inauguration of the 50th International Film Festival of India (Iffi) on Wednesday is set to see an unparalleled ceremony as Bollywood superstar Amitabh Bachchan and South Indian movie legend Rajinikanth will attend the event.

The feat of getting India's two greatest movie icons has been achieved by the organisers after much effort and the inauguration is the most high-profile ever in the five-decade-old history of the international event.

Apart from the two legends, several big names from the Indian and foreign film industry are

expected to participate in the event scheduled to take place between November 20-28 in Goa. Music legend Ilayaraja is scheduled to perform on November 27.

"In all, 90 all-India premiere of foreign films will be held in this period of which 24 films are Oscar nominated," sources said. A star-studded selection of films and ceremonies await film buffs in this year's edition of Iffi.

The inaugural event will be hosted by director and producer Karan Johar. Music composer and singer Shankar Mahadevan will also perform at the opening ceremony. Director Goran Paskaljevic's *Despite the Fog* — an Italian drama —

will be the opening film at the festival.

Iffi 2019 will showcase over 200 films from 76 countries, which includes 26 feature films and 15 non-feature films in the Indian panorama section. John Bailey, cinematographer and former president of the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences, will head the international jury of the film festival.

Part of the jury are French filmmaker Robin Campillo, also on the Cannes 2019 international jury, Chinese filmmaker Zhang Yang, Scottish filmmaker-writer and cinematographer Lynne Ramsay and eminent Bollywood filmmaker Ramesh Sippy.

# ED attaches ₹21cr assets in NH-74 widening scam

AGE CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI, NOV. 19

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Tuesday attached assets worth ₹21.96 crore under the anti-money laundering law in an alleged corruption case pertaining to the widening of the NH-74 in Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh.

According to a statement issued by the ED here on Tuesday, the provisional order for attachment of the assets has been issued under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (PMLA). The attached properties belong to special land acquisition officers, land owners, farmers and middlemen.

The assets include agricultural and industrial land, commercial plots and buildings located in

The assets include agricultural and industrial land, commercial plots and buildings located in Dehradun and Udham Singh Nagar districts of Uttarakhand and Rampur district in Uttar Pradesh.

Deposits in 11 bank accounts and mutual funds have also been attached, said the ED. The ED said it initiated the probe under the PMLA in the case on the basis of an FIR and chargesheet filed by the Uttarakhand Police against Dinesh Pratap Singh, revenue officials, farmers and middlemen.

Mr Singh and Anil Shukla, officials working in the capacity of competent authority of land acquisition then, entered into a conspiracy with other public servants, farmers and middlemen for misappropriation of government funds by granting compensation at non-agricultural rate, the ED said.

The compensation at non-agricultural rate is much higher than the agricultural rate, it said.

"The higher compensation was paid on the basis of back dated order passed under section 143 of the Uttar Pradesh Zamindari and Land Reform Act, 1950 for changing the land use from agriculture to non-agriculture and subsequent back dated entries in revenue records and documents," it said.

## Pact signed to revive Golden Chariot train

New Delhi, Nov. 19: The IRCTC on Tuesday signed an agreement with the Karnataka State Tourism Development Corporation (KSTDC) to refurbish the state's Golden Chariot train and restart its operations from March next year.

The 18-coach-long luxury train has 44 guest rooms that can accommodate 84 guests. It covers tourist attractions in Karnataka and Goa.

The train's operations were stopped in March last year due to low occupancy rate.

The agreement between the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) and the KSTDC was signed at a ceremony here in the presence of minister of state for railways Suresh Angadi, minister of tourism of Karnataka C.T. Ravi and Railway Board chairman V.K. Yadav.

"Ensure that no train makes losses. Don't keep high fares, have competitive rates. Sit together and resolve any differences (that may) arise between IRCTC and KSTDC," Mr Ravi said.

He said the Karnataka government and the KSTDC had operated and maintained the Golden Chariot since its inception in 2008 and it was the only luxury train in south India.

Mr Yadav expressed confidence that the IRCTC and the KSTDC will successfully operate and market the Golden Chariot for domestic and international tourists.

— PTI

## MP BJP leader moves SC, seeks assault case hearing

New Delhi, Nov. 19: BJP leader Prahlad Lodhi, who was recently disqualified as Madhya Pradesh MLA after being convicted in a 2014 assault case, has filed a caveat in the Supreme Court saying that he too be heard when the appeal of the state government is taken up for hearing.

The Madhya Pradesh government has filed an appeal against the high court order of November

7, by which Mr Lodhi's conviction and the two-year jail term in the assault case has been stayed.

"We have filed a caveat (to prevent an ex-parte order). We have sought hearing alongwith the state government's petition. We are expecting the date of hearing to be fixed in a day or so," Mr Lodhi's counsel and former advocate general Purushendra Kaurav said.

— PTI

## CAB purview..

Continued from Page 1 registration on entry mandatory for visitors who intend to spend more than 24 hours in the state. The ordinance will become an amendment to the Meghalaya Residents Safety and Security Act 2016, which was previously applicable only to tenants from outside the state. Under the law, 'entry-exit points' will be set up along the border with Assam, the only state with which Meghalaya shares an internal border.

The CAB, which has generated much heat in the region, proposes to provide relief to those who have fled neighbouring countries like

Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan because of religious persecution. Sources engaged in process said the government was working on the bill and the Centre is considering introduction of the Overseas Indian Card (OIC) in the bill for the Hindu Bengalis and others who apply for citizenship under the CAB. There is also a proposal to change the cut-off date. The cut-off date in the last bill was December 31, 2014. Sources did not rule out the possibility of another round of consultations on the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, which is set to lead to huge protests across the region.

## Sena calls MLAs with Aadhaar

Continued from Page 1 in Maharashtra, he told a news agency, "It takes time to form a government... You need to go through a lot of processes when it comes to President's rule." Speculation that a Sena-NCP-Congress is not a done deal was fuelled by Mr Pawar's baffling response to reporters asking him about the Shiv Sena's claim about talks with the NCP — "Really?" Amidst confusion over the post-pol alliance with the NCP, there have been reports about some Sena lawmakers wanting to go back to the NDA fold.

## Lanka Prez to meet PM in Delhi

Continued from Page 1 failed to prevent it despite advance intelligence warnings from New Delhi. But the other interesting aspect remains New Delhi's security concerns, particularly regarding the issue of the earlier movement of Chinese submarines in Sri Lankan waters a few years ago.

Mr Jaishankar tweeted: "President @GotabayaR has accepted PM @narendramodi's invitation to visit India on 29th November. A warm meeting with Sri Lanka President @GotabayaR. Conveyed PM @narendramodi's message of a

partnership for shared peace, progress, prosperity & security. Confident that under his leadership, #IndiaSriLanka relations would reach greater heights."

Mr Jaishankar's swift visit is being seen as extremely significant, given China's increasing influence in Sri Lanka over the years and the perceived proximity of the Rajapaksa brothers to China earlier. It may be recalled that during the presidency of the current President's brother Mahinda Rajapaksa earlier, Sri Lanka had grown extremely close to China.

News agency reports from Colombo earlier Monday had indicated Mr Gotabaya Rajapaksa had delivered a measured speech at his swearing-in, saying his nation would maintain friendly ties with all countries, and be neutral in matters involving international powers in order to stay out of conflicts.

On Sunday, Mr Gotabaya Rajapaksa assured India he would work closely with it to ensure "development and security" during a phone call made by Mr Modi to congratulate him on his spectacular electoral win. Mr Modi

had then invited Mr Rajapaksa to visit India, and the invitation had been accepted.

During the presidency of Mahinda Rajapaksa a few years ago, Chinese submarines were found moving in Sri Lankan waters and India expressed its concerns at that time. India is hoping to stave off any renewed pronounced pro-China tilt now by Colombo through a policy of active engagement with Sri Lanka. New Delhi is undertaking development projects in the island nation, India's maritime southern neighbour.

## LS ruckus over Gandhi SPG cover

Continued from Page 1 threat perception for the family.

"The SPG protection given to Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi family is not an ordinary protection. After the assassination of Mrs Indira Gandhi it was decided that the Prime Ministers and their families will be given SPG protection... Vajpayeeji had allowed Special Protection Group protection for the Gandhi family. From 1991-2019, NDA came to power twice but their SPG cover

was never removed. What is the provocation now to withdraw their SPG cover. Sonia Gandhi's life is in danger," argued Mr Chowdhury.

BSP MP from Amroha Kunwar Danish Ali, TMC's Saugata Roy and the DMK MPs also joined in to support Congress on this issue. "This family has lost two PMs due to assassinations," Mr Ali said.

"Any smart man and wise man would put out the spark at the sight of it.

But my friends on the ruling side are ignoring the gravity of the situation. The ruling party has not extended the security to madam Gandhiji on the ground that there is no threat perception. Here there is a threat perception," said DMK leader T.R. Baalu.

A crack force of 3,000, the SPG not only offers commando protection, it also has uniformed agents who conduct an advanced reconnaissance of places the protectee is expected to visit.

The commandoes are stationed at the residence of the protectee and travel with them whenever they leave the house.

The SPG, formed after the assassination of Indira Gandhi in 1984, was initially expected to protect the Prime Minister of India. Rajiv Gandhi's SPG cover was removed after he was out of office, but following his assassination Sonia Gandhi and her children were given SPG protection in view of a high threat assessment.

## RS ticket may trigger fresh war

Continued from Page 1 Sabha ticket to him as the final straw, provoking him to decide on his future political course.

Mr Scindia's followers feel he has been given a short shrift in the party with his demand for the post of Pradesh Congress Committee president, being cold shouldered by the Congress leadership for the past one year. CM Kamal Nath also holds charge as PCC president.

Besides, his loyalist ministers in the Kamal Nath team have been given a

raw deal, much to Mr Scindia's dismay. The recent outburst by state forest minister Umang Singar, considered a staunch loyalist of Mr Scindia, against former CM and influential factional leader Digvijay Singh, was said to be outcome of the running feud between Mr Scindia and Mr Singh. Mr Singar accused Mr Singh of blackmailing ministers in the Kamal Nath government.

"The Congress leadership has found itself in a Catch-22 situation to nomi-

inate any one of the two leaders as the party's choice for the first RS seat. Neither of them want to be nominated for the second seat as it will not only trigger an election, but also trigger an ego clash between them", said a senior Congress leader who sought anonymity.

The three Madhya Pradesh Upper House members whose tenure will end in April are Prabhat Jha and Satyanarayan Jatiya (both BJP) and Digvijay Singh (Congress).



50 YEARS AGO IN

DECCAN  
ChronicleMan strides on  
moon again

Space Centre, (Houston) : Two more Americans strode the moon today after an astonishing bull's eye landing on the dusty Ocean of Storms to set up a lunar scientific station powered by a nuclear generator.

The exultant astronauts, Charles 'Pete' Conrad and Alan Bean, stepped out of the Intrepid landing craft after a voyage of more than a quarter million miles and spotted their target — a 1967 Surveyor robot — not more than 180 metres away. (Conrad and Bean returned to their ferry craft. Intrepid after spending nearly four hours walking about the lunar surface.)

The 39-year-old Conrad, American's shortest space-man, hummed as he worked and as he made the last long step down the ladder he wisecracked:

"That may have been a small on for Neil (Armstrong) but it's a long one for me."

Reuter adds: "I feel great," Conrad kept saying.

Bean joined him on the moon half-an-hour later, lowering his visor against the dazzling sunlight and exclaiming with delight at the sight of shining glass beads sparkling on the lunar ground.

But a disappointment followed for viewers on the ground, who had followed the early stages of the moon walk by colour television.

Soon after Bean got down the ladder, the TV camera failed and no amount of juggling with it by the astronauts changed the scene — a bright light at the top, with most of the screen blacked out in shadow.

Bean said the plastic cord leading into the camera seemed to have melted in one section.

The astronauts' most important task was setting out the five experimental devices in the scientific station called ALSEP (Apollo Lunar Surface Experiments Package) expected to send back vital information about the moon's environment for more than a year.

# Ayodhya judgment a win-win; let's use it to progress, prosper

A.K.  
Merchant  
focus

■ In this turbulent period of history, the world is in need of a unifying vision of our true nature as human beings and of the kind of world in which we would want to live. What else will rescue our country and indeed, the whole world, but efforts of countless people of goodwill who each make the welfare of humanity their principal concern?

Never has the question of communal harmony and social integration in our country raised such a wide range of emotions as the Supreme Court verdict on Ayodhya Ram Temple and Babri Masjid. The vast majority of diverse peoples in the country have welcomed the judgment and would now peacefully bring whatever tasks are on hand to logical fruition. The fact that it has taken us such a long time albeit painful and at times even violent provides a great learning that we the people of India are capable of upholding the spirit of "vasudhaiva kutumbakam" despite the myriad diversity our entire social milieu.

Having been involved with the manifold goals of promoting interfaith dialogue and religious harmony it has been repeatedly demonstrated that humanity has a common origin like the fruits of one tree and the leaves of one branch.

Alas, it is fear, suspicion and hatred externally imposed on the society that provide the fuel and feed the flame of communal disharmony and conflict. Lasting harmony between heterogeneous communities can only come through a recognition of oneness of humankind, a realisation that differences that divide us along ethnic and religious lines have no foundation. Just as there are no boundaries drawn on the earth to separate nations, distinctions of social, economic, ethnic and religious identity imposed by peoples are artificial; they have only benefited those with vested interests. On the other hand, naturally occurring diverse regions of the planet, or the country, such as mountain and plains, each have unique benefits. The diversity created by God has infinite



Residents buy newspapers to read about the Supreme Court's verdict in the Ayodhya title suit the morning after the ruling

value, while distinctions imposed by man have no substance.

Thankfully, the Court's decision has created a win-win situation for both the communities. In like manner, let other issues plaguing the nation and preventing the whole country from prospering and progressively evolving be taken up. For, within the people of each ethnic group or culture lies an important piece of the human experience. Each has something to contribute to the larger society. "Consider the flowers in a garden: Though differing in kind, colour, form and shape, yet...this diversity increases their charm, and add to their beauty." The unity of peoples that our founding leaders, both

men and women, worked towards during the struggle to achieve independence should be made a bedrock principle of our education system. Every child born could become a light to the world and at the same its darkness depending how he or she is nurtured. No child is with any prejudices or tendency for violence; it is the behaviour of adults and immediate environment that moulds the child to think, speak and act in particular ways. If the exposed to negative behaviour and instilled with prejudices than obviously it never learns how to live happily with those who have a different background. On the other hand, if the child is surrounded with positive atmosphere

● The court's decision has created a win-win situation for both communities. In like manner, let other issues plaguing the nation and preventing the whole country from prospering be taken up.

and taught to appreciate diversity and differences as an inherent aspect of the Creator's cosmic design there would be no difficulty in forging genuine friendships and contributing to the good of all. It is still not too late, the hope is expressed that India, a confluence of many civilizations and cultures can become a model

of communal and religious harmony. Responsibility falls equally on the majority or higher castes who must trade their "sense of superiority" and often "patronising attitude" for "genuine friendship" and "close association", and minorities, be they religious communities, ethnic groups, or castes, must demonstrate "readiness to forget the past" and eliminate "every trace of suspicion" resulting from a long period of "grievous and slow healing wounds".

There are so many urgent challenges facing our nation, actually the whole world; we cannot afford to continue "business as usual". Greta Thunberg made an impassioned and inspired inquiry before world leaders at the United

Nations 2019 Climate Summit: "How dare you continue to look away?" In this turbulent period of human history, the world is in need of a unifying vision of our true nature as human beings and of the kind of world in which we would want to live. What else will rescue our country and indeed, the whole world, but efforts of countless people of goodwill who each make the welfare of humanity their principal and dominating concern?

The writer is the secretary and executive trustee, Temple of Understanding India Foundation, and trustee, National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of India and Lotus Temple

## Earth Heroes green barren hill and champion Bharatpur's birds



Usha Rai

meanwhile

■ The Royal Bank of Scotland in association with the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums has decided to recognise a 72-year-old activist who has created a peacock sanctuary on a barren hill in Ganjam, Odisha, and a retired forest official who has turned out to be a saviour for Bharatpur's migratory birds

Pramila Bisoyi, a feisty 72-year-old, is a first time MP and president of the Federation of SHGs (self-help groups) and an active member of the Mission Shakti movement in Odisha. She is also known for regenerating a forest over 20 to 25 years and creating a peacock sanctuary on dry, barren Pakidi Paharia (hill) which formed the backdrop of her village, Chermaria, Aska block of Ganjam district. Her activism has led to her becoming the BJD MP of Aska.

At the state level, Pramila has been felicitated and feted, receiving the Prakruti Bandhu and Prakruti Mitra awards. Recently, she received the Royal Bank of Scotland's lifetime achievement award for reviving water bodies, stopping the poaching of wild peacocks and for conservation.

There was always a water problem in our village, says Pramila. Our hillock Pakidi was barren and dry. It was extremely hot in the summer months and women's lives were tough. In 2001, Pramila formed a SHG and long before the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, she began a movement against open defecation. Since male members in the local bodies were not listening to the women's demands for toilets, she asked the women in the SHG to get after their husbands to construct toilets. NGO Gram Vikas came in to assist with the toilets. The women did their own Ganthigiri and today there are toilets in every home with overhead tanks and 24 hours running water.

United, the women appealed to the government to provide them the linkage to banks and this was another accomplishment. Women began contributing ₹40



Nesting owls in Bharatpur

a month to the SHG and put ₹30 in their bank accounts for agriculture and other needs and increased their bargaining power.

Buoyed by their confidence in getting toilets, the women decided to take on the challenge of greening the barren hill and restoring as well as creating new water bodies. The pond on top of the hill was the first to be repaired and restored. Sand bags were placed along the boundaries of the pond and rain water trapped inside it. The forest was first created at the foothills by keeping on planting saplings year after year. Two other water bodies were created with streams flowing into them.

The water and forests attracted elephants, jackals, sambhar and wild deer. With the commu-

nity protecting the wild peacocks from poachers, their numbers multiplied and today there is a peacock sanctuary in the area.

With the regeneration of forests and water bodies, Pramila Bisoyi's dreams for her village are fast becoming a reality. Women drop food for the peacocks as they trudge through the jungles, singing the many songs they created about forests, water and peacocks. They ensure the area remains free from poaching and encroachments.

Pramila is just one of the seven people who received the RBS Earth Heroes Awards. The others are Bholu Abrar Khan from Bharatpur, Dimbeshwar Das of Assam, Ela Foundation of Pune, Aishwarya

Maheshwari of UP, S. Sathish of Tamil Nadu and Jalaluddin Baba of Kashmir.

