

A campaign to encourage abstinence from alcohol during January

A software program with a conformist, stereotypical, or thoughtless design

DECCAN CHRONICLE

MONDAY | 25 NOVEMBER 2019 | HYDERABAD

Oped

PAGE 9

# Seeking secretive funds, govt overruled RBI



Nitin Sethi

This is Part 1 of the 6-part #PaaisPolitics investigative series by HuffPost. Reprinted with permission from Huffington Post.

**D**ays before unveiling electoral bonds, a secretive way to channel money to political parties, the Narendra Modi government pretended to ask the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for its opinion, only to summarily dismiss the central bank's reservations, previously unpublished documents obtained by HuffPost India reveal.

The undue haste shown by the government was striking given how serious the RBI's objections were, the following account — based on these documents — shows.

Thus far, electoral bonds worth at least ₹6,000 crore have been sold since March 2018. Of the first tranche, worth ₹222 crore, the BJP has garnered 95 per cent of the money according to data compiled by the Association for Democratic Reforms.

On a Saturday four days before Budget Day in 2017, a senior tax official spotted a wrinkle in the presentation the finance minister was scheduled to make before Parliament.

In his speech on February 1, 2017, Arun Jaitley, India's finance minister at the time, planned to unveil "electoral bonds": a controversial, legally-sanctioned instrument that would allow corporations and other legal entities to anonymously funnel unlimited amounts of money to political parties.

If written into law, these anonymised electoral bonds would legalise the influence of big business and open the opportunity for offshore money to pour into Indian politics.

But there was a hitch — the RBI had to be brought on board first.

Legalising these anonymous donations would need amendments to the Reserve Bank of India Act, the tax official wrote in a note dated January 28, 2017, to his superiors in the finance ministry. He drafted the proposed amendment and sent it up the ranks for the finance minister's approval.

On the same day, at 1:45 pm, an official in the finance ministry shot off a perfunctory 5-line email, "requesting early

comments" on the proposed amendment, to Rama Subramaniam Gandhi, then a deputy governor of RBI and second-in-command to Urjit Patel, the bank's governor at the time.

The RBI's reply, recording its unequivocal opposition, was in by Monday, January 30, 2017. The RBI said that electoral bonds and the amendment to the RBI Act would set a "bad precedent" by encouraging money laundering and undermining faith in Indian banknotes, and would erode a core principle of central banking legislation.

Electoral bonds, the RBI said, would effectively be a type of "bearer bond" — a notoriously opaque financial instrument that carries no trace of its ownership.

"Bearer instruments have the potential to become currency and if issued in sizeable quantities can undermine faith in banknotes issued by RBI," the bank wrote. "The bonds are bearer bonds and are transferable by delivery. Hence who finally and actually contributes the bond to the political party will not be known."

Ordinarily, such strong opposition by the RBI would have made any administration pause. Usually, any government amends laws only after formal consultations with ministries and other government entities which may be impacted by the proposed changes or have a view on the matter.

But in the case of electoral bonds, the top echelons of the Modi government had already made up their mind.

RBI's concerns were summarily and swiftly dismissed by Hasmukh Adhia, who was then revenue secretary, in a single short paragraph on the same day the finance ministry received the central bank's letter.

"It appears to me that the RBI has not understood the proposed mechanism of having pre-paid instruments for the purpose of keeping the identity of the donor secret, while ensuring the donation is made only out of fully tax paid money of a person," began Adhia's note to the secretary for economic affairs, Tapan Ray, and finance minister Jaitley.

Yet, rather than provide substantive arguments to counter the RBI's concerns, his note revealed that the government had never been serious about RBI's feedback to begin with. "This advice has come quite

late at a time when the Finance Bill is already printed," Adhia wrote, despite the RBI responding on the first working day after it was asked for comment. "We may, therefore, go ahead with our proposal."

On the same day, his colleague Tapan Ray agreed with Adhia. The file moved with lightning speed, and finance minister Jaitley signed off on it immediately.

Two days later, on February 1, 2017, Jaitley proposed the creation of electoral bonds, and the amendment to the RBI Act, as a means to introduce transparency and "cleanse the system of political funding in India". The next month, the proposals passed into law with the passage of the Finance Bill 2017.

This seemingly innocuous tweak to the RBI Act and other amendments, rammed through in haste and with little consultation, was a windfall for India's political parties — particularly the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). Previously, Indian corporations had to give details of their political contributions in their annual statements of accounts. Also, they could not donate more than 7.5 per cent of their annual profits averaged over three years. Foreign companies could not donate to Indian political parties at all. The BJP-led government's amendments changed all that. Indian companies, including shell companies which have no business but to channel money to political parties, individuals as well as other legal entities, such as trusts, can now anonymously buy unlimited amounts of electoral bonds and quietly hand them over to a political party of their choice to encash. Foreign companies can also now route money to Indian political parties.

Now, as the Supreme Court considers the validity of the scheme, a tranche of documents obtained by transparency activist Commodore Lokesh Batra (Retd) reveal how the RBI — the guardian of India's banking and financial system — was misled, ignored and overruled in the Modi government's hurried quest to find legally-approved routes for not just Indian but also foreign companies to funnel money to political parties through an untraceable path.

Not only did the government dismiss the RBI's initial objections to electoral bonds, it also ignored most of the bank's subsequent suggestions to make the scheme less vulnerable to fraud and less prone to destabilising the Indian currency. The finance ministry told HuffPost India via email that it would not be able to provide detailed responses to specific questions because it was busy preparing next year's Union Budget, but said that all the decisions were taken "in good

## ELECTORAL BONDS-1

■ Former finance minister Arun Jaitley took just hours to dismiss the RBI's warning that electoral bonds could funnel black money into politics and destabilise the Indian currency, documents show

faith".

"All the issues raised in the email are on the policy decisions taken by the then respective competent authorities. In this context, it may be mentioned that in the Government organisations all the decisions are taken in good faith and in the larger public interest. Interpretation of decisions taken may have different perspectives, hence an appropriate explanation may only be given, after taking into consideration all he aspects factored into the decisions making process," said the finance ministry.

## BYPASSING THE RBI

It was only after the government had got the concept of Electoral Bonds and opaque donations to political parties legalised by using its brute majority in Lok Sabha and questionably bypassing the Rajya Sabha, that it began to internally discuss how the bonds would really work.

Finance ministry mandarins began to fill in the details. At this stage, the government prepared a more detailed rebuttal to the RBI's concerns on its internal records.

Where the RBI had questioned whether, contrary to the government's claims, the bonds would actually bring transparency to political funding, the finance ministry officials said, "The secrecy of the donor is the core objective of the scheme of electoral bonds."

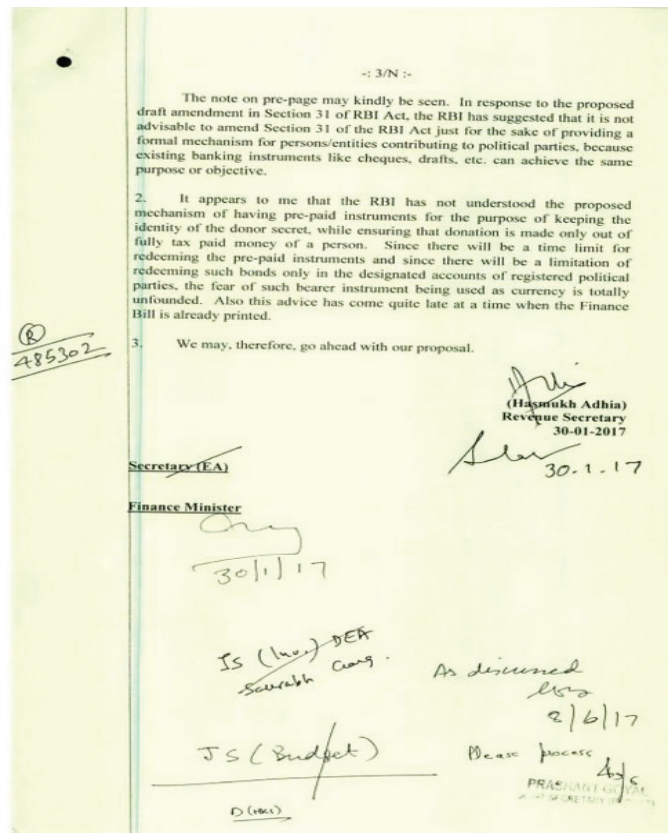
To counter RBI's warning that the bonds would seriously undermine a core principle of central banking and set a bad precedent, the finance ministry did not even try to provide an economic argument.

It bluntly noted, "Parliament is supreme and has the right to legislate on all subjects of governance including the RBI Act."

By June 2017, four months after Jaitley's electoral bonds announcement in Parliament, Economic Affairs Secretary Tapan Ray and his office had written up how the bonds would work in practice.

"The information regarding purchaser and payee shall be kept secret by the issuer bank," the note that Ray agreed to said. "These details would also be beyond the purview of RTI."

Political parties would be



An internal government document recording then-finance secretary Hasmukh Adhia's summary dismissal of the Reserve Bank of India's opposition to electoral bonds. This memo is part of tranche of documents obtained by transparency activist Commodore Lokesh Batra (Retd).

exempt from keeping records of names and addresses of those who contributed through electoral bonds, the note added.

This was in stark contrast to Jaitley's section of the speech in Parliament on electoral bonds, which had begun with the title, "Transparency in Electoral Funding" and ended by claiming, "This reform will bring about greater transparency and accountability in political funding, while preventing future generation of black money".

The note, contradicting the government's claims in public of complete anonymity for donors, noted, "However, the records of the purchaser are always available in the banking channel and may be retrieved as and when required by enforcement agencies."

This meant that only the government would know exactly who had bought these bonds.

Once the finance ministry had decided how the electoral bonds would function, a meeting was scheduled on Jaitley's direction on July 19 2017, between finance ministry officials, the Election Commission of India and RBI to "finalise the structure of Electoral Bonds."

The Election Commission officials attended the meeting; the RBI did not. On July 28 2017, RBI deputy governor B.P. Kanungo separately met the then economic affairs secretary S.C. Garg, who had taken over the role

from Tapan Ray by then. On the same day, RBI governor Urjit Patel also met finance minister Jaitley to discuss the structure of electoral bonds, show records of the finance ministry.

In August, as a follow-up to the meetings between Jaitley and Urjit Patel, the RBI wrote to the finance ministry and pointed out the drawbacks of the scheme yet again.

There was an "inherent scope of misuse of such bonds for undesirable activities," wrote Kanungo, the RBI Deputy Governor. "You may appreciate that globally there are hardly any precedents in recent times for issuance of bearer bonds."

Yet, in a sign that the RBI knew it was fighting a losing battle, the bank made a last-ditch attempt to make the scheme a little less vulnerable to fraud and money-laundering.

"India can consider issuing the instruments, on a transitional basis," the note concluded, and offered suggestions to limit the scope of misuse of the bonds: The bonds should only be valid for 15 days after they were issued, only those holding accounts with banks that are fully verified under the Know Your Customer norms should be allowed to buy these bonds; the bonds should be issued only twice a year for a short duration and only by the RBI Mumbai office.

Finally, the RBI also wanted a cap on the maximum aggregate

value of bonds issued in a year.

"RBI has now appreciated the merits of the Electoral Bearer Bonds and is broadly in alignment with DEA's proposal," Economic Affairs Secretary Garg wrote in a note to the Finance Minister. "We could accept RBI's suggestion on restricting the tenor of the Electoral Bearer Bonds to 15 days."

Most other suggestions made by the central bank were ignored. The bond scheme was floated, allowing any Indian citizen, corporates, or other entities such as trusts and NGOs, to buy the bonds from SBI branches and donate them to political parties secretly.

## AN ANONYMOUS NOTE

If the government had little interest in the RBI's opposition to the electoral bond scheme, it also appeared to be taking advice from unusual quarters. Among the documents HuffPost India obtained under the RTI Act is what appears to be an early concept note on electoral bonds.

This early note is unlike most memos prepared by the Indian bureaucracy: it is undated, unsigned, and printed on a plain sheet of paper bearing no letterhead.

HuffPost India shared the note with one serving and one retired IAS official. One of them currently serves as secretary to the Union government and another has served in this position before. Both said on condition of anonymity that the note did not show the typical language that officers are expected to use.

"How to manage with Electoral Bond?" the note began. "A bearer bond is one that does not carry name of any particular beneficiary and title belongs to the holder of the bond. Exchange of hands in such bonds leaves no trail."

The note suggested two kinds of electoral bonds that could run in parallel.

It recommended a "physical bearer bond model" for bonds up to Rs 2,000, though it also admitted there was a risk of this being used for money laundering. For amounts greater than Rs 2,000, the concept note suggested digitally generated bonds, managed by National Payments Corporation of India. The note admitted there was a chance for money laundering in this case as well.

"This reads more like it was written outside the government and given to the government as a concept note," said the retired bureaucrat who reviewed the note. HuffPost India has been unable to independently verify the origins or author of this note.

Eventually the government did discard this mysterious note and formulate the current version of the electoral bond scheme.

■ To be continued

# Andrew cut to size; Coldplay won't tour



Kishwar Desai  
London Diary

**W**e are all used to sons letting down their mothers and not getting sacked from jobs which are held at the mother's pleasure. In the UK, while the producers of The Crown are probably thrilled at getting a ready made episode with ongoing scandals of a very dysfunctional Royal family, the popularity of Royalty is plunging.

The fact that Prince Andrew remained a friend of Jeffrey Epstein who had been accused of child sex abuse, and may himself also had a relationship with an underage girl, has forced many charities that he supports to drop him like a hot potato. His role as a champion of trade is also likely to be hit. The problem with Royalty today is that it is an anachronism. What was acceptable even 50 years back can no longer be considered kosher. There is too much scrutiny and a hungry media that survives on sensationalism.

To feed the media, in order to placate it, was a tactic adopted by Princess Diana. She gave an interview just when things were getting bad for her and turned the tide. But for that you need a sympathetic interviewer, a few rehearsals, some tears, or better still, tearful remorse, and a touch of victimhood. Not everyone can do it.

Prince Andrew managed to do

what Princess Diana avoided cleverly. He embarrassed himself and the Royal family by agreeing to a *Newsnight* interview with Emily Maitlis. His failure to show any remorse or apologise for his friendship with Epstein, has caused an absolute storm.

