

Rap music with lyrics that emphasise responsibility and morality

A student who has poor research skills and lacks the ability to think critically

DECCAN CHRONICLE

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The long and short of Shiv Sena's rebellion



Sunil Gatade

As the Hindutva allies fell apart over power sharing in Maharashtra, the obituary reference to Arun Jaitley in the Rajya Sabha on the opening day of the Winter Session this week showed the Shiv Sena's bitterness against the BJP's top brass. Paying glowing tributes to Jaitley, Sena leader Sanjay Raut recalled the departed leader's qualities of head and heart, noting that Jaitley's death was a huge loss for the Sena as "we have learnt from him on how to maintain relations" (in politics).

He said whether in politics or personal life, Jaitley never spoke untruths. His remarks were an oblique attack on BJP president Amit Shah, whom the Sena has accused of "betrayal" on the chief minister-ship issue.

Without doubt, the unthinkable has happened in Maharashtra. The BJP and the Shiv Sena, which always proclaimed themselves as Ram bhakts, have formally parted

ways over government formation in the state soon after the Ayodhya verdict.

Shiv Sena MPs have been granted seats on the Opposition benches in the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha, a signal from the BJP that the erstwhile ally is "persona non grata" in the NDA. The BJP and the Shiv Sena were once inseparable twins in what was a Congress-dominated state where the grand old party held sway till 1995, when the first Sena-BJP government was elected, and the coalition era began in the state. Not long ago, the BJP was the laggard in the state and it was known as "shetji-bhatji" party (Bania-Brahmin outfit) like its predecessor, the erstwhile Jan Sangh.

With Uddhav Thackeray's refusal to go along with the BJP after the polls, the ruling party at the Centre has been given a sudden jolt. But for those who follow the politics of Maharashtra, the jolt was not unexpected.

The BJP might deny it, but signals were clear that it was

getting ready to dump the Sena after the Assembly polls as it was more than confident of gaining a majority on its own in the 288-member House or making up the majority with a few Independents. Such a situation would have left no room for the Sena. Former chief minister Devendra Fadnis' frequent boast that "I will be back" had left no one in doubt that the Sena was there to either play second fiddle or to be kicked out.

Now with the BJP's calculations going awry, Mr Thackeray has struck accusing the BJP of betrayal on the issue of granting chief ministership to the Sena, a claim flatly rejected by the BJP. Maharashtra's politics has been thrown into a churn. The parting of ways between the saffron allies is set to have a deep impact on Maharashtra's politics, where the BJP is the elephant in the room since Narendra Modi became Prime Minister in May 2014.

The BJP has suddenly become the common enemy of three key political outfits in the state — the Shiv Sena, the Sharad Pawar-led NCP and the Congress. How the three parties go about in their opposition to the BJP would decide how politics take shape in the months and years ahead. No doubt Maharashtra has entered into an uncertain political phase with "big brother"

The BJP and the Shiv Sena were once inseparable twins in what was a Congress-dominated state where the grand old party held sway till 1995, when the first Sena-BJP government was elected, and the coalition era began in the state

BJP watching silently for the right opportunity to strike. Amit Shah is not a man known to take things lying down.

But the real question is — why did the Sena revolt? Those who follow the Maharashtra political scene had been observing the growing unease in the Sena since it suddenly became junior to the BJP in state politics and losing its "elder brother" status from the start of the alliance that arose from the need for a united fight against the then dominant Congress.

The BJP under Narendra Modi and Amit Shah is a different outfit for the Sena unlike the BJP under Atal Behari Vajpayee and Lal Krishna Advani. Mr Modi, ably assisted by Mr Shah, was the first BJP leader to secure a majority for the BJP in the Lok Sabha. The Modi-Shah duo won the Lok Sabha elections for the second time with a spectacular 303 in

the 543-member House.

The best the BJP could get was 182 in the Lok Sabha in the Vajpayee-Advani era in 1999, in the wake of the Kargil conflict. Whenever in Mumbai, Mr Vajpayee and Mr Advani would visit "Matoshree", the Thackeray residence in suburban Bandra, to meet Bal Thackeray. That stopped after Mr Modi became Prime Minister and in the early days, the BJP made it a point to plant stories in the media ahead of the PM's or the party chief's visits to Mumbai that they did not intend to visit Matoshree. It was to drive home the point that the Sena was no longer a vital ally for the BJP in the changed circumstances.

The first major shock to the Sena was the surprise announcement by the BJP ahead of the Assembly elections in October 2014 that it was going solo. The announcement came in the midst of talks on seat-sharing with the Sena when Uddhav was not giving the requisite number of seats as sought by the BJP.

It was a bolt from the blue for the Sena, while for the BJP it was a well-crafted strategy to leave its oldest ideological partner high and dry in the middle of the election season. The resource-rich BJP made most of the breakup with the Sena by admitting several leaders from the Congress and the NCP to ensure that it hits the

bulls' eye. The BJP got 122 seats in the 288-member House to emerge as the single largest party. The Sena, which fought valiantly, won just 63 seats.

Interestingly, Sharad Pawar's decision to support the BJP from outside on the plea of ensuring stability in Maharashtra resulted in the Sena's bargaining power going for a toss. For a brief time, the Sena was in the Opposition and its leader Eknath Shinde also got Leader of the Opposition status. With great difficulty, the Sena managed to get into the government but failed to get good ministries.

At the Centre too, the Sena was given the heavy industries portfolio, a "passenger" ministry with which it was not comfortable. After the Lok Sabha elections in May this year, the Sena was again handed the same ministry despite the fact that the party had made it clear it did not want that ministry. The BJP's unwritten message was "take it or leave it".

What made matters worse for the Sena was the way the BJP was making strides in local elections at the cost of other parties, including the Sena. The Opposition leaders used to allege at that time that the "resource-rich" BJP was using every trick in the trade to marginalise its rivals and Sena leaders too used to privately agree with such charges.

Since the BJP and the Sena share the same political space of Hindutva in Maharashtra, it was clear the growth of one would be at the cost of the other. Some two years back, a sulking Uddhav Thackeray had lamented that the Sena's 25 years in alliance with the BJP were "wasted" years. At the same time, the Sena passed a resolution at its national convention declaring that henceforth, it would fight all elections on its own.

Just before the Lok Sabha polls, Amit Shah visited Matoshree and had extended the olive branch, apparently to ensure there was no division of the Hindutva vote in the polls, including that of the Assembly.

Uddhav apparently sensed a plot by the BJP, and drove a hard bargain. When the BJP campaign on Kashmir, Article 370 and triple talaq failed to make any impact and local issues, including agrarian distress, played a part, it threw up a verdict that was unpalatable to the BJP. Sulking for long under the BJP's "big brother" attitude, the Sena chief sensed that it was the time to strike, and sought the chief ministership as per the "50:50" power-sharing deal arrived at with the BJP. The BJP denied any such agreement and the rest, as they say, is history.

The writer is a journalist based in New Delhi

A charter of fundamental rights that is vital for univ campuses



Rod Liddle

I was chatting to a young medical student, a very bright chap from West Africa, who was nonetheless perplexed by a certain element of his course. The puzzle, for him, was the point of offering cervical smear tests to men who had transitioned to become women. The course module was very clear, he said, that these people must not be left out, despite not possessing a cervix. I hope a later part of the course teaches him how to behave while carrying out a cervical smear test on a non-existent cervix, so as not to cause offence. Poke around a bit with that spatula thing in whatever has recently been excavated, and perhaps comment admiringly, along the lines of: "My goodness! What a splendid cervix. I don't think I have ever seen one quite so robust or pristine. You should, as a lady, be very proud." We should thank God that at least the NHS has not adopted this policy yet.

I tried to explain to the lad that we are now living in a world which could best be described as "post-real", where truth and fact have no purchase and that, for the sake of his career, he had best go along with it all unless he wanted to be outed as a fascist bigot, or a bigoted fascist,

whatever. One day, not too far down the line, he may be faced with the problem of treating a man who identifies as a unicorn and presents with a complaint relating to his fetlocks. The temptation to nail some horse-shoes to his feet may be close to irresistible, but he should resist nonetheless. Go along with the game and offer reassurance.

All this occurred at a rather uplifting meeting held in a delightfully renovated former w***house in central London, organised by a group called Turning Point UK. This lot are the British wing of an American organisation which is attempting, with some success, to turn the tide of political idiocy on US campuses, and I think they deserve your support. Their MO is to approach a university and then organise a meeting at which interested students — usually 30 to 40 at a time — can be reassured that it is not always necessary to hate capitalism to complete a degree, and that their opinions are valid even if they do not find accord with whatever deranged harri-dan has recently been elected by a minuscule percentage of the student body as the local NUS chief. Turning Point UK is broadly conservative, although not party political — which was

It is true that universities in modern times... have become metro-liberal echo chambers where dissenting views are not merely brushed aside, but those who hold them are penalised and vilified

how I was able to be speaking there, as a representative of the Social Democratic Party.

Their chief problem at the moment is getting access to universities — they are often no-platformed, as occurred recently at the ultra-woke University of York. The authorities there feared that Turning Point UK might bring "reputational damage" to the college as a consequence of their links, in the US, with the Republicans. It is a mark of the totalitarianism of our times that an organisation can be blackballed because its sister organisation contains some people who quite like the President of the US. But that is where we are right now, sadly.

My job was to unveil the SDP's new Charter for Academic Freedom, which my party will be rolling out in universities across the country, beginning with a gig at the Buckingham University Free Speech Society in January. The charter will enshrine a series of fundamental rights for both students and lecturers which I think we might all agree on:

The fundamental right to

express your own opinions without being silenced by those who disagree with you.

The fundamental right to be grotesquely offended by what other people might have to say, and then quite quickly to get over it.

The fundamental right to be treated as equal, no matter your colour, creed or gender. No protected characteristics.

The fundamental right — indeed a duty — to challenge established orthodoxies.

The fundamental right to an education which is politically broad and comes from a wide variety of viewpoints.

The fundamental right, if you are a female student, to enjoy privacy from the other sex and to compete in sports against other people of your own gender.

The fundamental right to be able to hear outside speakers at your university who possess a wide variety of views.

The fundamental right to be judged by your lecturers purely according to your academic ability, regardless of how greatly your political views might differ



By arrangement with the Spectator

'What fruits do I and my actions produce?'



Dominic Emmanuel

It is almost the end of autumn here in Europe. The trees have practically shed their leaves. It is a wonderful scene. At times one feels as if the forest is on fire because the leaves slowly turn from green to light red and then fully yellow before falling off the trees. Despite Austria being a small country, its vast expanse is covered with lovely forests, which many people use for their long walks.

During one such walk, observing the trees and reflecting on God's magnificent creation, a couplet from Kabir's learnt in school flashed through my mind: "Kara raha so kyo raha, ab kari kyo pachhataye; Boye beej babul ka, so amua kaha

se paaye", meaning: "Why were you doing what you were doing, now what use is it of regretting; if you sowed an acacia seed, how do you expect to get mangoes?" And was Kabir's not absolutely right?

Much before Kabir though, Jesus Christ, while warning the people — beware of people who make dishonest promises — once said to his listeners, "Beware of the false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits. Grapes are not gathered from thorn bushes nor figs from thistles, are they? So every good tree bears good fruit, but the bad tree bears bad fruit... So

then, you will know them by their fruits".

The trees in the forest stand as God planned them and each serves its own purpose. They produce different fruits according to their inbuilt

nature. Not all fruits are good for human consumption. We need to be aware and cautious of them.

Similarly God has created us human beings to worship Him, to care for nature and to live in peace with all by cooperating with one another. The Bible says, "God created man in His own image. Male and female. He created them," and "God is Love". One wonders then, as to how evil came into this world.

Christian theology teaches that God also gifted human beings with absolute freedom. Humans, however, misused that freedom and due to

selfishness went against God's plan. That brought evil in the world and gave birth to what Jesus describes as false prophets. Jesus compares them simply with bad trees producing bad fruits.