Bholu Abrar Khan, who won the Green Warrior Award, has just retired from the Indian forest service but he was Keoladeo Ghana National Park, Bharatpur's tourist guide par excellence. Though he got into the forest service when he was barely 20 and became the biologist of KNP Eco-Development Committee, he moved to the sanctuary when he was just eight to live with his father, the continental food chef at Shanti Kutir, the forest guest house. While the father enticed tourists with his mouthwatering cuisine, Bholu fell in love with the sanctuary and its myriad birds. He learnt about the resident as well as migratory



Bholu Abrar Khan



Pramila Bisoyi

winged creatures from the great ornithologist Salim Ali, when he visited the park to ring the birds. Bholu was barely 14 years old. He would carry the basket in which the birds caught were kept for ringing before they were released again in the wild. At Salim Ali's insistence he would carry a note book and pencil and made his own notes about the birds he saw. But Salim Ali also insisted that Bholu should attend school regularly and complete his studies. It was only after school hours that he was allowed to accompany Salim Ali in the Park.

Bholu recalls with nostalgia how he showed the great master the nesting place of a mottled wood owl during their forays in the park. Salim Ali asked him to count and record the number of

birds he saw. The monsoon season was the bird watchers delight. There were 10,000 painted storks in the park, 30 to 40 nests on one tree. Salim Ali taught him how to count birds in the water and also the number of nests of vultures—this was way before the decimation of nature's scavengers due to ingesting the drug, Diclofenac, used for treating cattle.

Married at just 18 years of age, he decided to get into the forest service so that he could continue to live in the lap of nature and service of birds. Bholu also learnt about water management of Keoladeo park, reported on new species sighted and taught the rickshaw-walas of Bharatpur as well as PhD scholars and others about the birds of the national park. He assisted Sir David Attenborough as well as Belinda Wright to get the shots of fishing cats, birds etc for their films. He took myriad photographs of birds, otters and other species, recorded bird sounds and even today helps in water management of the park. The park today gets its water from the Chambal river and there is perennial shortage of water, so vital for the trees as well as the birds of the park, says Bholu Khan.

Abrar Khan's favourite bird is the owl. There are 10 species of owls and some of them actually speak, he says. The dusky brown owl never makes its own nests. It lays its eggs in the nests of other birds. Every time I discover a new owl's nest, I get as excited as a kid getting his first cricket bat. Eyes glinting, he pronounces "Keoladeo is my soul!"

Mr Kishan Reddy, Union minister of state for home affairs, pointed out that by recognising and rewarding those working towards environment conservation, RBS was creating a value cycle that will spur more people to take greater responsibility to mitigate climate change and conserve earth."

The writer is a veteran journalist based in New Delhi







To discredit, blame, or dispose of an ally or colleague, for personal gain

The practice of disrupting usual civil patterns for the sake of moral conviction

THE ASIAN AGE

WEDNESDAY | 20 NOVEMBER 2019 | NEW DELHI

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7

# Is a State apology in order for the abolition of privy purses?



Bhopinder Singh

As the din on the recent abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A ebbs with the assertion of its “temporary” proviso, another constitutional abrogation, entailing the privy purses in 1971, remains largely forgotten. Pre-Independence, there were 565 princely “states” of a feudatory nature that were officially recognised by the British Raj that included British India and these native “states”. About 117 of these “states” were accorded gun-salutes that ranged from three to 21, depending on the warrant of precedence setting their prestige, as assessed by the size, revenue, antiquity and other considerations. The largest of these was the 21 gun-salute of Jammu & Kashmir which included the regions of Gilgit, Baltistan, Ladakh and Poonch — with an area of 84,471 square miles, making it substantially larger than modern day European countries like Greece, Portugal or Hungary. These “states” had partial sovereignty and were ruled by their rulers who had a subsidiary alliance agreement between their independent “state” and the British paramountcy. This allowed some of the larger “states” to retain state military forces that were often requisitioned as part of the imperial service troops, and they partook action in the world wars. The unparalleled heroics of the Jodhpur and Mysore Lancers in attacking German and Turkish defences in the Mediterranean town of Haifa is recognised as the last great horse cavalry charge in

history.

Pre-Independence, these princely “states” accounted for 48 per cent of the area and about 28 per cent of the total population, and managing their integration into the Dominion of India (or Pakistan) became an immediate challenge. From the Indian side, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, aptly described by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru as “the builder and consolidator of new India”, along with V.P. Menon who was the secretary of the newly-created ministry of states to overlook the herculean task of accession, undertook the same. From invoking patriotism, cajoling, reasoning, alluding to anarchy for failure to join, to even coercive means - all possible tact were deployed. The tireless efforts tested the patience, negotiation skills, persuasive powers and even decisiveness in tricky situations like Junagadh, Hyderabad and so on. To make the deal palatable, the duo initially required the princely states to accede only on the three matters of defence, external affairs and communications, and then offered the guarantee of privy purses in lieu of surrendering existing rights and culminated in the signing of the Instruments of Accession. As part of the promise the rulers gave up control of their lands, institutions, cash balances and even 12,000 miles of railways, without any compensation, other than the guarantees of the privy purse. It is important to remember that a lot of these rulers were immensely popular, progressive and commanded the respect of their people, who could have swung in their favour had they tried to be difficult. While today the geographical, political and emotional entity and imagination of a composite “India” is only natural, the sacrifice of many of the rulers of “states” who were given an option to join either of the two nations or remain independent, is unbeknownst to most citizenry.

**The privy purse was defined under Articles 291 and 362 of the Constitution that guaranteed a fixed tax-free sum to the former princely rulers and their successors, to be charged on the Consolidated Fund of India.**

The privy purse was defined under Articles 291 and 362 of the Constitution that guaranteed a fixed tax-free sum to the former princely rulers and their successors, and this was to be charged on the Consolidated Fund of India. While the total cost to the Indian exchequer was about six crores in 1947, it had come down progressively to about four crores annually, by the time it was suddenly abolished. Sardar Patel himself had realised the enormity of the sacrifice when he passionately spoke for the rulers: “Let us place ourselves in their position and then assess the value of their sacrifice. The rulers have now discharged their part of the obligations by transferring all ruling powers by agreeing to the integration of their states. The main part of our obligation under these agreements is to ensure that the guarantee given by us in respect of the privy purses are fully implemented. Our failure to do so would be a breach of faith and seriously prejudice the stabilisation of the new order.” Importantly, Sardar Patel noted that just the cash received from the rulers of just the Madhya Bharat region alone, if invested, would generate enough interest to honour the entirety of privy purses, to all the rulers!

Subsequent politics of independent India would bear its own instincts, insecurities and morasses that often led to the convenient

demonisation of the erstwhile rulers and the ostensible urge to build an “egalitarian social order”, positing this sovereign commitment as an unnecessary drain. Much of the political angst had to do with the fact that most of these rulers were driven towards C. Rajagopalachari’s Swatantra Party, which had become a major political opposition by then. In 1971, the 26th Amendment to the Constitution of India was made stating, “the privy purse is abolished and all rights, liabilities and obligations in respect of privy purse are extinguished and accordingly the ruler or, as the case may be, the successor of such ruler, referred to in clause (a) or any other person shall not be paid any sum as privy purse”.

In one stroke, the word given by Sardar Patel and constitutionally committed as a sovereign guarantee was suddenly abolished. Today, questions of such privileges, titles and “purses” are frowned upon and ridiculed — but the question is of constitutional guarantee, morality and above all, the honour of the sovereign promise. In any case, the democratic throes were negating the feudal spirit, financial burden or even the societal relevance of these erstwhile rulers, but to renege on the commitment is tantamount to betrayal of trust. Today the resuscitation of the same may rightfully seem anachronistic, impractical and even unwarranted as much water has flown under the bridge, but it would do well for the government to introspect and acknowledge the wrong of backtracking on a constitutional commitment, and at least recognise the role of the former rulers towards the building of today’s India.

*The writer is a retired lieutenant-general and a former lieutenant-governor of Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Puducherry*

# Severe to very poor: Air quality is a metaphor for political leadership



Jawed Naqvi

Spurred by an unexpected breeze, the quality of air in Delhi ‘improved’ from ‘severe’ to ‘very poor’. Some improvement, you would say, but do tarry a little.

The Delhi Met Bureau may have actually made a deeply philosophical observation with its imagery applicable to several facets of life these days. The intriguing metaphor of improvement between severe and very poor certainly applies to extant political choices in a large number of locations.

Take Pakistan, where the PPP is compelled to swear by Z.A. Bhutto as a great liberal even though he heaped misery on a minority community in a moment of communalism inspired political opportunism. And Nawaz Sharif is the preferred symbol of the nation’s hopes for a democratic recovery having conjured images of a Taliban-style amirul momineen replacing the country’s elected prime minister.

As for Imran Khan, he continues to flirt with some kind of liberation theology given his abiding faith in the Muslim clergy. As for the generals, they trump everyone by merging the options into a seemingly irreversible order of things.

Transpose the irony of self-limiting choices on American politics. Is it not true that Obama was to Libya what Bush was to Iraq and Clinton was to Yugoslavia? To the American voters, however, these former icons define all that they can choose from. The slightest difference in demeanour and style becomes the critical inflection. Elizabeth Warren, or whoever gets to lead the Democratic challenge against Donald Trump next year, thus needs to fight not just Trump but the ghost of his predecessors to progress from choosing between severe and very poor.

In this regard, the choices for Indians have been even more notably stifling. It seems as though the ‘Good’ has been removed as an option from a Clint Eastwood movie, leaving only the ‘Bad’ and the ‘Ugly’ to battle it out.

Among other regressions, Nehru’s Congress is talking to the Shiv Sena in Maharashtra where they could come together along with the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) of former chief minister Sharad Pawar.

Following recent state elections, which the BJP-Shiv Sena had fought together, the BJP’s numbers in the new assembly dwindled. In Haryana too, in Delhi’s neighbourhood, Modi’s party lost seats, but it co-opted the services of a discredited legislator to cobble a wafer-thin majority. The BJP had earlier sought the man’s arrest for alleged rape but it is now beholden to him for critical support. The Congress has no role in the ugliness of the moment and needs to just watch the BJP choke on its own muck.

It is significant that in Maharashtra and Haryana Modi’s appeal didn’t work. And this happened despite the Congress grappling with its own severe crisis as it limps on under an interim president in Sonia Gandhi. It has the numbers with the NCP to wean Shiv Sena away from the BJP by offering it greater share in the power structure. But should it morally do so?

The Shiv Sena has run on fascist principles with a pernicious anti-Muslim and anti-Dalit ideology. The outfit shored up by militant middle-caste Marathas was actually set up by the Congress, as a cat’s paw against the influence of Brahmin-led communist unions that greatly troubled Mumbai’s business captains. The strike-breaking Sena conjured different enemies in stages and is currently positioned as anti-Muslim and anti-Dalit. Its volunteers confessed to taking part in the demolition of the Babri Masjid in 1992.

What’s significant about this Congress-NCP-Shiv Sena project, though it is still on the anvil, is that it follows the supreme court’s judgement on the Ayodhya dispute, which rather controversially assigned the piece of land where the Hindu mob razed the 16th-century mosque against the supreme court’s orders

to the very mob with a mandate to build a temple to Lord Ram there.

Many Hindus worship Ram as the god-prince of Ayodhya, but only the BJP and its linked groups seem to know the precise spot where he came into the world. There was a time when the Congress government under Manmohan Singh told the apex court tartly that though Ram was worshipped across the country — and Muslim poets including Iqbal had written paeans to him — there was no scientific evidence he actually existed. Be that as it may, the Congress is now fully on board with the temple project, which is not surprising at all.

Ever since the communists parted ways with the Congress party in the wake of Indira Gandhi’s emergency rule, the Congress has veered closer to the Hindu right. This was a leading factor in Mrs Gandhi’s hurried calculations that led her to misjudge the mood in Punjab where she weighed in against the alienated Sikh community with military might.

The consequence was disastrous for India even though in the short run Rajiv Gandhi did win an unprecedented landslide, seen as a sympathy vote over his mother’s assassination by her Sikh bodyguards. Thousands of Sikhs were slaughtered in Delhi by mobs that were encouraged by the Congress party’s backroom cosiness with the Hindu right.

As for Maharashtra, there is nothing new or even surprising about the Congress and the NCP coming close to the Shiv Sena even if they pretend to be wary of its pronounced fascist tag. One needs only to flick off the dust from the Justice Shri Krishna Commission report on the 1992-93 anti-Muslim violence in Mumbai in the wake of the Ayodhya outrage. The commission cited direct evidence to illustrate complicity between the Shiv Sena, sections of the police and the Congress government of the day who were together named by the report, the reason why they jointly buried it. Not unlike the Delhi Met, William Shakespeare’s witches may have been pointing to a similarly deep universal reality as they sang in unison: “Fair is foul and foul is fair. Hover through the fog and filthy air.”

*By arrangement with Dawn*

# The strength of a remorseful heart



Moin Qazi

*“Best and happiest of all, the time before him was his own, to make amends in!”*

— Charles Dickens, *A Christmas Carol*

The aim of spirituality is to make man fully conscious of his true innocence. This journey from ignorance to enlightenment begins with the realisation that one is unconscious. Accepting one’s ignorance is first rung on the ladder in the quest for truth.

Among the early lessons in this quest is the realisation of one’s follies and

admission of wrongdoing. It nudges man to resolve to make amends for his sins. The second step, regret, can be the psychological catalyst for change towards returning to one’s better self or to improve one’s prior self. Regret helps us focus on both the past and the future, being honest of what was so that one can become who one really can be. A sincere apology is a way to the truth.

Spiritual doctors emphasise that an appropriate amount of guilt for our erroneous actions can help put us back on the righteous path. Proclamations of remorse serve not only to assuage the offended party but are also offered in the hope that the life of the penitent can return to normality as quickly as possible.

In religious terms, repentance is a prerequisite for divine forgiveness

and mercy. For Jews and Muslims, the focus is on God’s desire for us to repent before pardoning us unconditionally. In repentance, we must experience genuine remorse for the wrongdoing and then convert our penitential energy into positive acts.

The Creator has placed a unique volitional quality in man’s psyche — and that is what is called “repentance”. This special feature is particularly prominent in people who hold a firm belief in God and his scriptures. The Quran extols the repentant in these words: “God will change their evil deeds into good deeds.”

The Greek term for repentance in the New Testament is metanoia, or “a change of heart”. It is not equivalent to mere remorse, which must precede it. Repentance is cen-

tral to Judaism too. Jews even dedicate the 10 days between the Jewish New Year and the holiest day of the year, Yom Kippur — the Day of Atonement — to repentance.

True repentance should not be a mere momentary spasm of remorse and a matter of expediency, but it must influence and leave its mark in terms of character, action and life. Mourning for mistakes does not bring transformation; it merely gives consolation. True repentance leads to a life change which is based upon a real transformation. True repentance is evidenced not only by a change of heart, but by a change of action. When a person is tempted to do the wrong thing and then, confronted by the same situation again, does the right thing, he or she is said to have truly repented.



ed.

As the decades roll by, heaps of corpses continue to tower, ever higher, up to the skies, in the aftermath of armed conflicts and violence. We know that not many of those in high office who made these things happen shed a tear over their actions. One can only deduce that such acts of repentance are hard to perform.

There was a time in public life when atonement was seen as a form of strength — a way not only to own up to one’s missteps, but to reform oneself. With repentance getting confused with humiliation, remorselessness has become an act of resistance and defiance a point of pride.

*The writer is a well-known banker, author and Islamic researcher. He can be reached at moinqazi123@gmail.com*







NZ sets national interest clause in investment

India vulnerable to oil, capital inflow shocks: Reddy

Overleaf



quick BITES

INDICATORS		%
Sensex	40,469.70	+0.46
Nifty 50	11,940.10	+0.47
S&P 500	3,121.29	-0.02
Dollar (₹)	71.71	-0.19
Pound Sterling (₹)	92.75	-0.46
Euro (₹)	79.36	-0.35
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	39,028,328	+8.39
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	61.30	-1.83
IN 10-Yr bond yield	+6.473	-0.062
US 10-Yr T-bill yield	+1.800	-0.442

\* As of 9:30 pm IST

Employment growth slowed in last two years

The employment growth has slowed down in the last two years, to 3.9 per cent in 2017-18 and 2.8 per cent in 2018-19 as the core industries have seen a negative growth in hiring, a Care Ratings study said. The study is based on a set of 1,938 companies. The study revealed that aggregate headcount increased at 3.3 per cent annually between 2014-15 and 2018-19.

Carlyle sells 3% stake in SBI Life for ₹2,800 crore



Carlyle Group divested 3 per cent stake in SBI Life Insurance for over Rs 2,800 crore through an open market transaction. The shares were offloaded at an average price of Rs 938.83, valuing the transaction at Rs 2,816.5 crore. Carlyle Group, through its entity CA Emerald Investment, had acquired 9.2 per cent stake in the life insurer in March.

Offshore funds, ETFs see \$1.4 bn withdrawal

India-focussed offshore funds and ETFs witnessed a net outflow of \$1.4 billion in July-Sept., making it the sixth consecutive quarter of withdrawal, Morningstar Offshore Fund Spy report said. India-focussed offshore funds and ETFs are a subset of the overall foreign portfolio investor (FPI) flows. Of the total outflows \$1 billion was from India-focussed offshore funds.

Forbes & Co mulls listing Eureka Forbes

Forbes & Company, a Shapoorji Pallonji group firm, announced plans to list its subsidiary Eureka Forbes to unlock value for shareholders. "The Board of Directors of the company has authorised the management...To evaluate a scheme of arrangement and/or other appropriate mechanisms to enable an eventual listing of Eureka Forbes with an intention to unlock value in the hands of all the shareholders," it said.