During his interview, Prince Andrew produced an alibi that on one of the nights mentioned among his liaisons with vulnerable friends of Epstein he was in fact with his daughters at the Pizza Express as was their usual family habit. This has benefited Pizza Express. But not Prince Andrew.

I was taken aback to know he is associated with around 200 charities. How did he juggle his commitment to them? But now he will have plenty of time but possibly very little work.

**T**he first TV debate between Boris Johnson and Jeremy Corbyn was a draw with Boris ahead 51-49. Opinion is that Boris's habit of making things up or telling fibs has been "priced in" by the voters who love him despite it all. On the other hand, Jeremy's honesty is causing him serious damage!

But one question sent by a viewer to be asked to the two leaders seems to have influenced the Queen's decision to dismiss (or shall we say retire?) Prince Andrew from all Royal duties funded from the public purse. The questioner asked, "Is the Monarchy fit for purpose?" Alarm bells rang in the Palace. Prince Charles visiting New Zealand was consulted and Prince Andrew was downgraded. The Royal Family puts its reputation above family ties.

Manifestoes of the political parties are coming out. Liberal

**Manifestoes of the political parties are coming out. Liberal Democrats want to legalise marijuana, Jo Swinson said she had inhaled and enjoyed it as a youngster! Labour Party has realised the folly of their Kashmir Resolution.**

Democrats want to legalise marijuana, Jo Swinson said she had inhaled and enjoyed it as a youngster! Labour Party has realised the folly of their Kashmir Resolution. Now they are promising a full apology for Jallianwala Bagh if they come to power. Let's see if Boris comes up with further original ideas to boost his slim electoral lead.

**T**here are some personalities who are perennially in the public eye, loved and loathed by large numbers of people. Jose Mourinho, the internationally famous soccer manager, is one of them. He has won prizes for each club he has managed but seldom lasts longer than three years at any club. After having managed clubs in Italy, Spain and Germany, he was enticed to Chelsea for whom he won trophies. He managed the iconic Manchester United where again he won but was sacked within three years. After a brief period appearing on TV as expert commentator, he is back in business.

Tottenham Spurs, another iconic London Club in the Premier League sacked its manager Mauricio Pochettino one third way into the season and

has hired Mourinho. It is vital for a club in the top division to be able to compete in European championship to earn a lot of money. That requires that the club be in the top four at the end of season. In total 38 games are played when the season ends in May. Spurs are down in tenth place. So Mourinho has promised big win next season. We shall see. But after managing one London Club, to manage a rival is always challenging. Note however that for the top English soccer clubs the managers are mostly foreigners.

(PS: Women's football is becoming very popular after the US England final in the World Cup last year. At a recent match between two London clubs the audience was 38,000 which is higher than most men's matches)

**T**he latest sector to be affected by the climate change movement is live pop concert tours. Coldplay who are one of the most original, and very successful bands, have decided they should give up touring till they find a carbon-reduced way of travelling. Chris Martin, the lead player and former husband of Gwyneth Paltrow has been known to be a very idealistic person. If Coldplay's decision influences others, music festivals will become impossible to manage. As will literature festivals... and all cultural tourism as well! Shall we all just stay where we are, and communicate via satellite link-ups? Why not, say the eco warriors!

*Kishwar Desai is an award-winning author. Her new book, Jallianwala Bagh, 1919: The Real Story, has just been published.*

# Drink the juice of self-nature



Swami Chaitanya Keerti

**A** seeker on the path of meditation sent me a question: What is a Sahaj Samadhi? I guess that this is the question of many people on this path. My response is simple: Sahaj Samadhi means natural enlightenment. In this process, you are not going to force anything on yourself. It is just like the blooming of a flower-the life force within the seed and the plant keeps growing naturally to manifest itself in the form of a flowering and the fruition. You cannot open a living bud of a flower forcibly, it will be a torture for the plant. The same happens in Sahaj Samadhi. It is something that happens to a sincere meditator who continues meditating regularly in

absolute patience. As the mystic Dadu Dayal said: One's self is a tender plant wherein blooms the flower of Sahaja; The true guru teaches how to achieve it in a natural way, but very rare are the persons who can understand it.

Basically, Samadhi is not something that we should bother about intellectualising — it becomes a dangerous mind-game. All mystics such as Goraksh, Nanak, Kabir, and Osho have warned against it. Experiencing is the right way of understanding. The mystics have shared their insights about it for us to move on the path of experi-

ence, no need to become scholars.

Once a samyasin asked Ramana Maharshi about Samadhi, and his answer was: Holding on to reality is Samadhi. Holding on to Samadhi with effort is Savikalpa Samadhi.

Remaining unaware of the world is Nirvikalpa Samadhi. Remaining in the primal, pure, natural state without effort is Sahaja Nirvikalpa Samadhi. Sahaj is a valuable word. It means that which happens without any doing. Just go in — showering without clouds.

There is no cause at all: you reach inside and your thirst is quenched. Nectar begins to flow in your throat... she drinks the juice of her own self-nature. Sahajo says: The sage alone is blissful, she has found the eternal joy.

*Swami Chaitanya Keerti, editor of Osho World, is the author of Mindfulness: The Master Key*

## PM REAFFIRMS FAITH IN SOCIALISM

50 YEARS AGO IN DECCAN Chronicle

NEW DELHI, November. 24 THE requisitioned meeting of the All India

Congress Committee concluded its two-day deliberations with a categorical assurance by the Prime Minister, Mrs Indira Gandhi, that Government would go ahead with the implementation of the party's socialist policies and pro-

grammes. The meeting today elected ten member including Mrs. Indira Gandhi to the Working Committee.

The AICC session did not adopt any formal resolution on the economic policy. The House debated it for three hours.





## Prez pitch

Michael Bloomberg will not accept political donations if he runs for president or take a salary if he wins



The use of atomic energy for war is immoral, so too is the possession of nuclear weapons

— Pope Francis

## IN BRIEF

### Johnson unveils Brexit manifesto

London: British Prime Minister Boris Johnson used the launch of his Conservative Party platform to claim that his is the only party in next month's election that will complete the Brexit process. "Unlike any other party standing in this election, we are going to get Brexit done," he told supporters while waving his party's printed manifesto, which was unveiled on Sunday. Johnson said the rival parties — the Liberal Democrats, the Labour Party and others — would only bring more delay and eventually betray the will of voters as expressed in the 2016 vote in favouring of leaving the European Union.

### Congo plane crash kills 17

Goma: A plane carrying at least 17 passengers crashed on Sunday after takeoff in Congo's eastern city of Goma, killing those on board, officials said, and possibly people on the ground. The aircraft crashed into residential homes near Goma's airport in the North Kivu province. "The governor of North Kivu is sad to announce the plane crash this morning at Goma International Airport. The first information in our possession indicates that the plane had 17 passengers on board before failing to take off," a statement from North Kivu governor Nzanzu Kasivita Carly's office said. It did not give a casualty toll. The aircraft was owned by private carrier Busy Bee.

### Tanzania holds polls sans Oppn

Ar es Salaam: Tanzania on Sunday held local government elections, viewed as a test case ahead of national polls next year, with the main opposition party boycotting the ballot citing violence and intimidation. The long-ruling Chama Cha Mapinduzi party of President John Magufuli is therefore set to sweep the board. The nationwide polls, with over 19 million registered voters, elect the lowest rung of local government leaders. The posts, for the chair of villages and streets, are critical for organising public meetings and mobilising grass-root support campaigning. They hold considerable power. Elderly people in Tanzania do not pay for medical services, but need to have the endorsement from a local leader to access it. Chadema, the main opposition party, said it would not be taking part because its candidates were too fearful.

### 'GULF NATIONS FACE DANGER FROM IRAN'

Washington, Nov. 24: The head of US military's Central Command on Sunday warned that Iran remains on track to carry out a large-scale attack in the region said that Gulf nations were in danger. Referring to the major attack at the Saudi Aramco, the world's largest oil company, Gen. Kenneth F. McKenzie said, "My judgment is that it is very possible they will attack again." McKenzie ruled out any possibility of a major attack on the Jewish state but said that Gulf nations were in danger. "It's the trajectory and the direction that they're on," he said. "The attack on the oil fields in Saudi was stunning in the depth of its audaciousness. I wouldn't rule that out going forward," he added. Netanyahu said Iran was emboldened by the lack of a response to the series of attacks attributed to it. He vowed Israel would respond forcefully to any attack. The US increased its troop deployment in the Middle East.

# Record numbers vote in Hong Kong local elections

Voter count in financial hub hits a new high amid calls for democracy

Hong Kong, Nov. 24: Record numbers of Hong Kong people voted on Sunday in district elections viewed as a barometer of support for city leader Carrie Lam, a turnout apparently triggered by six months of often violent pro-democracy protests.

Brutal attacks on election candidates in recent weeks have thrust the lowest tier of government in the Chinese-ruled city into the world spotlight as Lam struggles to quash angry demands for universal suffrage.

Government data showed more than 2.1 million people had voted by 4.30 p.m., or a turnout rate of 52%, with six hours left until polling stations closed, way above the 1.47 million who voted in the last district elections four years ago. Police presence was thin.

First results should start trickling in before midnight. Ming Lee, 26, who works in event production, said she hoped the higher turnout would benefit the pro-democracy camp that is battling some seats that were once uncontested and dominated by pro-Beijing candidates.



People queue to cast their vote during the district council elections in North Point in Hong Kong on Sunday. — AFP

"I hope this vote can counter the voice of the pro-establishment, so as to bring in more voices from the democrats," she said. "The social problems encouraged people to vote and to focus on political issues."

The voter numbers showed people's determination, said Tsz, 30, who works in the service industry.

"The high turnout rate definitely reflects Hong Kong people's hope for genuine universal suf-

frage," he said. Beijing-backed Lam cast her ballot in front of television cameras and pledged that her government, widely seen as out of touch, would listen "more intensively" to the views of district councils. The anti-China

protests have at times forced the closure of government, businesses and schools in the city's worst political crisis in decades, as police used tear gas, rubber bullets and water cannon against protesters. — Reuters

## Bolivia Cong authorises new polls without Morales

La Paz, Nov. 24: Bolivia's Congress approved a bill that opens the door to new elections without ex-president Evo Morales, as the caretaker government met with protesters to end weeks of unrest.

At least 32 people have been killed in violence that erupted after a disputed election on October 20, with protesters' blockades causing severe fuel and food shortages in La Paz and other cities.

Both houses voted in favour of the proposal after hours-long sessions. It will be sent to interim president Jeanine Anez, who has already said she will sign the bill into law.

Among other things, the bill annuls the results of the October 20 vote and allows for new elections to be held.

Crucially, it bars candidates who served in both of the two previous terms



Jeanine Anez

from seeking re-election for the same position. That would prevent Morales from contesting the presidency in the new ballot.

Congress also needs to agree on a new seven-member electoral court, after members of the previous panel were removed for allegedly manipulating results.

The tribunal will be

tasked with setting a date for the new vote that Anez has previously vowed to hold 'as soon as possible'. "I want to thank our parliamentarians for having understood and listened to the demands of the Bolivian people," Anez tweeted (sic).

New elections are seen as key to ending Bolivia's worst political upheaval in 16 years, which has deepened divisions between indigenous people loyal to Morales and Bolivia's mainly city-dwelling middle and upper classes.

Morales' Movement for Socialism party holds a majority in both houses of Congress, but is divided over the left-wing leader and his political future.

Morales seeking a fourth term, claimed he won the election, but opposition groups said the vote count was rigged. — Reuters

## US Navy defies Trump, to expel SEAL commando

Washington, Nov. 24: The US Navy will proceed in its effort to oust a member of its elite SEAL commando unit, an official said, defying the wishes of President Donald Trump.

Edward Gallagher had been accused of war crimes in a high-profile case but was found guilty only of a lesser offense. On November 15, Trump reversed the demotion handed down him under his conviction.

A rankled Trump

declared on Twitter: "The Navy will NOT be taking away Warfighter and Navy Seal Eddie Gallagher's Trident Pin."

Whether Gallagher can remain in the unit or not will be determined by a panel of Navy SEAL officers that is set to convene in December.

"Contrary to popular belief, I am still here. I did not threaten to resign," Navy Secretary Richard Spencer said, adding, he did not consider Trump's

tweet to be a formal order. "I need a formal order to act," he said on the sidelines of the forum.

According to the US Constitution, the president is the commander-in-chief of the country's armed forces. Gallagher, a 15-year Navy SEAL, had been accused in the stabbing death of a wounded Islamic State prisoner in Iraq in 2017, attempted murder of other civilians and obstruction of justice. — AFP

### REHMAN CALLS MULTI-PARTY CONFERENCE

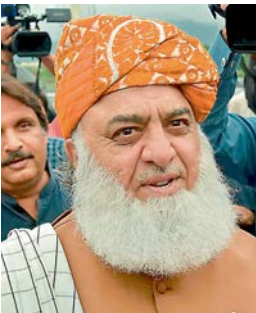
SHAFQAT ALI | DC ISLAMABAD, NOV. 24

Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (Fazl) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman has called multi-party conference of the opposition parties on November 26 aimed at discussing next course of action against the ruling Pakistan Tehrik-e-Insaf.

Sources said that Maulana Rehman had invited several influential politicians including PML (N)'s Ahsan Iqbal and PPP's Bilawal Bhutto Zardari to attend the meeting.

In an apparent bid to reorganise political campaign for pressurising the government, the opposition parties seem to formulate new strategy in the light of recommendation made by opposition's Rehbar Committee.

The Pak cleric telephoned Ahsan Iqbal and other politicians to attend the important meeting. Meanwhile, the JUI-F chief and PPP chief Bilawal Bhutto agreed to make the committee more active, and spoke about certain political matters. Both leaders are expected to meet in the next few days.



Maulana Fazlur Rehman

## COLOMBIA CRISIS

### Duque begins conversation

Bogota, Nov. 24: Security forces tear-gassed protesters who filled the streets of Bogota on Saturday for a third straight day, as President Ivan Duque announced the start of a "national conversation" to assuage popular anger.

Duque, a conservative who is deeply unpopular 18 months after his election, had proposed the talks in response to nationwide protests a day earlier that descended into violence, leaving three dead.

"Tomorrow, with Mayors and Governors elected from all over the country we will start the National Conversation," he wrote on Twitter, referring to officials who won October polls.

Duque said he would meet on Monday with the ministers of finance, labour and trade, along with representatives of business owners and workers, while dialogue with "different social sectors" would take place next week.