Though we know and see who those people are who produce bad fruits, what we need to ask ourselves really is, "What kind of fruits do I and my actions produce? Are they in keeping with God's plan? Am I planting the right trees that will bring forth good fruits? Can I even wake up now to recognise God's plan for my life? And finally, am I living in peace with nature, others and myself?"

Father Dominic Emmanuel, a founder-member of the Parliament of Religions, can be contacted at frdominic@gmail.com



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Important Dates	
Downloading of Tender Documents:	20.11.2019 (10AM to 04.12.2019 (5PM)
Submission of Bids:	04.12.2019 (Upto 4.00PM).
Opening of Technical Bid:	05.12.2019 at 3PM.
Opening of Financial Bid:	06.12.2019 at 3PM.
Tender Reference No. APTDC/16023/5/2019-SYS SEC-APTDC	
For further details: Please contact Ph:9010649333 (Ramana Kumar)	
R.O.No 227P/CLADVT/11/2019-20 Sd/- Managing Director	

Government of India
Ministry of Communications
Department of Telecommunications
O/o Controller of Communication Accounts, A.P. Circle,
1st Floor, CTX Building, Kaleswara Rao Market, Vijayawada - 520001
Phone:0866-2424047/037

NOTIFICATION
Sub: Vacancy circular to fill up the post of Junior Accountant in Group 'C' cadre purely on deputation basis.

Controller of Communication Accounts, Andhra Pradesh Circle, Vijayawada proposes to fill up the post of Junior Accountants in Group 'C' cadre on deputation basis from amongst the officials working in Central / State Government/ Autonomous bodies/PSUs as per the details given below:-

S.No	Name of the Post	Pay Matrix Level	No. of vacancies (Approx)
1	Junior Accountant (Group 'C')	Level 5 - Rs.29,200 to Rs.92,300/-	17

Age Limit: Shall not exceed 56 years as on the closing date of receipt of application.

The place of posting will be at **VIJAYAWADA**.

The last date for submission of application through proper channel is 17/12/2019.

For eligibility conditions and application form, please visit our website www.cca.ap.nic.in or <http://cgca.gov.in/ccap/news-and-updation> (link).

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Indian shores

In its bid to strengthen its position, Amazon said it will bring in ‘Echo Flex’ to India next month

SHORT TAKES



GOOGLE ENTERS GAMING BIZ WITH STADIA

Los Angeles, Nov. 20: Google on Tuesday launched Stadia, a cloud-based service that allows users to stream games including ‘Assassin’s Creed Odyssey’ and ‘NBA 2K20’ on Chrome web browser.

The service will start with a slate of 22 games and stream 4K videos at 60 frames per second, which can also be accessed through Google’s Chromecast and Pixel devices.

Google is offering the 4K version as part of its premium service, Stadia Pro, priced at \$9.99 per month. The free high-definition version is expected to roll out next year.

“We have over 450 games in development right now that will be coming out in 2020 and beyond,” Google Vice President and General Manager Phil Harrison told Reuters.

Stadia will need at least 10Mbps internet speed for the base 720p resolution and 35Mbps to stream games in 4K. Early reviews of Stadia have complained of latency, the time delay between pressing a button and getting the reaction on screen.

The success of cloud gaming depends heavily on the underlying network and how much controlled-latency traffic it can support during periods of peak demand, said Steve Alexander, chief technology officer at Ciena, a telecom equipment maker.

Analysts are also pinning the success of Stadia on the content it offers as most of the games on the platform are already available on consoles.

“Stadia will live or die by its content,” said George Jijiashvili, senior analyst at Ovum, a brokerage firm, adding that underwhelming number of launch titles was making it difficult to generate real excitement.

Stadia will compete with Microsoft’s Project xCloud, which is likely to be launched next year, and Nvidia’s GeForce Now that is out on public beta. Sony also offers a game streaming platform PlayStation Now at \$9.99 per month that includes over 800 games across its console titles.

Google is billing Stadia for non-gamers, but it will need to work out some kinks to make it more attractive than a console or a personal computer, Chaim Seigel, an analyst with Elazar Advisors, said.

— Reuters

■ **THE SERVICE** is currently available in 14 countries, including the United Kingdom, the United States, Canada, Norway, France and Germany.

■ **WHILE ANALYSTS** are also pinning the success of Stadia, early reviews suggest that the service has yet to launch most of its much-hyped features and games.

HIGH-TECH JAPAN USES AI IN SONG TO WELCOME POPE

Tokyo, Nov. 20: Few aspects of life escape the touch of high tech in cutting-edge Japan, including an official song written to welcome Pope Francis when he visits Japan from Saturday.

Written by Jun Inoue, the song, “Protect all Life - The Signs of the Times”, is based on the theme of the pope’s Japan visit and was partly composed using an artificial intelligence (AI)-powered programme Inoue created that can write a piece of music in a few seconds.

Inoue, a producer and composer who has written for top bands such as Arashi, and is Catholic, said he agonised over using the AI programme but finally decided to include it because the history of music and technology were intertwined. “I thought I should give everything I had to the song, so I decided to put in all the cutting-edge technology I had,” he told Reuters. He shares composing credit with “Amadeus Code AI”.

The song, which was written



at the behest of the Catholic Bishops’ Conference of Japan, will be played at masses in the city of Nagasaki as well as Tokyo and comes in several versions, including instrumental and karaoke.

There are also dance steps and stylised hand gestures that are the Japanese sign language version of the lyrics, with a teaching video posted on the official website for the pope’s visit. Inoue hopes worshippers at the public masses, to be held at stadiums, will sing and dance along with the song.

— Reuters

IBM LAUNCHES NEW TOOL FOR CYBER RESPONSE

Bengaluru, Nov. 20: Technology giant IBM on Wednesday launched ‘Cloud Pak for Security’, featuring innovations to connect with any security tool, cloud or on-premise system, without moving data from its original source.

The platform includes open-source technology for hunting threats, automation capabilities to help speed response to cyberattacks, and the ability to run in any environment, the company said in a statement.

It is the first platform to leverage new open-source technology pioneered by IBM, which can search and translate security data from a variety of sources, bringing together critical security insights from across a company’s multicloud IT environment, the company claimed.

The platform is extensible, so that additional tools and applications can be added over time, the statement said.

As businesses move further into cloud maturity, applications and data are frequently spread across multiple private and public clouds and on-premise resources, IBM noted.

Attempts to protect this fragmented IT environment often require security teams to undertake complex integrations and continuously switch between different screens and point products. General Manager, IBM Security, Mary O’Brien was quoted as saying, “With Cloud Pak for Security, we’re helping to lay the foundation for a more connected security ecosystem designed for the hybrid, multicloud world.”

— PTI

Tech cos offer defence in antitrust probe

Cos have seen their reputations tarnished by privacy lapses and allegations of abuse of dominance

Amazon uses aggregated seller data to help

Washington, Nov. 20: Amazon uses “aggregated data” from sellers in its third-party marketplace to improve its overall business, the online retailer said in response to a congressional antitrust probe that could raise concerns with such sellers.

Such data, also culled from public sources and Amazon’s first-party sales, is available to the company’s retail and private brand teams, it said in an October 11 document released by the US House of Representatives Judiciary Committee on

Tuesday. The panel, which is investigating potential breaches of antitrust law by big technology companies, also made public the responses from Facebook, Google and Apple.

Data on individual sellers is not used to improve Amazon’s business, the company said, and its teams do not use seller data to launch, source or price private label products, which number about 1.58,000.

Amazon’s response offers a glimpse into how data from sellers, who

compete with Amazon’s retail business, informs the Seattle-based company’s decisions. Merchants on Amazon’s platform have long worried that the world’s largest online retailer would use information at its disposal to undercut them.

Amazon did not immediately respond to a request seeking comment.

In the congressional response, it said use of public and aggregated sales data to spot in-demand products is standard practice in retailing, one of Amazon’s many

businesses.

In October, the committee said it expected a final report on its probe by the “first part” of next year.

Amazon also said it may ask third-party merchants to lower prices on Amazon.com when it finds the sellers asking for less on a competing website.

Asked how it ranks shopping results on its website, Amazon said its algorithm does not consider factors such as whether it has a competing private label brand, if a competing third-party seller has purchased ads, or if the seller

is enrolled in Amazon’s logistics program.

It instead considers a product’s availability, price and how frequently it was purchased.

Amazon did not offer details on several items requested by the subcommittee. These include how many of its private label products are sold at cost or below cost, how much revenue and profit Amazon makes from selling private brands, and its pricing rationale for third-party marketplace services.

— Reuters

video and internet browsers.

It said “the vast majority” of clicks following a Google search go to non-Google websites, that results from its YouTube offering are not given greater weight than rivals’, and that its word

processing and analytics tools are designed to work well with all browsers, not just its Chrome.

Google also said its “vertical integration” of advertising tools benefits advertisers in part through better consumer targeting, but that the ability of

rivals to compete is not “meaningfully affected” because it takes steps to level the playing field.

Despite its huge collection of data on search queries and clicks, Google said it could not provide much of the data sought by the committee. For exam-

ple, asked whether it could share how many searches display location information about a business, Google said, “We do not have a standard definition for what searches are considered ‘location searches’ and thus, cannot provide the specific information

requested.” For its part, Facebook acknowledged cutting off certain third-party apps from its developer platform for replicating core functionalities, such as Twitter’s now-shuttered Vine, which it said replicated a Facebook product. But it provided limited

HUMAN PATIENT PUT IN SUSPENDED ANIMATION FOR FIRST TIME

After decades of debate over suspended animation, officially called the emergency preservation and resuscitation (EPR), scientists at the University of Maryland School of Medicine have for the first time put the technique into practice. Suspended animation involves putting the functions of the human body on a medical ‘pause’ while performing critical surgical procedures to avert or delay death due to traumatic conditions like cardiac arrests.

■ **THE FIRST** ever suspended animation trial could lead to a turnaround on the future of emergency room surgeries.

■ **SCIENTISTS SAY** the trial is being performed on patients who have a survival rate of less than 5%

■ **DURING THE** trial, the patients are cooled rapidly by replacing their blood with ice-cold saline. As a result, the heart stops beating and brain activity almost completely stops.

■ **AT NORMAL** body temperatures, cells need a constant supply of oxygen to remain alive, but the cold temperature slows or stops the chemical reactions in cells, which need less oxygen as a result.

■ **THE MAN** was healthy until minutes before he died and it could have been averted if we had enough time — a duration long enough to conduct medical procedure. This idea led to research in the direction of suspended animation.

■ **ANIMAL STUDIES** showed that pigs with acute trauma could be cooled for 3 hours, stitched up and resuscitated.

Once we can prove it works with humans, we can expand the utility of this technique to help patients survive that otherwise would not

— SAMUEL TISHERMAN, Team member, Baltimore facility

Sony cooks up AI unit for food revolution

Tokyo, Nov. 20: Cooking robots and tastier recipes: Japanese electronics giant Sony on Wednesday launched a new artificial intelligence unit they hope will change the way we cook and eat.

The new research arm, Sony AI, will operate in Japan, Europe and the United States and also focus on the traditional areas of gaming, imaging and sensor equipment, as

well as “gastronomy”. The firm that produced the PlayStation franchise and the “Spider-man” movie series is the latest multinational tech company wanting a piece of the pie in the food business, where data are increasingly driving new dishes to pique the palate. “AI and robotics will not replace chefs. We are aiming to offer new tools to expand their creativity

with AI and robotics,” Sony spokesman Shinichi Tobe told AFP.

“The field of food requires a study of molecular structures. By using AI and its analytical capacity, we can create new things,” Tobe said.

“It involves taste, but also aroma. Through sensing technologies, we can perhaps create new dishes that will please the human sense of taste,” he

said.

The Tokyo-based gadget-and-entertainment conglomerate is not the only tech company tapping into this seam.

IBM earlier this year teamed up with seasoning maker McCormick to use artificial intelligence in flavour and food product development.