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■ Asset quality of public sector banks improves in Q2

# Pvt banks stay in profit, PSBs return to losses

FALAKNAAZ SYED  
MUMBAI, NOV. 19

Banks reported better-than-expected earnings for the September quarter, with many showing an improvement in operational performance and marginal deterioration in asset quality. While corporate private banks' earnings have been impacted by the one-time deferred tax asset (DTA) write-downs, the retail-focussed banks reported better profitability. In contrast, most public sector banks continued with the 35 per cent corporate tax regime, and therefore, no adjustments were required in DTA. While the asset quality of the public sector banks (PSBs) showed improvement, they recorded a net loss during Q2FY20 after having recorded a net profit in the first quarter of FY20. The net profit of the private sector banks (PVBs) recorded a marginal decline, mainly on account of the changes in the deferred tax rate. According to a study by Care Ratings of 37 scheduled commercial banks (18

### MIXED FARE

- ▶ GNPA of private banks grew from ₹185,027 crore to ₹191,191 crore, up 3.3%
- ▶ GNPA of PSBs contracted by -10% and stood at ₹727,296 crore for Q2FY20

public sector banks and 19 private sector banks), their overall aggregate net profit during Q2FY20 stood at Rs 6,348 crore as against a net loss of Rs 3,918 crore in the corresponding quarter in the previous year. The PSBs recorded a net loss of Rs 727 crore during the July-September 2019 quarter, after having recorded a net profit in the first quarter of FY20. The net profit of the private banks declined 1.7 per cent sequentially in Q2FY20 and stood at Rs 7,076 crore against a contraction of -33 per cent recorded in Q2FY19. The gross non-performing assets (GNPA) of PSBs contracted by -10 per cent sequentially and stood at

Rs 727,296 crore for Q2FY20 as compared with Rs 807,937 crore in Q2FY19. The GNPA ratio for the PSBs stood at 11.6 per cent for the quarter under review against 13.5 per cent in Q2FY19. The PSBs have been witnessing a marked decline in their stressed assets over the past couple of quarters. The GNPA of private banks grew from Rs 185,027 crore during Q2FY19 to Rs 191,191 crore in Q2FY20 i.e. by 3.3 per cent. The GNPA ratio for the PVBs, however, witnessed a slight moderation from 5.9 per cent in Q2FY19 to 5.4 per cent in Q2FY20. The PVBs with greater exposure to corpo-

rate loans are now in the process of recognising their stressed assets. "Asset quality trends have been mixed with ICICI Bank and HDFC Bank reporting better-than-estimated slippages while Yes Bank reporting an increase in stressed assets. PSBs reflected muted loan growth while guiding for better trends in H2FY20. On the asset quality front, State Bank of India and Indian Bank reported better-than-estimated slippages while Bank of Baroda and Punjab National Bank continued to report elevated trends," said an Motilal Oswal report. "SBI and ICICI look good, so does Federal Bank and IndusInd Bank. We will recommend hold for Bank of Baroda till it gets a new chief and for PSBs mergers to get over," said Asutosh K Mishra, head of research, Institutional Equity at Ashika Group. Both the PSBs and PVBs recorded a steady rise in their net interest income at 12.9 per cent and 20.4 percent, respectively, during the September 2019 quarter.

# Onion to remain a tear-jerker, govt sees 26% fall in output

MADHUSUDAN SAHOO  
NEW DELHI, NOV. 19

It may be bad news for consumers as the government has estimated that there may be a drastic 26 per cent fall in onion output in the kharif and late-kharif seasons of this fiscal, impacting both supply and prices of onion across almost all cities in the coming days. In a bid to tame prices, it is, however, expected that the government may extend the ban on onion exports till February as domestic prices have gone up sharply following mass damage of onions due to untimely incessant rains. "The government may extend the ban on onion exports till February since domestic prices are still ruling very high," an

agriculture ministry official said. The government said on Tuesday that due to the fall in production in kharif and late-kharif seasons, the onion prices may go up from the all-India average retail price of Rs 60.38 per kg on November 15. Onion was sold at Rs 22.84 a kg on the same date last year. "Onion production in kharif and late-kharif seasons of 2019-20 is estimated to fall 26 per cent to

52.06 lakh tonne. Onion is a seasonal crop with harvesting period of rabi (March to June), kharif (October to December) and late-kharif (January-March). During July to October, the supply in the market comes from stored onions from rabi season," food minister Ram Vilas Paswan said in a written reply to the Lok Sabha on Tuesday. The government banned onion exports in late September and imposed stock limits to boost domestic supply and check prices. Despite the export ban, onion prices refused to come down, rather it spiked during October and November on limited onion supply, especially in Maharashtra, the country's biggest producer.

# Ayurveda gets a leg-up, now part of disease management

SANGEETHA G  
CHENNAI, NOV. 19

The government has initiated a programme for long-term management of non-communicable diseases using Ayurveda. Ministry of Ayush in collaboration with Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has implemented a project — Integration of Ayush (Ayurveda) with National Programme for Prevention and Control of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Diseases and Stroke (NPCDCS) programme — in a few identified districts. Under the programme, so far 9,87,446 patients have been screened and 93,117 patients have been enrolled for long-term management through Ayurveda interventions, lifestyle modifications and yoga, the ministry said in a release. The Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS) has also developed AYUSH-82, a formulation and has commercialised it for wider usage. It has also developed AYUSH-GOL-2C for improving quality of life

of breast and cervical cancer patients in collaboration with the All-India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Delhi and St. Jones Medical College (Bengaluru). In addition to this, CCRAS has validated 82 classical Ayurvedic formulations and 11 new drugs on more than 32 diseases conditions, lifestyle diseases such as diabetes, bronchial asthma, hypertension, irritable bowel syndrome (IBS), iron deficiency anaemia, osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, haemorrhoids, computer vision syndrome and obesity. The ministry said to encourage the export of Ayush products, under

Central Sector Scheme for promotion of International Co-operation, incentives are provided to Ayush drug manufacturers, entrepreneurs, Ayush institutions and hospitals for registration of Ayush products with regulatory bodies of different countries. The regulatory bodies named in the release include Food and Drug Administration (FDA) of United States/Europe, the Middle East and Africa (EMEA)/ Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency of the United Kingdom (UK-MHRA)/ and Natural and Non-prescription Health Products Directorate of Canada (NHPD).

# RIL stock jumps 34% this year

ASHWIN J PUNNEN  
MUMBAI, NOV. 19

Riding on a 3 per cent surge in its stock price, Reliance Industries (RIL) on Tuesday became the first company in India to hit a market capitalisation of Rs 9.5 lakh crore. The RIL stock jumped 3.3 per cent to Rs 1,508.45, surpassing its previous high of Rs 1,490 touched last month, on October 31, in intra-day trade. The scrip has climbed 34 per cent year-to-date, outperforming the Sensex, which grew 12 per cent during the period. RIL had become the first firm to cross the market-cap of Rs 9 lakh crore on October 18. So far in calendar year 2019, its m-cap has surged by Rs 2.3 lakh crore. Global brokerage Morgan Stanley, while maintaining its overweight call on RIL, announced its bull case target price at Rs

Jio to increase tariffs

New Delhi, Nov 19: Reliance Jio on Tuesday said it will increase mobile phone call and data charges in the next few weeks in compliance with rules, as it followed the path of Bharti Airtel and Vodafone Idea on tariff hike. Jio, which had stormed the telecom sector with free voice calls and dirt cheap data, had for the first time last month decided to charge phone calls by its users to rival phone networks to compensate for interconnect usage charges. In a statement on Tuesday, Jio said that the telecom regulator Trai is likely to initiate consultation process for revision in telecom tariffs. "Like other operators, we will also work with the government and comply with the regulatory regime to strengthen the industry to benefit Indian consumers and take measures including appropriate increase in tariffs in next few weeks," Jio said. —PTI

2,000—a potential upside of 37 per cent from current levels—on hope of higher refinery margins, potential telecom tariff hike, bottoming price-earnings cycle, start of gas produc-

tion, lower capex and ongoing deleveraging. JP Morgan sees limited telecom tariff hikes by RIL until Jio hits around 50 crore subscribers—which is at least one year away.

# Bank, RBI unions differ on deposit insurance

FALAKNAAZ SYED  
MUMBAI, NOV. 19

A day after the bank unions wrote to the Finance Minister asking it to scrap deposit insurance cover on bank deposits, the All-India Reserve Bank Employees Association (AIRBEA) has asked the government to raise the insurance cover to Rs 10 lakh from Rs 1 lakh now. Samir Ghosh, General Secretary of AIRBEA, said, "The current limit of Rs 1 lakh continues from May 1, 1993 for more than two decades-and-a-half and during the time the value of the rupee has eroded sharply, necessitating immediate augmentation of coverage." Ghosh said that while in India, in current dollar terms, the insurance coverage provided by Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC) is a paltry \$1,508, the comparative coverage for other countries is much higher. For instance Russia \$19,210, China \$81,000, Brazil \$64,025, Australia \$18,2650 and the US \$2,250,000. After the 2008 global financial meltdown,

most countries raised their coverage substantially to protect bank depositors. "In this backdrop, taking all factors into consideration, AIRBEA suggested earlier for the insured deposit of at least Rs 10 lakh, covering all types of deposits of an individual which we reiterate and urge the government to consider, it comes to \$14,000, yet much less than the countries aforementioned," said Ghosh. At present DICGC insures each bank depositor upto Rs 1 lakh for both principal and interest. On Monday, All India Bank Employees' Association (AIBEA), the oldest and largest bank union has asked Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman to exempt the deposits of public sector banks and commercial banks from Deposit Insurance Cover. C. H. Venkatachalam, General Secretary AIBEA, wrote to Sitharaman, saying, "Year after year, public sector banks and all commercial banks are required to pay huge premium to DICGC but the claim ratio is NIL."

Telecom stocks soar on tariff hike news

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD  
MUMBAI, NOV. 19

Beaten down frontline telecom stocks soared higher with massive gains for the second consecutive day this week on Tuesday, as Vodafone Idea and Bharti Airtel announced plans to raise mobile phone call and data charges. The BSE Telecom Index gained a whopping 8.52 per cent. Vodafone Idea shares closed with a 34.68 per cent gain on the BSE at Rs 6.02. The stock had gained over 21 per cent on Monday too, leading to over 50 per cent gains in just two sessions. However, the gains have come after massive price erosion, from its 52-week high price of Rs 27.51. Bharti Airtel gained 7.36 per cent, closing at Rs 439.25 while another Bharti Group company Bharti Infratel gained 10.32 per cent at Rs 250.10. Reliance Jio promoter RIL also closed with gains of Rs 3.52 per cent at Rs 1,509.80. Stocks of other telecom services providers also gained as Tejas Network shares gained 19.96 per cent, locked in upper circuit at Rs 81.45. Onmobile Global gained 8.38 per cent closing at Rs 35.55. On whether a re-rating of the telecom sector was in progress, analysts were not sure, though the sector has been a laggard for a very long period now. All the three private operators are saddled with huge debt. Data from sector regulator Trai showed Vodafone Idea and Bharti Airtel lost over 49 lakh users in September this year, while Reliance Jio added 69.83 lakh new users to its network. Bharti Airtel lost 23.8 lakh users in September to take its total user base to 32.55 crore. Similarly, Vodafone Idea lost 25.7 lakh users in the month to take its total user base to 37.24 crore. Reliance Jio added 69.83 lakh users in September, taking its total user base to 35.52 crore.



## NZ sets national interest clause in investment

**Wellington, Nov. 19:** Foreign investors hoping to buy New Zealand's strategic assets will now have to convince the government it is in the national interest, officials said on Tuesday, while denying the rules targeted China.

New rules will for the first time give the government power to reject overseas investments in sensitive areas if it decides they could be detrimental to the country, Associate Finance Minister David Parker said.

He said the test would apply to crucial infrastructure including ports and airports, telecommunications and electricity networks, as well as firms developing military technology or supplying intelligence agencies.

"These powers will be used rarely and only where necessary for protecting New Zealand," Parker said in a statement, citing investments that could "pose a significant risk to our national security or public order".

— AFP

## Central Bank reports higher ₹6,430-cr loss

**New Delhi, Nov. 19:** Central Bank of India has reported an increased net loss of Rs 6,430.48 crore for 2018-19 due to NPA divergence after assessment of higher bad loans by the Reserve Bank.

The net NPA divergence — the difference between the NPAs reported by the bank and that assessed by the RBI — was at Rs 2,565 crore for 2018-19.

Central Bank of India had reported a net loss of Rs 5,641.48 crore in 2018-19 earlier.

"The adjusted (notional) net profit after tax for the year ended March 31, 2019 after taking into account the divergence in provisioning is (-) Rs 6,430.48 crore," the bank said.

Banks are required to report divergences in their asset classification and provisioning as per Sebi guidelines issued on October 31, 2019.

The bank had reported Rs 11,333.24 crore net NPAs during the year while the RBI assessed it at Rs 13,898.24 crore, leaving a gap of Rs 2,565 crore.

— PTI

## Patanjali posts ₹3,562-cr revenue for Q2

**New Delhi, Nov. 19:** Baba Ramdev-led Patanjali Ayurved on Tuesday said it has achieved a revenue of Rs 3,562 crore in April-September 2019-20, the highest ever in the first half of any financial year.

The Haridwar-based firm has reported a revenue of Rs 1,793 crore in April-June and Rs 1,769 crore in July-September in the ongoing fiscal, a company official said.

"This is the figure of the Patanjali Ayurved and does not indicate of all business. We have done internal reconstruction and some of the product lines, which were earlier handled by the company have been assigned to different companies," he said.

The company had reported a revenue of Rs 937 crore and Rs 1,576 crore in June quarter and September quarter of 2018-19, respectively.

"The most remarkable and noticeable thing is that Patanjali Ayurved has made a comeback. It has achieved the highest ever H1 figure in its history," Patanjali spokesperson S. K. Tijarawala told PTI.

■ Insurance claim processing gets easier during calamities

# Surveyor assessment waived in some cases

**SANGEETHA G CHENNAI, NOV. 19**

In case of certain claims, insurance companies can now entrust loss assessment to people other than licensed surveyors or not make any loss assessment at all. This can make processing of claims faster, especially during times of calamities.

Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Irdai) has exempted claims which have documentary evidence of the value of loss in the form of police reports, short-landing or non-delivery certificates issued by port trusts, Railways or other public or semi-government authorities and those which have certificate for dutiable items from excise authorities and sling loss claims certified by harbour authorities from customary assessment by licensed surveyor.

Motor claim on account of theft or injury/death to third parties and claims under health insurance policies including travel and personal accident covers are also exempted. Claims under Workmen's Compensation/ Benefit



policies under the Employees Compensation (Amendment) Act, 2009 and claims under public liability policies, including third party liability, professional indemnity, products liability and personal liability except where liability arising out of property damage or defect to physical property/goods are involved too come under the category.

"In case of retail health claims, the assessments are based on the submitted documents. For motor claims we have in-house surveyors. However, decision by Irdai will benefit the customers and companies during times of calamities like floods and

cyclones and speed up the processing of claims," said an industry expert.

Claims of General Average under marine policies and total loss or constructive total loss under agreed value insurance policies or valued policies as defined by Marine Insurance Act also do not need separate assessment, finds Irdai.

Aviation Hull insurance claims and cyber Insurance claims, those under money insurance including cash in transit policies, all risks and burglary insurance policies on personal effects and jewellery and those under Race Horses insur-

## J&K ban caused more than \$1bn loss: KCCI

**ZEBA SIDDIQUI SRINAGAR, NOV. 19**

Economic losses in Kashmir have run well over a billion dollars since India revoked its autonomy and statehood in August, the main trade body in the Himalayan region said, adding that it planned to sue the government for damages.

India turned its erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir into a federally-controlled territory, tightening control in a shock move it said would rein in militancy in the region also claimed by neighbouring Pakistan, and promote its development.

But the Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) said development was elusive, thanks to a protracted shutdown after people closed markets and businesses as a mark of protest, and for fear of reprisals from insurgents.

It estimated economic losses ran into least Rs

10,000 crore (\$1.40 billion) by September, but now exceeded that, said Nasir Khan, its Senior Vice President.

"We'll ask the court to appoint an external agency to assess the losses, because it is beyond us," said Khan, adding that telecoms blackout in the region meant the body could not reach business owners by telephone to prepare estimates. Instead, it had to send staff to meet them and gather details.

India's Home Ministry and local government officials did not respond to requests for comment.

The clampdown has hit tourism as well as farming, horticulture and the arts and crafts that contribute the most to its export-oriented economy.

"I don't see any stability for many months here," said Vivek Wazir, who runs a hotel in Srinagar. "There's too much uncertainty."

— Reuters

## CSB Bank IPO opens on Friday

**FC BUREAU MUMBAI, NOV. 19**

CSB Bank, formerly known as The Catholic Syrian Bank, announced its initial public offering to raise Rs 410 crore in the price band of Rs 193 to Rs 195 per equity share of Rs 10 face value.

Incorporated in 1920 Kerala-based CSB Bank is one of the oldest private sector banks in India. The bank has a presence in Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra.

The IPO opens for public on November 22 and closes on November 26. The IPO consists of fresh issue aggregating up to Rs 24 crore and an offer for sale of up to 19,778,298 equity shares worth Rs 385.67 crore

at the upper price band, by the selling shareholders.

The selling shareholders include ICICI Lombard General Insurance, HDFC Life Insurance, ICICI Prudential Life Insurance, The Federal Bank, Bridge India Fund, Satellite Multicomm, Way2Wealth Securities and Edelweiss Tokio Life Insurance.

"The net proceeds from the public offer are proposed to be utilized to augment Tier-I capital base to meet Bank's future capital requirements which are expected to arise out of growth in the Bank's assets, primarily Bank's loans/advances and investment portfolio and to ensure compliance with Basel III and other RBI guidelines," CSB Bank said.

## Muthoot Finance acquires stake in IDBI MF

**SANGEETHA G CHENNAI, NOV. 19**

Gold loan company Muthoot Finance has acquired stakes in IDBI Asset Management and IDBI MF Trustee Company.

In a clarification made to the National Stock Exchange on the divestment of its stake in these companies, IDBI Bank said: "The buyer is Muthoot Finance which is a leading gold financing NBFC in India and has approximately 4,500 branches spread across the country. The buyer does not belong to the promoter/ promoter group/company."

However, the bank did not specify the stake purchased by Muthoot Finance. When contacted, Muthoot Finance refused to comment on the development.

On November 8, the IDBI Bank said that its board had approved sale of its entire stake in IDBI Asset Management.

As on 31 March 2019, IDBI Bank owned 66.67 per cent stake in IDBI Asset Management with IDBI Capital Markets and Securities holding a 33.33 per cent stake, as per reports. The bank has been reportedly planning to divest non-core businesses as it is burdened by bad loans.

IDBI Asset Management's total assets under management (AUM) had fallen 16 per cent year-on-year to Rs 6,238 crore in FY19. The company reported a loss of Rs 4.34 crore in FY19 from a year-earlier profit of Rs 8 crore. Revenue from operations fell 25 per cent YoY to about Rs 60 crore.