Following an overnight curfew in Bogota, demonstrators returned to the streets on Saturday as crews cleared debris from earlier clashes and looting. "We woke up. Change is underway and it won't stop," protester Juan Sebastian Patino said.

Protesters are demanding, among other things, a crackdown on drug trafficking and violence, more flexible labour market conditions and improved retirement benefits. Duque, 43, has been

■ DUQUE, a conservative who is deeply unpopular 18 months after his election, had proposed the talks in response to nationwide protests that descended into violence

■ PROTESTERS are demanding, among other things, a crack-down on drug trafficking and violence, more flexible labour market conditions and improved retirement benefits

criticised for his economic, social and security policies, as his administration deals with hosting 1.4 million refugees from neighboring Venezuela's economic meltdown as well as the complex fallout of a 2016 peace deal with FARC rebels.

Hundreds of thousands took to the streets in Bogota and other cities as part of a nationwide general strike.

There were arrests and clashes as trade unions, students, opposition parties and the South American country's indigenous organisations vented their anger.

Three people have died and nearly 300 were wounded in the unrest.

Demonstrations were marked by people banging pots and pans in a clamorous protest known as a "cacerolazo," common in parts of Latin America but only a recent phenomenon in Colombia. — AFP



People take part in a protest against the government of Colombia's President Ivan Duque, in Bogota. — AFP

### NAMIBIA'S FIRST FEMALE PREZ HOPEFUL FOR CHANGE

Windhoek, Nov. 24: Esther Muinjangue, Namibia's first woman to run for president, says she feels a "wind of change" softly blowing through the southwest African nation which goes to the polls on Wednesday.

From her modest home in a quiet suburb of Windhoek, Muinjangue spoke about her bid to 'restore dignity' to the country's 2.45 million inhabitants, struggling through an economic recession after nearly 30 years of independence from South Africa.

"You hear a lot of people complaining about the (ruling) Swapo-led government," she said, before heading into the final day of campaigning for her Nudo party.

Namibia's Swapo has remained in power since its founder Sam Nujoma won the first democratic election in 1990. But President Hage



Esther Muinjangue

Geingob, elected in 2014, has faced increasing disgruntlement amid Swapo's inability to redistribute wealth to the majority black population. But Muinjangue was confident her party would perform better this time and that disgruntlement with the regime could drive more voters towards the opposition.

Wearing a traditional Herero dress, Muinjangue spoke of women's empowerment, gay rights and legalising abortion in Namibia. — AFP

## SEXIST | SOCIETY

■ Femicide: 137 women have been killed by their partners in France this year, finds report

## France marches to condemn domestic violence



Women hold placards as they march against domestic violence, in Paris. — AP

Paris, Nov. 24: Tens of thousands of people took to the streets of Paris and other French cities to protest against domestic violence, after more than 130 women are believed to have been killed by their partner or ex-partner in France this year.

In Paris, the mostly female activists chanted "Abuser, you've had it, women are in the street" and held purple placards bearing the names of female victims and slogans such as "not another murder more". Purple is a symbolic colour used by the women's rights movement.

President Emmanuel Macron expressed his solidarity after the end of the protest. "I give my support to every woman who has experienced gender-based or sexual violence. Count on me to continue the mobilisation of the government and the entire nation in this great cause," he said on Twitter.

Some 35,000 people participated in the march in Paris, police said. The

#NousToutes association, which organised the protests, estimated the turnout much higher at 100,000 in Paris and 150,000 across France.

The demonstrations took place two days before the government is due to publish the results of an investigation into domestic violence. The government is also set to announce a series of new measures aimed at protecting

women, the justice and interior ministers and the secretary of state for gender equality "We can and we should do better," an editorial read.

A Council of Europe expert group on domestic violence said France needed to offer better protection for victims and their children and more effective anti-violence measures. "We cannot continue to accept that women are being murdered today with total impunity. The state must do its job to guarantee the security of all women in this country," #NousToutes activist said. — Reuters

I give my support to every woman who has experienced gender-based or sexual violence. Count on me to continue the mobilisation of the government and the entire nation in this great cause.

EMMANUEL MACRON, French President





8.2 teased?  
HMD Global has confirmed it will launch a new Nokia phone on December 5.

SHORT TAKES



1.2 BILLION ACCOUNTS EXPOSED

New Delhi, Nov. 24: Security researchers have discovered a flaw in an unprotected server that exposed 1.2 billion records of personal data. According to Cnet, the unprotected Elasticsearch server exposed records including email addresses, employers, locations, job titles, names, phone numbers and social media profiles. The exposed data included an index sourced from data enrichment company People Data Labs (PDL) and contained 622 million unique email addresses. However, PDL did not own the server and it is likely that a customer failed to properly secure the database. — Agencies



REDMI K30 SPECIFICATION LEAKED ONLINE

DC CORRESPONDENT  
MUMBAI, NOV. 24

The Redmi K30 has been on the cards for Chinese brand Xiaomi for quite some time now. While not a lot about the phone was known for a while, leaked images have now revealed many specifications of the upcoming device. The Redmi K30 will come with 5G support, which has already been confirmed by Xiaomi. The phone will also feature dual front-facing cameras like the Samsung Galaxy S10+. The new live photos show what these dual cameras look like. New specs revealed also include a big 6.66-inch screen with no notch and 120Hz refresh rate. An Adreno 618 GPU suggests that the phone will use either a Snapdragon 730 or a Snapdragon 730G. This also means that the higher end K30 Pro that will launch later could feature a Snapdragon 800 series processor, just like the K20 Pro. The MIUI 11 running phone will launch in December, as confirmed by Xiaomi CEO Lei Jun. The Pro variant will be launched later, in 2020. We still have no concrete launch dates for either of the devices.

China surveillance tech cos aims for global biz

China's involvement has stirred controversy in the past

Villepinte (France), Nov. 24: Chinese firms are omnipresent at a Paris homeland security trade show, capitalising on their vast experience in developing surveillance systems for Beijing to conquer the global market despite concerns the technology has been used to violate human rights.

With 89 out of 1,100 companies demonstrating their wares at the Milipol security trade fair, China is the best represented of the 53 nations present save for host nation France.

But contrary to weapons and ammunition on display at other stands, Chinese firms offer non-lethal equipment: helmets, bullet-proof vests and tactical clothing for special forces or riot troops. Jamming equipment. And cameras, lots of cameras.

China is known for its heavy police surveillance, with market research firm IHS Markit estimating it has already deployed 176 million cameras to monitor public spaces across the country.

That number is expected to expand to 2.76 billion, or nearly two for each citizen, by 2022.

Coupled with facial recognition technology, in which China is also a world leader, the surveillance network is an important element of Chinese efforts to control its population. Concerns about the system appear to be well placed.

According to a trove of government documents released by the New York



Times recently the surveillance system was used against China's Uighur minority as part of a crackdown in Xinjiang.

Human rights groups and outside experts say more than one million Uighurs and other mostly Muslim minorities have been rounded up in a network of internment camps across the fractious region.

Beijing, after initially denying the camps existed, now describes them as vocational schools aimed at dampening the allure of Islamist extremism and violence through education and job training.

China's involvement in the tech fair has stirred controversy in the past.

Organisers closed the stand of one Chinese firm at the previous fair in 2017 after human rights campaigners from Amnesty International called them out for allowing it to display handcuffs that deliver electric shocks and other equipment that could be considered torture instruments that are banned in the EU.

The stand of Hytera Communications

Corporation sports communications gear that integrate images from body cameras to smartphones equipped with big antennas.

"Each police officer can have the tactical situation displayed on their smartphone," said Sylvain Shuang, who represents the firm in francophone Africa.

Coupled with images from the network of surveillance cameras, police in command centres have more information upon which to base decisions, especially since "we can integrate facial recognition systems," he added.

BARRED FROM US PUBLIC CONTRACTS

The company already makes 40 percent of its sales outside of China, owing in part to having acquired firms in Britain, Canada and Spain.

But Hytera Communications Corporation has found itself barred from seeking public contracts in the United States, as has fellow Chinese company Hikvision which is the world's top video surveillance firm.

Hikvision, which has supplied cameras for the video surveillance system in the French city of Nice, is not present at Milipol this year.

A number of the companies present come from the Shenzhen region near Hong Kong — home to telecommunications equipment maker Huawei. "It's the Silicon Valley of China," said Yolen Ye, sales manager at GDU, which makes mini drones equipped with cameras.

The firm has already sold a model to Thailand for use in monitoring forest fires, but the GDU says the drones are capable of tracking up to 30 targets while the cameras can feed systems that identify licence plates or faces.

Chinese armaments firm Norinco is also present at Milipol, but with facial recognition technology rather than assault rifles or battle tanks.

"In China, facial recognition is not a new technology and we realise this is a safe country because in most public spaces, we have this system to secure the situation," said a representative of the state-owned firm who asked that his name not be used.

It is more difficult to sell the technology in Europe as "they have fears that it impacts privacy," he added. But he said it offers advantages in situations like preventing football violence as police can be alerted when persons known to commit violence arrive near stadiums. — AFP

MUSK: 1.46 LAKH CYBERTRUCK ORDERED SO FAR

Bengaluru, Nov. 24: Tesla CEO Elon Musk said on Saturday that there have been about 150,000 orders thus far for the electric carmaker's Cybertruck, which was unveiled late on Thursday.

"146k Cybertruck orders so far, with 42% choosing dual, 41% tri & 17% single motor", Musk said in a tweet, adding separately that the orders were achieved without any advertising or paid endorsements.

The launch of the Cybertruck pickup suffered a setback when its "armored glass" windows shattered in a much-anticipated unveiling. The overall look of the electric vehicle had worried Wall Street on Friday.

At the launch, Musk had taken aim at the design, power and durability of mainstream trucks, only to be shaken when the windows of Tesla's new vehicle shattered while being tested. The blunder overshadowed the launch, which was live-streamed from Los Angeles and made #cybertruck a trending word on Twitter.

Some Wall Street analysts praised the launch, but others doubted the futuristic design's mass appeal. With a starting price of \$39,900, the Cybertruck's angular body in gun-metal gray resembles an armored vehicle. — Reuters

PLANNING TO GIFT A GADGET?

■ While the idea of a tech gift sounds nice, it would be wise to remember that such gifts could come with a mess of unintended costs and complications, like the need to buy additional gear, or the chance that you're exposing someone's privacy in a way they didn't ask for.

■ Tech products are no longer just a battery, components and some software. Such tools can add value to a person's life. Let's take a closer look at some best practices you should keep in mind.

EXTRA ACCESSORIES

■ It would be wise to check if the gadget needs any extra accessories or is ready to use right out of the box. While a robot vacuum may be the trendiest gift of the year, a Roomba robotic vacuum cleaner would need extra brushes, filters, or virtual barriers to work properly.

ALREADY OWNED DEVICES

■ These days, most devices have their own little ecosystem. So, it would be wise to check up on the already existing device ecosystem of the person. The best example in this regard would be the smart speakers. While few devices supports all major virtual assistants, most tend to cater to a specific one. Thus, such a device would be incompatible to the ecosystem

PRIVACY RED FLAGS

■ With data being touted as the new oil, some people may not be comfortable with the idea of an always-on microphone in their home.

■ Moreover, as our digital lives integrates with our regular lives, it has become quite necessary to protect sensitive information on the devices. At the very least, one should take note of for, s like Facebook or Amazon, which are constantly surrounded by privacy questions and concerns, if you're considering buying a gadget.

■ Do your own research by reading reviews of the product. Read more than one review and look for similarities in compliments and issues.



OnePlus set to open 100 experience stores in India

ONEPLUS REVEALS DATA BREACH

■ In yet another data breach, OnePlus's online store has been hit by hackers where an "unauthorised party" accessed some customers' personal information.

■ The company informed its users that all payment information, passwords and accounts are safe but the name, contact number, email, and shipping address in certain orders may have been exposed.

40,000  
OnePlus had suffered a similar security breach in January last year when hackers gained access to the their personal data

■ According to the smartphone player, the hacker's entry point this time was a loophole in its website, but did not provide any additional details.

■ Users who were hit by the breach may receive spam and phishing emails as a result of this incident.



Iranian hackers are targeting industrial control systems

DC CORRESPONDENT  
with agency inputs  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 24

For long, Iranian hackers have been attributed to digital espionage. Now, these state-backed actors seems to have stepped up their game by sabotaging entire computer networks in waves of cyberattacks across the Middle East and occasionally even the US, according to a report on *Wired*.

According to *Wired*, one of Iran's most active hacker groups appears to have shifted

focus are targeting the physical control systems used in electric utilities, manufacturing, and oil refineries.

At the CyberwarCon conference in Arlington, Virginia, Microsoft security researcher Ned Moran plans to present new findings from the company's threat intelligence group that show a shift in the activity of the Iranian hacker group APT33, also known by the names Holmium, Refined Kitten, or Elfin. According to the report, the Microsoft hasn't seen direct evidence of

APT33 carrying out a disruptive cyberattack rather than mere espionage or reconnaissance, it's seen incidents where the group has at least laid the groundwork for those attacks.

The group's fingerprints have shown up in multiple intrusions where victims were later hit with a piece of data-wiping malware known as Shamoon, Moran says. McAfee last year warned that APT33 was deploying a new version of Shamoon in a series of data-destroying attacks.

MS interested in xCloud exclusives

Project Scarlett, however, remains to be Microsoft's main focus for now

DC CORRESPONDENT  
with agency inputs  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 24

Ahead of the launch of its cloud-based game streaming service, Google made huge promises. However, when Stadia made its debut last week, most felt with was still in beta as most of its exciting features weren't available at launch. Now, Microsoft, which doesn't want to be left behind, announced seems to be looking at exclusive games for its

own cloud-based streaming service, xCloud, reports *TechRadar*.

According to the report, Microsoft's Kareem Choudhry said that the company is having discussions with first and third-party developers but emphasised that these talks are still in their "early stages" and Microsoft doesn't "have any announcements to share" at the moment.

Choudhry further said that new content and IPs can take around two years

to develop so it's likely to be a long while before we hear anything about any potential exclusives.

Meanwhile, in an interview with *TechRadar*, Microsoft made it clear that xCloud is very much a "multi-year journey" for the company so it's possible we're talking about years down the line, if at all.

For now, Microsoft is naturally prioritising getting existing Xbox titles into the Project xCloud preview library and

ensuring the service is running smoothly so that users can play the games they want at launch.