In the future, Sony foresees the creation of a robotic kitchen to help

elderly people make meals at home, but without use of open flames.

It may also result in the creation of a restaurant where robots cook in front of guests.

“There might be ways of cooking that can only be done by robotics. It might be about temperature control. Maybe about precise timings of when or where to apply heat,” Tobe said.

— AFP

Amazon considered face scanning to doorbells

Police aren’t allowed to seek recordings that are longer than 12 hours in duration: Amazon

San Francisco, Nov. 20: Amazon has considered adding facial recognition technology to its Ring doorbell cameras, according to a letter to a US senator defending its video-sharing partnerships with police.

The company told Sen. Ed Markey that facial recognition is a “contemplated, but unreleased feature” of its home security cameras but that there are no plans to coordinate that feature with its law enforcement partnerships.

Markey wrote to Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos in September raising privacy and civil liberty concerns about Ring’s video-sharing agreements with police departments across the country. The company encourages police to tap into Ring’s Neighbors app, a forum for residents to share videos of suspicious activity captured by their

home security cameras. The Massachusetts Democrat also expressed alarm that Ring may be pursuing face-scanning technology after a patent application showed the company is exploring a system that could flag certain people as suspicious and automatically alert police. Markey released Amazon’s responses on Tuesday.

Amazon’s initial response to Markey said Ring doesn’t currently offer facial recognition. Then Markey sent another letter to Bezos asking why it’s mentioned in Ring’s privacy policy. In a November 1 follow-up, Amazon’s vice president of public policy, Brian Huseman, said that the company frequently innovates based on customer demand and that facial recognition is an increasingly common feature in



cameras made by competitors such as Google’s Nest vision.

“If our customers want these features in Ring security cameras, we will only release these features with thoughtful design including privacy, security, and user control,” Huseman wrote.

Markey’s questions about facial recognition were part of broader concerns that some lawmakers and civil liberties advocates have about Ring and

its police partnerships. Amazon sought to address those concerns in its letters to Markey, emphasizing that camera owners have a choice about whether to share videos.

The company noted that police aren’t allowed to seek recordings that are longer than 12 hours in duration or that cover a geographical area that is too specific or broad.

But Amazon also said it doesn’t require law en-

forcement to delete a user’s video footage after a certain period. Nor would it entertain Markey’s request that it commit to never selling users’ biometric information, saying only that it doesn’t do so now.

Markey said Tuesday that Amazon is not doing enough to ensure that its products don’t run afoul of civil liberties.

“Connected doorbells are well on their way to becoming a mainstay of American households, and the lack of privacy and civil rights protections for innocent residents is nothing short of chilling,” he said in a statement.

“If you’re an adult walking your dog or a child playing on the sidewalk, you shouldn’t have to worry that Ring’s products are amassing footage of you and that law enforce-

ment may hold that footage indefinitely or share that footage with any third parties,” he added.

More than 600 police departments have signed up to Ring’s network since last year and many say it is becoming a useful crime-fighting tool.

Among them is the police chief of Markey’s hometown of Malden, Massachusetts. Chief Kevin Molis said he is Markey’s neighbor and has known him since the 1970s but disagrees with him about Ring.

“We consider it a valuable tool for public safety,” Molis said in an interview. “Is it a bad thing that private citizens, in order to make their streets safer, are investing their own money in a product that’s allowing crimes to be solved and crimes to be prevented?”

— AP

Finance panel may reject \$12 bn package to utilities

Chinese bike-maker CFMoto enters India



Facing page

quick BITES

INDICATORS		%
Sensex	40,651.64	+0.45
Nifty 50	11,999.10	+0.49
S&P 500	3,114.60	-0.18
Dollar (₹)	71.86	0.15
Pound Sterling (₹)	92.75	-0.11
Euro (₹)	79.39	0.01
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	38,127.78	-0.20
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	\$62.64	+1.73
IN 10-Yr bond yield	+6.458	-0.015
US 10-Yr T-bill yield	+1.753	-0.001

* As of 9:30 pm IST

Promoters to divest 16.5% more in ZEEL

Essel Group said it is planning to sell a 16.5 percent stake in its flagship ZEE Entertainment Enterprises to financial creditors to meet its loan repayment obligations. Of this 16.5 per cent, 2.3 per cent stake will be sold to OFI Global China Fund/ its affiliates. After these transactions, the group's overall holdings in ZEEL will come down to 5 per cent, the firm said.

BSNL-MTNL merger may be done in 2 years



The government said the merger of BSNL and MTNL is likely to be completed in 18-24 months. "The process of merger is likely to be completed in 18-24 months," Telecom Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad said in a written reply in the Lok Sabha. The Centre has earlier said that till the completion of the merger, MTNL will operate as a subsidiary of BSNL.

Women allowed to work in night shifts in Karnataka

The Karnataka government issued a notification allowing women to work in night shifts (7 pm to 6 am) in all factories registered under the Factories Act. The state government has in the notification cited Madras High Court judgement striking down Section 66(1)(b) of the Factories Act, 1948, which prohibited employment of women to work in night shifts.

Citi India's ex-head Pramit Jhaveri quits

Pramit Jhaveri, the former country head of Citi India, has quit for unspecified reasons, sources said. The 56-year-old Jhaveri had joined Citigroup in 1987 and had a steady rise to become Vice-Chairman of banking, capital markets and advisory for Asia Pacific earlier this year, after heading the India operations for almost a decade between 2010 and 2019.

Stake in 4 other PSUs to be sold as well BPCL privatisation gets Cabinet's nod

New Delhi, Nov. 20: In the biggest privatisation drive ever, the Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved sale of government's stake in blue-chip oil firm BPCL, shipping firm SCI and onland cargo mover Concor as well as decided to cut shareholding in select public sector firms below 51 per cent to boost revenue collections that have been hit by slowing economy.

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved sale of government's entire 53.29 per cent stake along with transfer of management control in the country's second-biggest state-owned refiner Bharat Petroleum (BPCL) after taking out Numaligarh refinery from its fold, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman told reporters here.

It also approved the sale of an entire 63.75 per cent government holding in Shipping Corp of India (SCI) and a 30.8 per cent stake in Container Corp of India (Concor).

The government currently holds 54.80 per cent in Concor and will retain 24 per cent stake post sell-off but without any veto powers or management

► Last year, the government had sold its stake in HPCL to ONGC for ₹36,915 crore.

► BPCL will give buyers ready access to 14% of India's oil refining capacity and about one-fourth of the fuel marketing infrastructure.

say. Disinvestment Secretary Tuhin Kanta Pandey said.

Besides, the government will sell its entire holding in THDC India and North Eastern Electric Power Corp Ltd (NEEPCO) to state power generator NTPC Ltd, the Finance Minister said.

The government holds 74.23 per cent in THDCIL and 100 per cent NEEPCO. She, however, evaded a direct reply to the time-frame for the disinvestments and if the stake sale will happen during the current fiscal year ending March 31, 2020.

Pandey said the due process will be followed in privatisation and time-

frame will depend on market interest.

Parallely, the Cabinet has also approved reducing government stake in select PSUs such as Indian Oil Corp (IOC) to below 51 per cent while continuing to retain management control.

The management control will continue to be retained with the government after considering equity held by other state-owned companies in the divested firm.

The government, currently, holds 51.5 per cent in IOC and another 25.9 per cent through state-owned Life Insurance Corp of India (LIC), and explorers Oil & Natural Gas Corp (ONGC) and Oil India Ltd (OIL), and the government can potentially sell 26.4 per cent for about Rs 33,000 crore.

A similar formula can also apply to ONGC and gas utility GAIL India Ltd.

The stake sales are critical for the government to meet its disinvestment target of Rs 1.05 lakh crore set for the current fiscal year. The government's 53.29 per cent stake in BPCL is worth about Rs 63,000 crore going by its closing price of Rs 544.65 on the BSE. —PTI

NCLAT approves delisting of Alok Inds

New Delhi, Nov. 20: The National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) has allowed Reliance Industries to delist textile manufacturer Alok Industries, which it has acquired through the insolvency process.

A two-member NCLAT bench headed by Chairperson Justice S J Mukhopadhyaya has modified the order passed by the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT), Ahmedabad, which denied such permission.

While approving the Rs 5,052-crore bid for RIL for Alok Industries on March 8, 2019, the NCLT did not give its approval to RIL's plea for granting exemptions for delisting of Alok Industries' shares from the bourses. Later, RIL again sought permission, but was denied on July 26, 2019.

"The Appellant (RIL) is directed to comply with the plan forthwith," said the NCLAT.

The appellate tribunal observed that Sebi in its affidavit had also said there is no requirement for permission of the markets regulator for such delisting. —PTI

Govt plans incentives for 324 foreign manufacturers

SHRUTI SRIVASTAVA NOV. 20

India is planning to offer 324 companies, including Tesla Inc. and GlaxoSmithKline Plc, incentives to set up factories in the South Asian nation in a bid to capitalise from the trade war between China and the United States, according to a document seen by Bloomberg.

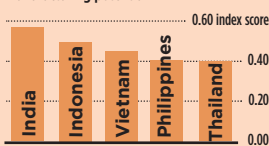
The government proposes to provide the manufacturers land to set up a factory along with power, water and road access, according to draft of the document prepared by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade and Invest India. Other companies that officials will reach out to include Eli Lilly & Co., South Korea's Hanwha Chemical Corp., and Taiwan's Hon Hai Precision Industry Co.

While the trade war has benefitted countries such as Vietnam and Malaysia, rigid land acquisition rules and labor laws have prompted investors to largely ignore India when looking for alternatives to China.

The latest proposal may reduce red tape, and set the nation, which expanded at the slowest pace in six years last quarter, on a path to double its gross domestic product to \$5 trillion by 2025—a goal set

The 'Next China' contenders

Five developing economies with manufacturing potential



Source: Bloomberg Economics

Note: Countries were given a score from 0-1 based on six metrics, with 1 as the highest.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "While in the initial leg of relocation we have seen companies moving to Vietnam, I don't think it is too late for India to start making an effort," said Sonal Varma, Chief Economist for India and Asia-ex Japan at Nomura Holdings Inc. in Singapore. "India offers a unique advantage of being a huge domestic market too, so it is definitely an opportunity for the government to attract investment."

Under the plan, the government will create a land bank for ready-to-move-in industrial clusters, offer investment and location-based incentives and rationalise anti-dumping duties. The proposal includes incentives for plug-in and hybrid vehicles, fuel efficiency and carbon taxation. For the electronics and telecom sector, flexible employment, manufacturing-related incentives linked to investments and value addition have been sought.

The country has made progress, rising 37 spots since 2017 in the World Bank's ranking for ease of doing business, but it still comes in at 63rd, trailing not only China, but also Rwanda and Kosovo. At present, investors keen on setting up a factory need to acquire land on their own which, in some cases, involves a time consuming process of negotiating with small plot owners to part with their holding.

The Prime Minister's Office is considering the proposal and a decision is expected soon. An email sent to the spokeswoman at the commerce and industry ministry wasn't immediately answered.

Getting investment inflows and boosting exports is high on economic agenda of the government. It has already slashed corporate tax rate, making it competitive with rest of Asia, and has relaxed foreign investment rules to attract fund inflows in the country. —Bloomberg

RBI supersedes DHFL board

FALAKNAAZ SYED MUMBAI, NOV. 20

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Wednesday superseded the board of debt-laden Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Limited (DHFL) owing to governance concerns and defaults in meeting various payment obligations by the mortgage lender. The central bank also said it would shortly initiate the process of resolution of the company under the insolvency and bankruptcy laws.

R Subramaniam, former Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of the Indian Overseas Bank, has been appointed as the company's administrator.

However, corporate watchers said the RBI superseding the DHFL board is an action that has come too late, as DHFL is now left with assets that its management could not sell and the mortgage lender has lost franchise value.

