

THE ASIAN AGE

NEW DELHI MONDAY 25 NOVEMBER 2019



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WINDOWS



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— AP

Top BJP leader and former MP CM Kailash Joshi dies

Bhopal: Former Madhya Pradesh CM and senior BJP leader Kailash Joshi died at a hospital here on Sunday after prolonged illness, a family member said. He was 91. “He breathed his last at the Bansal Hospital here,” his son and former state minister Deepak Joshi said. PM Narendra Modi expressed grief at Joshi’s demise and lauded his contribution towards strengthening the Jan Sangh. Full report on Page 4

Ban on Bodo outfit extended for 5 yrs

New Delhi: The Centre has extended the ban on Assam-based Bodo insurgent group NDFB by another five years, saying the outlawed outfit has continued to indulge in violent activities, including killing and extortion, and undermine the country’s territorial integrity. Full report on Page 4

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COUNTERPOINT



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WEATHER

Max: 26°C
Min: 15°C
RH: 58%
Rainfall: Nil

Forecast: Windy day

ASTROGUIDE

Vikari: Dakshinayana
Tithi: Kartika Bahula
Chaturdasi till 10.42 pm
Star: Swathi till 10.58 am
Variyam: 4.12 pm to 5.42 pm
Durmuhurtam: 12.25 pm to 1.09 pm and 2.38 pm to 3.22 pm
Rahukalam: 7.30 am to 9 am

SUNSET TODAY 5.25 PM
SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.51 AM
MOONRISE TOMORROW 5.10 PM
MOONSET TODAY 3.59 AM

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SC seeks gov, Fadnavis letters

PARMOD KUMAR
NEW DELHI, NOV. 24

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— PTI

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had appeared for the Maharashtra government.

Senior counsel Kapil Sibal, appearing for the Shiv Sena, informed the court that the petitioners had served copies of their petition to all the parties — the Centre, the Maharashtra government, chief minister Devendra Fadnavis and

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minister. The Congress, which moved the Supreme Court along with the NCP and Shiv Sena on Sunday morning, had on Saturday kept away from the joint Sena-Sharad Pawar press conference in Mumbai though Congress treasurer Ahmed Patel and Maharashtra in-charge Mallikarjun Kharge did address the media later.

Sources told this newspaper that the early morning/ midnight coup on Saturday had left the Congress top brass initially worried about the stand taken by Sharad

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After this, the Congress went forward and its top lawyer leaders Kapil Sibal and Abhishek “Manu” Singhvi challenged the oath-taking by Devendra Fadnavis and

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Boris’ new manifesto for stronger India links

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Johnson

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The party’s manifesto makes a specific reference to the post-Brexit ties with the dynamic Indian economy and engage diaspora communities to enhance UK business access to such emerging markets. “We will also forge stronger links with the Commonwealth, which boasts some of the world’s most dynamic economies such as India, with which we already share deep historical and cultural connections,” notes the manifesto. — PTI

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Billionaire Bloomberg is eyeing one last prize: the White House

CATHERINE TRIOMPHE
NEW YORK, NOV. 24

A hyper-industrious billionaire, a three-term mayor of New York and a climate change activist, Michael Bloomberg is now eyeing one last prize: the US presidency.

The 77-year-old giant of the financial world officially announced that he was joining the race for the 2020 Democratic nomination Sunday, but he has some catching up to

do. He becomes the 18th candidate in the pack that includes three others in their 70s, plus a fellow billionaire, Tom Steyer.

Mr Bloomberg will count on leveraging his fortune — Forbes ranks him as the 15th richest person in the world currently — to make up ground on the favourites.

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When a cadet asked him, “Had you not been a politician, what would you have been?” Mr Modi said it was a “difficult question.”

He said: “Now this is a very difficult question because every child goes through multiple phases in life. Sometimes one wants to become this, sometimes one wants to become that, but it is true that I never had the desire to enter politics, nor had I ever thought about it.”

■ More on Page 3



NCP chief Sharad Pawar after a meeting with party MLAs in Mumbai on Saturday night. At least nine NCP MLAs who attended swearing-in of Ajit Pawar as deputy chief minister of Maharashtra returned to the party fold and expressed solidarity with party chief Sharad Pawar.