During the XO19 show itself, 50 new games were announced for the service which is currently in public preview for Android devices in the US, UK and Korea.

Project xCloud is expected to launch on Windows 10 PCs and roll out to more markets sometime in 2020.

If Microsoft did decide to move forward with this

idea and secure strong exclusives for its streaming platform, it would certainly make the service an even more compelling proposition and stir up trouble for competitors like Google Stadia.

Especially as Microsoft has a leg up on Google in terms of its first party studios with its growing Xbox Game Studios.

At the moment, though, Microsoft's main focus is likely to be on Project Scarlett which is due to launch in late 2020.



Exit volatile and illiquid investments half way to goal

Avoid these mistakes, while investing for your children



## quick BITES

INDICATORS		%
Sensex	40,359.41	-0.53
Nifty 50	11,914.40	-0.45
S&P 500	3,110.29	+0.22
Dollar (₹)	71.94	-0.07
Pound Sterling (₹)	92.82	-0.44
Euro (₹)	79.33	-0.33
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	37,895	▼58
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	\$63.39	0.00
IN 10-Yr bond yield	+6.495	-0.010
US 10-Yr T-bill yield	+1.771	0.00

\* As of 9:30 pm IST

### IBC may be amended to shield buyers

The Centre plans to amend the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code to provide immunity to companies taking over stressed assets from prosecution for financial crimes committed by erstwhile promoters. This will help make the insolvency process more attractive, sources said. The Centre may move an amendment to the IBC in the current Winter Session.

### FPIs invest ₹17,547 cr in equity market



Foreign portfolio investors infused a net Rs 17,722 crore into the markets in November so far amid encouraging domestic and global cues. Depositories data shows FPIs pumped in a net sum of Rs 17,547.55 crore into equities and Rs 175.27 crore in the debt segment during Nov. 1-22, taking the cumulative net investment to Rs 17,722.82 crore.

### CG Power may remove Thapar as promoter

After sacking founder Gautam Thapar as the chairman of the company, fraud-hit CG Power & Industrial Solutions has moved to declassify him as promoter, as any association with him will be prejudicial to the interests of the company, according to the firm's annual report. Thapar, who was non-executive chairman of the company, was removed on August 29.

### Truecaller plans credit business foray next year

Truecaller plans to use its payments platform to foray into credit business in early 2020, turning it into a complete fintech company, Co-founder Nami Zarringhalam said. He said Truecaller is becoming a "superapp", providing a comprehensive digital experience to customers. He said of the 20 million users on its Truecaller Pay platform, nearly 50 per cent come from tier-2 & 3 cities.

Printed & Published by T Venkateswarlu on behalf of Deccan Chronicle Holdings Limited. Printed at Deccan Chronicle Press at Deccan Chronicle Holdings Ltd., #563/9/D&9/E, Behind Andhra Bank Pet Basheerbagh, Kompally, Ranga Reddy Dist. Editor: T.Venkatram Reddy, RNI Reg No.APENG/2008/24282. © All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission of The Editor, Financial Chronicle ® is prohibited.

## ■ Beijing makes major trade war compromise China to raise IP theft penalties

Beijing, Nov. 24: China said it will raise penalties on violations of intellectual property rights in an attempt to address one of the sticking points in trade talks with the US. The country will also look into lowering the thresholds for criminal punishments for those who steal IP, according to guidelines issued by the government on Sunday. It didn't elaborate on what such moves might entail. The US wants China to commit to cracking down on IP theft and stop forcing US companies to hand over their commercial secrets as a condition of doing business there. China said it's aiming to reduce frequent IP violations by 2022 and plans to make it easier for victims of transgressions to receive compensation. The two countries are working toward a partial trade deal and leaving the more controversial issues for later discussions. China's chief trade negotiator spoke last week about its plans for reforming state enterprises,



opening up the financial sector and enforcing intellectual property rights -- issues at the core of US demands for change in China's economic system. "Strengthening IPR protection is the most important content of improving the IPR protection system and also the biggest incentive to boost China's economic competitiveness," according to the guidelines. Local governments will be required to implement the strengthening of IP rights, it said. In May, the US added Huawei Technologies Co to what's known as the entity list in an effort to block US companies from selling components to China's largest technology company. Huawei is accused of being a threat to America's national security, and has denied those claims.

— Bloomberg

## Govt mulls cut in rice reserve price

New Delhi, Nov 24: Sitting on a huge buffer stock, the government is considering cutting reserve price of rice by almost Rs 500 per quintal for bulk buyers to boost its sale through open market. However, there is no plan to cut wheat price, official sources said. The Centre is considering revision of reserve price of rice from Rs 2,785 per quintal to Rs 2,250 per quintal to boost sale from central pool stock under the Open Market Sale Scheme (OMSS) in 2019-20, sources said. The Food Ministry runs OMSS to sell wheat and rice stored in buffer stock by the Food Corporation of India. Foodgrains are sold through tender at a reserve price to mills and user industries. —PTI

## MPC to be split on rate cut decision

FALAKNAAZ SYED MUMBAI, NOV. 24

Weak economic growth and higher inflation will put the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) in a difficult spot when it meets in early December to deliberate on further accommodation. Many expect a split among the six MPC members over a rate cut decision, given the economic meltdown. The decision would depend on whether the MPC members believe that the recent increase in food inflation is transient. The MPC is scheduled to meet during December 3-5 and announce the final outcome for the fifth bi-monthly monetary policy on December 5, a week after the government releases the second quarter GDP numbers on November 29. Inflation as measured by the Consumer Price

Inflation Index (CPI), came in at a 16-month high at 4.62 per cent for October, breaching the RBI's medium-term target of 4 per cent due to a spike in food prices, especially vegetables and is likely to remain outside its comfort. Core inflation, however, was benign at 3.5 per cent, continuing to highlight weak demand impulse. On the other hand, the dismal Index of Industrial Production (IIP) performance for the second consecutive month in September pointed to a deep slump in economic activity. The weakness was broad-based across a mix of consumption and investment indicators. With tight domestic credit conditions persisting amid weak global demand, economists expect India's recovery to be delayed and the pickup to remain below potential. Global rating agencies and domestic economists have



lowered their GDP growth projections steeply. For instance, Moody's Investors Service cut India's economic growth forecast for current year to 5.6 per cent from 5.8 per cent estimated earlier, saying the GDP slowdown is lasting longer than previously expected. Similarly, Nomura cut GDP projections to 4.9 per cent YoY from 5.7 per cent in 2019 and to 6 per cent from 6.9 per cent in 2020. September IIP growth was at (-)4.3 per cent, led by weak momentum and adverse base effects.

Consequently, IIP growth for 2QFY20 was poor at (-)0.4 per cent as against 3 per cent in 1QFY20. After the fourth bi-monthly monetary policy on October 4, the RBI has been emphatically firing on all three cylinders of rates, liquidity, and guidance. The MPC has cut rates by 135 bps backed by liquidity and guidance as well. Economists feel that a pause at this juncture could reverse part of the transmission that has occurred through the bond markets, making it an uphill task to convince banks and markets to pass on previous rate cuts. "With CPI inflation likely to overshoot the MPC's target of 4 per cent by around 75-125 bps over the next few months, we believe that the policy decision will be split among the MPC members given that inflation is trending above 5 per cent and growth is likely to be

below 5 per cent in 2QFY20...The MPC members' perception about 'flexible inflation targets' will be tested in the December policy," Upasna Bhardwaj, Chief Economist at Kotak. "We expect the weak 2QFY20 GDP report, which will be released before the early-December rate review, to prod the MPC to ease rates by 25 basis points next month...Our forecasts include another 25bps reduction in 1Q20," said Radhika Rao, Economist at DBS Bank. Madhavi Arora, Economist at Edelweiss Securities said, "For the RBI, it presents a tough policy dilemma of overshooting inflation, undershooting growth and fragile fiscal state. However, we think the current underlying growth-inflation mix continues to be favourable for counter-cyclical monetary stance."

## Imports putting pressure on domestic pepper prices

RITWIK MUKHERJEE KOLKATA, NOV. 24

In a little over two months from now, the harvesting of pepper will begin in India. February is the normal time for pepper harvesting. However, the pepper output is projected to see a sharp fall of 30 per cent this time round. In 2018-19, India harvested 64,000 tonne of pepper but it is estimated to dip to around 45,000 tonne in 2019-20. In the year 2017-18, pepper production stood at 70,878 tonne. Karnataka accounts for nearly 50 per cent of the domestic pepper production and is followed by Kerala and Tamil Nadu and the steep drop in pepper production during the current crop is mainly due to erratic climatic conditions in the growing regions in south India. The excess rainfall in August and September damaged the crop heavily. The Spices Board put the projected volume at a marginally higher level. The board, in its report submitted at the IPC meeting, pointed out that the Indian pepper production is likely to end with 48,000 tonne this year (2019-20)



compared with 4.94,200 tonne of world production. The board has also projected around 60,000 tonne of black pepper production and an import of 12,000 tonne for 2020. Quite interestingly, this sharp fall in pepper production is expected to take its toll on domestic coffee production as well. This is because, pepper is normally grown as an inter-crop with coffee and areacat in Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu. The coffee production is set to fall by 15-20 per cent this year. The United Planters Association of Southern India (Upasi) pointed out

that despite lower production this year, the prices of pepper have crashed to the range of Rs 319 per kg compared to around Rs 700 per kg four years ago. And Upasi attributed the drop in prices to import of the commodity from Sri Lanka and Vietnam. India imported nearly 11,000 tonne of pepper from Sri Lanka, which exports around 80 per cent of its produce. Significantly, Sri Lanka

has actually been dumping its produce in India by making use of the Indo-Sri Lanka free trade agreement. Sri Lanka can export up to 2,500 tonne duty-free and the balance by paying a mere 8 per cent import duty. Sri Lanka allegedly imports pepper from Vietnam and re-exports to India because direct imports from Vietnam into India attracts 50 per cent import duty. The pepper imports have shown further increase of 700 tonne in October as well as duty free imports for value addition and re-exports stood at 1,300 tonne. These imported pepper from SAFTA and ISFTA at an minimum import price of Rs 500 per kg is continuing when local prices in Sri Lanka is Rs 275 per kg and Indian price stood at Rs 325. Analysts are of the view that it is because of this heavy imports, India failed to see any upward movement in prices of pepper although the domestic output was low last year. This year, a similar situation is expected with an even lower domestic production, analysts said.

## Market in consolidation mood

ASHWIN J PUNNEN MUMBAI, NOV. 24

The domestic market is likely to remain lacklustre during the week with the government policy announcements and global geo-political events driving the investor sentiments. According to experts, broad market is likely to witness further correction as mid and small cap indices are clearly making a corrective pattern along with majority sectoral indices which are also moving sideways. Traders should ideally avoid trading during such low volatility corrective phases, analysts said. "As expected Nifty finally managed to surpass the first hurdle of 11900 on a closing basis the next week. The major chariot for this move was clearly the banking pack which has been showing some encouraging signs since couple of days. The way both indices are shaped up, 12000 or beyond is not too far now for our markets. Hence, we remain sanguine and expect the immediate support base to shift higher towards 11867-11802," said Sameet Chavan, Chief Analyst-Technical and Derivatives, Angel

### OPENING BELL

PROJECTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Broking. The Nifty50 failed to go past 12,000 due to weak macros, premium valuation and lack of fresh triggers. Post Q2 results, market seems to have entered an indecisive phase of trade having rallied well in the last 2 months. On the global front investors were concerned over fresh worries over the US-China trade tension. "Going ahead, the market focus will be on next week Q2 GDP data which is expected to be below the 5 per cent reported in Q1. It is probable that the forecasted growth of 6.1 per cent for FY20 is likely to be downgraded further. At the same time, Nifty50 is trading at one year forward P/E of 19x & 26x on 12-month trailing basis which does not provide much leeway to perform in the short-term. Considering this, Nifty is likely to trade in a range of 11,600-12,000," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit

Financial Services. Foreign funds continued to be net buyer in the markets. Foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) infused a net Rs17,722 crore into the Indian markets in November so far amid encouraging domestic and global cues. According to depositories data, overseas investors pumped in a net sum of Rs 17,547.55 crore into equities and Rs 175.27 crore in the debt segment during November 1-22, taking the cumulative net investment to Rs 17,722.82 crore. However, some experts said FPIs are still wary of increasing their allocation to the Indian markets. Umesh Mehta, Head of Research at Samco Securities, said, "FPIs have become relatively cautious on India given the high valuations and Nifty hovering near its all-time high levels. Huge divergence between the large and small/midcaps is making them weary to commit further in a big way to the Indian bourses." Also, the expectation of weaker GDP numbers in the coming months, among other factors, is making them "hesitant to invest full throttle", he added.

## RCom lenders reject Anil Ambani resignation

New Delhi, Nov 24: Reliance Communications (RCom) on Sunday said its lenders have rejected the resignation of Chairman Anil Ambani and four other directors, and asked them to cooperate in the ongoing corporate insolvency resolution process. Ambani, along with four directors Ryna Karani, Chhaya Virani, Manjari Kacker and Suresh Rangachar—had resigned from the company earlier this month. In a BSE filing, RCom said its Committee of Creditors (CoC) had met on November 20. "...the committee had) expressed a unanimous view that the resignations cannot be accepted," it noted. The filing further said: "...It is being duly communicated to the aforesaid directors of RCom that their resignations have not been accepted and they are advised to continue to perform their duties and responsibilities as the directors of RCom and provide all cooperation to Resolution Professional in the corporate insolvency resolution process."

RCom had posted a consolidated loss of Rs 30,142 crore for the September 2019 quarter due to provisioning for liabilities after the Supreme Court's ruling on statutory dues. This had marked the second highest loss posted by any Indian corporate till date, after Vodafone Idea Ltd's Rs 50,921 crore losses. During the quarter, RCom set aside Rs 28,314 crore on account of provisioning following the Supreme Court order on calculation of annual adjusted gross revenue of telecom companies. RCom's total liability includes Rs 23,327 crore licence fee and Rs 4,987 crore spectrum usage charges. RCom is going through insolvency proceedings following an application filed by Swedish telecom gear maker Ericsson. —PTI



Brokers  
BYTES

NCL Industries  
to realise higher  
ebitda per tonne

Weak demand in its key operating region, the protracted monsoon and sand unavailability hurt the overall performance of NCL, the makers of Nagarjuna brand cement. Its revenue and EBITDA declined 15 per cent and three per cent on year-on-year basis, compressing the stock price severely in the last three months. Its high exposure to AP/Telangana, with more sales from infrastructure, pushed down volumes 25 per cent y-o-y to 3.7 lakh tonne on the halt of the government's infrastructure projects and sand unavailability. Further, weak demand compressed board volumes by nine per cent on y-o-y basis. Hence, Q2 revenue fell 15 per cent y-o-y to ₹190 crore, cement/board revenue falling 23 per cent/9 per cent y-o-y. The ₹80/bag hike in November (first week) has been reduced 50 per cent though prices are likely to rise further due to rising construction. The broking house believes much of the slowdown has been priced in. However, high realisations and cost savings led to y-o-y higher EBITDA/tonne. With rising non-trade demand, a rise in cement prices is likely. It retained our Buy rating, with a lower target price of ₹137, earlier ₹200.