J.N. Gupta, Former Executive Director of Sebi, told Financial Chronicle: "DHFL is a bad case and action could have been initiated earlier. But our legal and financial system is such that action are mostly taken very late. I will reiterate that the RBI has to look at its backyard and introspect as to how things have been allowed to come to this pass because the signals (of a crisis) were there in infrastructure, real estate and NBFCs for long. Unless RBI finds a solution to the asset liability mismatch, it will not be wrong to say that DHFL will not be an isolated case."

DHFL will be the first financier to land up in bankruptcy court after the Corporate Affairs Ministry a few days back allowed the RBI to refer NBFCs, including housing finance companies with asset size of more than Rs 500 crore, for resolution under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC). DHFL's total debt is around Rs 85,000 crore while exposure of banks stands at Rs 38,000 crore. Talking to reporters in Mumbai post-the Sebi board meeting, Sebi Chairman Ajay Tyagi said mutual funds, which have lent substantial sums of money to DHFL, will join the resolution process of DHFL. "Under the IBC, mutual funds are also considered as lenders and they will follow that rule," Tyagi said.



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Sebi tightens default disclosure norms

ASHWIN J PUNNEN with agency inputs MUMBAI, NOV. 20

Markets watchdog Sebi on Wednesday approved stricter disclosure norms for listed companies on loan defaults and set revised regulations for portfolio managers and for rights issues.

The changes will be effective from January 1, 2020.

The regulator made it mandatory for listed companies to disclose default in repayment of principle or interest on loans beyond 30 days within 24 hours.

It has also decided to amend the norms for portfolio managers by raising net worth and minimum investment requirements.

Speaking to reporters after its board meeting here, Sebi Chairman Ajay

SEEKING SPEED

- Listed companies have to disclose default in repayment of principle or interest beyond 30 days within 24 hours
- Overall time taken for rights issue will be cut to 31 days from 55

Tyagi said the objective behind the new default disclosure requirements is to "get more openness to help investors".

There have been several instances of huge loan defaults by corporates and in most cases, the disclosure about loan default had come very late.

Sending out a stern mes-

sage, Tyagi also said that action will be taken against companies that do not disclose about whistleblower complaints in the garb of finding them as "not material". "If companies are 'fooling' by disclosing information to boost sentiment, action will be taken," Tyagi said. It may be noted that Sebi is probing the issue of whistleblower complaints against Infosys.

With a view to keep retail investors away from portfolio management schemes (PMS), Sebi decided to raise the minimum investment amount of clients for such schemes to Rs 50 lakh from the earlier Rs 25 lakh.

Besides, it has decided to increase the network requirement of portfolio managers to Rs 5 crore

from 2 crore. It further said the existing portfolio managers will have to meet the enhanced requirement within 36 months.

"Hiking the investment limit for PMS from Rs 25 lakhs to Rs 50 lakhs is a bit restrictive. Many potential investors are likely to be denied the benefits of PMS," said V. K. Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Financial Services.

The markets regulator also decided to reduce the overall time taken for rights issue to 31 days from the current 55, a move aimed at making the process more efficient.

Besides, the regulator has made ASBA facility as a mandatory mode of payment for all investors applying to shares on rights basis.

2-year moratorium a relief: COAI

New Delhi, Nov. 20: Industry body COAI, whose members include Bharti Airtel, Vodafone Idea and Reliance Jio, on Wednesday said various steps including a two-year moratorium for spectrum dues to telcos will provide a relief to the debt-laden sector.

Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) DG Rajan Mathews said that proposed tariff hikes in mobile call and data rates will partially help in reducing the stress. "The combination of three things — 2-year moratorium for spectrum pay-

ments, proposal to increase in tariff and modifying adjusted gross revenue will help resurrect the telecom sector," Mathews said.

The cabinet has approved a two-year moratorium for spectrum payment. However, the deferred payment will be adjusted in balance annual instalments to be paid by the service providers for spectrum they purchased through auctions.

Telecom players including Airtel and Vodafone Idea had sought some relief from the telecom sector.

This includes request to not press for the AGR liability payment and grant waivers, not levying spectrum usage charges (SUC) on non-licensed revenue, reduction of licence fee and SUC rates and use of GST credit for payment of government levies.

Last week, India's two leading telecom operators Vodafone Idea and Bharti Airtel reported a combined loss of Rs 74,000 crore for the second quarter ended September 2019, mainly on account of statutory dues arising from the recent Supreme Court order on AGR.

The apex court has upheld the government's position on including revenue from non-telecommunication businesses in calculating the annual AGR of telecom companies, a share of which has to be paid as licence and spectrum fee to the exchequer. The ruling over statutory liabilities has triggered a rush for provisioning by telecom companies. While Vodafone Idea posted a loss of Rs 50,921 crore — the highest-ever quarterly loss by any corporate in India — Airtel reported a loss of Rs 23,045 crore. —PTI

Only machines do the talking in Federal Bank hiring

Mumbai, Nov. 20: Federal Bank is transforming its traditional HR practices by shifting almost the entire hiring process to a tool driven on artificial intelligence—arguably a first in the domestic banking space.

FedRecruit, the new HR tool of the Kochi-based private sector lender, employs technology to drive the HR function to the fullest, under which the only human intervention of its multi-stage hiring process is the final round where top HR executives

meet up with the new recruits. Federal Bank is arguably the first in the domestic banking space to almost fully switch to technology for hiring as its large peers like HDFC Bank, which uses a lot of tech for banking, employs AI only at the primary screening level.

FedRecruit relies on a series of connected events or data points and goes beyond the conventional one-sided resume to construct a 360-degree narrative of the candidate. These data points are

gathered through multiple stages—robotic interviews, psychometric and game-based assessments processes etc., Federal Bank HR chief Ajith Kumar KK told PTI.

The robotic interview process scans the candidates' personality traits, uses integrated videos for virtual face-to-face interviews and also employ live videos for real-time engagement and notification for better candidate management.

To begin with the AI-enabled

chatbot screens, updates on a real-time basis and takes the applicant through a slew of steps before the final hiring. The chatbot's role ends with an SMS to the parents of the selected person.

Even the offer letter is sent out by the chatbot, Assistant Vice-President for HR Raj Gopal chips in, adding the bank has already hired 350 probationary officers from campuses since October and 350 more will be hired through December to com-

plete the annual target of 700 for FY20. Of the 350 hired, 150 were selected in the first month itself—at the pilot stage.

Enthusied by the success of its pilot experiment, Kumar says the bank will extend technology for lateral hiring as well as to take in non-core staff as well.

Globally organisations are using advanced technologies for recruitments and onboarding whereby they create seamless candidate experiences, he said. —PTI

Alibaba raises \$12.9 billion in HK listing

SCOTT MURDOCH,
JULIE ZHU
HONG KONG, NOV. 20

Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba Group raised up to \$12.9 billion in a landmark listing in Hong Kong, the largest share sale in the city in nine years and a world record for a cross-border secondary share sale.

The deal will be seen as a boost to Hong Kong following more than five months of anti-government protests and its recent slide into its first recession in a decade.

Alibaba said in a statement it had priced the shares at HK\$176 (\$22.49) each, a discount of 2.9 per cent to its New York closing price.

The price means Alibaba will raise at least HK\$88 billion (\$11.3 billion) — a symbolic total because the number 8 is associated with prosperity and good fortune in Chinese culture.

Alibaba has also chosen the stock code 9988 for its listing, which for Chinese speakers combines two of the luckiest numbers, together symbolizing long-lasting prosperity. —Reuters

New Maruti S-Presso enters top 10

MICHAEL GONSALVES
PUNE, NOV. 20

Maruti Suzuki's new entry level car S-Presso has become one of the 10 best-selling cars within a month of its launch.

The company said in an exchange filing that it sold 10,634 units of the mini-SUV in October, bagging 8th rank.

Priced from Rs 3.69 lakh upto Rs 4.91 lakh, S-Presso was launched on September 30. It competes primarily against Renault Kwid which was a runaway success since its launch in 2015.

Maruti Suzuki has long been a dominant figure in the top 10 monthly sales charts.

The top 10 models in October, according to Siam, are Maruti Suzuki Dzire selling 19,569 units, Maruti Swift 19,401 units, Maruti Alto 17,903 units, Maruti Baleno 16,237 units, Hyundai Elite i20 14,683 units, Maruti WagonR 14,359 units, Kia Seltos 12,854 units, Maruti S-Press 10,634 units, Maruti Vitara Brezza 10,227 units and Maruti EECO 10,011 units.

Nadella is top business person of Year

New York, Nov 20: Microsoft's India-born Chief Executive Officer Satya Nadella has occupied the top spot in Fortune's Businessperson of the Year 2019 list, an annual compilation that also includes Mastercard CEO Ajay Banga and Arista head Jayshree Ullal.

Fortune's annual Businessperson of the Year list features 20 business leaders "who tackled audacious goals, overcame impossible odds, found creative solutions".

The list is topped by Nadella, who has been at the helm of the technology giant since 2014.

"In a year dominated by political chaos and bluster, it was a rare brand of steady — even quiet — leadership that won the day in the business world. And no one epitomises that brand of obsessively results-driven, team-based leadership more than our new No. 1 Businessperson of the Year," Fortune said.

Banga is ranked 8th, while Ullal comes in at the 18th spot in the list for which Fortune looked at 10 financial factors. —PTI

■ Sops were proposed to help power firms cut emissions

Finance panel may reject \$12 bn package to utilities

SUDARSHAN VARADHAN
NEW DELHI, NOV. 20

India's Finance Commission has told the power ministry that its proposal to award utilities Rs 83,500 crore (\$11.6 billion) in incentives to install equipment to curb emissions is "unviable," a senior official at the ministry told Reuters on Tuesday.

The ministry submitted its proposal to the Finance Commission, which reviews government spending, in February.

The proposal was intended to help plants comply with new sulphur dioxide emissions standards originally set by the environment ministry in 2015.

The standards mandate installation of pollution cutting equipment. Some plants must comply by the end of this year, while others have up to the end of 2022 to do so.

More than half of India's coal-fired power plant units ordered to retrofit equipment to curb air pollution are already set to miss the deadline, Reuters reported on Friday.

The Finance Commission was likely to reject the power ministry's spending



proposal, according to the ministry official, who is not authorised to speak to media and so did not wish to be identified.

A spokeswoman for the Commission said the government body has not finalised its recommendations, but declined to comment further. If the Finance Commission rejects the proposal, the plans are unlikely to be approved by the government.

A power ministry spokesman declined to comment.

Emissions from power plants are one of the biggest

causes of the chronic smog now seen in New Delhi and some other Indian cities.

The Association of Power Producers (APP), a lobby group for private utilities in India, estimates it will cost private companies roughly \$38 billion to retrofit their plants to cut emissions.

It contends that debt-laden power producers, which are still owed over \$11 billion in dues by government-owned distribution companies, cannot afford to invest such vast sums at this time.

India has identified 34 eco-

nomically stressed power plants with a combined capacity of 40 gigawatt (GW). They are owned by companies, including Adani Power, Essar Power, the GMR group, the Lanco Group and Jaiprakash Power Ventures Ltd.

The Ministry of Power wants to extend deadlines for some economically stressed power plants that have been ordered to retrofit equipment to curb air pollution, the official and two other power ministry officials familiar with the matter said.

Among the 34 plants, the debt of 28 plants are in various stages of resolution and some of those plants may be able to meet the emission deadlines, one of the officials said. The ministry wants to grant an extension for the other six plants, the official said, but did not name the plants.

The Supreme Court, which is hearing a petition on air pollution, will make the final call on the issue.

"We will finalise a list of plants which need extension and then submit to the Supreme Court, which will take a call," the official said.

—Reuters

Chinese bike maker CFMoto enters India

MICHAEL GONSALVES
PUNE, NOV. 20

CFMoto, the Chinese motorcycle manufacturer, is the latest to enter the lucrative 21.18 million Indian motorcycles market by opening its first showroom in India at Thane, near Mumbai on Wednesday and it introduced four motorcycle models to lure buyers.