Muthoot Finance had raised \$450 million in its maiden offshore bond issue from investors across the US, Asia and Europe in October. "This fundraise will enable us in further diversifying and strengthening our sources of funding," M.G. George Muthoot, Chairman of Muthoot Finance had then said.

## India vulnerable to oil, capital inflow shocks: Reddy

**Hyderabad, Nov. 19:** The recent developments around China, Iran and the Middle East have the potential to generate two types of shocks — oil price and capital flow — and India is vulnerable to both, former governor of Reserve Bank Y. V. Reddy said here on Tuesday.

Speaking at a programme organised by the Institute for Advanced Studies in Complex Choices (IASCC), Reddy said there is new 'bi-polar' world with the USA and China leading each block and despite the fact that both the countries have close 'economic integration.

In a short time at least, there are two financial risks which may arise out of Middle East-Iran or China-USA. The impact is likely to be in two aspects — oil price shock and capital flow. And the country which is most vulnerable to the shocks is India, he said.

"We are most vulnerable to capital account shock. And in fact these are the only two shocks where our external sector is vulnerable. We should keep that in mind," he said.

According to him, there are three economic challenges- climate change,

demographic divergence and technology - which are global and can be resolved only through cooperation and concerted action on the part of all or most countries.

Climate change is where collective action is inevitable but is becoming increasingly difficult, the former RBI Governor said.

Demographic divergences are seriously affecting the macro economic balances and more importantly the compulsions to migrate, he said.

There is, as yet, no agreement on managing the migration that is inevitable. Capital is global but labour is national, he said.

"Technology is the third most important element that would disturb the global balance in future as technological progress is so fast that the disruptive nature of technological developments are so deep that institutions are finding it difficult to cope with these changes," he said.

Further, Reddy said, the technologies have a tendency to cut across the national boundaries sooner than later, he added.



## Festive demand drives up PV retail sales to 11% in October

**MICHAEL GONALVES PUNE, NOV. 19**

Driven by festive demand, retail sales of passenger vehicles increased 11 per cent to 2,48,036 units in October against the same period last year, automobile dealers' body Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations or FADA said on Tuesday.

Passenger vehicles sales stood at 2,23,498 units in October 2018.

Total sales across categories increased 4 per cent to 17,09,610 units during last month, as opposed to 16,38,832 units reported in the same period last year.

Two-wheeler sales increased 5 per cent to 13,34,941 units last month as compared with 12,70,261 units in the year-ago period.

Commercial vehicle sales, the barometer of the economy, however, declined 23 per cent to 67,060 units as compared to 87,618 units in October last year.

But three-wheeler sales saw an increase of 4 per cent to 59,573 units last month.

"October retails were in the positive, giving a much-needed respite to the auto industry, especially to our dealer community, after months of de-growth," Ashish Kale, President at FADA, said.

The festival season saw very good footfalls at dealerships across most of the geographies, the consumer sentiment was positive, and purchase decisions were concluded as used to be during the growth years, he pointed out.



Kale said two-wheeler inventory has reduced from an alarming level while passenger vehicle inventory is also at reasonable levels.

"Commercial vehicle inventory has also reduced, although with retail continuing to be weak further wholesale regulation is required to reach FADA's 21 days recommended levels," he said.

Kale said strong support from banks and NBFC's helped convert the festive mood of the consumer into retails.

"With continued liquidity easing, business appetite of banks and NBFC's have grown and will surely aid the industry in the path to recovery as the consumer sentiment strengthens in the coming days," he said.

With the auto industry heading into the unknown territory of BS-VI emission norm transition, more needs to be done towards inventory reduction to avoid dealer losses, Kale pointed out.

## Cashew industry asked to file application for dumping probe

**New Delhi, Nov. 19:** The Commerce Ministry has asked Cashew Export Promotion Council to file an application with Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR) to probe dumping of the commodity into India, which is impacting domestic players, an official has said.

In a meeting last month on export performance of the country, the council had raised the matter of dumping of broken cashew into India.

The Cashew Export Promotion Council of India was asked to file an anti-dumping investigation request with the DGTR, the official said.

The directorate is an arm of the ministry which con-

ducts probe related to dumping and significant increase in import of a product.

If it establishes in its probe that dumping and increase in imports are impacting domestic players, DGTR recommends anti-dumping and safeguard duties, respectively. The Finance Ministry takes the final call to impose these duties.

The council's Chairman R. K. Bhodes said large volumes of semi-finished kernels are being dumped in India from African countries — Guyana, Mozambique, Tanzania and Ivory Coast.

The African nations have formed 'African Cashew Alliance' to boost the industry in that continent.

The government in June increased sharply the mini-

mum import price for whole and broken cashew, making inbound shipments of the commodity costlier.

The import price for broken cashew was increased to Rs 680 per kg from Rs 288 per kg. Similarly, for whole cashew, it was enhanced to Rs 720 per kg from Rs 400 per kg earlier. Below these prices, imports of the commodity is prohibited.

The country produces around 3.5 lakh tonnes of cashew kernels. The production and import of raw cashew is around 8 lakh tonnes and 9 lakh tonnes, respectively.

India exported 48,352 tonnes of cashew kernels in 2017-18 as against 82,302 tonnes during previous year.

— PTI

## OPENING BELL

## Nifty shows encouraging up-move signals

The market ended higher on Tuesday driven by gains in market heavyweights like Reliance Industries (RIL), Infosys and HDFC Bank.

The Sensex ended 185 points higher at 40469, while the Nifty settled 0.5 per cent higher at 11940.

Amongst the broader markets BSE Mid-Cap and BSE Small-Cap, ended on a positive note in range of 0.3-0.4 per cent.

### Technical View

Sameet Chavan, Angel Broking, said, "Nifty may soon breach the 12,000 mark. The index has finally managed to surpass the first hurdle at 11,900 on a closing basis. The major charioteer for this move was clearly the banking pack, which has been showing some encouraging signs in the past couple of days. The way both Nifty and Nifty Bank have shaped up, the 12,000 level or beyond is not too far for the market. Hence, we remain sanguine and expect the immediate support base to shift higher towards the 11,867-11,802 range.

### Market View

Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services Ltd, said, "Market turned positive due to buoyancy from telecom stocks supported by tariff hike plans. Positive vibes also witnessed in PSU banks having exposure to distressed assets. Gains in Pharma, energy and infra stocks pushed markets higher while losses in Auto, metals and consumer stocks limited the gain. Fear of downgrade in FY20 earnings due to slow pace in consumption demand and industrial growth may consolidate the market in the near term."

— ASHWIN J. PUNNEEN

## Kylie Jenner sells \$600 mn stake in beauty brand to Coty

**New York, Nov. 19:**

Beauty products giant Coty announced on Monday a deal to take a



majority stake in Kylie Jenner's cosmetics and skincare company, marrying Jenner's celebrity prominence with Coty's distribution and commercial prowess.

Under the transaction, Coty, whose brands include Hugo Boss and Burberry fragrances, will pay \$600 million for a 51 per cent stake in Jenner's company.

Jenner, the youngest daughter of Kris Jenner and Caitlyn Jenner, formerly known as Bruce Jenner, has more than 270 million social media followers and rates as "one of the most influential voices among beauty consumers globally," said a statement from both companies.

She launched the brand in 2015 with "Kylie Lip Kit" and has since added eyeliners, eye shadows, blushes and other items.

"I'm excited to partner with Coty to continue to reach even more fans of Kylie Cosmetics and Kylie Skin around the world," Jenner said.

— AFP





## Meddling with polls

Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen says China is interfering in the territory's elections every day as it seeks to damage the island's democracy



US must end its joint exercises with Seoul once and for all

— Kim Yong Chol  
North Korean official

## BRIEF

### Erdogan says Syria fight to continue

Ankara: Turkey is aware that the US support for the Syrian Kurdish YPG militia will not end immediately, President Tayyip Erdogan said on Tuesday, but added that Ankara's battle against the militia it considers a terrorist group will continue. Ankara views the YPG as a terrorist group, linked to Kurdish militants, waging an insurgency on Turkish soil, and has launched three offensives in northern Syria against it. It has been infuriated by the US support for the militia, repeatedly urging its Nato ally to halt its relations with the group. Erdogan said Turkey will continue to battle the YPG until all threats towards Turkey are stopped and every militant is eliminated. He added that no plan in the region can be realised without Turkey's consent and support.

### Sri Lanka may face snap election

Colombo: Sri Lanka faces the possibility of a snap parliamentary poll, Speaker Karu Jayasuriya said on Tuesday, a day after Gotabaya Rajapaksa took over as the country's President. Rajapaksa, 70, of the Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (SLPP) defeated Sajith Premadasa, 52, of the ruling United National Party (UNP) by more than 13 lakh votes. The next parliamentary poll is scheduled only after August 2020. Constitutionally, a sitting Prime Minister cannot be removed unless he resigns. But, following Rajapaksa's victory, the need for a fresh parliamentary election to allow the new President to form his own government has gained ground.

### 15 killed in China coal mine blast

Beijing: At least fifteen people were killed and nine others injured in a coal mine gas explosion in north China's Shanxi Province, local authorities said on Tuesday. The incident happened on Monday when 35 miners were working underground at the coal mine in Pingyao County, the Shanxi administration of coal mine safety said. Authorities said that 15 people were killed in the blast. "Eleven miners managed to escape," the state-run Xinhua news agency reported.

### ISRAEL CLAIMS TO INTERCEPT 4 SYRIA ROCKETS

Jerusalem: Israel's air defences intercepted four rockets fired from neighbouring Syria on Tuesday, the army said, prompting reported retaliatory missile strikes against the source of the fire. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said the rockets were fired from positions around the capital held by groups loyal to the Damascus government. It did not elaborate on which group had launched the rockets or whether there had been any casualties in the retaliatory strikes. The flareup comes after a major escalation in and around Gaza last week following Israel's targeted killing of a commander of Palestinian militant group Islamic Jihad, which is allied with Damascus. The killing was accompanied by a second strike, unconfirmed by Israel, on an Islamic Jihad leader in Damascus that killed his son and another person. There was no immediate rocket fire from Syria following that strike. "Four launches were identified from Syria towards Israeli territory which were intercepted by the Israeli air defence systems," the Israeli military said in a statement. — AFP

# Call was too peculiar: Witness

Official overhears Trump's phone call with envoy, to testify tomorrow

Washington, Nov. 19: The phone call state department official David Holmes overheard between President Donald Trump and ambassador Gordon Sondland lasted just two minutes. But it won't be easily forgotten. "I've never seen anything like this," Holmes told Trump impeachment investigators. "Someone calling the President from a mobile phone at a restaurant, and then having a conversation of this level of candor, colorful language. There's just so much about the call that was so remarkable that I remember it vividly."

Holmes' first-hand account of the conversation heard over lunch in Kyiv provides a key piece of the impeachment inquiry. He is among the only witnesses testifying so far to show Trump personally seeking investigations into Democrats and his potential 2020 rival Joe Biden, that are central to the probe.

A transcript of Holmes' closed-door testimony was released on Monday.

Holmes, a political counsellor at the US Embassy in Ukraine, is scheduled to testify publicly on Thursday.

## Physician refutes speculation over Trump's chest pain

Washington, Nov. 19: US President Donald Trump had no chest pain nor was he evaluated or treated for any urgent or acute issues, a presidential physician has said, two days after he went for an unscheduled physical check up at a military hospital that has given rise to speculation about his health.

Trump, 73, went for an unscheduled physical checkup at a Walter Reed National Military Medical Centre that has given rise to speculation about his health. "The President has not had any chest pain, nor

The conversation between the President and the ambassador came a day after the July 25 call when Trump asked Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy for a favour with the investigations.

At the time, the Trump administration was withholding \$391 million in military aid to the ally in what Democrats say



Donald Trump

was he evaluated or treated for any urgent or acute issues. Specifically, he did not undergo any specialised cardiac or neurologic evaluations," the President's Physician Dr Sean P. Conley said in a memorandum issued by

amounts to bribery.

Trump says he did nothing wrong. A whistleblower's complaint about it led the House to launch the impeachment inquiry.

Holmes joined Sondland and others during the lunch meeting and told investigators Trump was talking so loudly he could hear the President clearly on the ambassador's

on Monday. "A full summary of his labs and exam will be incorporated into next year's report, but the President has consented to me sharing that his total cholesterol is now 165 (mg/dL), with an HDL of 70, an LDL of 84 and a non-HDL of 95, he said.

Conley said primary preventative medical care is something that occurs continuously throughout the year and it is not just a single annual event.

"As such I will continue to monitor the President's health, planning on a more comprehensive examination after the New Year," he said. — PTI

phone. "I then heard President Trump ask, 'So he's going to do the investigation?'" Holmes testified.

Ambassador Sondland replied, "He's going to do it," adding that President Zelenskyy will, quote, 'do anything you ask him to.'

Holmes said he didn't take notes of the conversation he overheard between

Trump and Sondland but remembers it 'vividly.'

Pressed during the closed-session interview about whether anyone helped him recall the details, Holmes said, that wouldn't have been needed, Sir, because, as I said, the event itself was so distinctive that I remember it very clearly.

A transcript was also released late on Monday from an interview with David Hale, the state department's No. 3 official.

Hale was questioned earlier this month about the abrupt removal of the US ambassador to Ukraine, Marie Yovanovitch, who delivered chilling testimony last week about her ouster amid a smear campaign by Trump's lawyer, Rudy Giuliani.

As the undersecretary of state for political affairs, Hale said he repeatedly pushed for a state department statement defending the ambassador, who spent a 33-year career in the foreign service. But that effort failed.

He said secretary of state Mike Pompeo most likely would have been the person to make the decision not to publicly support Yovanovitch.

— AP

## Rules for Sikh cops changed in Houston

Houston, Nov. 19: In an honour of fallen Indian-American Sikh police officer Sandeep Singh Dhaliwal, the Houston Police Department has changed its dress code policy to allow the minority community members to represent their faith while on duty.

On September 28, Dhaliwal, a 10-year veteran of the Harris County Sheriff's office and its first Sikh deputy, was gunned down while conducting a mid-day traffic stop in northwest of Houston. The 42-year-old trail blazing police officer made national headlines when he was allowed to grow a beard and wear a turban on the job.

"@houstonpolice is now the largest law enforcement agency in TX to adopt a policy allowing officers to wear articles of faith on duty." City of Houston tweeted on Monday.

"Proud to announce HPD (Houston Police Department) will accommodate Sikh officers by letting them wear their articles of faith while on duty — one of the largest police departments in the country to do so. Deputy Dhaliwal taught us all a valuable lesson about inclusion. It was an honour to know him,"



Sandeep Singh Dhaliwal

Houston mayor Sylvester Turner tweeted.

"Proud to stand with @SylvesterTurner and so many members of our community to announce our policy and get the word out to our greater community," chief of the Houston Police Department Art Acevedo tweeted.

The Houston Police Department announced that they are changing its uniform policy to allow officers to wear articles of faith while on duty in order to be more inclusive in honour of the fallen Sikh deputy, Fox News reported.

"I'm honoured," Dhaliwal's father, Pyara Singh Dhaliwal, was quoted as saying by the KHOU Television station. — PTI

## BORIS TRIES HIS HAND AT BOXING



Britain's Prime Minister Boris Johnson at a boxing academy in Manchester, north-west England, on Tuesday, during a general election campaign trip. Britain will go to the polls on December 12 to vote in a pre-Christmas general election. — AFP

## Sharif out on bail, leaves for London

SHAFQAT ALI  
ISLAMABAD, NOV. 19

Three-time Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, a month after being released on bail from a seven-year sentence in Al-Azizia case, departed for London on Tuesday for medical treatment.

He was flown in an air ambulance from the Allama Iqbal International Airport, Lahore, accompanied by his brother Shehbaz Sharif.

Prior to departure, the doctors inspected Sharif's blood sugar level, blood pressure and performed a CBC test. Upon clearance of all medical tests and doctors' recommendations, the air ambulance took off from the airport.

The former premier's medication has been changed for enabling him to travel. Sharif will be shifted to the Harley Street Clinic in London immediately after landing.

## INDO-PAK POSTAL MAIL SERVICE RESUMED

Islamabad, Nov. 19: Pakistan has resumed postal mail service with India, nearly three months after it was suspended in the wake of the decision to end the special status of Jammu and Kashmir, the Pakistan media reported on Tuesday.

According to the Pakistani media, the postal mail service with India has resumed, but the parcel service will remain suspended.

However, there was no official announcement on the resumption of the limited postal service with India.

— PTI

All essential preparations to shift the ailing Sharif were made, and a 'high-end' air ambulance arrived at the airport from Doha.



Julian Assange

## ASSANGE RAPE INVESTIGATION DROPPED

Stockholm, Nov. 19: Swedish prosecutors said on Tuesday they have dropped their investigation into WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange over a 2010 rape allegation, even though they found the plaintiff's claim 'credible'.

"My assessment is that all investigative measures that can be taken have been taken. But, the evidence is not strong enough to file an indictment," deputy director of public prosecutions, Eva-Marie Persson, told reporters.

The investigation was launched after a Swedish woman who met Assange at a WikiLeaks conference in Stockholm in August 2010 accused the Australian of having unprotected sex with her while she was sleeping. She said she had previously repeatedly refused to have unprotected sex with him.

Assange, 48, has been held at a British prison since April after police dragged him out of the Ecuadorian embassy in London.

Swedish authorities closed the rape investigation in 2017, saying it was not possible to proceed as Assange could not be reached. But the case was reopened following his arrest in London.

In September, prosecutors said they had interviewed seven witnesses over the summer in a bid to move the inquiry forward. — AFP

## Taliban free 2 Western hostages in swap for 3 top commanders

Kandahar, Nov. 19: The Taliban handed two Western hostages over to US forces in southern Afghanistan Tuesday three years after they were abducted, in a swap for three high-ranking insurgent prisoners that could boost peace talks.

The exchange of American Kevin King and Australian Timothy Weeks for the militants — including Anas Haqqani, brother to the Taliban's deputy leader — was welcomed by both the United States and the insurgents.

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said the releases "give us hope for the success of intra-Afghan peace negotiations, which the United States



Kevin King

stands ready to support."

King and Weeks, both professors at the American University in Kabul, were kidnapped by gunmen wearing military uniforms in the heart of Afghan capital in August 2016.

They later appeared looking haggard in a Taliban



Timothy Weeks

hostage video, with the insurgents going on to say that King was in poor health. On Tuesday morning, they were driven by car to Nawbahar district in Zabul, a southern province bordering Pakistan, an insurgent source told AFP.