Broking firm: Anandratni  
Rating: Buy  
Closing price: ₹78.15

Other income  
helped NHPC  
boost profit

NHPC Ltd's power generation fell 4.7 per cent on year-on-year basis to 910 crore units due to the plant shutdown at Chamera unit-II station and renovation work at Baira Siul plant. Realisation rose 9.6 per cent yoy to ₹3.3 a unit on tariff approval by the regulator. Revenue increased by 4.4 per cent yoy to ₹2,600 crore in Q2. EBITDA, however, declined 1.2 per cent y-o-y due to low plant availability factor (PAF), and higher generation and other expenses. Adjusted profit after tax grew by 11.3 per cent yoy to ₹1,340 crore, driven by higher other income and fall in depreciation and tax expenses. Construction works at Subansiri site began in October 2019 after the NGT upheld expert committee's recommendation on project safety. The company management expects the project to achieve Commercial Operation Date by FY25. Furthermore, the acquisition of Lanco Teesta VI was completed in October 2019 and 400MW Parbati II is expected to achieve CoD by FY22. The broking house retains FY20/21E EPS and SoTP-based TP of ₹28 and maintains its Buy rating.

Broking firm: Emkay  
Rating: Buy  
Closing price: ₹23.55

Titan's higher  
valuations led  
to a downgrade

Titan Company's consolidated revenue has increased by 2.1 per cent year-on-year basis to ₹4,660 crore, which is less than the market estimate in Q2FY20. Consolidated gross margin expanded 1.3 per cent yoy to 29.7 per cent. Lower other expenses and ad spends were offset by higher staff costs. Revised jewellery sales guidance of 11-13 per cent for H2FY20 is a near-term negative. Demand trends are improving albeit not at the pace originally envisaged, leading to 8-10 per cent cut in EPS forecasts. The longer-term investment case remains promising as Titan is well placed to grow its share in the largely unorganised jewelry market in India from the current level of eight per cent. This makes it one of the most attractive candidates in terms of top line and earnings from a three-year perspective. However, the stock has almost doubled since its upgrade at ₹660 two years ago and also rallied by 12 per cent since the corporate tax cut. This in turn makes it appear expensive at 57.6x FY21E EPS, leading us to downgrade to neutral with a target price of ₹1,275.

Broking firm: Motilal Oswal  
Rating: Neutral  
Closing price: ₹1,135.70

While Investing For Your Children,  
Avoid These Mistakes



■ Money talk  
Adhil Shetty

While Children's Day on November 14, and this is always a good time to talk about the matter of investing and saving for our children's future. Planning your children's financial needs is a complex challenge. It requires visualising the distant future, investing for needs yet unknown, tackling inflation, and frequently revisiting your plans for best results. You're bound to make a few errors along the way. Let's look at a few errors that you can avoid making and have a smoother path to the attainment of your children's goals.

DON'T BE LATE

Time is money. Fortunately, while investing for your children, you have lots of time—at least 17 years from their birth to the moment they'll start college. You should use this lengthy period to your advantage by starting to invest very early. This will provide you the power of compounding that helps your money grow at a faster rate. For example, assume you need ₹30 lakh by the time your child turns 17. You can invest ₹5,000 a month, and you will have a corpus of ₹33.3 lakh in 17 years, assuming a CAGR of 12 per cent. However, if you started only five years late, you'll need to invest ₹10,500 per month to achieve the same goal. The earlier you start, the smaller your monthly investments can be. The later you get, the heavier your investment burden will be.

TAKE A FINANCIAL  
PLANNER'S ADVICE

The many intricacies of long-term investing may evade a small investor. Without knowledge, you risk falling short of your financial target, which can have disastrous repercussions for your children's future. Therefore, it's essential to speak to someone in the know—a



financial planner, for example. This will help you pick the right investment tools, optimise your risks and returns, lower your taxes, and help you reach your goal in the optimum timeframe.

THE MONEY THAT  
CHILD WILL NEED

One of the hardest challenges in saving for the future is calculating your child's future money requirements accurately. You need to be mindful of the costs of higher education as well as the rate of education inflation, which is higher than the rate of cost inflation. For example, a two-year MBA at IIM Calcutta cost around ₹2.5 lakh in 2004. In 15 years, the cost has grown at around 16 per cent per annum to ₹22.50 lakh. The average yearly inflation in the same period was around seven per

cent. Therefore, while creating your child's college funds, it's essential to pick instruments which offer high post-tax returns.

DON'T LOCK UP ALL  
YOUR MONEY IN REALTY

It's tempting to lock up vast amounts of money in traditional and conservative instruments like property. However, property is rarely a liquid investment as it may take months or years to dispose of it, leaving you with a liquidity problem in the moment you need your money.

Also, if the property is a house, you cannot sell it partially, unlike a financial asset that can be partially liquidated for an immediate need. So this is why it's important to invest in diverse instruments that provide returns, capital safety, and liquidity.

'SAFE' INVESTMENTS  
MAY BE RISKY

As demonstrated above, education inflation is very high. You may think that locking up money in fixed deposits, PPF or even Sukanya Samriddhi may be enough. However, these investments contain inflation risk, i.e., you may not be able to beat education inflation and fall short of your required corpus. This is another reason why you shouldn't use fixed deposits as a long-term investment tool. An eight per cent FD actually returns only 5.6 per cent after taxes if you're in the 30 per cent tax slab. Therefore, since saving for your children is a long-term exercise, consider investing in equity as well because of the potential for high returns. The long-term returns from top-rated equity mutual funds, for example, com-

fortably exceed returns from small savings schemes. Consult your financial advisor for the best mix of investments for your children.

LOOK BEYOND CHILD  
PLANS

In an ideal world, you should invest and insure separately and not mix the two. Before investing in child plans (which combine life insurance with debt investment), investors often don't pause to ask what the annual rate of return on their investment will be. The least your investment should return is what Public Provident Fund returns (currently 7.9 per cent per annum, tax-free) or what Sukanya Samriddhi returns (currently 8.4 per cent per annum, also tax-free).

Equity mutual funds become especially important in this regard, because dozens of schemes have provided 10-year returns exceeding 12 per cent per annum. If the returns from a child plan do not compare favourably with these options, and if there are penalties for prematurely exiting it, you should avoid getting into it.

INSURE ADEQUATELY

Lastly, ensure your family has adequate insurance coverage against various risks. As a person with dependent children, you must have a term plan with sum assured worth at least 20 times your current annual income—or more, if your family's financial risks are bigger. You must also have adequate health covers for all family members. The coverage would ensure that the financial plans for your children will not get derailed in case of your untimely death or pressing medical problems.

Lastly, do not mix up the investments for your children with other essential investments you need to make, such as creating your retirement fund. Speak to your financial advisor to create a long-term plan that allows you to meet all your future goals without putting a lot of strain on your finances today.

The writer is CEO, BankBazaar.com

TOP 10 BANKS WITH LOWEST INTEREST ON NEW CAR LOAN  
FOR TOP 10 BANKS BY MARKET CAPITALISATION  
EMI ON LOAN UP TO ₹1,00,000 FOR 5-YEAR TENURE



Lender's Name	Interest Rate (%)	EMI (In ₹)
Punjab National Bank	8.55-9	2,054-2,076
Allahabad Bank	8.55-10	2,054-2,125
Bank Of India	8.6-9.2	2,056-2,086
UCO Bank	8.6	2,056
Canara Bank	8.7-11.3	2,061-2,189
SBI	8.75-9.45	2,064-2,098
IDBI	8.85-9.45	2,069-2,098
Axis Bank	9.05-11.3	2,078-2,189
ICICI Bank	9.3-12.85	2,090-2,268
HDFC Bank	9.5-10.25	2,100-2,137

The EMI range is calculated on the basis of interest rate range as provided in the table. The actual EMI may include other fees and charges as per the bank's terms and conditions. The actual applicable interest rate may also vary based on the credit profile, loan amount, tenure and as per the bank's discretion. Banks whose data couldn't be traced from their website are excluded from the list.

— Compiled by BankBazaar.com  
via respective bank's website as  
on Nov. 13, 2019.



■ Tax matters  
Kamal Rath

Depreciation on  
biz assets allowed

I am a partner in a partnership firm to which I rented my factory shed. I am getting ₹6 lakh rent a year on which I claim 30 per cent deduction for repairs and maintenance. I have also rented my autorickshaw and all machinery to the same firm. So please tell me if I can claim 10 per cent depreciation on my investment made on the factory building, autorickshaw and machinery.

SHUBHAM JAIN  
Via e-mail

A) An assessee can claim depreciation on any asset only if he has included it as an asset in his business. However, in case of plant, machinery, furniture and building, depreciation can be claimed even if the rental income from them is shown under 'Income from other sources'.

Since you have considered rent from the factory shed as 'Income from House Property', the depreciation on the same cannot be claimed since it is not a business asset. In case of the autorickshaw and machinery being considered as 'plant and machinery', depreciation can be claimed if the rental income is shown under 'Profits and gains from business and profession' or under 'Income from other sources'. The rate of depreciation allowable on such assets is 15 per cent and not the 10 per cent as mentioned by you.

My residential apartment is let out on rent. Can I reduce my tax liability if the property is transferred in my husband's name even though it was not purchased out of his own resources? Since the payout under the Voluntary Retirement Scheme is actually a deferred payment for the remaining period of service/past service, as the case may be, can I seek tax relief similar to income arrears under Section 89(1)?

RIDYA  
Via e-mail

A) As per Section 27(i), an individual who transfers, otherwise than for adequate consideration, any house property, to his or her spouse, not being a transfer in connection with an agreement to live apart, is deemed to be the owner of the house property so transferred. Hence, it will not be possible to reduce your tax liability by transferring the apartment owned by you to your husband and the rental income in respect of the apartment would continue to be taxed in your hands.

Where any relief was allowed under section 89 for any assessment year in respect of any amount received or receivable on voluntary retirement, no exemption under section 10(10C) shall be allowed in respect of the said sum in that assessment year or any other assessment year. Similarly, relief under section 89 cannot be claimed if benefit of exemption has been claimed under section 10(10C). Therefore, you can opt to claim exemption of ₹5 lakhs under section 10(10C) or relief under section 89(1) in respect of compensation received on voluntary retirement, but not both.

My mother's PPF account was opened in March 2004. She expired in September 2018. My sister and I are the nominees for the PPF account. We intimated the bank about the death. However we did not submit the claim for payment but allowed the account to remain. As per PPF rules, a period of 15 years is prescribed for closure but payment can be received in death cases when claim is submitted. The 15-year period will end in March 2020. Since it is advantageous to us we have not submitted claim. Please clarify, if the PPF account is allowed to continue further?

CHAITANYA  
Via e-mail

A) As per PPF rules, no time limit is specified for claiming the amount by the nominees/legal heirs on the death of subscriber. However, after the 15 years period is completed, a requisition for extending the duration by another five years needs to be made by the subscriber. You will be eligible to receive interest for the completed calendar month up to the submission of the claim, which is however subject to the condition that no interest will be paid after March 31, 2021 i.e. one year duration from the date of closure of the PPF account. Further, interest is not payable on any contribution made in the account after the death of subscriber. Therefore, it is suggested that you may put up your claim as early as possible.

(The writer is a chartered accountant. He can be reached at [info@rathindmalaanis.com](mailto:info@rathindmalaanis.com))

Exit volatile and illiquid investments half way to goal



■ Invest talk  
R. Balakrishnan

In previous column, I had talked about why SIP should keep going on and that we could use sharp falls to buy more. I talked about 'accumulating' wealth. I had promised to give some of my thoughts on getting out of equities when the need comes.

Our retirement plans involve some element of real estate, equities and fixed income instruments. One can time fixed income instruments (like FDs or Liquid Funds) to a date that is close to the actual need. This is because the principal values are pro-

tected, and it is only the interest accumulation that keeps enhancing the nominal value of the instrument. If we have a part of our retirement money in equities, it is important to have a plan to cash it. We cannot keep it for the last moment because at that time, the prices may be extremely adverse due to factors beyond company performance. There could be a scam discovery or some other panic attack that brings prices crashing down.

Let us assume that I have planned in such a way that I will need my equity sav-

ings when I am 65 years. I have been saving in equities from age 30. I should be alert from age 55. A nice 10-year wake-up call is useful. The plan is that I can exit out of equities and into a liquid fund or fixed deposit. Now, from age 55 to age 65 is a 10-year window. This is when I start to look out for an exit.

If I am predominantly invested through mutual funds, I will start tracking simple things like the Nifty or Sensex P/E. If it is at an elevated level as compared to historical averages, then the returns from there are not going to be great. In other words, earnings growth will not perhaps be sufficient to take the index higher, if the markets were to trade at the median of the P/E levels. For instance, if the

If we have a selling strategy, it helps us to plan better. Keep a plan. Write it down. And follow it.

Sensex PE at some point is 29 times historical earnings whereas the average range is 17 to 27 times, the chances are that the upside from here is going to be negligible. So selling most of my mutual funds will make sense. In that 10-year period, I should wait for a time that the actual averages are closer to the high point of history rather than low points. In a 10-year cycle surely we will see both ends. So start liquidating when the levels are close to halfway mark between the mid-point and the top.

If you are in to equities, use the same principle as

above. Choose those stocks first for selling where they are trading at the high end of historical valuations. What I am trying to tell you is to take an evaluation of "prospective" returns from a given point in time. Sell those first where the prospective return is the lowest. Then go on liquidating till your needs are met.

Striking a balance between need and greed is a tricky thing. I will have a stock that is doing extraordinarily well, but may be expensive by all measures.