The Chinese firm has partnered with the Indian Anvita Autotech Works company to form a joint venture to sell the Chinese motorcycles. At present CFMoto sells a range of its bikes in about 100 countries.

India is the world's largest motorcycles market where over 14 international and Indian bike brands such as American Harley-Davidson, Japanese Kawasaki, Italian Ducati, British Triumph Motorcycles, American Indian, Italian Benelli, Japanese Honda, Italian

MV Augusta, Japanese Yamaha and Suzuki, among others, compete for market share.

CFMoto, which has tied up with the Indian auto firm AMW which later changed its name to Anvita Autotech Works, has introduced four bikes called 300NK, 650NK, 650MT and 650GT priced at Rs 2.29 lakh, Rs 3.99 lakh, Rs 4.99 lakh and Rs 5.49 lakh respectively at pan India showroom.

Some of these bikes are cheaper by 12,000 to Rs 1.7 lakh compared with rivals such as Kawasaki, BMW and Honda bikes, officials disclosed.

"We as an Indian partner have invested Rs 80 crore in setting up an assembly plant near Bangalore and marketing the range of bikes in India," Vamsi Krishna Jagini, CEO at Anvita AutoTech Works told *Financial Chronicle*.

He said the present four new models called 300NK, 650NK, 650MT and 650GT would be upgraded to BS-VI norm compliant and start selling them in the Indian market from April 2020.



Sugar output falls 64% till Nov. 15

New Delhi, Nov 20: India's sugar production declined 64 per cent to 4.85 lakh tonnes till November 15 in the current marketing year that started last month, as mills in Maharashtra have not yet begun their operations, industry body Isma said on Wednesday.

The sugar marketing year runs from October to September. "As on November 15, 2019, 100 sugar mills were crushing sugarcane, as compared to 310 sugar mills last year on November 15, 2018. During the current 2019-20 sugar season, sugar production as on November 15, was 4.85 lakh tonnes as compared to 13.38 lakh tonnes produced as on November 15, 2018, in 2018-19 sugar season," the Indian Sugar Mills Association (Isma) said in a statement. It attributed the reason for fall in production to sugar mills in Maharashtra not



yet starting their sugarcane crushing operation this season. The state had produced 6.31 lakh tonnes till November 15, 2018. Production in Uttar Pradesh, however, increased to 2.93 lakh tonnes from 1.76 lakh tonnes. Sugar output in Karnataka has fallen to 1.43 lakh tonnes from 3.60 lakh tonnes during the period under review as lesser number of mills have started operations so far.

"Maharashtra and Karnataka faced drought last year, because of which the area planted under sugarcane therein has dropped by about 30 per cent as compared to last season," Isma said. —PTI

Realty sees 115 insolvency cases, \$1 bn stressed deals

SANGEETHA G
CHENNAI, NOV. 20

The real estate sector has filed 115 insolvency cases till September and \$1 billion has already been transacted under stressed asset deals in 2019.

Corporates saddled with huge debt have been increasingly liquidating real estate assets and investors are evaluating options including acquiring non-performing assets, distress sale and entity level stake. Around \$1 billion has already been transacted in the current year, as per the data from JLL India.

Some of the recent stressed asset deals include sale of an IT park in Bengaluru by Café Coffee Day Enterprise for \$385 million to reduce its debt. Blackstone and Salarpuria Satva Developers have acquired the 90-acre, IT-focussed Global Village Tech Park. Similarly in hos-



pitality sector, Brookfield has received approvals to acquire assets of Hotel Leela Venture comprising key hotel properties in Delhi, Bangalore, Udaipur and Chennai for \$564 million.

As per the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India, a total 115 insolvency cases have been filed as of September 2019 under real estate category. Of these 87 cases are under process while 28 are closed.

Residential real estate segment presents the maximum number of stressed

assets. India's residential sector has been reeling under the pressure of delayed/stalled projects with 4.54 lakh units running behind their completion dates. Some of them are already under bankruptcy proceedings. The value of these projects is estimated to be \$66 billion, according to JLL.

"The capital commitment by institutional investors gives comfort to the lenders leading to faster resolution in these deals. Such deals also provide opportunity for investors to optimise their returns in line with underlying risks," said Ramesh Nair, CEO and country head, India, JLL.

Though government has announced a special fund to infuse liquidity into the sector, it will fall short of meeting the entire requirement. So, several projects will move into insolvency process, providing an opportunity for investors.

Asia needs \$800 bn over a decade to feed itself

RANJEETHA PAKIAM
NOV. 20

Asia's food and agricultural industry will need additional investments of \$800 billion over the next decade to grow to a sustainable size and reach a point where it can feed itself, according to a report released on Wednesday.

Population growth, changing consumer needs and climate change are among the challenges. The region is urbanizing rapidly, and by 2030 will be home to 250 million more people, equivalent to another Indonesia, with a growing appetite for healthy food sustainably and ethically sourced, according to PwC, Rabobank and Temasek Holdings Pte, Singapore's state investment company.

Most of the investment, or about

\$550 billion, will fund core needs revolving around sustainability, safety, health and convenience, while the other \$250 billion is to provide increased amounts of food for the growing population.

Asia is unable to feed itself, relying on imports flowing through long supply chains from the Americas, Europe and Africa, and it's expected to more than double its spend on food over the next decade, according to the report. As the population booms, issues of food security, supply depleting natural resources, and availability of arable land and water are set to become more important.

"A fundamental change is required across the entire food supply chain in Asia to enable and sustain the region's food security," Anuj Maheshwari, Managing Director of Agribusiness at Temasek, said in a



statement on Wednesday. "We see immense opportunities for start-ups, businesses and governments to work together in creating innovative solutions."

Singapore, Tokyo, Beijing and Mumbai are among some Asian cities with the potential to become

"agri-food tech hubs," according to the report. In addition to other initiatives, Singapore will set up a new research institute in the first half of 2020, covering food, nutrition, public health, biotechnology and food safety, among other topics, according to Koh Poh Koon, senior minister of state at the Ministry of Trade and Industry.

According to the report, Asia is urbanising faster than any other region, and will house all of the world's expected three 30 million+ cities and 65 per cent of the world's middle-class by 2030. The region's food spend will rise to more than \$8 trillion by 2030 from \$4 trillion this year. Net imports of food have tripled since the turn of the century, and now stand at around 220 million tons a year, it said, citing the FAO.

—Bloomberg

OPENING
BELL
PROJECTION FOR TODAY

Nifty upside capped due to fair valuations

The market continued its positive momentum for second consecutive day with the Sensex touching all time high, while the Nifty crossed 12k mark during the day.

The BSE Sensex gained 182 points to close just shy of its lifetime high on Wednesday, propelled by index heavyweight Reliance Industries, Sun Pharma and IndusInd Bank.

After scaling a new intra-day record of 40,816.38, the 30-share index ended 181.94 points, or 0.45 per cent, higher at 40,651.64. It is just 2 points shy of its all-time closing high, hit on November 7, 2019.

Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty closed just below the crucial 12,000-mark, advancing 59 points, or 0.49 per cent, to end at 11,999.10.

Post the Q2 results season, the focus has now shifted toward government policy action as well as global developments. Market interest in select PSUs increased post-talks of divestment in Union cabinet meeting. Going forward, while the Nifty upside remains limited due to fair valuations, stock specific action is likely to continue.

Technical view

"Technically, Nifty formed a Doji Candle on daily scale which indicates indecisiveness at higher levels. But it managed to hold above previous day's high throughout the session and formed higher highs-higher lows on second consecutive session. The support for Nifty is now inching higher towards 11900 and then 11850 levels; while immediate hurdle remains intact at 12100 – 12150 zones," Siddhartha Khemka, Hea - Retail Research, Motilal Oswal Financial Services Private Ltd. "Markets usually run ahead of macros and price future growth. There are three positive indicators for growth – reduction in corporate tax rate, proposed divestment of large public sector units, and a possible resolution of the US-China trade impasse. Therefore we see growth coming back in 2020," said Sanjiv Bhasin, Director, IIFL Securities.

Market view

"Second Quarter Earnings were rescued by corporate tax cuts and with Fund Houses piling on to large cap index components we have seen record highs today led by RIL which is rapidly gaining market share in its Telecom vertical," S Ranganathan, Head of Research at LKP Securities.

—ASHWIN J PUNNEN

The Sun stops shining for property mogul Pallonji Mistry

ANDY MUKHERJEE

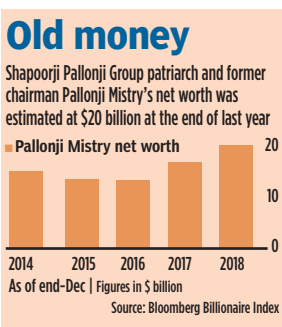
Interest rates could surge, exchange rates may collapse, the sun might stop shining brightly.

Every conceivable danger an investor needs to be aware of in an initial public offering is discussed in the August prospectus of Sterling and Wilson Solar Ltd., among the world's biggest engineering contractors to solar farms. And yet, the risk that struck hapless shareholders was buried under related-party transactions on Page 37: that the Indian company's storied founders won't keep their promise.

The 42 per cent carnage in Sterling and Wilson shares over three trading sessions in Mumbai is the story of

this broken pledge. Controlling shareholders had promised to return with interest what they owe the business — but are now dragging their feet. That's shabby treatment of minority investors, and that, too, within just three months of the firm being floated to the public. It's also a cautionary tale about India's beleaguered real estate industry and its inability to raise cash.

A debt-saddled India Inc. has saddled its cash-flow forecasts, triggering a \$200-billion-plus bad loan problem. The stress in the banking system has filtered into the balance sheets of shadow financiers who provide the lifeblood of financing to the property industry. Their own funding under strain,



these lenders have started mistreating borrowers that not long ago were ranked among the bluest of chips.

The 154-year-old Shapoorji Pallonji Group, which constructed the Reserve Bank of India's Mumbai headquarters as well as the Sultan of Oman's palace, had given

its word to IPO investors. In 90 days after the listing of Sterling and Wilson Solar, the founders — Shapoorji Pallonji and Company Pvt and partner Khurshed Daruvala — would return the loan of 23 billion rupees (\$325 million) they had taken from the firm.

"What's \$325 million to these rich backers?" investors must have thought, as they wrote their IPO subscription checks. Pallonji Mistry, the 90-year-old patriarch of the group, now run by son Shapoor, is worth more than \$20 billion, according to Bloomberg data. The privately held construction unit garners \$1.75 billion in annual operating income, according to a rating agency estimate.

The solar company's public issue went through, though it didn't pull in as much money for the founders as the Mistry family had hoped for. Still, the group's struggle to keep its IPO commitment became clear only late last week. Four days before the Nov. 18 payment deadline, the founders wrote to the company's board, asking for a more lenient payment schedule and a reduction in the principal amount, citing "significant and rapid deterioration in the credit markets." Shares in Sterling and Wilson Solar, a profitable business with a global order book, tanked.

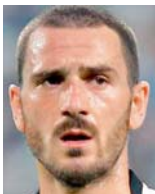
More crucially, the Shapoorji Pallonji Group's

money problems gave Mumbai's already-jittery financial community another reason to feel nervous. Several of India's current and former billionaires are in trouble. But this isn't just any tycoon. The Mistry family owns an 18.4 per cent stake in India's salt-to-software conglomerate Tata Group. That shareholding is worth \$14 billion. Or that's what Pallonji Mistry's younger son, Cyrus, claimed in a legal appeal after he was ousted as Tata Group chairman in a 2016 boardroom coup. It used to be child's play to raise money against those shares. But as the fight rolled on, Tata Group amended its

charter and became a private limited firm. That has presumably limited the liquidity of the Mistry family's shareholding, even though rating firms don't acknowledge any such loss of flexibility.

Then came the sudden collapse in September 2018 of highly rated infrastructure financier IL&FS Group. Funding for shadow banks froze up, forcing them to raise borrowing costs — particularly for real-estate players who were juggling long-term assets by rolling over short-term loans. Iera Ltd, an affiliate of Moody's Investors Service, said the Shapoorji Pallonji Group's flagship construction firm was "exposed to refinancing risk."