— AFP

## After clashes with cops, HK students can't leave campus

Hong Kong, Nov. 19: Anti-government protesters holed up in a Hong Kong university were frantically searching for escape routes on Tuesday after more than two days of clashes with police and dramatic breakouts by rope and motorcycle.

About 100 protesters were trapped in the Polytechnic University a day after students, some tired and fearful of police storming the campus, tried again and again to flee, only to be beaten back by police firing rubber bullets, water cannons and tear gas.

Some 280 injured were taken to hospital on Tuesday, the hospital

authority said. "I just want to leave. I feel very tired," said Thomas, 20.

"I didn't throw Molotovs. I was here to support the protest. I don't see anything wrong with it so I wanted to support the students."

Relatives of some of the young pro-democracy protesters holed up inside a Hong Kong university held anxious vigil on Tuesday as police vowed to arrest everyone on the campus. One woman said she had spent last night in a park near a police cordon as she waited for news of her adult son, who she said came to the campus as a first aider. "I was very, very worried, worried

his life could be in danger. He's scared. He's scared about being arrested by the cops," she said.

Another mother, identified by her surname Chung, told the South China Morning Post her 16-year-old daughter was still inside the university, despite assurances that minors would not face any immediate legal action if they surrendered. "No one can ask her to come out now. She wants to walk out freely, and does not believe the police at all," she told the paper. — Agencies

## Bill Gates' new tech venture addresses world climate crisis

Washington, Nov. 19: A technology solution that can create low-cost, ultra-high-temperature process heat using solar power and offer an answer for climate crisis is in the offing.

And the people behind it are the ones who used technology to change the way people lived in 20th century. Reports suggest that

Microsoft founder Bill Gates is backing the project that aims to convert sunlight into a source of heat exceeding 1,000°C by aligning a large array of mirrors to reflect sunlight to a target using software.

The temperature could go as high as 1,500°C to split hydrogen particles from water to create a fossil-free gas to power

homes, fuel cars and power factories.

The temperature will be sufficient to manufacture cement without creating greenhouse gases.

Cement is the world's third largest source of emissions behind oil and coal, and its production is likely to boom due to urbanisation in developing countries and economic growth. — Agencies

### NORTHERN RAILWAY NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Name of work and its location	30-ELECT-42-T-2019-20-E3. Electrical work in connection with Air-conditioning with other allied works in officers rest house over Delhi Division.
Approx cost of the works	Rs. 106.56 lacs
Address of the office	Sr. Divl Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi.
Earnest Money	Rs. 2,03,300.00
Date & time of submission of tender	18.12.2019, 15:00 Hrs.
Opening of tender	18.12.2019, 15:00 Hrs.
Website & notice board	www.iregs.gov.in & Sr. Divl. Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi.

3698/2019  
Serving Customers with a Smile

### Appeal for Identification

General Public is hereby informed that a male dead body Name: Rajkumar, S/o Parshuram, R/o: Unknown, Age: Approx 62 years, Height: 5'6", Complexion: Shallow, Gender : Male, Wearing: White colour Kurta & Dhoti was found dead at Bhagwan Mahavir Hospital, Mangol Puri, Delhi on 14.10.2019 at 04:12 P.M. In this regard, DD No. 23-A dated 14.10.2019 has been lodged at PS Rani Bagh, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this male but no clue has come to light so far.

Any, person having any information or clue about this male may kindly inform to the following.

SHO  
P.S., Rani Bagh, Delhi  
Ph.: 011-27015329, 8750870225  
DP/2884/OD/19





## Noisy heroes

Today's superhero films 'too noisy' and overshot, says Willem Dafoe



There were sparks between Emma Watson, Tom Felton on *Harry Potter* sets

— Rupert Grint, English actor

## IN BRIEF

### New wasp species named after Idris

**Washington:** A tiny new species of wasp which kills an invasive pest that threatens several crops in India has been named after British actor and musician Idris Elba, researchers say. The parasitic wasp was recently discovered in Guanajuato, Mexico, where it was found to parasitise the eggs of an invasive stink bug, known as the bagrada bug, which is a major pest of cruciferous vegetables. Researchers suggest that the species might prove to be a Heimdall-like "protector" for many crops. — PTI

### Halle Berry injured on set of *Bruised*

**Los Angeles:** Actor Halle Berry was injured on the sets of her upcoming film *Bruised*. According to NJ Advance Media, the Oscar winner suffered an injury while she was shooting for a fight scene. Her injury has slightly delayed the film, which also marks her feature directorial debut. Berry is also producing the project. Executive producer Brian Pitt told the outlet that Berry's injury was "nothing serious". "She's tired. She needed a break...." he added. — PTI

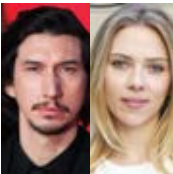


### Taylor Swift allowed to perform her hits

**New York:** Taylor Swift's former label said Monday that it will allow the global pop superstar to perform some of her early hits at an awards show this month — the latest twist in a months-long public feud over the rights to her first six albums. The Big Machine Label Group released what it called a joint statement with Dick Clark Productions — which puts on the American Music Awards — saying they had "reached a licensing agreement" that would allow Swift to sing what she wants at the November 24 ceremony. — AFP

### ADAM DRIVER, JOHANSSON TO BE AWARDED

**Los Angeles:** Adam Driver and Scarlett Johansson, the lead stars of filmmaker Noah Baumbach's upcoming divorce drama *Marriage Story*, are set to be honoured with the Outstanding Performer of the Year Award by the Santa Barbara International Film Festival. The two actors will be presented with the award at the Arlington Theatre on January 20, 2020, the festival organisers said in a statement, according to *Variety*. "Scarlett and Adam have had such admirable arcs to their careers — making smart choices between independent films and big Hollywood franchises. They both are such lyrical performers, imbuing their acting with keen sensitivity and intellect." "Together in Baumbach's *Marriage Story*, they regaled us with their best work to date," SBIFF executive director Roger Durling said. The award is bestowed upon "select individuals who have distinguished themselves with exceptional performances in film this past year". Past honourees are Rami Malek, Margot Robbie and Allison Janney. — PTI



Adam Driver and Scarlett Johansson

# 'Not the role model we want'

Students call for Prince Andrew to quit as chancellor of Huddersfield University

**London:** The University of Huddersfield has said it will consult its student body over Prince Andrew's position as chancellor after a panel voted unanimously to lobby for the duke's resignation from the post.

On Sunday evening the university had defended the Duke of York, stressed his "long ties" with the institution and praised his "enthusiasm", which made him "a natural fit with the work of the University".

"In relation to the allegations, the palace has previously issued an emphatic denial and this was reiterated in the BBC interview with the Duke of York and we have nothing further to add," the statement on Sunday said.

The university's amended reaction is the latest blow for the duke, who is facing mounting pressure over his friendship with the convicted child sex offender Jeffrey Epstein, as a number of senior politicians criticised him and business partners dropped him.

A Huddersfield Students' Union panel approved a motion calling for Prince Andrew's removal from his ceremonial post at the university that read, "We as students at the University of Huddersfield and members of Huddersfield Students' Union should not be represented by a man with ties to organised

child sexual exploitation and assault."

"We need to put survivors of sexual assault above royal connections and show students, alumni and prospective students that this institution cares about their wellbeing, irrespective of the status of the alleged perpetrator," it continued.

A spokesperson for the university told the *Guardian* on Tuesday: "We are aware of the students' union meeting last night and the motion it passed regarding the chancellor. We listen to our students' views and concerns and we will now be consulting with them over the coming weeks."

A motion was put forward by Huddersfield student Tristan Smith, with others backing the suggestion move on social media with the hashtag #NotMyChancellor.

"I think he needs to have taken a stand to show some integrity, and I haven't seen that yet. It's not the sort of role model I think students should have, it's not the sort of person I think should be in that position, essentially of authority and of recognition and respect," Smith told BBC.

The duke, 59, has faced a growing backlash since he defended his friendship with Jeffrey Epstein in a TV interview with the BBC presenter Emily Maitlis on Saturday night. — Agencies



A file photo of Prince Andrew at Huddersfield University in England.

▶ The University of Huddersfield has said it will consult its student body over Prince Andrew's position as chancellor after a panel voted unanimously to lobby for the duke's resignation from the post

▶ The university's amended reaction is the latest blow for the duke, who is facing mounting pressure over his friendship with Epstein

▶ 'We as students at the University of Huddersfield should not be represented by a man with ties to organised child sexual exploitation,' the student body said

### New Epstein accuser calls Andrew to talk

**Los Angeles:** A woman has come forward to accuse the disgraced financier Jeffrey Epstein of sexually abusing her as a 15-year-old, and called for Prince Andrew to share information on his former friend, BBC reported.

The new accuser, identified as "Jane Doe 15", told reporters she suffered a "vicious, prolonged sexual assault".

She is the latest of more than a dozen women to sue Epstein's estate for alleged sexual abuses.

It comes amid controversy over Prince Andrew's ties to the sex offender. Jane Doe 15, now 31, gave a press conference in Los Angeles on Monday. — Agencies

### Epstein jail guards charged with falsifying records



Jeffrey Epstein

**New York:** Two correctional officers responsible for guarding Jeffrey Epstein the night he killed himself were charged with falsifying prison records.

A grand jury indictment made public Tuesday accused guards Toval Noel and Michael Thomas of neglecting their duties by failing to perform checks on Epstein every half hour, as required, and of fabricating log entries to show they had. Epstein had been placed on suicide watch after he was found July 23 on the floor of his cell with a bruised neck.

His death while awaiting trial on charges he sexually abused underage girls was a major embarrassment for the US bureau of prisons.

The cell where he died was in a high-security unit, famous for having held terrorists and drug cartel kingpins. Epstein's death revealed the jail was suffering from problems like chronic staffing shortages.

— AP

## Polanski film tops French box office despite rape accusation

**Paris:** Roman Polanski's new film is topping the French box office despite a new rape allegation against the controversial director.

*An Officer and a Spy* surged ahead of the Matt Damon racing car epic *Ford v Ferrari* — which is top of the US box office — despite the publicity campaign for the movie being suspended in the wake of the latest claims against the veteran film-maker.

French photographer Valentine Monnier threw the release of the historical thriller about the Dreyfus Affair into disarray by accusing Polanski of raping her in 1975 when she was 18 after beating her "into submission" at his Swiss chalet.

But despite protests outside cinemas and a call by feminists to boycott the

### French directors' guild begins a move to suspend Polanski

**Paris:** A French organisation of more than 200 film-makers said Monday it will propose new rules for members charged or convicted of sexual violence, which could lead to the suspension of French-Polish director Roman Polanski.

The board of the ARP directors' guild voted to present to its members "new procedures to suspend any member facing legal charges, and expel



Roman Polanski

any member convicted, especially for crimes of a sexual nature," said Pierre Jolivet, ARP president.

The proposed rules for suspension "would affect Roman Polanski whose judicial case is still open in the United States and for which he has been charged," Jolivet added. — AFP

movie starring Oscar-winning actor Jean Dujardin, nearly 4,00,000 people had flocked to see it by late

Monday. He denies attacking Monnier, a former model has threatened to sue his accusers. — AFP

## Moscow considering 'foreign agent' tag for journalists & bloggers

**Moscow:** Rights activists warned Tuesday of greater curbs on media and online freedom in Russia ahead of a vote on a controversial bill that could lead bloggers and independent journalists to be labelled "foreign agents."

Lawmakers want to broaden existing legislation that forces foreign-funded media and NGOs to describe themselves as "foreign agents" to include individuals.

Foreign agents are required to register with the justice ministry, label the material they publish and submit much more detailed paperwork or face fines.

Critics said this would

▶ Foreign agents are required to register with justice ministry, label material they publish and submit much more detailed paperwork

affect bloggers and even ordinary people posting on social media, although some ruling party lawmakers denied this.

Amnesty International in a joint statement with other rights groups, including Journalists Without Borders, decried it as "a further step to restrict free and independent media" and "a tool to silence opposition voices." — AFP

## 'Cruel' French tradition of glue trap bird hunting draws wrath

**Marseille:** In the dead of night, hunter Daniel Portalis is busy spreading adhesive lime on to sticks by torchlight on a hill overlooking the Mediterranean port city of Marseille.

Placing them in trees or bushes, he hopes to catch a thrush by enticing the woodland bird to land on

the sticky substance.

Loved or loathed, a new season of glue trap hunting is under way in south-eastern France, angering opponents who say the capture of thousands of thrushes and blackbirds in this way every season is "cruel" and have tried in vain to have it banned by French authorities.

The practice is also in the firing line of the European Union, which prohibited it in Spain in 2004 and issued a warning to France in July.

Images of birds struggling to free themselves provoked a public debate. The backlash worries Portalis but he remains undeterred. — AFP

### Picasso's electrician in a legal soup over hoarded art

**Lyon:** A French court on Tuesday confirmed the two-year suspended jail terms given to Pablo Picasso's former electrician and his wife, who hoarded 271 of the great painter's works in a garage for four decades.

The verdict by the Lyon court is the latest twist in a decade-long legal saga, which took the couple, who claim the works were a gift, all the way to France's top appeals court.

Pierre and Danielle Le Guennec were first given two-year suspended terms in 2015 after being convicted of possession of stolen goods over huge trove of works by Picasso. — AFP



Lucas Goodman and Jillian Hervey at an event in New York on Monday. — AP



Ajay Devgn is greeted by Saif Ali Khan at the trailer launch of their upcoming film *Tanhaji* in Mumbai on Tuesday. — AP

## 'Trash talk' hurts even when it comes from a robot: Research

**New Delhi:** Discouraging words such as "I have to say you are a terrible player" can be disturbing for people even when uttered by a robot, according to a study presented here.

In the study, people who played a game with a commercially available humanoid robot known as Pepper performed worse when the machine discouraged them, and better when it encouraged them.

The researchers noted that some of the 40 study participants were technically sophisticated and fully understood that a machine was the source of their discomfort.

"One participant said, 'I don't like what the robot is saying, but that's the way it was programmed so I can't blame it,'" said Lead author Aaron M. Roth, who conducted the study while he was a mas-

### Toyota worker's suicide ruled work-related after harassment

**Tokyo:** Japanese authorities have ruled that an engineer at Toyota was suffering from power harassment on the job when he killed himself after suffering from constant ridicule from his boss. Toyota Motor Corp. acknowledged the case after reports of the ruling emerged Tuesday. The company said it hopes to prevent further such cases and expressed condolences over the death.

A regional labour

bureau ruled in September that the 2017 suicide entitled the victim's family to compensation under a law regarding job-related deaths.

Yoshihide Tachino, the attorney for the victim and his family, said Toyota was responsible for allowing the harassment to continue. Case came amid growing awareness of problems with what the Japanese call "power harassment." — AP

The study is a departure from typical human-robot interaction studies, which tend to focus on how humans and robots can best work together. — PTI



The staircase (above) at the former Samaritaine shopping centre in Paris which will be transformed into a complex including a department store, a 5-star hotel, social housing units, offices, and a children's nursery. Closed 15 years ago, the Samaritaine will reopen in April 2020. — AFP

Bollywood actress Vedika (left) at the promotion of their upcoming Hindi film *The Body* in Mumbai on Monday. — AFP

### 4 MALAYSIAN MEN CANED FOR GAY SEX UNDER ISLAMIC LAW

**Kuala Lumpur:** Four Malaysian men have been caned for having gay sex in violation of Islamic laws, with activists Tuesday condemning "vicious punishments" they said highlighted a crack-down on the LGBT community. Rights group say there is a worsening climate for gays in the Muslim-majority country, where authorities have maintained a colonial-era ban on sodomy and mete out harsh physical punishments for same-sex relations.

The men received six strokes each in a prison outside Kuala Lumpur on Monday for attempting "intercourse against order of nature". — AFP



### LOPEZ DID NOT CHARGE ANY FEE FOR HUSTLERS

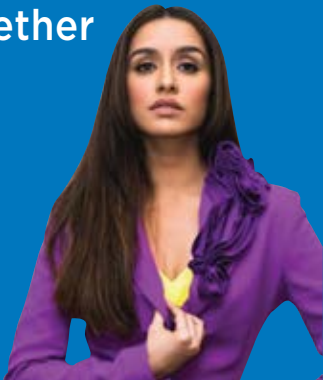
**Los Angeles:** Singer-actor Jennifer Lopez has revealed that she didn't charge any fee for *Hustlers*, a crime drama about New York strip-tease girls who swindle Wall Street traders.

Lopez starred as Ramona, the ringleader to the group of ambitious women who take their plans of getting their full cut too far, and also produced the film.

The actor said the decision to do the movie for free was hers.

"I do things because I love them. I didn't get paid a whole bunch of money for *Hustlers*. I did it for free and produced it. I bank on myself. "That's the *Jenny From the Block*. I do what I want, I do what I love," Lopez told *GQ* magazine. The film, which is generating major Oscar buzz, is based on a New York Magazine article by Jessica Pressler *The Hustlers at Scores*. — PTI





## SPORT | Cricket

Batsmen to find wrist spinners difficult to read under lights: Harbhajan

14



## SPORT | Basketball

Harden ensures Houston's eighth win on the trot

15

### GUIDE TO FORTUNE

Tick the answer and check them below.

**1** Who said 'Man is a political animal'?

- Aristotle
- Dante
- Socrates

**2** Nuclear sizes are expressed in which unit?

- newton
- Fermi
- tesla

**3** Nymph is the name of young one of which insect?

- beetle
- housefly
- cockroach

### SHORT TAKES

## Gangs of women thieves busted

**New Delhi:** The Delhi police has busted two gangs of women thieves and arrested five women who were active in the Lajpat Nagar area. The accused women Nazmeen (30), Sayra (37) and Rukhsar (24) of were of one gang, while Savitri (30), Joshni (20) were of another gang, said DCP (southeast) Chinmoy Biswal adding that they used to target customers in busy markets and take advantage of the crowd to escape. During interrogation it was revealed that they travelled in a group of 3 to 5 ladies and created an atmosphere of the crowd and surround the "target" and taking advantage of the rush, one of them opens the zip of the bag and on finding right time the other lady takes out articles. Accused Savitri and Joshni are cousins and shuttled between Madhya Pradesh and the national capital to commit thefts. While Nazmeen, Sayra and Rukhsar are sisters-in-law in relations.