There has to be a transition from financial assets that are subject to high degree of volatility to assets that have a clearly stated time and price. I will not be carried away. I will start with that asset first. Similarly, I could have some investment that

has not done well. That will also come in to my chopping board. The way to exit is not the ideal one guaranteed to give you maximum returns. I am a conservative person by nature and prefer to reach the airport two hours before my flight time rather than 45 minutes before.

The same should be the case with real estate. If your plan includes selling of some real estate, then start work on it very early. You estimate what is a reasonable exit price and give yourself two years or more to find a buyer. Of course, if you set unreasonable price expectations, you will never be able to sell it. In the first three to six months you will know what the markets are like and then you could fix your expectations. It is not wrong to set

expectations high. The more time you give yourself to sell an asset, the better are the chances of your getting the best possible price.

If we have a selling strategy in place when we are somewhere in the first half of our investment journey, it helps us to plan better. Keep a plan. Write it down. And follow it. And it is extremely important to brief your spouse about this plan. Ideally, both should be aware of the finer details. Keep written records. A small notebook is handy. Even if you think you are tech-savvy, your mind and body may not cooperate when the time comes.

(The writer is a veteran investment adviser. He can be contacted at [balakrishnanr@gmail.com](mailto:balakrishnanr@gmail.com))





## Todd on top

Brendon Todd surges into a two-shot lead at the RSM Classic golf in Georgia to leave himself within sight of a third consecutive PGA Tour victory

DECCAN CHRONICLE

MONDAY | 25 NOVEMBER 2019 | HYDERABAD

# Games

PAGE  
14

## LA Lakers are in seventh heaven

Los Angeles, Nov. 24: LeBron James and the Los Angeles Lakers stretched their NBA winning streak to seven games Saturday with a gritty 109-108 victory over the Grizzlies in Memphis.

James scored 30 points and pulled down six rebounds and Anthony Davis added 22 points and blocked five shots as the Lakers rallied late to snatch the win.

James drove for a layup with 1:30 remaining to cap a 7-0 scoring run that put the Lakers up 107-105 — and they wouldn't trail again.

Memphis, down by one with 1.3 seconds remaining, had a final chance, but they came up empty when

Jaren Jackson fell trying to grab an inbound pass.

Coming into the game off a 130-127 victory over the Thunder in Oklahoma City on Friday, James knew the Lakers might be feeling the effects of the back-to-back on the road.

It was also close in Charlotte, where Zach LaVine's career-high 49 points included a game-winning three-pointer off a steal by teammate Coby White, that gave the Chicago Bulls a 116-115 victory over the Hornets.

LaVine made 13 of 17 three-point attempts and 17 of 28 shots overall.

He became just the third player in NBA history to make 13 or more threes in a game.

— AFP

# Spain hand GB Rexit

## Nadal & Co. enter their first Davis Cup Finals since '12

Madrid, Nov. 24: Rafael Nadal inspired Spain into their first Davis Cup final since 2012 as he teamed up with Feliciano Lopez to secure a dramatic last-four victory over Britain in Madrid.

The hosts trailed 1-0 after Lopez's singles defeat by Kyle Edmund on Saturday, but Nadal thrashed Dan Evans before partnering Lopez in a 7-6 (7/3), 7-6 (10/8) win in the deciding doubles over Jamie Murray and

Neal Skupski. Spain will face Canada in Sunday's final after the North Americans won their semifinal against Russia, which was also decided in the doubles rubber.

Five-time champions Spain were indebted to world number one Nadal for a virtuoso display as the 33-year-old continues his hunt for a fifth Davis Cup crown, having first lifted the title himself in 2004.

Spain lost their last Davis Cup final to the Czech Republic six years ago.

Edmund had earlier justified the decision of British captain Leon Smith to select him ahead of three-time Grand Slam champion Andy Murray by seeing off Lopez 6-3, 7-6 (7/3).

But Nadal swatted aside Evans 6-4 6-0 to set up the doubles showdown.

Murray and Skupski more than held their own

in the face of a partisan home crowd and a pumped-up Nadal at the Caja Magica, but saw a break point come and go in the 11th game of the first set before losing a tie-break.

The Britons saw four set points pass them by in the second set, including three in the breaker, with Nadal saving one by producing an incredible lob on the stretch. A place in the final was sealed on a second match point.

### CANADA IN MAIDEN

#### TITLE CLASH

Earlier on Saturday, the 20-year-old Shapovalov had drawn Canada level by beating Khachanov after Rublev's win over Pospisil in the opening match.

The Canadian pair then edged out Khachanov and Rublev in a thrilling deciding-set tie-break.

It was their third Davis Cup semifinal, after previous last-four defeats in 1913 and 2013.

— AFP



We've got a huge day, a historic day for us tomorrow, and we're going to leave it all out there.

— Vasek Pospisil, Canadian tennis player on Davis Cup final

### SHORT TAKES

## District basketball starts from today

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 24

The Medchal and Malkajgiri District Basketball Association under the aegis of Telangana State Basketball Association is conducting the 6th Telangana State Senior Inter District Basketball Championship for Men and Women at YMCA Secunderabad from November 25 to 27.

The Telangana State teams for the 70<sup>th</sup> National Basketball Championship to be held at Ludhiana, Punjab, will be selected during the championship.

## Golf event raises ₹1cr for charity

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 24

Rotary Club of Hyderabad Deccan raised ₹1 crore towards charitable projects from its Rotary Golf for Charity, an annual fund raising tournament at the Hyderabad Golf Club.

These funds will be used to set up dialysis centres at Khammam and Secunderabad, while setting up a new diagnostic centre in Secunderabad alongside 10 e-Schools. In a closely fought tournament among 124 golfers, Gautham Reddy V. and Ranadhir Reddy emerged winners with 42 points. With similar scores, but based on other parameters, Hardik Chawla and Rahul Ajay were adjudged runners-up while Rajiv Ratan, Sanjay V. Jerrani were second runners-up. Sameer Mahendra bagged a recognition for the longest drive (270 yards) while M. Ramchandra Reddy won the 'Closest to Pin' Award (9 inches).

## Champ Wilder remains unbeaten

Las Vegas: Unbeaten Deontay Wilder landed a devastating right hand to knock out Luis Ortiz in the seventh round and retain his World Boxing Council heavyweight title.

The 34-year-old Wilder remains on course to achieve his goal of unifying all four heavyweight belts despite being largely outboxed by Ortiz before the explosive one-punch finish at the MGM Grand Hotel in Las Vegas late Saturday night.

"When I see the right shot, it is baby good night," Wilder said.

The "Bronze Bomber" recorded his 10th straight title defence to equal Muhammad Ali who achieved the feat between 1974 and 1978. Wilder waited patiently for his big moment and when it came, with just nine seconds left in the round, it was stunning. He followed a pawing jab with a crushing straight right that sent Ortiz's head snapping back and his body crashing into the ropes before landing on the canvas.

"That was a punch intended to hurt for sure," said the American. — AFP

## Chetan, Bikku claim 4th round

Bengaluru: Chetan Shivram and Dr Bikku Babu took advantage of the pull-outs by most of the heavyweights to stage a dramatic comeback for MRF in the Champions Yacht Club FMSCI Indian National Rally Championship here on Sunday. The speedy but shrewd duo made it a spectacular 1-2 for the Reds as the carefully laid out but treacherous stages wiped out anybody who dared to challenge them. Starting from the fifth and fourth positions, Chetan and Dr Bikku preserved their cars before going all out in the final stage to claim the mantle of winner and runner-up in the K-1000 Rally. Defending champion and overnight leader Gaurav Gill was among the biggest casualties as he cried out in the morning itself, with his car refusing to even start after the belting it received on Day 1.



Participants run on Tank Bund during the Hyderabad 10K Run in the city on Sunday.

— S. SURENDER REDDY

# Anish, Caren 10K champs

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 24

Anish Thapa clocked 29:47 to secure the men's title at the Elite 10K Run while Caren Jebet with 33:55 secured the first place among women's section in the Hyderabad 10K Run on Sunday.

Tirtha Pun (29:55) and Nicodemus (29:58) finished second and third in the men's while Hannah Wanjiru (34:54) and Etsegenet Belete (35:28) followed Caren in the women's run.

Bhagesh Patel took the men's open title in 31:27 seconds followed by Gangappa Tambur at 31:48 and Kite Tushar with 33:00.

In the women's open category, Aasa T. P. timed 38:18 to secure the first position. Navya with 40:25 was second, followed by Priyanka with 41:30.

A. Baba timed 38:29 to win the veteran men's (50-60 years) category, followed by Nanjudan (41:43) and Mallikarjun (42:26).



Participants at the Hyderabad 10K run in the city on Sunday.

— DECCAN CHRONICLE

In the women's veteran run, Dinaz Vervatwala was first with 1:07:52. Usha Kiran Venigalla (01:07:52) and Lakshmi Sri V. (01:09:42) followed Dinaz to the finish line.

About 15,000 runners, including many women, took part in the run.

### THE RESULTS

■ **Elite 10k Run Men's:** 1. Anish Thapa 29:47, 2. Tirtha Pun 29:55, 3. Nicodemus 29:58.

■ **Elite 10k Run Women's:** 1. Caren Jebet 33:55, 2. Hannah Wanjiru 34:54, 3. Etsegenet Belete 35:28.

■ **Men's Open (Upto 49) 10K Run:** 1. Bhagesh Patil 31:27, 2. Gangappa Tambur 31:48, 3. Kite Tushar 33:00.

■ **Women's Open (Upto 49) 10k Run:** 1. Aasa T. P 38:18, 2. Navya Vadde 40:25, 3. Priyanka 41:30.

■ **Veteran Men's (50-64) 10K Run:** 1. A. Baba 38:29, 2. Nanjudan 41:43, 3. Mallikarjun P. 42:26.

■ **Veteran Women's (50-64) 10K Run:** 1. Dinaz Vervatwala 1:07:08, 2. Usha Kiran Venigalla 01:07:52, 3. Lakshmi Sri V. 01:09:42.

## St Joseph's hopes are dashed 11-3

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 24

Holy Family Church defeated St Joseph's Cathedral 7-2 in the inaugural match of the United Christmas Celebrations Committee's 1st Bishop's Trophy football tournament at AOC grounds.

Anuj was the star performer with four goals while Rocky and Camay scored one each while St Joseph's contributed a self goal in Holy Family's tally while Stephen and Anthony Francis scored one goal each for St Joseph's.

In other matches, Hope Unlimited Church defeated St Joseph's Church (Bolarum) 11-3 while St Theresa's Church (Sanathnagar) beat Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church (Sitaphalmandi) 3-2 via penalty shootout. Ankit, Gavin and Steven scored for St Theresa's while only Angad and Theo could convert the spot kicks in favour of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church.

Earlier, chief guest Elvis Stevenson inaugurated the tournament along with UCCC convenors Stanley Abraham and James Jakrias.

Matches will be played on a knockout basis over weekends at the AOC football ground and conclude with the final on December 15.

# Swanky hockey turf at RSC

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 24

The Railway Sports Complex (RSC), Secunderabad, one of the biggest integrated sports facilities in the country, got a shot in the arm with a new state-of-the-art synthetic turf hockey stadium which was inaugurated on Sunday by Railway Board chairman Vinod Kumar Yadav in the presence of South Central Railway general manager Gajanan Mallaya, other dignitaries, sportspersons and sports lovers.

The FIH (Fédération Internationale de Hockey) certified hockey field is designed to host top level matches, thereby giving a fillip to the game in the city.

In addition to the most modern and technologically advanced synthetic hockey turf, the stadium project includes a sprinkler system with a one lakh litre underground water tank to water the ground, VIP Gallery, a gallery to seat 5,000 spectators with tensile roofing, chain link fencing around the hockey field, an arch gate and air conditioned changing rooms for the benefit of players.

The project, costing ₹5.80 crore, was taken up in October last year. The design and execution of the stadium was undertaken by Great SportsTech, a Hyderabad headquartered sports infra provider.



The Synthetic Astro Hockey Turf at the Railway Sports Complex in Secunderabad.

# Railway hoopsters march into women's top league

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 24

Title contenders South Central Railway maintained a clean slate as they convincingly beat MLRIT and St Francis to top Pool 'A' in Level-I of the Hyderabad District Basketball Association's Women's Annual League Championship.

SCR beat MLRIT 49-23 and then got past Francis 59-32 to directly qualify for the Super League Finals.

MLRIT brushed aside the challenge of St Francis 59-39 to finish

second in Pool 'A' and have to play Knockouts to qualify for the Super League Finals.

MLRIT's offense revolved around the tall and lanky Sofi and Manasa who were unstoppable, both using their height to good affect to score with ease from the paint. They combined to score 19 points in the first quarter as Francis scored 8 points through Sudeshna. MLRIT led 21-8 at the end of first quarter.

In the second quarter too MLRIT continued their onslaught and led 38-21 at half-time even as

Francis fared better to score 13 points.

After change of ends, Francis tried hard for a comeback but the MLRIT defence was too strong.

### BRIEF SCORES

■ **South Central Railway 49** (Kiran 14, Hemalatha 13, Divya 9, Anushree 6) bt **MLRIT 23** (Sofi 8, Manasa 9) Half Time: 29-12.

■ **South Central Railway 59** (Anushree 17, Kiran 10, Divya 7) bt **St. Francis 32** (Vaishnavi 9, Sudeshna 8) Half Time: 28-15.

■ **MLRIT 59** (Manasa 24, Sofi 18) bt **St. Francis 39** (Sudeshna 10, Archana 9, Amita 8) Half Time: 38-21.



Joel Embiid (right) of Philadelphia 76ers blocks a shot by Duncan Robinson of Miami Heat during their NBA game in Philadelphia on Saturday. The 76ers won 113-86.

— AP

## Double delight for city shuttler Navya

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 24

Navya Kanderi clinched the girls under-13 singles and doubles titles at the Singapore Youth International Series played at the Heartbeat @ Bedok ActiveSG Sports Hall.

In the singles final, the unseeded Indian beat Indonesia's Nisa Tanevagin with consummate ease at 21-8, 21-13. Navya showed tremendous composure to beat the fourth seed in the big match.

In the doubles title match, Navya teamed up with Shriyanshi Valishetty to beat the pair of Sukitta Suwachai and Narada Udornpim 21-18, 17-21, 21-16 to claim the crown.