—Bloomberg



Longer haul

Defender Leonardo Bonucci renews his contract with Juventus by one year, will remain with the Italian champions until 2024



I haven't played that much but I took time off to get ready for this event.

— Nick Kyrgios, post his 6-4, 6-4 win over Colombia's Alejandro Gonzalez in their Davis Cup match

SHORT TAKES

Mourinho takes over Spurs reins

London: Jose Mourinho was on Wednesday appointed Tottenham's new manager to replace the sacked Mauricio Pochettino, with the club languishing 14th in the Premier League.

The Portuguese former Chelsea, Real Madrid and Manchester United manager signed a contract until the end of the 2022/23 season, the north London club said in a statement. Pochettino, 47, transformed Spurs' fortunes after arriving from Southampton in 2014 and although he failed to win a trophy he took the club to the Champions League final for the first time in their history just six months ago.

But the Argentine was sacked on Tuesday, with Tottenham struggling in the league after picking up just three wins from their opening 12 games. This season they were knocked out of the League Cup by fourth-tier Colchester United and suffered an embarrassing 7-2 defeat at home to Bayern Munich in the Champions League. — AFP

Maradona steps down at Gimnasia

Buenos Aires: Diego Maradona has quit as coach of Argentinian Superliga side Gimnasia, less than three months after taking over, the club announced on Tuesday.

"Maradona is no longer the Gimnasia coach. He said he was here to add to things, not to divide," club president Gabriel Pellegrino said on Argentina's Radio La Red said on Maradona's decision to leave. Reports in Argentina suggested Maradona's departure was linked to an imminent management shake-up at the club in La Plata, 50 kilometres from Buenos Aires.

Maradona was no longer keen on remaining at the club after Pellegrino, the man who brought him back to Argentine football, pulled out of running for re-election as the side's president next Saturday. Before his last match in charge, he tied his future to Pellegrino's: "I talked to the president and told him that I would continue if he continues." — AFP

ROCKY NAMES 30 PLAYERS FOR CAMP

New Delhi: The Indian women's football team coach Maymol Rocky on Wednesday named 30 members for a preparatory camp ahead of the South Asian Games (SAG) starting in Kathmandu on December 1. The squad will head for a 10-day camp starting in Kolkata from Wednesday with Maymol at the helm.

Making their return to the national team fold are the likes of Dalima Chhibber and Sandhiya Ranganathan, who were part of the team that won the SAFF Women's Championship earlier this year — the last time this side played in Nepal. "It is good to have them (Dalima and Sandhiya) back. Certainly, with the other new players coming in as well, the senior players will be on their toes and there will be a healthy competition within the squad," Maymol said. Talking about the camp, Maymol stated that there is "increased confidence" in the team after the result against Vietnam and these 10 days will offer her a great opportunity to assess the fresh faces.

THE SQUAD: Goalkeepers: Aditi Chauhan, M. Linthoingambi Devi, E. Panthoi Chanu, Esther H. Defenders: Ashalata Devi, Sweetey Devi, Jabamani Tudu, Ranjana Chanu, W. Linthoingambi Devi, Ritu Rani, Michel Castanha, Dalima Chhibber, Aniline Fernandes. **Midfielders:** Sangita Basfore, Sanju, Manisha, Ratanbala Devi, Grace Lalrampari, Roja Devi, Sumithra Kamraj, Karthika Angamuthu, Soni Behera. **Forwards:** Anju Tamang, Sandhiya R, Bala Devi, Dangmei Kumari, Daya Devi, Renu, Sharda Kumari, Karishma Shirvokar — PTI



Aaron Ramsey (left), Gareth Bale (second from left) and Ethan Ampadu (right) celebrate their 2-0 win over Hungary during their UEFA Euro 2020 Group 'E' qualifying match at the Cardiff City Stadium, in Cardiff, Wales, on Tuesday.

Hungary? Ramseys yes

Aaron scores two goals as Wales qualify for 2020 Euros

Paris, Nov. 20: Aaron Ramsey sent Wales to Euro 2020 with a brace to give them a 2-0 win over Hungary and a spot in next summer's finals, while Belgium completed their perfect qualifying campaign with a mauling of Cyprus.

Ramsey hit his decisive double either side of half-time at the Cardiff City Stadium to ensure that Ryan Giggs's side leapfrogged Tuesday's opponents into second place in Group 'E' to snatch a spot at the multi-host tournament.

Wales also held off Slovakia, who beat Azerbaijan 2-0 but finished a point behind in third thanks to their defeat at group winners Croatia in the previous round of matches.

Ramsey's match-winning display came in his first start of qualifying and capped a superb performance that belied a characteristically injury-dogged season in Serie 'A'. The 28-year-old made an immediate impact by charging into the box to meet Gareth Bale's inch-perfect cross to settle the home side's nerves on 15 minutes.

There was no way back for the visitors once Ramsey controlled Kieffer Moore's knockdown to smash home from close range two minutes into the second half.

BELGIUM BLAST SIX PAST CYPRUS

One of the favourites for the tournament which kicks off in Rome on June 12, Belgium, made it a perfect 10 wins from 10 with a 6-1 thrashing of Cyprus that saw Christian Benteke score twice.

The Crystal Palace forward is yet to score in the Premier League but opened Belgium's account

in the 16th minute with a tap-in two minutes after Nicholas Ioannou stunned the Group 'I' winners with a superb run and shot.

He rounded off the scoring in the 68th minute when he collected a neat through ball from Kevin De Bruyne and slotted past Neofytos Michael.

Russia, who finished two points behind Belgium, thumped San Marino 5-0 in one of a host of dead rubbers.

FREE-SCORING GERMANY NAIL NORTHERN IRELAND

Germany and the Netherlands thumped Northern Ireland and Belarus to close their campaigns in style.

Serge Gnabry said Germany were heading to the Euros in a positive mood after hitting a hat-trick that sank the Northern Irish 6-1 and gave them top spot in Group 'C'.

WIJNALDUM NETS HAT-TRICK FOR DUTCH

Georginio Wijnaldum meanwhile made another stand against racism as he also scored three times in the Netherlands' 5-0 crushing of Belarus.

Liverpool midfielder Wijnaldum was angered at Excelsior striker Ahmad Mendes Moreira being subjected to racist chanting by FC Den Bosch fans during a Dutch second division match.

And after opening the scoring in the sixth minute he and Frenkie de Jong joined on the sidelines to bring their arms together to draw attention to their different skin colour. Myron Boadu made it a night to remember by scoring on his international debut to make it five three minutes from the end, collecting Kevin Strootman's pass before slotting home. — AFP

RESULTS

The Netherlands 5 (<i>Georginio Wijnaldum 6, 66, 79, Nathan Ake 19, Myron Boadu 87</i>)	Estonia 0
Germany 6 (<i>Serge Gnabry 19, 47, 60, Leon Goretzka 43, 73, Julian Brandt 90+1</i>)	Northern Ireland 1 (<i>Michael Smith 7</i>)
Wales 2 (<i>Aaron Ramsey 15, 47</i>)	Hungary 0
Slovakia 2 (<i>Robert Bozenik 19, Marek Hamsik 86</i>)	Azerbaijan 0
Poland 3 (<i>Sebastian Szymanski 3, Robert Lewandowski 54, Jacek Goraliski 81</i>)	Slovenia 2 (<i>Tim Matavz 14, Josip Illicic 61</i>)
Latvia 1 (<i>Marcis Oss 65</i>)	Austria 0
North Macedonia 1 (<i>Boban Nikolov 45+2</i>)	Israel 0
Belgium 6 (<i>Christian Benteke 16, 68, Kevin De Bruyne 36, 42, Ferreira Carrasco 44, Kypros Christoforou 51</i>)	Cyprus 1 (<i>Nicolas Loannou 14</i>)
San Marino 0	Russia 5 (<i>Daler Kuzyaev 3, Sergei Petrov 19, Aleksey Miranchuk 49, Lonov 56, Komlichenko 78</i>)
Scotland 3 (<i>McGinn 48, 90+1, Naismith 64</i>)	Kazakhstan 1 (<i>Zainutdinov 34</i>)



Gareth Bale (second from right) is seen sharing a light moment with his teammates after their Euro Group 'E' win over Hungary.

Bale's celebration after win triggers Real row

Cardiff, Nov. 20: Gareth Bale laughed and danced with his Welsh international teammates behind a flag that had the message: 'Wales. Golf. Madrid. In That Order.'

The forward can look forward to playing in another major tournament with Wales after helping the national team secure a place in next year's European Championship on Tuesday.

Given the way he celebrated qualification, Bale's future with Real Madrid might not be so rosy.

Much will hinge on the

● **After the win Gareth Bale was seen dancing and laughing behind a flag with a message that read: Wales. Golf. Madrid. In That Order.**

to be. We will go there and have some fun again," Bale said about Wales reaching a major tournament for only the third time. He looked like he was having fun after the match as he danced on the field behind a flag whose message was seemingly linked to recent comments made by former Real Madrid player Predrag Mijatovic when discussing Bale's current priorities at Madrid. Bale, who is big golf fan, has rarely appeared for Madrid in recent weeks because of injury but was able to play for Wales. — AP

fitness of Bale and Ramsey, who are both injury prone. This was the first time they started together for Wales since a Nations League qualifier against Denmark last November. "This is where we want

coming to Pakistan. Our hotels in Islamabad are full of Indians but the six Indian players can't come. It's a shame," Khan added. In the last tie, Pakistan hosted against Uzbekistan in April 2018, apart from Aqeel and Aisam, Muzammil Murtaza, Heera Ashiq and Shahzad Khan were part of the squad, which had lost 0-4. In the same year, Pakistan had beaten Korea 4-0 at home.

NADAL PRAISES HOME CROWD POST WIN

Meanwhile in Madrid, Rafael Nadal instigated a Spanish comeback against Russia in the Davis Cup on Tuesday by capitalising on a raucous home crowd to beat Karen Khachanov in straight sets.

Nadal, who will finish the year as world number one, came through a second-set tie-break to defeat Khachanov 6-3, 7-6 (9/7) and level the Group 'B' match.

Marcel Granollers and Feliciano Lopez then won the deciding doubles rubber 6-4, 7-6 (7/5) against Khachanov and Andrey Rublev, who had earlier given Russia the lead with a 3-6, 6-3, 7-6 (7/0) win over Roberto Bautista Agut.

A new format this year means the Davis Cup takes place in one venue, across a single week, with organisers — among them Barcelona footballer Gerard Pique — hoping a tighter schedule will revitalise the prestigious trophy. The three stadiums at

KOREAN | MASTERS

Srikanth, Sameer in 2nd round

Gwangju (Korea), Nov. 20: India made a promising start at the Korea Masters with shuttlers Kidambi Srikanth and Sameer Verma advancing to the second round of the men's singles competition here on Wednesday.

The sixth seed Srikanth defeated Hong Kong's Wong Wing Ki Vincent 21-18, 21-17 in match that lasted 37 minutes.

The former World No.1 Srikanth now enjoys a dominant 11-3 head-to-head record over the Hong Kong shuttler. He will face Kanta Tsuneyama of Japan in the second round.

Sameer Verma also reached the second round after his opponent Japan's Kazumasa Sakai retired midway with the score reading 11-8 in favour of the Indian.

However, it was end of the road for Sourabh Verma, who went down after winning the first game to local favourite Kim Donghun 21-13, 12-21 13-21.

Sameer will take on Donghun in the second round. — PTI

● **Sixth seeded Kidambi Srikanth defeated Hong Kong's Wong Wing Ki Vincent 21-18, 21-17 in a 37 minutes match.**

● **Sameer Verma also reached the second round after Japan's Kazumasa Sakai retired with the score reading 11-8 in favour of the Indian.**

Blame it on scheduling, quips Gopi

Kolkata, Nov. 20: India's chief badminton coach Pullela Gopichand on Wednesday attributed P. V. Sindhu's lean run since her World Championship triumph to hectic scheduling.