## Mantri pays tribute to Indira Gandhi

**New Delhi:** The Congress leaders remembered former Prime Minister and Bharat Ratna Indira Gandhi on her birth anniversary on November 19. On this occasion, senior Dalit leader and former MLA Jai Kishan organized a 'Sadbhavana Daud' event to pay tribute to former Prime Minister on Tuesday in Mangolpuri area. Mr Kishan also distributed clothes and sarees to people of slum clusters falling in Mangolpuri area. Former AICC secretary on this occasion addressed a small gathering of Party workers. He exhorted party workers to follow Ms Gandhi's ideals, which was ahead of her time.

## IGNCA celebrates foundation day

**New Delhi:** Union Minister of state (Independent Charge) for culture and tourism, Prahlad Singh Patel, inaugurated the foundation day celebrations of the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) here on Tuesday. While speaking on the occasion, Dr. Sachchidanand Joshi, member secretary (IGNCA), said, "The basic objective of the IGNCA is to serve as a resource centre for the arts, especially written, oral and visual source materials. Besides, the centre aims to undertake research and publication programmes of reference works, glossaries, dictionaries and encyclopedia concerning the arts and the humanities". The centre has published around 20 books, based on thorough research work, in the last six months, he said. Renowned pianocordoned Enoch Daniel also performed on the occasion.

THE ANSWERS TO TODAY'S GUIDE TO FORTUNE

- cockroach
- Fermi
- Aristotle

■ It's time to stop politicising issue, urges Gambhir

# 3 BJP MPs missing as LS debates rising air pollution

AGE CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI, NOV. 19

BJP MP from East Delhi and former cricketer Gautam Gambhir, who faced a lot of brickbats for skipping a key Parliamentary panel meeting on air pollution, on Tuesday marked his presence in the Lok Sabha during a discussion on the issue. He appealed that it affects everyone and there should be no politics over it.

Participating in a discussion on air pollution and climate change, which was initiated by Congress MP Manish Tewari, Mr Gambhir said that the issue affects everyone irrespective of "our caste, creed, age and religion. It is affecting us while we stand and talk about it in Parliament. It's high time we stop politicising this issue. The people have given us the mandate to do something constructive and therefore we should discuss strategies to resolve this burning issue, rather than waste our time in maligning each other". Meanwhile, BJP members from Delhi severely criticised the chief minister Arvind Kejriwal during the discussion, which remained inconclusive and will continue on November 20 also, claiming inaction over his part towards curbing the menace of air pollution.

They said that instead of taking concrete steps to control growing air pollution, Mr Kejriwal was busy blaming farmers from neighbouring states like Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh for burning crop remain.

Participating in the discussion, BJP MP from West Delhi Pravesh Verma, slammed the AAP government in Delhi for blaming stubble burning for pollution in the National Capital

## 2 arrested with 14kgs of heroin worth ₹50cr

AGE CORRESPONDNET  
NEW DELHI, NOV. 19

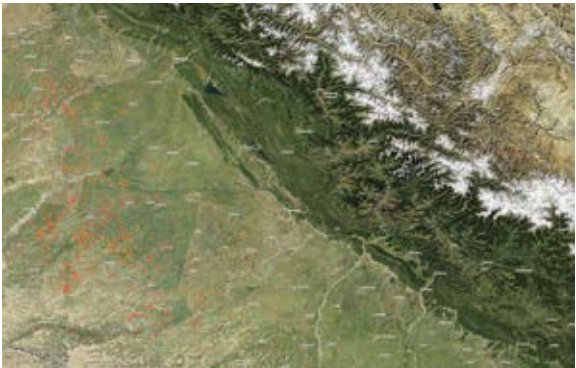
Two men were arrested in Delhi's Rohini area on Tuesday for allegedly smuggling heroin brought from a woman in Manipur to other states, police said, adding that 14 kg of the contraband worth over ₹50 crore was seized from them.

The accused, Sanjeet Kumar Singh (34) and Pardeep Kumar Yadav (24), both residents of Uttar Pradesh, were arrested in Rohini's Sector-24. They used to bring heroin from a woman in Manipur; the police said.

Total 14 kilogram heroin worth more than ₹50 crore in the international market was recovered from their possession, they said.

"On Tuesday, police got a tip-off that two persons will come to Rohini with heroin to smuggle it in the national capital," said Sanjeev Kumar Yadav, deputy commissioner of police (special cell).

A trap was laid and the accused were arrested at around 7 am, Mr Yadav said. During search, two parcels, each having seven kilogram of heroin, were recovered from their backpacks, the deputy commissioner of policesaid.



NASA image shows red dots indicating stubble burning, in areas surrounding Delhi on Tuesday. — PTI

## DiCaprio's Instagram post highlights Delhi's pollution

**L o s Angeles, Nov. 19:** Hollywood s t a r Leonardo DiCaprio expressed concern over the rising levels of pollution in national capital through a post on Instagram.

The 45-year-old actor, a vocal advocate for a clean environment, on Monday shared a post by Extinction Rebellion, a global climate movement, on the social media site.



Leonardo DiCaprio

Region and ignoring major pollutants, including vehicles and dust. Interestingly only 4 of the BJP's 7 Delhi MPs took part in the debate. Harsh Vardhan, Hans Raj Hans and Ramesh Bidhuri were missing from the lower house during the air pollution debate. During the discussion, members cutting across party lines demanded in the Lok Sabha integrated action by the government to deal with air pollution while stressing that it was wrong to blame

The post gives details of a protest organised in New Delhi by climate activist groups Extinction Rebellion, LetMeBreathe, FridaysForFuture and others. "Over 1500 citizens gathered in at India Gate to demand immediate action on the cities hazardous pollution levels.

According to the World Health Organisation, air pollution in India is estimated to kill about 1.5 million people every year; these statistics make air pollution the fifth-largest killer," it said.

— PTI

# EDMC proposes professional tax, hikes property tax by 3%

SHASHI BHUSHAN  
NEW DELHI, NOV. 19

While introducing new betterment and professional taxes, the East Delhi Municipal Corporation (EDMC) on Tuesday increased property tax by three per cent in a few categories of colonies. Presenting the budget proposal for the next financial year in the standing committee, the EDMC commissioner Dr Dilraj Kaur said that major increase in revenue expected from property tax, toll tax, parking lots and advertisements.

Dr Kaur proposed professional tax of ₹100 per month for those earning more than ₹5 lakh a year and ₹200 per month for

those earning above ₹10 lakh. She also proposed betterment tax for enhancement of property value due to public infrastructure development at a rate of 10 per cent of property tax. Education cess of 5 per cent of property tax also proposed. "Garbage collection charges will be levied as per SWM Act," she said.

On strengthening sanitation services, Dr Kaur said that the EDMC to develop 5 more community toilets and 46 public toilets, 5350 more bins are being installed and distributing 83,000 dustbins among citizens of 12-litre capacity each now plan to buy more such 1,50,000 bins. "Trommel-cum-ballistic machines

## Sonia shows concern over city pollution

**New Delhi, Nov. 19:** Congress president Sonia Gandhi on Tuesday expressed concern over the deteriorating air quality in the national capital and cited the introduction of CNG-powered public transport by the Congress government to tackle the issue.

Speaking at the presentation of the Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development, which was given to the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE), the Congress President also recalled the steps taken by the former prime minister to safeguard the environment.

"We, who live in this capital, notorious now as the world's most polluted city, can recall the difference in air quality when compressed natural gas was introduced in public vehicles," Gandhi said.

"This transformation was made possible by the persuasive expertise of the CSE and the Congress government of the day," she said.

— PTI

is a matter of serious concern," the Congress MP said.

Most of members said vehicles, dust, construction and industries, power plants too are responsible for poor air quality and farmers of neighbouring states should not be blamed alone. They demanded that the Centre, as well as states, should take tough measures to deal with the menace as air pollution was not only impacting Delhi but also various other cities of the country.

# FIRs against JNU students for rioting, destruction of property Oppn dubs incident as 'suppression of voice'

AGE CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI, NOV. 19

Even as the Opposition members in the Lok Sabha on Tuesday described the alleged baton-charge by police on JNU students as "suppression of voice", the police lodged two FIRs in connection with the protest. The JNU Students' Union, however, demanded that no administrative or legal action be taken against students protesting against a hostel fee hike.

Raising the issue during Zero Hour in Lok Sabha, Saugata Roy and Danish Ali also raised the issue of lathi charge on JNU students by the police. While Mr Roy asked for a discussion on the issue, Mr Danish Ali sought a high level investigation on the issue. Congress MP T.N. Prathapan said the fee hike in JNU was wrong and use of force on the students was undemocratic.

"Most of the students in JNU come from poorest conditions. It is undemocratic that this government is suppressing the voice of the students using CRPF and police. This government is ruining every higher educational institution in the country. Whether it is JNU, Jamia Millia Islamia University or Hyderabad University, this government is just ruining the institutions. If the students' community comes out for their rights, your arrogance will end. I request this government to withdraw the fee hike in JNU and protect the right of free public education,"



JNU students and their leaders (inset), who got injuries in police lathicharge, during press conference in New Delhi on Tuesday. — BIPLAB BANERJEE

Mr Prathapan said.

Demanding that no administrative or legal action be taken against the protesters, JNUSU president Aishe Ghosh said they had a meeting with HRD ministry joint secretary G.C. Hosur and requested him to ensure no administrative action against students. "Students have been getting notices through e-mail for these protests. But these protests are for a just cause and no student will pay even a single-rupee fine," she told reporters.

The police, however, registered one FIR at the Kishangarh police station, while another was lodged at the Lodhi Colony. According to DCP (South) Atul Kumar Thakur, a case under IPC Sections 186 (obstructing public servant in discharge of public func-

tions), 353 (assault or criminal force to deter public servant from discharge of his duty), 332 (voluntarily causing hurt to deter public servant from his duty), 188 (disobedience to order duly promulgated by public servant) was registered.

IPC sections 147 (punishment for rioting), 148 (rioting, armed with deadly weapon), 149 (every member of unlawful assembly guilty of offence committed in prosecution of common object), 151 (knowingly joining or continuing in assembly of five or more persons after it has been commanded to disperse), 34 (acts done by several persons in furtherance of common intention) and Section 3 of the Prevention of Damage to Public Property Act were also added.

# DJB to test 1400 water samples, result in 1 month

AGE CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI, NOV. 19

The Delhi government said on Tuesday that it will form 32 teams to collect drinking water samples from across the city and the test results will be put in the public domain within a month.

The announcement came days after a Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) report said all potable water samples collected in the city failed quality analysis. The AAP government is already under attack from the opposition over the national capital's air pollution crisis.

Delhi jal board's chief water analyst Sanjay Sharma, who visited the Sonia Vihar treatment plant, said that under the water testing exercise, expected to begin within a week, five samples each will be collected from 272 wards. "Our water is one of the best in the world. We are 99 per cent sure that the samples will pass the tests. According to the

■ The announcement came days after a Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) report said all potable water samples collected in the city failed quality analysis.

World Health Organization, the permissible failure limit is 5 per cent," he said while explaining the standards and process followed for water treatment.

Mr Sharma said that the National Environmental Engineering Research Institute or a laboratory approved by the National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories will be engaged for testing of water samples. In total, 1,400 water samples will be tested on 29 parameters, most importantly, for turbidity, pH levels, calcium, magnesium, hardness and others, he said.

## BJP Yuva Morcha holds protest against AAP

AGE CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI, NOV. 19

Stepping up pressure on the AAP government over the water quality issue in the national capital, Delhi BJP's Yuva Morcha activists on Tuesday staged protests across the city. The protesters were seen carrying missing posters of Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal, who is also the chairman of the Delhi Jal Board (DJB). "Have you seen the DJB chairman, Arvind Kejriwal?" read the posters. Similar posters were put up in some parts of east Delhi.

Former Delhi BJP president Satish Upadhyay took part in the protest near the Moolchand flyover. Other senior leaders of the saffron party, including its national vice-president and party city unit in-charge Shyam Jaju and leader of Opposition in the Delhi Assembly Vijender Gupta, also participated in the protests. Delhi BJP Yuva Morcha president Sunil Yadav also joined the protest with senior party leaders.

Mr Kejriwal's missing posters were put up after similar missing posters were seen in the city of East Delhi BJP MP Gautam Gambhir, who faced flak from the AAP over skipping a key parliamentary panel meeting on air pollution due to his cricket commentary.

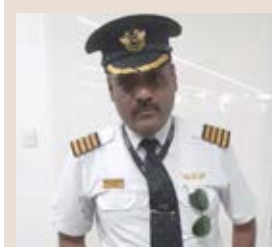
The BJP has been trying to corner the state government over a Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) study that found water samples from Delhi failing on 10 of the 11 quality parameters.

# Man impersonating as Lufthansa pilot nabbed at IGI

AGE CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI, NOV.19

A man has been apprehended by CISF personnel at the Indira Gandhi International Airport here for allegedly "impersonating" as a pilot of Lufthansa airlines to escape long queues and security checking, police said on Tuesday.

They said that Rajan Mahbubani, wearing the uniform of the airline, was nabbed from the departure gate of the airport.



Rajan Mahbubani

Airlines informed CISF officer at Terminal-3, about a suspected passenger in the getup of flight captain of Lufthansa Airlines. The said person

▶ According to police, Rajan Mahbubani impersonated as a pilot to escape long queues and security. The accused used to get into the passage which is normally used by airline crew members for getting into the aircraft.

was in possession of a fake ID card of a captain of Lufthansa Airlines to get privilege at airports.

"On receipt of the information, CISF personnel

accompanied Mr Pathania and the suspect was located at Boarding Gate-52. The passenger, later identified as Mr Rajan Mahbubani (48), a resident of Vasant Kunj, New Delhi, wearing flight captain uniform with Lufthansa ID, bound for Kolkata by Air Asia flight 15-578 scheduled to be fly on Monday evening, was nabbed and enquired by CISF. On enquiry, he disclosed that he used to shoot

YouTube videos based on aviation facilities and obtained Lufthansa fake ID card in Bangkok for doing the same. The passenger





## No hard feelings

Steve Smith insists he does not feel “hard done by” after the West Indies’ Nicholas Pooran received a four-match ban for ball-tampering compared to the batsman’s year-long suspension



It’s important that we bowl with consistency to get Steve Smith out.

— Misbah-ul-Haq, Pakistan coach knows the secret to getting Smith out, calls it the batsman’s “blind spot”

## SHORT TAKES

### Delhi association drama drags on

**New Delhi:** The Apex council of the Delhi & Districts Cricket Association on Tuesday put up a united stand, questioning ombudsman Justice (Retd) Badar Durrez Ahmed’s order which allowed senior journalist Rajat Sharma to continue in his role as DDCA president. Sharma had resigned from his post on Saturday, citing his inability to continue amidst “various pulls and pressures”. However, the DDCA ombudsman on Sunday rejected Sharma’s resignation, asking him to assume office as president and also fixed November 27 to formally hear the matter. The decision didn’t go down well with the Apex Council with nine out of 16 members on Tuesday addressing a joint presser, questioning the Ombudsman’s role and also highlighting the issues affecting the running of the sport in DDCA. “We, the following members of the Apex Council, are of the opinion that you cannot rejoin the office as the president of DDCA and the mail stating your rejoining is null and void,” the members of Apex council said in a letter to Sharma. — PTI

## Kiwis, England put rivalry to Test

**Mount Maunganui:** New Zealand and England will take their cricketing rivalry into the Test arena on Thursday after finding themselves evenly matched in recent limited-overs thrillers. England have bragging rights after winning a rollercoaster World Cup final in July, then edging the Black Caps 3-2 in a desperately close Twenty20 series completed earlier this month. Both the one-day decider and T20 series needed tie-breakers to find a winner and there will be no shortage of mutual respect when the rivals face off again Thursday in the First Test at Mount Maunganui. On paper, there again appears to be little to separate the teams, with New Zealand second in the Test rankings and England third. But England skipper Joe Root is painfully aware that his team underperformed when it lost a two-Test series in New Zealand last year after underestimating the Black Caps’ bowlers on their home turf. — AFP

## Harbhajan says batsmen will find wrist spinners difficult to read under lights

**New Delhi, Nov. 19:** At the floodlit Eden Gardens, wrist spinners landing the pink ball with scrambled seam will be far more difficult to pick than finger spinners, feels senior off-spinner Harbhajan Singh. India will be playing its much-awaited first Day/Night Test against Bangladesh at the Eden Gardens from Saturday and there is a lot of curiosity regarding how the pink ball would behave.

“Wrist spinners will have one advantage if you see because it’s going to be very difficult to pick the seam (with black stitches) of pink ball,” Harbhajan said during an interaction.

India has a wrist spinner in Kuldeep Yadav but Harbhajan didn’t want to talk on selection matters. “Well, that’s the team management’s call and I can’t comment. But then Bangladesh need to play the Indian pacers on the seamer friendly track before spinners are fully operational,” he said, referring to their performance against Mohd Shami and Co. in the first Test.

“And also between 3.30 and 4.30 pm, the time of sunset in Kolkata where seamers are known to do maximum damage. But yes we need to figure out more about spinners if we want to play more D/N Tests in future.”

He reminded how Kuldeep turned out to be lethal during the 2016 Duleep Trophy, played with the pink ball. “If you remember Duleep Trophy, no one could effectively read Kuldeep from his wrists. Leg spinners got lot of wickets during that edition,” Harbhajan said.

He explained why wrist spinners are more effective. “When a finger spinner bowls, the ball is released with seam so that there is turn and bounce. When you are bowling the googly, the seam will be scrambled and very difficult to pick,” he explained.

However, someone like a Muttiah Muralitharan might just be very effective. “But there are exceptions like Muttiah Muralitharan, who could have been a killer with



**Wrist spinners will have one advantage if you see because it’s going to be very difficult to pick the seam (with black stitches) of pink ball. We need to figure out more about spinners if we want to play more D/N Tests in future.**

— HARBHAJAN SINGH

the pink ball despite being a finger spinner because unlike other finger spinners, both his off break and doosra were released with scrambled seam,” said one of India’s greatest spinners. However, the pink SG in general will be a

challenge for the spinners with the extra lacquer that will be applied to keep its colour intact under lights. “More lacquer means that you will not have a good grip on the ball, especially finger spinners. And the ball starts skidding from the hand.”



<<< Kuldeep Yadav

He then went on to

explain the fundamental difference between bowling with white ball and pink ball when the dew sets in. “A lot of people think that the ball will be like a slippery soap bar as it happens with white ball in D/N games. It’s not the same. The white ball becomes slippery because the white lacquer goes off the skin of the ball gets wet.

“With extra lacquer, pink ball’s skin wont get wet but the stitches will be very soggy. And there lies problem with finger spinners. Also the format of the game makes it difficult.