— PTI

Sena-NCP-Cong has support of 165 MLAs: Raut

Mumbai, Nov. 24: Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Raut on Sunday claimed the Sena-NCP-Congress combine has the support of 165 MLAs to prove majority in the Maharashtra Assembly, and said the BJP’s “gamble” of breaking Ajit Pawar from the NCP will backfire.

Addressing reporters here, Mr Sanjay Raut alleged that Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshiyari allowed the new government (headed by BJP’s Devendra Fadnavis) to be formed on the basis of “bogus” documents shown by Ajit Pawar.

■ More on Page 3

‘BJP flew 3 NCP MLAs to Delhi in chartered plane’

Mumbai, Nov. 24: The NCP on Sunday night claimed three MLAs, who among others had attended swearing-in of Ajit Pawar as deputy chief minister on Saturday, were flown to Delhi in a chartered plane by the BJP the same day. NCP chief spokesperson Nawab Malik said the three MLAs have said that they are with the party.

He said while Daulat Daroda and Nitin Pawar have sent video messages saying they are with the NCP, another MLA Narhari Zirwal’s message was shared on the Twitter handle of the NCP.

— PTI

I never had the desire to join politics, says Modi

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, NOV. 24

The patience, restraint and maturity by people after the Supreme Court’s Ayodhya verdict proves that there is nothing bigger than the national interest for Indians, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said Sunday in his monthly “Mann Ki Baat” radio address. He said India had moved ahead on a new path, with a new resolve.

While interacting with a group of NCC cadets, Mr Modi also said: “I never had the desire to enter politics, but now I am a part of it, I give my best on how to work for the people.”

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Mr Bloomberg will be working for a long-awaited chance to take on fellow New York tycoon Donald Trump, with whom then-mayor Bloomberg often rubbed shoulders at social events, occasionally even offering words of praise, before turning his back

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Odisha's Red Zone Malkangiri opens a new chapter of development

The Odisha government in association with the governments of Chhattisgarh and Andhra Pradesh crushed the rebel activities and undertook development activities in the area. Malkangiri is today connected with major cities like Hyderabad and capital Bhubaneswar.

AKSHAYA KUMAR SAHOO
BHUBANESWAR

Once considered the most dreaded zone of the state for recurrent bloodshed by Maoists, Odisha's Malkangiri district is waking up to a new era of development. The district is now witnessing brisk activities in all fields - starting from reorganisation and strengthening of the administrative unit to boosting of agriculture, tourism and culture potentials, improving healthcare and child development.

The Odisha government in association with the governments of Chhattisgarh and Andhra Pradesh crushed the rebel activities and undertook development activities in the area. With construction of good roads and bridges, Malkangiri is today connected well with major cities like Hyderabad in Telangana and state capital Bhubaneswar.

The change in the status of the region has begun to witness the local tribals waking up to a new phase of progress.

A little over a year ago, Malkangiri, located at a distance of around 650 km from state capital Bhubaneswar, remained an inaccessible zone as it lacked good motarable roads. After the Koraput-Jepore-Malkangiri road was rebuilt with the help of paramilitary forces, long-route bus services have become regular and frequent. The good road has also facilitated easy movement of security personnel in the district and intensified their anti-Maoist activities.

Apart from Koraput-Jepore-Malkangiri road, the rebuilding of several other roads have led to the district headquarters getting connected with Hyderabad city in Telangana, several other towns of Andhra Pradesh and Dantewada town Chhattisgarh. Good connectivity has suddenly resulted in the tribal people, who otherwise remained confined to the area, coming in contact with a wider world and availing different livelihood opportunities.

The spurt in the economic activities has also in a way encouraged the tribal teenagers and youths, who for years were



▶ A little over a year ago, Malkangiri, located at a distance of around 650 km from state capital Bhubaneswar, remained an inaccessible zone as it lacked good motarable roads

▶ After the Koraput-Jepore-Malkangiri road, long-route bus services have become regular and frequent

▶ The spurt in the economic activities has in a way encouraged the tribal teenagers and youths, led astray by Maoist leaders earlier, to pursue higher studies and sport activities, besides undertaking horticulture and agricultural activities under the guidance and support of the state government agencies

▶ After normalisation of the situation, the inflow of tourists, both domestic and foreign, has appreciably increased

▶ The scenic Chitrakonda and Balimela reservoirs, Goi Hill and Tarini Temple are the major draws for the tourists

THE CHANGE IN THE STATUS OF THE REGION HAS BEGUN TO WITNESS THE LOCAL TRIBALS WAKING UP TO A NEW PHASE OF PROGRESS AND PROSPERITY

modern sports complex has been constructed to channel the youth energy towards positive works," said Sudhakar Das, a veteran journalist-cum-social activist who in the 1960s ventured into this hilly and forested region on foot, told this newspaper.