Sindhu has fallen in the early stages at all tournaments except the French Open since winning her maiden World Championship title in August.

"Sindhu has had tough times in the last few matches, but I am sure she'll bounce back. I think she's had a tough schedule after the World Championships.

"Doing intercontinental with matches from China, Korea. Then she went to Denmark, France and then she comes back to play China, Hong Kong again... So I think it's been a tough last two months for her," Gopichand said.

"A lot of players in the world are finding it difficult. I think she is somebody who's a contender any day and I am sure she'll bounce back," Gopichand added. — PTI

Pakistan serve up teens for Indian tie

New Delhi, Nov. 20: Pakistan has been forced to pick two rookie 17-year-olds for their Davis Cup encounter against a full-strength Indian squad, after senior players Aisam-ul-Haq Qureshi and Aqeel Khan pulled out protesting against the tie being shifted to a neutral venue.

The International Tennis Federation (ITF) has shifted the November 29-30 tie from Islamabad to Kazakhstan capital Nur-Sultan.

The Pakistan Tennis Federation named teenagers Huzaifa Abdul Rehman and Shoaib Khan, both of whom are ranked as lowly as 446 and 1004 respectively in the junior ITF ranking list. Yousuf Khan and Ahmad

● **After senior players Aisam-ul-Haq Qureshi and Aqeel Khan pulled out of their Davis Cup tie against India, Pakistan named two 17-year-olds in their squad.**

● **The Pakistan Tennis Federation picked teenagers Huzaifa Abdul Rehman and Shoaib Khan, both of whom are ranked as lowly as 446 and 1004 respectively in the junior ITF ranking list.**

Kamil, also teenagers, along with Amjad complete the squad.

With Pakistan's top players Aisam and Aqeel pulling out of the tie in protest against shifting out of matches to a neutral venue, the PTF was left with no option but to pick junior players.

"It could have been a good tie but for India. We

are sending junior players. Our senior Davis Cup team is not coming. We are sending our junior Davis Cup team. They are all 16-17 years old and will gain some experience," PTF President Salim Saifullah Khan said.

"India wanted to win this tie, so now they can win this tie easily. Everyday hundreds of Indians are

the Caja Magica were all far from full for Tuesday's early matches but Nadal enjoyed a bumper crowd of local fans for his hard-fought contest in the evening.

"The atmosphere was amazing," said Nadal. Asked about the success of the competition so far, he added: "It is difficult to answer today. Let me wait until the tournament is over to have a clear and better opinion."

The last doubles match finished at just before 2:00 am, with Spain due to be back in action against Croatia on Wednesday afternoon. "The only negative in my opinion is we are just starting the last match and it's 12.45am," Nadal said ahead of the doubles. — Agencies



Ruled out

Bangladesh's reserve opener Saif Hassan was on Wednesday ruled out of the Day/Night Test against India owing to a finger injury

Party in pink at Gardens

3



A pink-ball Test is like officiating five back to back ODIs. More or less same timing.

— S. Ravi, ICC Elite Panel umpire

SHORT TAKES

India lose to Pak, out of ACC Cup

Dhaka: India crashed out of the Asian Cricket Council Emerging Teams Cup after losing by three runs to arch-rivals Pakistan in the first semifinal here on Wednesday. Pakistan dished out a strong top-order display to put up 267 for seven on the board after opting to bat. Openers Omair Yousuf (66 off 97 balls) and Haider Ali (43 off 60) put on a 90-run opening stand to lay a solid foundation. Thereafter, Said Badar (47 not out off 48), skipper Rohail Nazir (35) and Imran Rafiq (28) made useful contributions with the bat to take Pakistan to a defendable score. Pacer Shivam Mavi (2/53), off-spinner Hritikh Shokeen (2/59) and Saurabh Dubey (2/60) shared six wickets between them. Chasing, skipper Belur Ravi Sharath (47 off 43 balls) and Aryan Juyal (17 off 17) made a bright start, stitching 43 runs off just 38 balls for the opening wicket. After the dismissal of Juyal, Sharath held fort in the company of top-scorer Sanvir Singh (76 off 90) with a fifty-plus stand, but India's chase hit a roadblock once the duo got out. India were dealt a severe blow when Armaan Jaffer (46 off 53) and Yash Rathod (13) were dismissed in quick succession, reducing the team to 211 for five in 38.1 overs. — PTI

Malinga may play for 2 more years

Colombo: Sri Lanka captain and veteran pacer Lasith Malinga has had a rethink on his decision to retire after next year's Twenty20 World Cup, saying he can carry on for another two years. Malinga, in March, had stated that he wanted to retire after the Twenty20 World Cup scheduled in October-November in Australia next year. But the 36-year-old, who captains Sri Lanka in the shortest format, now says he can play on beyond that. "T20 is four overs and I feel with my skill, I can manage T20 as a bowler. As a captain, because I've played so many T20s around the world that I feel I can manage that period for maybe another two years," Malinga told *'ESPNCricinfo'*. The veteran said he is waiting to hear from Sri Lanka Cricket on whether he would be leading the side in the Twenty20 showpiece. — PTI

FOCUS ON SHAW, DHAWAN IN SUPER LEAGUE STAGE

Surat: The spotlight would firmly be on the likes of Shikhar Dhawan and young Prithvi Shaw when the Super League stage of the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy T20 tournament begins here on Thursday. The focus will be on out-of-form opener Dhawan, who has not had a great run in recent times as well as Shaw, who recently returned to competitive cricket after serving an eight month retrospective ban for a doping violation. Dhawan is currently going through a rough patch. The Delhi left-handed batsman had scores of 0 (9) against J&K, 9 (6) against Jharkhand, 19 (18) against Sikkim and 35 (33) against Odisha in the league stage of the national T20 championship and he would be more than keen to turn things around. Another promising opener who would want to make most of the opportunity is Shaw, who returned with a bang from a doping ban, slamming a half-century against Assam in the last game of the league stage for Mumbai. Shaw will have to make optimum use of the Super League stage if he has to impress the national selectors and make a comeback to the national team. In all probability, Shaw will open for Mumbai, replacing an in-form Jay Bista, with senior pro Aditya Tare. His teammates and three India players — Shreyas Iyer, Shivam Dube and Shardul Thakur — also have an opportunity to cement their places in the Indian T20 squad for the West Indies series with good outings. — PTI

New Delhi, Nov. 20: Senior Indian off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin feels Day/Night Tests will mark a new beginning for the traditional format in the country as the spectator count will improve drastically owing to the match timings.

India will play their maiden Day/Night Test starting Friday, against Bangladesh in Kolkata. The daily proceedings in the match will start at 1pm and wind up by 8pm. "I just hope this marks the beginning of where we get huge crowds coming into the stadium and test cricket gets its credit and obviously with the change in timings people can afford to finish their work and come into the game, watch it and enjoy it," Ashwin said. His teammate Mohd. Shami is focussed on the challenges that await him in the game. "The middle session should be the main focus for batsman while using the pink ball unlike the morning session that is usually considered the most important in a test match as it will have more of a swing in Eden Gardens," he said.

Shami said the bowlers will have to work very hard to extract any assistance from the pink ball. "...the pink ball is only useful when there a hard and grassy wicket because the ball goes straight. "Pink ball is a very different ball and doesn't work like the white or red ball at all so there is a very low possibility that in the last session we get a swing or reverse so we will have to work very hard," he said.

Coach Vettori wants Bangla to be excited

Kolkata, Nov. 20: Bangladesh's spin bowling consultant Daniel Vettori is done dwelling on the "negatives" and wants his team to feel excited about competing in its maiden Day/Night Test even though it happens to be against an incomparably formidable-at-home India.

India and Bangladesh will square off in their maiden Day/Night Test starting here on Friday and the talk has been all about the challenges of coping with the pink ball under floodlights. "We are excited to play rather than think about the negatives," Vettori told reporters ahead of the Test. "Visibility is fine, but the only anecdotal conversation I have heard is around being a little bit hard to pick up from point and square-leg. It will be interesting to find

Shami can be deadly: Saha

India wicketkeeper Wriddhiman Saha on Wednesday brushed aside concerns about pink ball being a challenge for bowlers like

Mohammed Shami who, according to him, can be trusted to come good irrespective of the ball's colour or the nature of the surface. I Shami had a match-haul of seven wickets among the Indian pace attack's collective haul of 14 scalps in the home team's innings and 130-run victory over Bangladesh in the first Test in Indore. "With the form they (Shami, Ishant Sharma and Umesh Yadav) are in, the pink ball is not a factor. E s p e c i a l l y (Mohammed) Shami, he can be deadly on any wicket. He has pace and is able to extract reverse swing," Saha said when asked whether colour of the ball will make more difference. Saha said that they haven't yet checked how much movement is on offer as far as pink ball is concerned. "We are yet to see the movement of the pink ball. But the colour of the ball won't matter with the current form of our pacers," Saha added. — PTI



Daniel Vettori

out if slips, gully and umpire is picking it up well. They say there's a small halo effect," he pointed out. While a handful of players from India have played a pink-ball game in domestic cricket, Bangladesh's only experience with that was a one-off Day/Night four-day match in 2013 but none of the current team players were a part of that fixture. — PTI

Ashwin says Day/Night game marks new start for Test cricket



R. Ashwin during a training session ahead of India's first D/N Test against Bangladesh at the Eden Gardens on Wednesday. — AP

Bhaji wants Ash back in ODI squad

New Delhi, Nov. 20: Spin great Harbhajan Singh feels Ravichandran Ashwin deserves a comeback in India's limited overs set-up as a reward for his recent exploits with the red ball.

With the management and selectors exploring options ahead of the T20 World Cup next year, opportunities have been given to the likes of W. Sundar and Rahul Chahar.

As the selectors meet to pick the ODI and T20 squads for the West Indies series next month, Harbhajan said Ashwin should get another chance in the shorter versions of the game.

"This is what I feel, if you are looking to bowl a spinner upfront (which Sundar has been doing in T20s), you rather have a wicket-taker which Ashwin is. Why not (give him a chance)? He has also done a good job with the red ball recently," Harbhajan said on Tuesday.

"Ashwin spins the ball, he has got more variations. Someone like a Sundar needs to learn. I want him to do well. I am all for bleeding in youngsters but they must learn else they will be replaced, considering the stiff competition," said the 39-year-old.

Ashwin last played a limited overs game for India in July 2017, following which he and Ravindra Jadeja were overlooked for the shorter formats with wrist-spinners Yuzvendra Chahal and Kuldeep.

Jadeja was able to make a comeback but Ashwin hasn't. The selectors are trying out various combinations for the T20 World Cup in Australia.

Kuldeep has not been part of the last three T20 series while Chahal made a successful comeback against Bangladesh. — PTI



BCCI president Sourav Ganguly inspects the pitch at the Eden Gardens on Wednesday. — AFP

Yesteryear stars to descend on Kolkata

Kolkata, Nov. 20: India's finest cricketers including Sachin Tendulkar, Sunil Gavaskar and Kapil Dev will assemble during the country's first-ever day-night Test against Bangladesh, starting here on Friday.

The iconic Eden Gardens is all set to witness a musical extravaganza in the presence of former cricketers, celebrities and politicians during India and Bangladesh's first-ever pink ball Test.

According to BCCI president Sourav Ganguly, the second Test of the two-match series will be one to remember. "Sachin (Tendulkar), (Sunil) Gavaskar, Kapil (Dev), Rahul (Dravid), Anil (Kumble) everyone will be there. In tea time, there will be carts going around the stadium with former captains in them," Ganguly said.

"There is a musical performance at tea time and at the end of the day there is a felicitation. Both the teams, former captains, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Chief Minister will be there.

"Runa Laila will be performing, Jeet Ganguly will be performing. I am very excited. Just see the excitement, four days are already sold out in a Test match," he added.

Asked whether after the Eden Test, India will play a day-night Test in its upcoming tour to Australia in January next year, Ganguly replied: "We will see."

The Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB) and BCCI have put in place several plans to mark India's maiden pink ball Test. Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is expected to ring the 'Eden Bell' along with West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on the first day of the match.

Besides, a host of sporting stars, including star shuttler P V Sindhu, chess ace Viswanathan Anand and tennis sensation Sania Mirza are expected to grace the occasion.

As per plans, paratroopers are expected to fly into Eden to hand a pink ball each to captains Virat Kohli and Mominul Haque just before the toss. — PTI

Honey trap, blackmailing used to fix KPL matches: Top cop

Bengaluru, Nov. 20: A special investigation team has been formed to go deeper into the match-fixing scandal that has rocked the Karnataka Premier League (KPL), Bengaluru Police Commissioner Bhaskar Rao said on Wednesday.

The SIT has been formed within the Central Crime Branch (CCB) that is investigating the KPL fixing scam, he said adding means like blackmailing of players through honey-trapping had been used. "...on the basis of information that we have got we have arrested seven persons so far. I have directed our Joint Commissioner of Police Sandeep Patil to collect information about all KPL teams," Rao said.

Speaking to reporters here, he said innocent people go to

watch matches, but the matches would have been decided already — who should score how much runs and who should win or lose.

"Today there are many non-playing cricketers involved than those playing on the field, and it has become a business for them as they travel to Dubai, West Indies and other foreign countries and stay at five-star hotels. They have also indulged in blackmailing of players through honey trap," he added.

He said regulatory bodies of the game like BCCI and KSCA have remained "mute spectators" despite knowing everything, Rao said it is very much in their domain, they should take action.

"We have issued notices to all teams asking for videos,

scoresheet, details of the managers and others. I have formed a small SIT (Special Investigation Team) within the CCB," Rao added.

Several senior players have expressed the need to cleanse cricket and that the guilty should be booked, he said adding action should also be taken against those who remain silent despite knowing things. The CCB had recently issued a Look Out Circular (LOC) against the Bellary Tuskers team owner Arvind Venkatesh Reddy in connection with the case while Belagavi Panthers owner Asfak Ali Thara had been arrested. Two cricket players C. M. Gautam and Abrar Kazi were also recently arrested in connection with the scandal. — PTI

No shame in showing tears, it's ok for men to cry: Sachin

New Delhi, Nov. 20: "There's no shame in showing your tears," said Sachin Tendulkar on Wednesday, recalling a time when he believed that crying makes a man weak, a belief he wants none to have now.

In an open letter to fellow men in the ongoing International Men's Week, the cricket icon said his tribe should never pretend to be tough when things are falling apart.

"There's no shame in showing your tears. So why hide a part of you that actually makes you



stronger? Why hide your tears?" he asked in an emotional note. "Because that's what we

are brought up to believe — that men are not supposed to cry. That crying makes a man weak.

There's no shame in showing your tears. So why hide a part of you that actually makes you stronger? Why hide your tears? — SACHIN TENDULKAR

"I grew up believing this. And the reason I'm writing to you today, is because I realised that I was wrong. My struggles and my pain made me who I am, shaping me into a better man," he added.

The 46-year-old, arguably the greatest batsman to have played cricket, said crying does not mean weakness.

"It takes a lot of courage to show your pain and your vulnerability. But just as sure as the morning, you'll emerge from it tougher and better. So I encourage you to move

past these stereotypes and notions of what men can or cannot do. Whoever you are, wherever you are, I wish you this courage," he said.

Tendulkar said his tribe will face "fear, doubts and experience great tribulations" and it is fine if some of it leads to a breakdown.

"Undoubtedly, there will be times when you fail, and you will feel like crying and letting it all out. But sure enough, you'll hold back the tears and pretend to be tough. Because that's what men do," he wrote. — PTI



A file photo of Australia's Steve Smith who had broken down while apologising for the ball tampering incident.



New manager

Former Hamburg manager Hannes Wolf was named as the new coach of struggling Genk, the Belgian champions announced

Games

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DECCAN CHRONICLE

THURSDAY | 21 NOVEMBER 2019 | HYDERABAD

HONG KONG | PROTESTS

Fans turn backs on China anthem

Dubai, Nov. 20: Hong Kong fans turned their backs to the Chinese national anthem once again but supported their team and were rewarded with a first win in Asian qualifying, 2-0, over Cambodia, on Tuesday.

Before the match, home fans jeered and turned their backs to the pitch as the Chinese national anthem played.

FIFA fined the Hong Kong Football Association 15,000 Swiss francs (13,700 euros or HKD 117,944) following a similar incident before the September 10 match against Iran.

On Tuesday, James Ha put the hosts ahead with a close-range half-volley in the 21st minute.

Cambodia, under pressure for most of the match, were reduced to 10 men in the 78th minute when Soeuy Visal was sent off after flicking the ball out of the goalkeeper's hands to collect a second yellow card.

Despite the disparity in numbers, the hard-working Roberto Affonso Junior was still surrounded by four Cambodian defenders when he spun on the edge of the box five minutes later and curled the ball

● **Before the Fifa World Cup Asian football qualifier against Cambodia, home fans jeered and turned their backs to the pitch as the Chinese national anthem was played.**

into the net.

Hong Kong have five points in Group 'C', while Cambodia stayed bottom with one. Iraq, playing against Bahrain at the Amman International Stadium in Jordan, remained on top of Group 'C' with 11 points despite being held to a draw.

GOLF TOURNAMENT POSTPONED

Next week's Hong Kong Open, one of the biggest golf tournaments in Asia, was postponed on Wednesday following months of anti-government protests in the city.

European Tour chief executive Keith Pelley said he hoped the event, whose winners include Rory McIlroy, and Colin Montgomerie could be rescheduled for early next year.

— AFP

GRANT RELIEF TO FALLEN PLAYER'S KIN: SHIVLAL

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 20

Former Test cricketer, BCCI in-charge president and Hyderabad Cricket Association (HCA) secretary N. Shivalal Yadav on Wednesday exhorted the HCA to spare a thought for the family of Marredpally Sporting player Virendra Naik, who died while playing HCA's A-3 Division one-day league match at the Marredpally Playground in Secunderabad on Sunday.

"One of our cricketers has died on the field. The HCA should announce adequate monetary relief for his homemaker wife, son (8) and daughter (5) as a beneficial gesture. I suggest a sum of ₹5 lakh at least, which should not pinch the HCA in anyway," Shivalal told this newspaper on Wednesday.

The HCA is yet to release a statement of condolence following Virendra Naik's death though.

However, Sporting's current and former players are planning to pool in contributions and deposit the fund in the names of Viren's children.

HISTORY MAKER

Triple-double again for James as Lakers roll Thunder

Los Angeles, Nov. 20: LeBron James became the first player in NBA history to record a triple-double against every team in the league on Tuesday as the Los Angeles Lakers powered to victory over the Oklahoma City Thunder.

James finished with 25 points, 11 rebounds and 10 assists in a hardfought 112-107 win over the Thunder at the Staples Centre.

Anthony Davis led the Lakers scoring with 34 points, while adding seven rebounds and four assists.

The win saw the Lakers improve to 12-2 to remain on top of the Western Conference.

But it was James' 86th career triple-double that grabbed the headlines, the Lakers star sealing the milestone with an assist to Davis with just over four minutes remaining in the fourth quarter.

James said the record would not have been possible without the support of coaches and team-mates over the years.

"I really don't know what to think about it to be honest," James told reporters when asked about the feat.

"I've had some great team-mates and great coaches who've put me in position to facilitate. My teammates have made shots for me throughout my career, coaches have put me in position to be successful.

"Hopefully in all those triple-doubles I've got a winning record because that's what's most important. But it's a pretty cool stat and I'm glad it happened," he added.

Houston's Russell Westbrook is hard on James' heels with triple-doubles against 29 of the league's 30 teams.

Westbrook would complete his set with a triple-double against his former team Oklahoma City, who he left this year.

In New Orleans, Carmelo Anthony made



LeBron James of the Los Angeles Lakers in action against the Oklahoma City Thunder during their NBA game at the Staples Centre on Tuesday. Lakers won 112-107. — AFP

an unsuccessful return to the NBA after more than a year out of the game as the Portland Trail Blazers slumped to a 104-115 loss to the Pelicans.

Anthony, whose move to Portland was confirmed by the team earlier Tuesday, finished with

just 10 points after 23 minutes on court after shooting just 4-of-14 from the field.

It was a largely frustrating night for the 35-year-old 10-time All-Star, with Portland giving up 17 turnovers as the Pelicans dominated a shaky

Blazers defense.

Anthony however was simply happy to have made his return to the league, just over a year after he was released from the Houston Rockets.

"My body felt good, better than what I expected," Anthony said.



We've been talking about improving our defense everytime. Tonight we showed it.

— **Draymond Green, Golden State Warriors player**

SHORT TAKES

Abhishek, Ayman top performers

Hyderabad: Murugan Abhishek of Hyderabad put up a brilliant performance as he snared five Goa wickets to lead his side to victory in the Vijay Hazare trophy and qualify for the knock-out round.

Hyderabad posted 461 for 5 and bowled Goa for 195 and 83 for an innings and 183-run win.

Meanwhile in a Hyderabad one-day league match, Ayman hit an unbeaten 107 to set up Time CC's win over Satya.

Brief Scores:

VIJAY MERCHANT TROPHY
■ Hyderabad 461/5 decl. in 101 overs bt Goa 195 and 83 in 50.1 overs (**Murugan Abhishek 5/29** — **8.1-2-29-5**), Nitin Sai Yadav 2/8, Aswad Rajiv 2/17). **Points:** Hyderabad 6, Goa 0.

ONE-DAY LEAGUE
■ Time CC 295 in 45 overs (69, **Ayman 107 n.o.**, Karan 4/54) bt Satya CC 95 in 20.4 overs (Karan 50, Afroz 4/24).

Andrews boys, girls are in lead

Hyderabad: Delhi Public School are in joint lead with hosts St Andrews with 6 points in the boys category at the 16th Rev. Fr. Devasia Inter School Chess Tournament. In the girls section, St Andrews took sole lead with a tally of 6 points after the third round.

THE RESULTS

■ **Boys third round:** Chirec International School (4) lost to Delhi Public School (6); St Andrews School (Team A) (6) bt St Andrews School (Team C) (3); St Andrews School (Team B) (4) bt Bhavans School (3); Hindu Public School (2) lost to Little Flower School (4); Meridian School (1) lost to Johnson Grammar School (4); St Andrews School (Keesara) (1) lost to Pallavi Model School (3); Secunderabad Public School (2) bt Samaritan Public School (1).
■ **Girls third round:** Meridian School (3) lost to St Andrews School (Team A) (6); Little Flower School (5) bt Chirec International School (3); Samaritan Public School (2) lost to St Andrews School (Team B) (5); Hindu Public School (4) bt Johnson Grammar School (1); St Andrews (Keesara) (1) lost to Bhavans School (3).

City girls in India tennis squad

Hyderabad: Bhuvana Kalva, Sowjanya Bavisetti, Sama Satvika, Prerna Bhambri, Prarthna Thombre and Sravya Shivani will represent the Indian women's tennis team at the 13th edition of the South Asian Games to be held from December 1 to 10 at Kathmandu-Pokhara, Nepal. India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka are the seven countries participating in the event.

Boxing trials for OU women's side

Hyderabad: Osmania University is conducting selection trials for women boxers on Friday at 3.30 pm at Lal Bahadur Stadium to select the side for the All India Universities Women Boxing Championship to be held in Meerut in December. Participants should carry eligibility forms signed by respective physical directors and principals along with their bonafide certificates and report to Venkat, physical director of Villa Marie College.

Hyderabad coach Nayeem no more

Hyderabad: Md Nayeem Khan, president and chief coach of the Emerging Cricketers Development Group (ECDG) Hyderabad passed away in the early hours of Wednesday. He was 58 and is survived by his wife. His funeral was held on Wednesday at Mallepally.

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