“In 50 overs or 20 over cricket, whenever the ball gets wet, you can just alter the length a bit and let the batsmen play on backfoot getting those singles.

“But in a Test match, you will not have a field setting like that. You have to pitch it up. Now landing six deliveries on one spot while trying to grip a wet seam can be a challenge because trying the ODI length will be easy meat for batsmen.”

For spinners to be more effective, they have to play more games at the domestic level. “If BCCI creates a window so that all top national players are available for a couple of specific rounds in Ranji Trophy, then you can learn more.

— PTI



Virat Kohli arrives at the Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose airport in Kolkata on Tuesday. The historic Day/Night Test begins on Friday. — PTI

## Tickets for first 4 days sold out, says Ganguly

**Mumbai, Nov. 19:** The BCCI president Sourav Ganguly on Tuesday said that the tickets for the first four days of India’s first Day/Night Test against Bangladesh in Kolkata have been sold out and he was extremely happy about it.

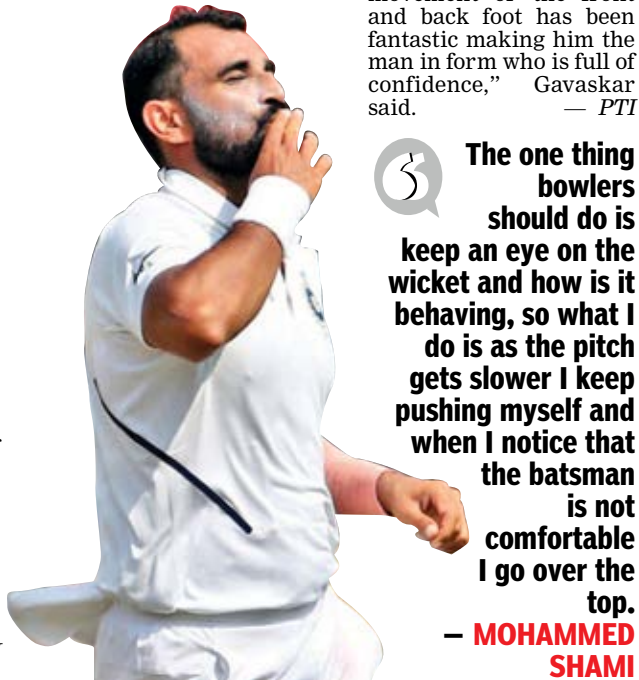
India play their first Day/Night Test against Bangladesh in Kolkata from November 22 and both the teams have reached the eastern megapolis. “It’s sold out and I’m extremely happy (about it),” said Ganguly here after visiting the BCCI headquarters. Asked for how many days

● **The Eden Gardens, one of the biggest stadiums in India, has a capacity of 67,000.**

it was sold out, Ganguly informed four. The countdown of the historic Test began in Kolkata on Sunday with the City of Joy turning pink.

Earlier, Ganguly had unveiled ‘Pinku-Tinku’, the event’s official mascots. The Eden Gardens, one of the biggest stadiums in India, has a capacity of 67,000.

— PTI



**The one thing bowlers should do is keep an eye on the wicket and how it is behaving, so what I do is as the pitch gets slower I keep pushing myself and when I notice that the batsman is not comfortable I go over the top.**

— MOHAMMED SHAMI

## Umpiring difficult in tech era: Taufel

**New Delhi, Nov. 19:** Umpiring cricket matches has become increasingly difficult because of the technology now monitoring play, according to former top match official Simon Taufel.

With dozens of cameras and other technology ready to expose mistakes, the pressure is on the officials who make the crucial calls, said the 48-year-old Australian.

“It can be extremely challenging obviously, if it would be easy everyone would be doing it. It’s all about learning through mistakes,” Taufel said.

Players can challenge umpires’ calls using the Decision Review System, which employs slow-motion replays, ball-tracking technology, audio sensors — the ‘Snickometer’ — and even heat-sensing, known as Hot Spot, to check whether the ball hit the bat.

Cricket’s embrace of technology has been echoed by other sports including tennis, rugby and football, where match officials have also found themselves under growing scrutiny.

“When you compete with those 30-odd cameras, the ball-tracker, Snicko, Hot Spot, the three experts in the commentary position, there are times when you don’t deliver perfection,” said Taufel, who stood in his first Test when he was only 29.

“But that’s part of life.

Roger Federer loses the odd match, Tiger Woods misses the odd fairway, these things do happen but if you have paid the price you might as well get the learning and benefit out of it.”

Known for his accuracy and extreme fitness, Taufel maintained immense respect from players up to his retirement from the international game in 2012.

He was named umpire of the year for five straight seasons between 2004 to 2008 by the

Simon Taufel



International Cricket Council.

Taufel become an umpire performance and training manager with the ICC at the age of 41 and has recently authored a book, “Finding the Gaps.”

“I ask people to focus on the process, don’t go for the outcome other people are looking for. People are going to judge you anyway, so give them ‘you’,” he said.

‘Perfection doesn’t exist’

Taufel made headlines after the World Cup final in July, when he pointed out that England should have been awarded five runs and not six from a freak

deflection in their last regulation over — an umpiring mistake which otherwise went unnoticed.

The hosts went on to win by the barest of margins, on overall boundaries scored, after they were level with New Zealand after 50 overs and an extra ‘super over’.

Taufel’s most vivid memory is a moment that shook the cricketing world in 2009, when he was on a bus in Lahore that was attacked by extremists targeting the Sri Lanka team.

But he hopes cricket makes a full return to Pakistan, which has largely been shunned by touring teams since the attack but which is awaiting a two-Test tour of Sri Lanka in December.

“Never say never. Things change. There is no country in the world that is immune to bad things happening,” said Taufel, who was born in the Sydney suburb of St. Leonards. “I do hope that cricket spreads to more parts of the world and even though it was a traumatic experience in Pakistan, I sincerely hope that we see international cricket played there again.”

Among other innovations in cricket, India is set to experiment with a separate no-ball umpire in the Indian Premier League after some controversial incidents in this year’s edition of the T20 tournament. — AFP



Australian cricketers show little interest in posing for a group photo ahead of their opening Test against Pakistan. — ICC

## Young Pak up against seasoned Oz

**Brisbane, Nov. 19:** Pakistan head into the opening Test in Brisbane on Thursday seeking a rare win on Australian soil, and could unleash a 16-year-old debutant in a teenage pace attack against seasoned stars Steve Smith and David Warner.

Pakistan have drawn a series in Australia, but have never won one, and last tasted a Test victory at Sydney in 1995.

A handful of players, including new skipper Azhar Ali, Babar Azam and the in-form Asad Shafiq, were part of their last tour in 2016/17 when they crashed 3-0, but are better for it, said then-captain and now head coach Misbah-ul-

## 16-yr-old ready for debut despite reeling from his mother’s death

**Brisbane, Nov. 19:** He is only 16 and reeling from his mother’s death last week, but Pakistan believe express bowling sensation Naseem Shah can be a match-winner in the opening Test against Australia.

The exciting teenager is on the cusp of selection for the game at the Gabba

in Brisbane starting Thursday after impressing with a fiery eight-over spell against Australia A in Perth.

“The best thing about Naseem Shah is the control he has on his bowling,” head coach Misbah-ul-Haq told *cricket.com.au*.

— AFP

Haq. “Our previous record in Australia won’t put us under pressure,” he said. “If anything, it’ll be an opportunity and motivation

to win because whatever we couldn’t achieve in the past, we can do now.

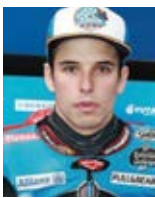
“It’s a young and hungry team and it means business,” he added.

“This team wants to take the challenge. We want to give our best, play good cricket and think about winning.” — AFP

**Australia squad:** Tim Paine (capt), Cameron Bancroft, Joe Burns, Pat Cummins, Josh Hazlewood, Travis Head, Marnus Labuschagne, Nathan Lyon, Michael Nester, James Pattinson, Steve Smith, Mitchell Starc, Matthew Wade, David Warner.

**Pakistan squad:** Azhar Ali (capt), Abid Ali, Asad Shafiq, Babar Azam, Haris Sohail, Imam-ul-Haq, Imran Khan senior, Iftikhar Ahmed, Kashid Bhatti, Mohammad Abbas, Mohammad Rizwan, Nasa Khan, Naseem Shah, Shaheen Shah Afridi, Shan Masood, Yasir Shah.





Alex joins Honda

Alex Marquez (in pic) will ride alongside his older brother and six-time MotoGP world champion Marc at Honda next season

RACING | TRAGEDY

3-year officiating ban on president

New Delhi, Nov. 19: National motorsport federation FMSCI has banned its own President J. Prithviraj from officiating for three years in the wake of the organisational blunder that led to death of three, including a minor, during the ill-fated Rally of Jodhpur. While Prithviraj will continue to be president of the FMSCI he won't be allowed to officiate in national championships for three years. Top rally driver Gaurav Gill had crashed into a trespassing motorcycle carrying three people, including a minor, during the rally in September, forcing the organisers to call off the rally. A shocked Gill was granted bail last month in connection with the case. The five-member FMSCI panel that included Past presidents Vicky Chandhok and Akbar Ebrahim, recommended a three-year ban on Prithviraj, event's clerk of the course (COC). Prithviraj, who is part of the Coimbatore Auto Sports Club, was assisting rally organisers Maxperience. "The panel's recommendation is to impose a ban on the COC of the event from officiating as a COC of any National Championship events for a period of 3 years and must officiate as DCOC for one year after 3 years," read an official FMSCI note. The inquiry panel's recommendations were passed unanimously by the 10-member council.

● The Federation of Motor Sports Clubs of India has banned president J. Prithviraj from officiating for three years.

● The five-member FMSCI panel arrived on the decision after an organisational blunder led to death of three, including a minor, during the Rally of Jodhpur.

Prithviraj expectedly recused himself from the meeting. The inquiry panel was headed by council member Farokh Commissariat. When asked, the FMSCI president said he has no knowledge of the ban imposed on him. "I have received no communication yet (on the ban)," Prithviraj said. The three-year suspension for the FMSCI president is nothing short of an embarrassment for the sport's governing body. "It is a clear case of conflict of interest. How can you be the president and a race official at the same time?" a source asked. The FMSCI has also banned event organisers Maxperience and its representative Arvind Balan for three years till December 31, 2022. A ₹5 lakh penalty has also been imposed on Prithviraj's Coimbatore Auto Sports Club. — PTI

McILROY NOT PERTURBED ABOUT RACE TO DUBAI

Dubai, Nov. 19: Rory McIlroy, a three-time winner of the Race to Dubai, says he is fine with the fact that he cannot become the European Tour's number one for a fourth time this week at the DP World Tour Championship. The Northern Irishman, who created a stir with his decision not to take up European Tour membership late in the season, has made enough points to climb to sixth in the Race to Dubai standings going into the final week. However, even if McIlroy wins the season-ending championship and secures the winner's cheque of \$3 million on Sunday, he won't garner enough points to surpass current leader Bernd Wiesberger. Only the next four players — England's Tommy Fleetwood, Spaniard Jon Rahm, British Open champion Shane Lowry and Matthew Fitzpatrick — have a mathematical chance of usurping Wiesberger. Asked if he felt any frustration at not having a chance to add to his crowns in 2012, 2014 and 2015, the 30-year-old McIlroy said: "No, I've already won it three times. It's a wonderful feeling to be able to do it, but I just haven't played enough counting European Tour events to have a chance, so no." "I haven't played enough, and you look at someone like a Bernd Wiesberger who has played 28 times. You know, those are the guys that deserve to be up there with a chance to win," he added. — AFP

Jason can stretch Tiger, says Ogilvy

Melbourne, Nov. 19: Every member of the Internationals team wants to take on Tiger Woods at the Presidents Cup, with assistant captain Geoff Ogilvy suggesting Australians Marc Leishman, Cameron Smith and former number one Jason Day are frontrunners. Woods will be playing captain when he leads a star-studded United States against the Internationals skippered by Ernie Els in the biennial team match-play showdown at Royal Melbourne from December 12-15. Australian Ogilvy, who played in three Presidents Cups, said all of the 12-man had put their hand up to face the 15-time major winner, but favoured one of his fellow Australians to take on Woods. "Jason (Day) can clearly hang with Tiger and go down the stretch with him," Ogilvy, who with Els was a member of the losing International team at Royal Melbourne in 2011 said to a newspaper. "But Cam and Leish, they have really stood up the last couple of years and they are so bought into this. Cam is bouncing out of his skin. We have 12 great players, they all have a case. It depends on the situation of the match. It depends how the picks go too, we alternate, so Tiger could choose who he wants to play against," he added. Woods will be the first playing captain since American Hale Irwin in the inaugural 1994 Presidents Cup after giving himself a wildcard following his record-equalling 82nd US PGA Tour title in Japan last month. — AFP



Jason (Day) can clearly hang with Tiger and go down the stretch with him. But Cam (Cameron Smith) and Leish (Marc Leishman), have really stood up.

— GEOFF OGILVY Internationals team's assistant captain on who will face Tiger Woods in the Presidents Cup

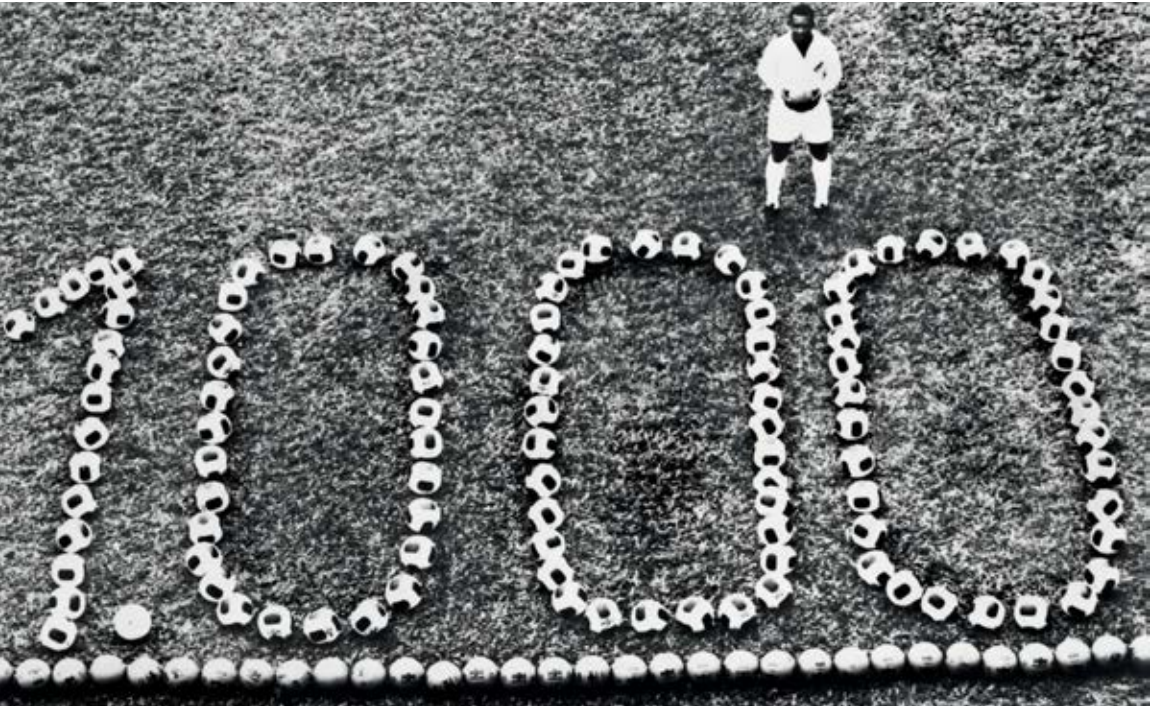
Rockets blaze on Harden ensures Houston's eighth win on the trot



James Harden (centre) of Houston Rockets goes up for a shot as Hassan Whiteside (left) of Portland Trail Blazers looks on during their NBA basketball game in Houston on Monday. The Rockets won 132-108.

Kiwi hoopsters in hot water

Wellington, Nov. 19: The New Zealand Breakers basketball club defended their team culture on Tuesday after a drunken disturbance on a plane added to a list of controversies. Police quizzed forward Tom Vodanovich over the incident following this week's loss to the Perth Wildcats for the Breakers, who are second-last in Australia's National Basketball League and seemingly in free-fall as disciplinary problems mount. The club confirmed that New Zealand police at Auckland airport met Vodanovich on Monday after reports of a mid-air disturbance on the flight from Perth following the 77-88 loss. No charges were laid but the Breakers said Vodanovich would be disciplined internally. The player apologised for his behaviour, which reportedly occurred after he mixed alcohol and a sleeping pill. "I am mortified to have embarrassed the club and myself on the flight," he said in a statement released by the club. "I am particularly upset to have contributed to the perception there is a bad culture at the club, when it absolutely is not the case," the statement added. The incident came after the NBL stepped in to prevent guard Glen Rice Jr from playing in Sunday's Wildcats game because he had been arrested over an altercation in an Auckland bar a few days earlier. Breakers officials have since slapped an indefinite suspension on Rice Jr, the son of three-time NBA All Star Glen Rice, saying new information had come to light. — AFP



Brazilian legend Pele poses with footballs after scoring his 1,000th goal in this file photo.

50 years to Pele's 1,000th goal

Sao Paulo, Nov. 19: The revered Brazil striker Pele scored his 1,000th goal on November 19, 1969 at Rio de Janeiro's Maracana stadium in a match between his beloved Santos and local outfit Vasco de Gama, whose vast ranks of fans gave the iconic No.10 a standing ovation. That goal half a century ago was a beautifully converted penalty which escaped the grasp of the Vasco goalkeeper, sparking a pitch invasion by the press and culminating in Pele being paraded shoulder-high around the historic stadium. Pele, a national hero after helping Brazil to two World Cup wins in 1958 and 1962, was still just 29 years old when he broke the 1,000-goal barrier. The penalty decision was a doubtful one. Pele recently joked that with today's VAR system it would likely have been refused. The goal has etched itself into the Brazilian national consciousness, a deft finish into the bottom right corner, with Pele running to collect the ball and kissing it as he turned away. Some 65,157 fans had bought tickets for the Brazilian league match in which Pele scored the landmark goal. Folklore says there were 80,000 in the stands. "I don't need a party to celebrate this. For me it is much more important to help poor children and those in need, I'm thinking above all of the kind of Christmas those people are going to spend." — PELE Brazilian legend had said after scoring his 1,000th goal

I don't need a party to celebrate this. For me it is much more important to help poor children and those in need, I'm thinking above all of the kind of Christmas those people are going to spend.