After normalisation of the situation and infrastructure development activities in the district, especially after the much-awaited Gurupriya bridge was inaugurated on July 27, 2018, the inflow of tourists, both domestic and foreign, to the district has appreciably increased. The scenic Chitrakonda and Balimela reservoirs, the hills of Khariput inhabited by the primitive Bonda tribals, Satiguda dam, Bharavi temple, Goi Hill and Tarini Temple are the major draws for the tourists.

Odisha chief minister Naveen Patnaik, who has renamed as many as 151 villages of the district that remained cut off for decades from the mainland as Swabhimana Anchal (Area of Pride), has vowed to bring about rapid socio-economic development to the district.

"The state government will soon launch a new scheme Socio-Economic Transformation and Upliftment (SETU) programmes for development of Swabhimana Anchal, the erstwhile cut-off region in Malkangiri which is now connected with Gurupriya bridge," said the CM.

At least 151 villages were cut off from mainland when the Balimela Hydro Power Project came up in 1972. The villagers, marooned by the reservoir, had to depend on boats to go to other parts of the district.



Can we survive without our forests?

AKSHAY HEBLIKAR

BENGALURU ENVIRONMENTALIST
AND DIRECTOR OF ECO WATCH



The world we live in today is in a state of imbalance, with an ecosystem constantly in threat. Water, forests and air are severely damaged by increasing population and the resource demands that come with it. Life as we know it has changed drastically and not entirely for the better; for much of it is irreversible. It's not easy to correct, rebuild or compensate for the environmental loss and damage. While some areas can be rejuvenated, others are either beyond repair or will take an exceedingly long time to recover. Ecosystems are extremely complex, sensitive and intricate - every move has a ripple effect. In many cases, it is difficult even to precisely understand the nature of the damage that is suffered.

Take for instance, the forests of the Western Ghats. These are not ordinary mountainous or terrestrial forests, they are unique as they are variedly situated and comprise many endemic species of plants and animals. They offer several important ecological 'services' - oxygen, fruits, medicines, aromatics, timber and more important, have the power to mellow the effects of hurricanes, floods and other storms that would otherwise destroy our agricultural crops and wipe away top soil. These forests bring a lot of rain from the Arabian sea and distribute this precipitation over a large area of forest and surrounding lands.

Major rivers originate from these forests including the Cauvery, Krishna, Mahadai, Kali, Malaprabha and Ghataprabha, which facilitate the irrigation of millions of acres of agricultural land and enable hydropower projects that produce huge amounts of electricity.

North Karnataka has become India's largest

sugar belt because of these rivers. Thousands of farmers grow sugarcane here. Thousands of small and big industries also function because of these rivers. We have 65 major rivers in peninsular India, which irrigate millions of hectares of agricultural land, enable industry and provide employment to lakhs of people. Therefore, the importance of keeping the balance in an ecosystem must be understood from many angles. Forests are seminally important for the entire socio-cultural and economic systems of civilization.

The Western Ghat forests also are a strong source of economic dependence and survival of certain communities who live on the fringes of these forests. There are also many kinds of minor forest produce like flowers, fruit, honey and even leaves of certain trees like the Flame of the Forest, which are used as plates when sewn together. This forest produce is the main source of livelihood for the fringe communities who use and treat them as sources of livelihood.

Unfortunately, the importance of forests is only confined to wildlife but as a matter of fact their importance extends far beyond it. Forests are the backbone of the economy of a large section of the society. We need to see more deeply the humongous impact of such forests on the humanity as a whole. In the last couple of decades these forests have been encroached, chopped and cleared for various reasons like timber, which is used in construction, mainly. The sparse forests then don't attract the rain bearing clouds from the Sea and cutting down the forests also dries up water points.