Earlier, in the singles semifinal, Navya, who trains at the Suchitra Badminton Academy, got the better of the top-seed, Thalita Ramadhani Wiryan, in straight games 21-8, 21-15. In the last-eight stage, she made short work of Zan Michelle, defeating her 21-13, 21-11.

### THE RESULTS

■ **Singles final:** Navya Kanderi bt Nisa Tanevagin Alfenia (4) 21-8, 21-13.

■ **Semifinal:** Navya Kanderi bt Thalita Ramadhani Wiryan (1) 21-8, 21-15.

■ **Quarterfinal:** Navya Kanderi bt Zan Michelle 21-13, 21-11.

■ **Second round:** Navya Kanderi bt Pawankorn Punyartabandhu 21-15, 21-13.

■ **First round:** Navya Kanderi bt Narita Putri 21-8, 21-17.

■ **Doubles final:** Navya Kanderi/ Shriyanshi Valishetty bt Sukitta Suwachai/ Narada Udornpim 21-18, 17-21, 21-16.

■ **Semifinal:** Navya Kanderi/ Shriyanshi Valishetty bt Chia Xin Ying/ Louisa Jovanka Sindi Wina Oie 21-16, 21-15.



Navya Kanderi poses with her medal at the Singapore Youth International Series.

## SUMEETH-MANU WIN DOUBLES TITLE IN MUMBAI

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 24

The top-seeded pair of Manu Attri and B. Sumeeth Reddy defeated the Thailand pair of Chaloepon Charoenkitamorn and Kittisak Namdash for the men's doubles title at the India International Badminton Challenge played at the Brabourne Stadium in Mumbai.

The Indian pair, who started proceedings with great intent, held on to their gameplan and defeated the team from Thailand 21-15, 21-15 for the title.

In the men's singles final, Xiaodong Sheng of Canada got past India's Kaushal Dharmamer 21-19, 8-21, 21-14.

### THE RESULTS

■ **Men's doubles final:** Manu Attri/ B. Sumeeth Reddy [1] bt Chaloepon Charoenkitamorn/ Kittisak Namdash (Thailand) 21-15, 21-15.

■ **Men's singles final:** Xiaodong Sheng (Canada, 5) bt Kaushal Dharmamer (India) 21-19, 8-21, 21-14.





Mind Games

Bangladesh captain Mominul Haque on Sunday said they need to work on their mental strength ahead of the long Test season next year

I'm sure we'll get an answer from Kohli at some stage.

— Tim Paine, Australia skipper is hopeful that his Indian counterpart would soon agree to his request to play Day/Night Test in Australia

SHORT TAKES

Rayudu tells Azhar to clean up HCA

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, NOV. 24

Former Indian cricketer Ambati Rayudu on Sunday appealed to the Hyderabad Cricket Association president Mohammed Azharuddin to not get into a personal tussle with him and instead clean up the HCA after the former Indian captain branded Rayudu a 'frustrated cricketer' in response to his earlier tweet to Telangana minister K. T. Rama Rao to address corruption issues in the HCA.

Rayudu hit out at Azhar in another tweet, urging him to 'save generations of future cricketers'.

"Hi @azharflicks let's not make it personal. da issue is bigger dan us. We both knw wats goin on in hca. u hav a god given opportunity to clean up hyd cricket. i strongly urge u 2 isolate urself from da seasoned crooks. u wil b savin generations of future cricketers. #cleanuphydcricket," he tweet-ed.

On Saturday, Rayudu had urged KTR to "plz look into and address the rampant corruption prevailing in HCA."

"Hw can Hyderabad be great when it's cricket team is influenced by money and corrupt ppl who have numerous acb cases against them which are being swept under the carpet," he had tweeted.

Azam ton in vain as Aussies win

Brisbane: Australia went one up in their two-Test series against Pakistan when they won the first Test by an innings and five runs at the Gabba in Brisbane on Sunday. After beginning their second innings 340 runs behind Australia and then losing three cheap wickets in the afternoon session on Saturday, the Pakistanis put up stern resistance before finally succumbing late in the final session. Babar Azam scored a century as Pakistan were dismissed for 335. — AFP

Brief scores: Pakistan 240 & 335 in 84.2 overs (Babar Azam 104, Mohammad Rizwan 95; Josh Hazlewood 4/63, Mitchell Starc 3/73) lost to Australia 580.

WATLING AND SANTNER PUT KIWIS ON TOP

Mount Maunganui: England were battling for survival after Mitchell Santner took three cheap wickets following a match-turning double century by BJ Watling in the first Test against New Zealand on Sunday.

After New Zealand declared at 615 for nine on day four in Mount Maunganui, England were 55 for three at stumps, needing a further 207 on the final day if they are to make the Black Caps bat again.

Watling swung the match firmly New Zealand's way with his Test best 205 and a record-breaking partnership with Santner who scored a maiden century and then capped his remarkable day by taking three wickets for six runs. "It's not going to be easy to get seven wickets on that (pitch)," Santner said.

England wicketkeeper Jos Buttler blamed scoreboard pressure for the tourists' predicament after they had held the upper hand when New Zealand were 197 for five before Watling's marathon effort kept them in the field for a tiring 201 overs. That's a big learning point for us. Just when you think you're getting to the place you need to be, and doing the hard work, there's a lot more hard work to come," he said. — AFP

Brief scores: England 353 & 55/3 in 27.4 overs (Rory Burns 31, Joe Denly (batting) 7; Mitchell Santner 3/6) vs New Zealand 615/9d in 201 overs (BJ. Watling 205, Mitchell Santner 126; Sam Curran 3/119, Ben Stokes 2/74).



Skipper Virat Kohli leads the team out for a lap of honour around the Eden Gardens after completing a 2-0 whitewash against Bangladesh in Kolkata on Sunday.

— AFP

Day-Night contrast

Bangla prove no match for India as they succumb to innings defeat

Kolkata, Nov. 24: An untested pink ball was not able to reduce the glaring gulf between the two teams as India bulldozed Bangladesh by an innings and 46 runs in their first ever day-night Test to record their 12th home series win in a row.

With Bangladesh resuming their second innings at 152 for six on day three and trailing India by 89 runs, it was simply a matter of time for the home team to complete formalities. The Virat Kohli-led side eventually completed the job in less than 50 minutes for their fourth straight innings victory, becoming the first team to achieve the feat.

Barring Mushfiqur Rahim (74), Bangladesh batsmen were once again found wanting against high quality pace bowling, folding up for 195 in 41.1 overs.

They were bowled out for 130 on day one. For the second time in the series, the match finished well inside three days. India had hammered Bangladesh by an innings and 130 runs in the series-opener in Indore.

With the resounding win, India also extended their lead in the World Test Championship by collecting 120 points from the two-match series, taking their overall tally to 360 from seven

4-in-a-row became the first team to register four consecutive Test wins by an innings margin. They won the last two Tests against South Africa by an innings, as well as both Tests in this series.

7 It was India's seventh consecutive series win. It's now their longest winning streak. The previous longest streak was of six wins in 2013: four against Australia and two against West Indies.

19 Wickets taken by India's fast bowlers in this Test, which is the most by them in a home Test.

WHEN INDIAN PACERS EDGED SPINNERS AT HOME

Pace	Spin	Opponents	Season	Result
33	5	Bangladesh	2019-20	India won 2-0 (2)
30	9	England	1933-34	India lost 0-2 (3)
30	22	Sri Lanka	2017-18	India won 1-0 (3)
27	25	England	2005-06	Draw 1-1 (3)
58	26	Pakistan	1979-80	India won 2-0 (6)
45	40	WI	1978-79	India won 1-0 (6)
38	35	WI	1983-84	India lost 0-3 (6)
37	35	England	1981-82	India won 1-0 (6)

games.

"Only your belief can make you win. With the way the pacers are bowling now, they can pick up wickets anywhere. Even the spinners. These guys are very hungry and I feel we are in the right kind of space and everyone is enjoying playing in this team," said Kohli.

Resuming on 59 with the team's score of 152/6, Mushfiqur batted in aggressive fashion, smashing Ishant Sharma and Ravindra Jadeja for two boundaries each in their respective overs. Umesh Yadav brought an end to Mushfiqur's innings when he mistimed a hit, which was taken easily by R. Jadeja. — PTI

SCORECARD

Bangladesh (1st innings): 106 India (1st innings): 347-9 decl. Bangladesh (2nd innings): Shadman Islam lbw b Ishant O, Imrul Kayes c Kohli b Ishant O, Mominul Haque c Saha b Ishant O, Mohammad Mithun c Shami b Yadav 6, Mushfiqur Rahim c Jadeja b Yadav 74, Mahmudullah retired

hurt 39, Mehidy Hasan c Kohli b Ishant 15, Ebadat Hossain c Kohli b Yadav O, Al-Amin Hossain c Saha b Yadav 21, Abu Jayed (not out) 2. Extras (b-8, lb-9, w-5) 22. Total (in 41.1 overs) 195. FoW: 1-0, 2-2, 3-9, 4-13, 4-82, 5-133, 6-152, 7-152, 8-184, 9-195. Bowling: Ishant 13-2-56-4, Yadav 14.1-1-53-5, Shami 8-0-42-0, Ashwin 5-0-19-0, Jadeja 1-0-8-0.

Our pacers hunt in packs: Shastri

Kolkata, Nov. 24: If the Indian bowling unit has developed into a lethal and most feared one, it's precisely because the bowlers have learnt to hunt in a pack, head coach Ravi Shastri said on Sunday.

The trio of Ishant Sharma (9/78), Umesh Yadav (8/82) and Mohammed Shami, who picked up two wickets in the first innings, spit fire with the pink ball to demolish Bangladesh in little more than two days.

"The discipline and the hunger to win (is there). They understand how important it is to support one another and bowl as a unit. That's when you create pressure and that's when things happen. They know they are arguably the best side in the world," Shastri said.

"We are bowling as a unit and you feel proud as an Indian sitting outside and seeing men at work in such a professional manner. It



Ishant Sharma (from left), Mohammed Shami and Umesh Yadav are all smiles after the second Test.

has taken time. I think in the last 15 months they played a lot of cricket in foreign territory and that's how they learnt," Shastri said.

In recent times, India twice travelled to West Indies, winning and 2-0 on both the occasions (October 2018, August 2019) and also triumphed 2-1 on the Australia soil in

December 2018. Shastri said the current crop of Indian fast bowlers have learnt it the hard way.

"They've been together that for some time and they know there's no short cut. Individuals will not win it and they know it."

The India coach also had a word of advise for Bangladesh, saying the Tigers need to have a

strong pace attack like India to be successful overseas.

"They need exposure, they're very strong in their country but need to learn when they travel. The more the exposure, the better they'll get. They need more strength in their pace attack overseas," Shastri suggested.

India bowling coach Bharat Arun too was effusive in his praise for the Indian pacers.

"They do hunt as a pack and they do take pride in others' performances and that's the real secret behind this pack (of fast bowlers). That's what has given them all the success," he said. "We're an experienced bowling attack and the beauty of the attack is how quickly they adapt to situations." — PTI

Kohli gives marketing idea to promote longer format

Kolkata, Nov. 24: Creating a buzz around Test cricket with attractive marketing, similar to ODIs and T20s, is a must to change an established psyche among fans for the traditional format, India skipper Virat Kohli suggested on Sunday.

In a euphoric response to the pink-ball contest, close to 50,000 fans attended India's maiden day/night Test which had a lot of activities on the sidelines.

"I think it's very, very crucial to market Test cricket like we do for ODIs and T20s. It's not only the job of the players but it spreads out to the management the cricket Board and the home broadcasters about how you portray a particular product to the people," Kohli said.

"If you create an excitement only around the T20 cricket and not much around Test cricket then in the psyche of the fans there's already a certain template that's established," he added.

Kohli said Test cricket needs to be strengthened and suggested the idea of having interaction with the fans, especially school children during the games.

"I think if if there's enough buzz created around Test cricket then there will be a lot more keenness to come to the stadium. Like you have in venues abroad, there's something or the other happening, maybe a play area for games. Maybe schoolchildren

could interact with Team India players during lunch. "I think all these things will really bring that strength into Test cricket and people would want to come in and have an experience of a Test match. It should be an event where you come and experience cricket, not just sit there and watch in you know, hot conditions. So I think there has to be more for the fan. I totally agree with that and has to be marketed well."

INDIA OPEN TO PLAY D/N TEST DOWN UNDER

Kohli said India were open to playing a day-night Test in Australia. "I think a good practise game before that and enough time to prepare — we're open to doing anything," Kohli said.

"You can't just play it on a short notice, like I mentioned last time. If there's time to prepare, we're open to take up Test cricket in any manner."

FOLLOWING IN DADA'S FOOTSTEPS

Emerging triumphant in the mental battles that Test cricket throws began in the era of Sourav Ganguly and the current

Indian side has taken it forward with sheer hard work and self belief, according to Kohli. "Test cricket is a mental battle. We've learnt to stand up — it all started from Dada's team. The belief is key and to be honest we've worked hard," Kohli said.

HOME & AWAY FORMAT FOR TEST CHAMPIONSHIP

Kohli endorsed a home and away format for the World Test Championship, saying it would be more reflective of the team's performance.

"I think the more balanced format would be one series home and one away. We are playing very good cricket but we played only two Tests away in the Test Championship," the Indian skipper said.

"You can praise our team on our performance. But to say that we are dominating like no other team is a very subjective thing to think of. If we played two series away and two at home and we had 300 points, then you can say we played really well," said Kohli, who had earlier proposed doubling points for away wins.

ON TOP OF THE GAME

India also became the first team to complete four successive innings wins with their pink-ball Test win over Bangladesh. "I can only say we are at the top of our game. You can't judge your team's dominance with just seven games." — PTI

SHORTEST TESTS WITH AN OUTRIGHT RESULT IN INDIA

Balls	Opponent	Venue	Season
968	Bangladesh	Kolkata	2019-20
1,028	Afghanistan	Bangalore	2018
1,213	Australia	Mumbai	2004-05
1,262	West Indies	Mumbai	2013-14
1,325	South Africa	Ranchi	2019-20

Pink ball Test to go around India: Dada

Kolkata, Nov. 24: Following a thunderous success of the first-ever day-night Test at Eden Gardens, BCCI president Sourav Ganguly on Sunday promised to take the pink ball game to all parts of the country.

Ganguly said he will soon speak to Virat Kohli to know his thoughts about the game and said it can't be held in Kolkata every time

despite the overwhelming response from local crowd.