— PELE Brazilian legend had said after scoring his 1,000th goal

in Pele being paraded shoulder-high around the historic stadium. Pele, a national hero after helping Brazil to two World Cup wins in 1958 and 1962, was still just 29 years old when he broke the 1,000-goal barrier. The penalty decision was a doubtful one. Pele recently joked that with today's VAR system it would likely have been refused. The goal has etched itself into the Brazilian national consciousness, a deft finish into the bottom right corner, with Pele running to collect the ball and kissing it as he turned away. Some 65,157 fans had bought tickets for the Brazilian league match in which Pele scored the landmark goal. Folklore says there were 80,000 in the stands. "I don't need a party to celebrate this. For me it is much more important to help poor children and those in need, I'm thinking above all of the kind of Christmas those people are going to spend," Pele said after the goal. — AFP

We have a fresh start and we're going to move forward to rebuild the team. — Thierry Henry on starting a new position with Montreal Impact

Organic wins Delhi feature race

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, NOV. 20

Organic won the Jawaharlal Nehru Memorial Cup, the feature event at the Delhi races on Tuesday.

- RESULTS
- 1st race: The First Prime Minister Plate Div-I (1200 mts)  
1. Master Becket, 2. Victorious King, 3. Personal Legend
- 2nd race: The First Prime Minister Plate Div-II (1200 mts)  
1. Rannvijay, 2. Warrior Thrive, 3. Ashwa Vijeta
- 3rd race: The Jawaharlal Nehru Memorial Cup (1200 mts)  
1. Organic, 2. Master Cristiano, 3. Go My Girl
- 4th race: The Chacha Nehru Plate Div-I (1000 mts)  
1. Delhi Queen, 2. Whizz, 3. Snow Bell
- 5th race: The Chacha Nehru Plate Div-II (1000 mts)  
1. Aarsalaan, 2. Loveable, 3. Osculate
- 6th race: The Bal Diwas Plate (1100 mts)  
1. Race Ka Raja, 2. Truly Majestic, 3. Miss Zachary

Jerome braces for 2020 Formula E

Mumbai: Mahindra Racing driver Jerome d'Ambrosio is optimistic of an improved show over last year when the Formula E season kicks off in Riyadh in Saudi Arabia in a few days time. D'Ambrosio led the 2018/19 drivers' championship in the initial part of season 5, having opened it with a podium finish and a win. "Well, obviously looking forward to it (the new season). We have improved as compared to last year and we have made progress. Last year we managed to be competitive at times but at times we were not. We have managed to work on the package and structure to be more consistent and I'm looking forward to be on the track," D'Ambrosio said here. D'Ambrosio and Pascal Wehrlein, who joined Mahindra Racing last year, will continue to spearhead the team's on-track charge. Wehrlein, with one pole, six further Super Pole appearances, two fastest laps and a podium on his Mahindra debut, proved among the fastest drivers on the grid. — PTI

FLOATING HOTELS FOR QATAR WC

Doha: Football fans prone to seasickness may need to consider alternatives, but supporters with sealegs will be able to stay on one of two giant cruise-liners during the 2022 Qatar World Cup. Organisers said on Monday they had agreed with Swiss-based MSC Cruises for two of its 16 ships with a combined total of 4,000 cabins to be berthed in Doha Port during the tournament. The vessels "will give fans a spectacular view of (Doha's) West Bay skyline", Qatar's Supreme Committee for Delivery said in a statement. "Chartering cruise liners for fans has long been part of Qatar's accommodation strategy, with the country keen to offer sustainable solutions for the month-long tournament, which will kick-off on November 21, 2022," the statement added. British tabloids have speculated that alcohol could be permitted onboard despite Qatar's strict Islamic rules governing alcohol consumption, leading to headlines encouraging "booze cruise for fan". Under the agreement, the value of which was not given, the MSC Europa and MSC Poesia will be used to accommodate fans. The MSC Europa will be delivered in 2022 and is due to be powered by liquefied natural gas, the statement said. The MSC Poesia features three swimming pools, 14 bars and a waterfall, according to the ship map. — AFP





## Back in action

Luis Enrique returns as Spain coach five months after stepping down because of his daughter's illness



Let's enjoy these 10 games won, it had never happened and it's an extraordinary thing

— Roberto Mancini, Italy coach

## Man City's revenue rises to £535m

**London:** Manchester City's on-field success saw the club's revenues swell to £535 million (\$692 million) last season as the Premier League champions posted a profit for the fifth straight year. A 20 percent surge in broadcast revenue saw City's income rise from £500.5 million in the 2017/18 season. Pep Guardiola's men completed an unprecedented quadruple of England's domestic trophies by winning the Premier League, FA Cup, League Cup and Community Shield. The sale of a host of players unable to break into the first team helped boost profits to £101.1 million. Prior to Sheikh Mansour's takeover of City in 2008, the club's revenue was a mere £87 million. Huge losses of over £584 million followed during the first six years of their ownership due to massive investment in the playing squad and facilities, including the £200 million Etihad Campus training ground. — AFP

## Man United debt climbs 55 per cent

**Manchester:** Manchester United's attempt to strengthen their underperforming squad has proved costly with debt rising more than 55% in a year to £384.5 million (\$498 million). The cost of signing Harry Maguire, Aaron Wan-Bissaka and Daniel James ahead of the new season in the first quarter of the financial year was around £140 million. Although United reported record revenue last season of £627.1 million, the New York Stock Exchange listed business is now expecting the 2019-20 figure to drop to between 560 million and 580 million pounds. That is due to United missing out on Champions League television and prize money after finishing sixth last season. United could miss out again with the side in seventh place, nine points behind fourth-placed Manchester City after 12 of the 38 games. — AP

## MOHUN BAGAN FACE AIZAWL IN I-LEAGUE OPENER

**New Delhi:** Former champions Aizawl FC will clash with Kolkata giants Mohun Bagan at home in the opening round match of the I-League 2019-20 season, on November 30. In another opening round match, Kozhikode-based Gokulam Kerala FC will host Manipur's Neroca FC at the EMS Corporation Stadium on November 30, according to the fixtures of the 11-team I-League announced by All India Football Federation on Tuesday. Defending champions Chennai City FC will begin their campaign at home the next day as they host debutants Tiddim Road Athletic Union, the second club from Manipur this season, at the Nehru Stadium. The AIFF has announced that DSport will broadcast the matches which will run till April next year. The two Kolkata derby matches between heavyweight arch-rivals Bagan and East Bengal will be played at Salt Lake Stadium on December 22 and March 15 next year. Both Bagan and East Bengal will play their other nine home matches at Kalyani Municipal Stadium. Real Kashmir will open their campaign with an away match against East Bengal on December 4 while their first home match is on December 12 against Gokulam Kerala FC at TRC Ground in Srinagar. AIFF's developmental side Indian Arrows will play the first five of their home matches — beginning on December 6 against Gokulam Kerala FC — at Tilak Maidan at Vasco in Goa while the remaining five will play at Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar. Kalinga Stadium is being currently used as home venue of the Odisha FC in the ongoing Indian Super League. — PTI



# Azzurri on Cloud Nine

**Palermo (Italy), Nov. 19:** Ciro Immobile and Nicolò Zaniolo scored a brace each as Italy wrapped up their perfect Euro 2020 qualifying campaign with a crushing 9-1 win over Armenia in Palermo on Monday. Already-qualified Italy registered an 11th straight win under coach Roberto Mancini, as the four-time world champions showed they were back on track after failing to qualify for last year's World Cup for the first time since 1958. Mancini's side have won all 10 of their Group J matches and are assured of a seeding in the Euro 2020 draw on November 30 in Bucharest. "We had the right approach to the game and you don't score nine goals by chance," said 54-year-old Mancini. "We have six months to prepare for the European Championship, we need to improve a few things, then the difficulty will be to leave some players at home, they all deserve to be there. "They are all young lads who are improving game after game, it just takes time. Every player gave everything they had, I had the answers I wanted from them." Immobile, 29, started the goal-spree on eight minutes in Sicily, adding a second in the 33rd minute. Roma midfielder Zaniolo, 20, scored his first goal for the national side on nine minutes, completing a brace on 64 minutes. Nicolò Barella, 22, also scored in the first half on front of a crowd of nearly 28,000 on the Mediterranean island. Alessio Romagnoli, Jorginho's 75th-minute penalty, and goals from Riccardo Orsolini and Federico Chiesa concluded the hammering. Edgar Babayan pulled a goal back for Armenia 10 minutes from time in a rout which could have been

### THE RESULTS

Republic of Ireland (Doherty 85)	1
Denmark (Braithwaite 73)	1
Gibraltar (Styche 74)	1
Switzerland (Itten 10, 84, Vargas 50, Fassnacht 57, Benito 75, Khaka 86)	6
Sweden (Andersson 29, Svanberg 72, Guidetti 80)	3
Faroe Islands	0
Spain (Fabian Ruiz 8, Gerard Moreno 33, 43, Rus 45+1-og, Oyarzabal 90+2)	5
Romania	0
Malta (Fenech 40)	1
Norway (King 7 Sorloth 62)	2
Liechtenstein	0
Bosnia and Herzegovina (Civic 57, Hodzic 64, 72)	3
Italy (Immobile 8, 33, Zaniolo 9, 64, Barella 29, Romagnoli 72, Jorginho 75-pen, Orsolini 78, Chiesa 81)	9
Armenia (Babayan 79)	1
Greece (Mantalos 47, Galanopoulos 70)	2
Finland	1

heavier with the Azzurri rattling the woodwork on multiple occasions. "We have beaten several records but we know that June next year is the only thing that counts," said captain Leonardo Bonucci. "Honestly, I have never had so much fun with the national team, we dominated every game." — AFP

## Euro gets Swiss, Danish flavours

**Paris, Nov. 19:** Denmark and Switzerland secured spots at Euro 2020 at the expense of the Republic of Ireland on Monday. Ireland needed to beat Denmark in Dublin to clinch qualification for next year's 24-team European Championship finals, but Matt Doherty's late header was only enough to earn Mick McCarthy's men a 1-1 draw at the Aviva Stadium. A closely-fought contest, low on technical quality, swung the visitors' way when the unmarked Martin Braithwaite stuck out a boot to divert a Henrik Dalsgaard cross into the net on 73 minutes. However, Ireland

scored a late equaliser to draw 1-1 in Copenhagen in June and they repeated the feat here as Wolverhampton Wanderers right-back Doherty headed in an Enda Stevens cross with five minutes left. Needing to win, the home side then threw everything at their opponents in the dying moments, but Denmark held on to clinch second place in Group D behind Switzerland. The Danes, European champions in 1992, can now look forward to playing at home during the finals, with Copenhagen one of the 12 host cities chosen for the tournament. Switzerland secured



Switzerland's Cedric Itten (top) heads the ball to score against Gibraltar in their Euro 2020 Group D match in Gibraltar on Monday. — AP

top spot with a 6-1 away win against minnows Gibraltar as Cedric Itten scored twice. Skipper and Arsenal outcast Granit Xhaka netted their final goal. Bosnia and Herzegovina finish fourth in the group despite a 3-0 win in Liechtenstein, but they will have another chance to qualify via the play-offs next March. Meanwhile, Group F winners Spain rounded out their qualifying campaign with a 5-0 destruction of Romania at the Metropolitan Stadium in Madrid. Gerard Moreno scored twice after Napoli midfielder Fabian Ruiz opened the scoring. — AFP

## Last-gasp Messi rescues Argentina

**Tel Aviv, Nov. 19:** Lionel Messi scored a late penalty as Argentina drew 2-2 with Uruguay in a friendly held in Israel Monday, with the Jewish state considering the match a victory. The game pitted Messi against his Barcelona teammate Luis Suarez, and it looked as though the Uruguayan had gotten the better of him as he scored one goal and set up another to give his team a 2-1 lead going into injury time. But a ball into the box was handled by a Uruguayan defender, and Messi calmly slotted the resulting penalty home to ensure an engaging friendly ended all square. The 32-year-old had earlier teed up Manchester

City striker Sergio Aguero to make it 1-1, after Edinson Cavani had opened the scoring. Suarez scored a free-kick from outside the box to give his side the lead before Messi's late intervention. The game had been dubbed by organisers as an important moment for Israel, following the cancellation of another Argentina match a year earlier after pressure from pro-Palestinian campaigners. Organisers dubbed it as a game about peace, but boycott campaigners called for it to be cancelled over Israel's treatment of the Palestinians. It was not immune from politics — halfway through the first half the

### THE RESULT

Argentina (Aguero 63, Messi 90+2-pen)	2
Uruguay (Cavani 34, Suarez 68)	2

United States announced it no longer considered Israeli settlements in the West Bank illegal, a move condemned by the Palestinian leadership. In the build-up to the game Uruguay coach Oscar Tabarez said he had been "very worried" about the game after a flare up between Israel and militant groups in neighbouring Gaza last week. The Israeli military said

around 450 rockets were fired at its territory during the fighting and air defences intercepted dozens of them in mid-flight. A ceasefire was declared on Thursday but remains fragile. Sylvan Adams, an Israeli-Canadian businessman whose financial backing ensured the match was held in Israel, said he hoped to show another side of the Jewish state. "In bringing perhaps the world's most famous athlete, Lionel Messi, to Israel, we are providing excitement for the entire country — for Muslim, Christian and Jewish citizens of Israel," he said in a statement to AFP. — AFP



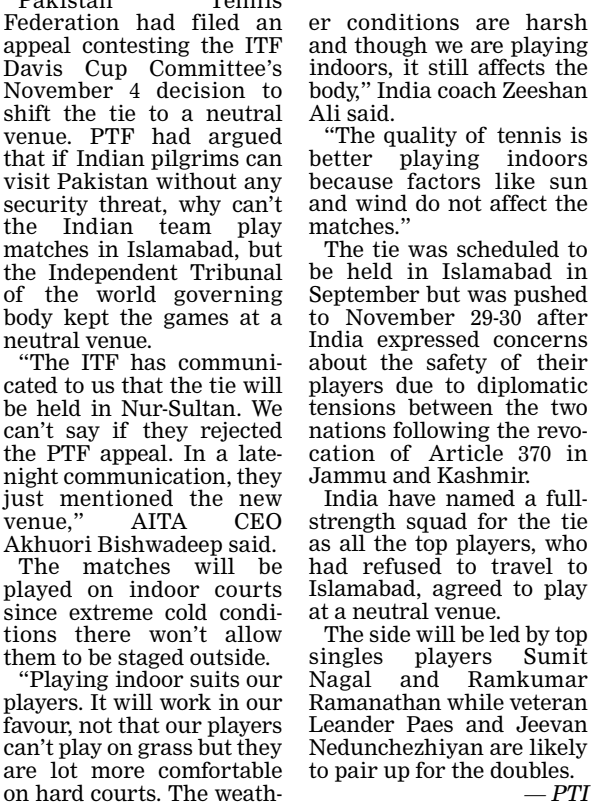
Uruguay's Martin Caceres (left) vies for the ball with Lionel Messi of Argentina during their friendly at the Bloomfield Stadium in Tel Aviv on Monday. — AFP

# Games

## DAVIS CUP ITF rejects Pak's appeal

## Nur-Sultan to host India-Pakistan tie

**New Delhi, Nov. 19:** India will travel to Nur-Sultan to take on Pakistan in the upcoming Davis Cup tie as the International Tennis Federation has nominated the Kazakhstan capital to host the matches, ending days of uncertainty over the venue. Pakistan Tennis Federation had filed an appeal contesting the ITF Davis Cup Committee's November 4 decision to shift the tie to a neutral venue. PTF had argued that if Indian pilgrims can visit Pakistan without any security threat, why can't the Indian team play matches in Islamabad, but the Independent Tribunal of the world governing body kept the games at a neutral venue. "The ITF has communicated to us that the tie will be held in Nur-Sultan. We can't say if they rejected the PTF appeal. In a late-night communication, they just mentioned the new venue," AITA CEO Akhuori Bishwadeep said. The matches will be played on indoor courts since extreme cold conditions there won't allow them to be staged outside. "Playing indoor suits our players. It will work in our favour, not that our players can't play on grass but they are lot more comfortable on hard courts. The weather conditions are harsh and though we are playing indoors, it still affects the body," India coach Zeeshan Ali said. "The quality of tennis is better playing indoors because factors like sun and wind do not affect the matches." The tie was scheduled to be held in Islamabad in September but was pushed to November 29-30 after India expressed concerns about the safety of their players due to diplomatic tensions between the two nations following the revocation of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir. India have named a full-strength squad for the tie as all the top players, who had refused to travel to Islamabad, agreed to play at a neutral venue. The side will be led by top singles players Sumit Nagal and Ramkumar Ramanathan while veteran Leander Paes and Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan are likely to pair up for the doubles. — PTI



Russia's Karen Khachanov returns to Borna Coric of Croatia at the Davis Cup Finals in Madrid on Monday. — AFP

## RUSSIA OFF TO STRONG START AGAINST CROATIA

**Madrid, Nov. 19:** Karen Khachanov and Andrey Rublev helped Russia open the inaugural Davis Cup Finals with a 3-0 victory over defending champions Croatia in Madrid on Monday. World No. 17 Khachanov clinched the point for Russia by fighting back to beat Croatian number one Borna Coric 6-7 (4/7), 6-4, 6-4, after Rublev had earlier seen off Borna Gojo 6-3, 6-3. "When you're playing not only for yourself, but for your country, you have to fight harder," said Khachanov. Russia, who are without US Open runner-up Daniil Medvedev due to exhaustion, can wrap up a place in the quarter-finals with victory over Rafael Nadal's Spain in their second Group B tie on Tuesday. The 18 nations have been split into six groups of three at the Caja Magica, with the pool winners and two best runners-up to play in the last eight of the first edition of the revamped tournament. The teams face off in two best-of-three-set singles matches and one doubles rubber in each tie. Khachanov and Rublev completed the clean sweep later on Monday with a 7-6 (7/3), 6-4 doubles win over Ivan Dodig and Nikola Pietrangeli. CANADA DOWN ITALY Canada claimed a 2-1 victory over well-fancied Italy to strike first in Group F. World number 12 Fabio Fognini slumped to a 7-6 (7/5), 7-5 defeat by Vasek Pospisil, ranked 150th, before rising star Denis Shapovalov edged out Matteo Berrettini 7-6 (7/5), 6-7 (3/7), 7-6 (7/5). "I'm really happy to get the win against a player like Matteo who has had such a good season," said Shapovalov. — AFP