We must understand that the trees are the lungs of the earth and their destruction will eventually lead to the bizarre consequences of droughts and unseasonal rains which recently lambasted the North Karnataka region and also the Kodagu district which is still green in our memories. Cutting trees along the roads of the forests to widen roads and so on must also be avoided.



Voices raised in songs of devotion as crowds throng to seek the blessings of Nandi and Lord Shiva, the steady hum of customers haggling, as far as the eye can see, an ocean of brown – groundnuts, laid out along the streets. This is Basavanagudi in November. Former mayor and current corporator in Basavanagudi, B.S. Satyanarayana, shares a special bond with the old tradition. He tells Vishaka V. Warriar about the Kadlekai Parishe which will take place on Nov. 25 and 26.

Going nuts: A hungry bull and a 450-year legacy

The man with the proverbial '100-watt smile' and down-to-earth manner, is well-versed with the history of his locality. Basava is another term for 'Nandi', or bull. How did this locality in Bengaluru come to be named after him? "That goes back to Kempegowda's time," says Satyanarayana. "Groundnuts were grown here but the farmers found, to their disappointment, that their crop was being consumed in the nights by a bull." The bull, or the Basava, is believed to be the gatekeeper of Kailasha, the abode of Lord Shiva. "They decided to appeal to Lord Shiva, to stop this bull from ravaging their livelihoods. So, they offered their produce to the Nandi first before it was given for human consumption. Kempegowda, who is known as the founder of Bengaluru, took it upon himself to construct a temple, dedicated to Lord Basava. The fourth Monday of Kaarthika Maasa was devoted to the farmers making their offering. That's how the locality around the temple became Basavanagudi (temple of Lord Basava). Since it became a sort of meeting point for farmers, Kempegowda conceptualised a festival, the Kadlekai Parishe."

Satyanarayana has always lived in Basavanagudi and the Kadlekai Parishe brings back many memories, going back to when he was a child himself. "I remember farmers arriving in vehicles to offer their produce and participating in the fair," he smiles. Groundnuts were



Visitors at a Kadlekai Parishe (for representation only) and (right), corporator and former mayor, Katte Satyanarayana

diligently purchased and fried or boiled back home. "I'm unable to enjoy the fair now," he says, somewhat sadly. "My responsibilities as a corporator means I have a checklist of things that need to be attended to! Earlier, I was free to roam around and enjoy the jaathre!"

Bengaluru's commercialisation has cast its spell on the Parishe, says Satyanarayana. Today, instead of sitting in a vast open space, the Parishe zigzags its way around the buildings. Culture is always changing, as are

notions of entertainment and the Parishe has expanded also, with games, petting zoos and even circus performances to keep customers entertained. The BJP government in 2008, he says, "turned the festival into a cultural extravaganza, where dance, music and folk art are performed by residents and professionals. These happen in Basavanagudi's parks." Today, there are also more vendors than farmers.

"Basavanagudi was surrounded by villages that cultivated groundnuts. So back then, the festival was anchored by the farmers themselves. However, since this is no longer agricultural land, farmers have moved to the outskirts of the city," he explains. There are also many more varieties being sold today, as vendors stock different produce. "Some buy their groundnuts from K.R. Market, others visit farmers in the nearby villages. There are still farmers who come in person, from places like Magadi, Anekal and Doddaballapur, who represent their community in person even today."

A few lakh visitors arrive each year, as well as the 2000-odd vendors participating in the fair. Basavanagudi has become an "adda for foodies, lovers of performing arts and of course, the devotees, seeking the blessings of Lord Shiva." It's a high-security event, with around 500 police officials of various ranks and from the Home Guards appointed for the two-day festival. BMS Hospital, which is in the area, has been well-equipped in case there is a medical emergency of any kind. Drinking water is provided by BWSSB, while

the BBMP and Muzrai departments are at the forefront of the festival's organisation. "It's the result of a collaborative force."



This is where we feature the untold stories every Saturday

To set the tone for the fair following official delegation of duties, he said, "Preparing Basavanagudi is the first task. Every year, we begin with three clean-up drives. One on Friday, then a day before the fair and of course, one the day after the fair comes to an end." This year, the platform of the festival is also used to provide awareness about the use of plastic and waste segregation. In the context, he said, "Our celebrations shouldn't cause harm to the environment."