"Hopefully it will spread to other parts of the country and I am convinced it will. This will revive Test cricket because it is different for people. Everything changes with time including people's taste. I remember when T20 started in 2007 and India won the World Cup, the format was not given a lot of value," he said. — PTI

India consolidate top spot

India on Sunday consolidated their position at the top of ICC World Test Championship after completing a 2-0 series victory over Bangladesh.

360 points

India, who are yet to drop a point in the nine-team championship, reached 360 points after the comprehensive innings victory.

Aussies at distant second

Australia are on 116 points after winning the first match of its ongoing home Test series against Pakistan. Australia and England had earlier settled for 56 points each from their five-match Ashes series, which ended in a 2-2 draw. Sri Lanka and New Zealand are on 60 points each after drawing the two-match series 1-1.

TOP-FIVE TEST CAPTAINS

Test wins	Captains
53	Graeme Smith (SA)
48	Ricky Ponting (Aus)
41	Steve Waugh (Aus)
36	Clive Lloyd (WI)
33*	Virat Kohli (Ind)

STATS: S. PERVEZ QAISER





Top prize

Eliud Kipchoge, the first man to run a marathon in less than two hours, won the World Athletics' year-ending prize



We don't care what happens to other teams — Liverpool, Leicester, Chelsea — we have to keep running.

— Kevin De Bruyne, Manchester City star player after their 2-1 EPL win over Chelsea

SHORT TAKES

Saina pulls out of PBL Season Five

**New Delhi:** Star shuttler Saina Nehwal on Sunday pulled out of the upcoming Premier Badminton League to prepare herself for the next international season. The 29-year-old Saina, who played for North Eastern Warriors in last PBL last, will not be seen in action in the fifth edition to be played between January 20 and February 9. "Hey everyone, I won't be part of the PBL Season 5. I haven't been well most part of the year due to pancreatitis and injuries and I would like to take time during the PBL to prepare better," Saina said in a tweet. "I want to say sorry to all my fans and I hope to be part of the next season of PBL," said the 2012 Olympics bronze medallist. Currently ranked ninth in the world, Saina has been struggling for form throughout this year.

— PTI

AIFF suspends three players

**New Delhi:** The All India Football Federation's Disciplinary Committee on Sunday handed out suspensions to FC Goa players Seiminlen Doungel and Hugo Boumous along with NorthEast United defender Kai Heerings for misconduct during the Indian Super League match between the two sides on November 1 at Guwahati. Doungel has been suspended for three games, out of which the forward has already served one as a result of a direct red card against NorthEast United FC. After having missed FC Goa's away trip to Mumbai City FC, Doungel will have to sit out the matches against Jamshedpur FC at home and Kerala Blasters away. Boumous has received a two-game suspension and is ineligible to play in FC Goa's next two games. Both Doungel and Boumous will be available for selection when FC Goa visit Hyderabad FC in ISL match number 35 on December 8.

— PTI

KARTHIKEYAN ENDS SEASON ON A HIGH

**Tokyo:** India's first Formula 1 driver Narain Karthikeyan produced a brilliant drive in challenging conditions to claim an emphatic victory in the SUPER GT x DTM Dream Race here on Sunday, marking a successful end to his maiden season in sports car racing. Driving the Nakajima Racing Honda NSX-GT against an established field of 21 drivers, Karthikeyan shone in both dry and wet conditions to achieve a memorable feat in front of a packed Japanese crowd at the Fuji Speedway. The 42-year-old was hamstrung by three separate safety car interventions, but he perfected the restart on each occasion to secure a stunning victory. Karthikeyan had been lightning fast from the get go, topping a Hankook tyre test for SUPER GT cars in tricky wet weather conditions on Friday, to set the tone for the rest of the weekend. He carried that pace in an equally wet qualifying session on Sunday morning. Despite little dry running on the unfamiliar Hankook tyres, Karthikeyan proved to be just as quick as he was in the wet.

— PTI

Regd. No. H/SD/509/2018-20  
Printed and Published by  
T. Venkateswarlu on behalf of  
Deccan Chronicle Holdings Limited.  
Printed at Deccan Chronicle Press,  
situated at Plot No. 9 Alwal Village,  
Vallabh Nagar Taluk, Medchal  
Malkajgiri Dist. Telangana and  
Published at 36, S.D. Road,  
Secunderabad-3.  
RNI Registration No. 3081/1957.  
Editor: Aditya Sinha

No Chelsea blues for City



Manchester City's Riyad Mahrez (left) celebrates after scoring against Chelsea in their English Premier League match at the Etihad Stadium in Manchester on Saturday. — AFP

Mahrez scores as Pep's men win, Reds down Palace

**London, Nov. 24:** Manchester City kept Premier League leaders Liverpool in their sights on Saturday after battling back to beat Chelsea. Leicester saw off Brighton 2-0 to stay in second place, eight points behind Jurgen Klopp's men, while struggling Arsenal needed a stoppage-time goal to draw 2-2 with lowly Southampton. Liverpool's hard-fought 2-1 win at Crystal Palace meant champions City went into their evening match against high-flying Chelsea 12 points behind the pacesetters.

N'Golo Kante gave the visitors a deserved lead midway through the first half at the Etihad but City hit back with a deflected shot from Kevin De Bruyne and a trademark Riyad Mahrez strike to win 2-1.

Pep Guardiola's men were never entirely comfortable with a one-goal lead but their margin of victory could have been greater as Raheem Sterling found the bottom corner deep into stoppage time, only for VAR to rule the goal out for offside.

City's possession figure of 46.74 per cent is the lowest recorded by a side managed by Pep Guardiola in any of his 381 top-flight matches in charge. "It was a top game against a top side," Guardiola told *Sky Sports*. "Chelsea have been big quality for the past 20 years. When they went ahead in the best moments they had we scored through Kevin De Bruyne. Then we missed a lot of chances," he added.

Guardiola sounded the alarm over all-time top-scorer Sergio Aguero, who limped off in the second half, saying he feared his injury could be "bad".

FIRMINO NETS WINNER FOR LIVERPOOL

Earlier, Liverpool once again demonstrated their

THE RESULTS

PREMIER LEAGUE

<b>Arsenal</b> (Lacazette 18, 90+6)	2
<b>Southampton</b> (Ings 8, Ward-Prowse 71)	2
<b>Bournemouth</b> (Cook 59)	1
<b>Wolves</b> (Moutinho 21, Jimenez 31)	2
<b>Brighton</b>	0
<b>Leicester</b> (Perez 64, Vardy 82-pen)	2
<b>Crystal Palace</b> (Zaha 82)	1
<b>Liverpool</b> (Mane 49, Firmino 85)	2
<b>Everton</b>	0
<b>Norwich</b> (Cantwell 54, Srbeny 90+2)	2
<b>Manchester City</b> (De Bruyne 29, Mahrez 37)	2
<b>Chelsea</b> (Kante 21)	1
<b>Watford</b>	0
<b>Burnley</b> (Wood 53, Barnes 82-pen, Tarkowski 88)	3

knack for scoring last-gasp winners, with Roberto Firmino finishing from close range following a goalmouth scramble.

Liverpool had looked set to drop points for just the second time this season after Wilfried Zaha cancelled out Sadio Mane's opener in the 82nd minute.

The European champions, chasing their first league title for 30 years, have now won 12 of their 13 Premier League matches this season and are unbeaten in 30 league games.

"We are not out there to show we invented football. We have a job to do to get results. We did that again," said Klopp.

— AFP

ITALIAN LEAGUE

HIGUAIN'S BRACE KEEPS JUVE ON TOP

**Milan, Nov. 24:** Gonzalo Higuain grabbed a second-half brace to fire Juventus to a 3-1 win at Atalanta that kept the champions top of Serie A on Saturday, despite Inter Milan's comfortable 3-0 win at Torino that kept them in touch with the leaders.

Maurizio Sarri's Juve left it late to seal victory in Bergamo after Robin Gosens had nodded Atalanta ahead after 56 minutes.

But Higuain hit back with two goals in eight minutes before Paulo Dybala marked his 200th Serie A appearance with the third goal one minute into injury time.

Juve stay one point ahead of second-placed Inter Milan, who outplayed Torino in torrential rain in Turin, as Atalanta drop to sixth place after their fourth league game without a win. "We suffered, but in the final 20 minutes we gave everything we had to bring the win home," said Sarri.

Cristiano Ronaldo missed the trip as he recovers from a knee problem ahead of Juve's Champions League game against Atletico Madrid.

"I hope Cristiano will be back for the Champions League on Tuesday," said Sarri.

In Turin, Inter Milan earned their first win in three years over Torino despite difficult conditions with the game starting 10 minutes late because of heavy rainfall in northern Italy. — AFP

THE RESULTS

<b>Atalanta</b> (Gosens 56)	1
<b>Juventus</b> (Higuain 74, 82, Dybala 90+2)	3
<b>AC Milan</b> (Bonaventura 29)	1
<b>Napoli</b> (Lozano 24)	1
<b>Torino</b>	0
<b>Inter Milan</b> (Lautaro Martinez 12, De Vrij 32, Lukaku 55,	3

Madrid overcome Real stumble

**Madrid, Nov. 24:** Karim Benzema scored his sixth goal in five games to help Real Madrid beat high-flying Real Sociedad 3-1 on Saturday as Gareth Bale came on as a substitute to a screech of whistles at the Santiago Bernabeu.

Bale, only recently fit again after a calf injury, was named on the bench following his controversial outing with Wales last week, when he celebrated victory behind a flag that read: "Wales. Golf. Madrid. In that order."

But Zinedine Zidane brought Bale on for Rodrygo in the 67th minute and the home

fans, who had already jeered his name before kick-off, made their dissatisfaction clear.

Without Bale, Benzema had delivered again, equalising after a Sergio Ramos mistake allowed Willian Jose to give Real Sociedad the lead after just 110 seconds.

Fede Valverde and Luka Modric completed the victory in the second half.

Later, Atletico Madrid lost ground at the top. They were held to a 1-1 draw away at Granada and now sit three points behind the leading pair, having played one game more.

Only Barca's Lionel

THE RESULTS

<b>Real Betis</b> (Joaquin 37, Canales 90+4)	2
<b>Valencia</b> (Gomez 32)	1
<b>Granada</b> (Sanchez 67)	1
<b>Atletico Madrid</b> (Lodi 60)	1
<b>Real Madrid</b> (Benzema 37, Valverde 48, Modric 74)	3
<b>Real Sociedad</b> (Willian Jose 2)	1

Messi and Bayern Munich's Robert Lewandowski have more

goals than Benzema's 25 in the top five European leagues in 2019 and his latest strike means he has 12 for his club this season, twice as many as Cristiano Ronaldo for Juventus.

Bale was supposed to fill the void when Ronaldo departed but instead his relationship with the club, coach and now fans has only grown more distant.

Zidane defended the 30-year-old when questioned about his celebrations in Cardiff and urged Real Madrid's supporters to show mercy, by pointing to Bale's history and achievements. — AFP



Real Madrid's Karim Benzema (centre) scores against Real Sociedad in their Spanish League match at the Bernabeu in Madrid on Saturday. Real Madrid won 3-1. — AP

Chennaiyin take on Hyderabad FC

**Chennai, Nov. 24:** Two-time champions Chennaiyin FC take on Hyderabad FC in an Indian Super League clash of two bottom-placed teams here on Monday.

Chennaiyin, who are yet to score a goal in four matches this season, will be eyeing a change in fortunes as they play their first game after the short international break.

Head coach John Gregory, who had suggested that it was probably time for someone to take over after the loss to Bengaluru FC in the previous encounter, will be hoping that the team's forward-line begins finding the net before it is too late.

For Chennaiyin, Anirudh Thapa and Lallianzuala Chhangte, who were part of the Indian team which played in the recent World Cup qualifiers, will have to step up and push forward. The strike force of Chennaiyin has not been



Odisha FC's Daniel Lalhlipui (in white) takes a fall as he tries to go past ATK defenders in their Hero ISL clash in Pune on Sunday. The match ended 0-0.

in the best of form and it remains to be seen whom Gregory picks for Monday's fixture. Maltese forward Andre Schembri has not been able to make much of an impact and

Lithuanian Nerijus Valskis may get a look-in. Hyderabad FC, who beat Kerala Blasters for their only win so far, will be aiming to capitalise on Chennaiyin's frailties to

notch up their second win. Speaking ahead of Monday's game, Hyderabad head coach Phil Brown talked about the importance of a positive result against

Chennaiyin. "We have two games in quick succession but the first one against Chennaiyin is more important. They are in a similar kind of situation like us this season," Brown said.

"Under John Gregory, they won the title two seasons back and now he is like a caged and wounded animal. He is not getting the rewards for the work they are putting in. They are losing games. I know him very well. He will bang his head against the wall to get an answer. That is the hard part about coaching and management," he added.

Brown also said the international break came at the right time as the team was grappling with injuries and it allowed the players to recuperate.

For Hyderabad, Marcelinho and Marko Stankovic could be the key players and Brown will expect them to click against Chennaiyin.

— PTI

JUNIOR GRAPPLERS CLAIM 28 MEDALS IN CHINA EVENT

**New Delhi, Nov. 24:** India's superb show continued on the last day of the Under-15 Asian Wrestling Championships in Taichung, China, as they added five gold medals as well as five silver medals to finish their campaign on a high with a rich haul of 28 medals, that includes 13 gold, 14 silver and 1 bronze.

Led by 2019 Cadet World Championships bronze medallist Deepak Chahal, the freestyle grapplers continued their heroics to capture four gold medals on the final day of the competition. While Chahal won the gold in 75kg, Haryana's Vishal (62kg), Sonapat's Sagar Jaglan (68kg), and Madhya Pradesh's Jatin (85kg) were the others who finished on the top podium. Most impressive of the lot was Sagar Jaglan in 68kg. Down by 6-1 against Bexultanov

ASIAN WRESTLING

Yerkhan of Kazakhstan, Sagar made a remarkable turnaround in the last 20 seconds to win the bout 7-6 and gold for his country.

India's domination in the championship can be gauged from the fact that all 10 Indian wrestlers in the freestyle category finished on the podium. This resulted in India finishing on top of the team rankings for the first time with 225 points. Kazakhstan finished 2nd and Japan at number 3.

India continued to prove their mettle in Greco-Roman category by winning 1 gold and 2 silver on the final day. Harsh remained unbeatable in 44kg category to capture the yellow metal. With 204 points, India finished second behind Kazakhstan who accumulated 230 points. — Agencies