His approach to the fair goes beyond the discharging his official duties. Mr. Satyanarayana says, "Fairs like Kadlekai Parishe are platform for upholding the culture of our land. With the city becoming a multi-cultural site, we have to take pride in not only exhibiting our culture, but also share the stories of our land to the foster generation and people from other cultures."

Taking inspiration from the iconic Kadlekai Parishe in Basavanagudi, chapters of the same have emerged in Malleshwaram and Yelahanka. Speaking in this regard, he said "The traffic woes in the city have made it difficult for people to make it to the fair. Therefore, this is a good initiative."



Politics

Our MLAs are united and will not be poached, says Cong leader Ashok Chavan

Galaxy of politicians witness SC hearing

New Delhi, Nov. 24: The unprecedented hearing in the Supreme Court on Sunday, on a plea by the Shiv Sena-NCP-Congress combine against the Maharashtra governor's decision to invite Devendra Fadnavis to form the state government, saw politicians like ex-chief minister Prithviraj Chavan and Randeep Surjewala in the packed courtroom to witness proceedings.

The post-poll alliance of the three parties christened as 'Maha Vikas Aghadi', which was busy devising modalities of government formation in Maharashtra, was caught unawares as the fluid political situation changed dramatically on Saturday morning as first the President's rule was revoked and then Fadnavis and Ajit Pawar were sworn-in as chief minister and deputy chief minister respectively around 8 am.

Leaders of the alliance including Congress spokesperson Randeep Surjewala, Shiv Sena MP Gajanan Kirtikar and NCP leader and Rajya Sabha lawmaker Majeed Memon were seen waiting outside the courtroom much before the start of the crucial proceedings at 11.30 am.

Despite being a Sunday, the courtroom was packed with lawyers, scribes and leaders of parties even before the hearing began. They were all trying hard to get closer to the dias to watch the proceedings.

Journalists had a tough time in jotting down notes as lawyers and the leaders jostled for space in their bid to go near the dias in an already packed courtroom. Mr Chavan and Mr Surejewala were seen sitting on chairs earmarked for lawyers in the courtroom and they keenly watched the proceedings.

The top court asked the Centre to place before it on Monday morning the letters of the governor inviting Mr Fadnavis and of the BJP leader staking his claim to form the government in the state.

The three-judge bench headed by Justice N.V. Ramana, for the time being, did not accede to the fervent request of the petitioners that the Fadnavis government be asked to undertake a floor test within 24 hours.

The bench, also comprising Justices Ashok Bhushan and Saniv Khanna, rather said that the issue that the state government be asked to undergo an immediate floor test would be taken up on Monday after perusing the letters of the governor and the BJP leader.

Our alliance has 165 MLAs, claims Raut

Shiv Sena leader says party can prove majority in 10 minutes flat if governor calls for identification parade

Mumbai, Nov. 24: Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Raut on Sunday claimed the Sena-NCP-Congress combine has the support of 165 MLAs to prove majority in the Maharashtra Assembly, and said the BJP's "gamble" of breaking Ajit Pawar from the NCP will backfire.

Addressing reporters here, Raut alleged that governor Bhagat Singh Koshiyari allowed the new government (headed by BJP's Devendra Fadnavis) to be formed on the basis of "bogus" documents shown by Ajit Pawar.

He also said the deadline of November 30 given to the government to prove majority is only to enable defections.

"The Shiv Sena, NCP and Congress (together) have 165 MLAs. If the governor calls for an identification parade, in 10 minutes we can prove our majority," Mr Raut said.

He said Ajit Pawar made the "biggest mistake of his life" by betraying Sharad Pawar, a people's leader.

"Breaking Ajit Pawar from the NCP is the last gamble of the BJP which will backfire," the Rajya Sabha member said.

Ajit Pawar "misled" his party MLAs, he alleged, adding that and most of them had returned to the NCP fold.

Mr Raut also said that November 23 was a "black Saturday" in the history of Maharashtra.

The BJP has no right to call the Emergency imposed by Indira Gandhi as 'black day', he said.

In a dramatic turn of events, Devendra

If the governor calls for an identification parade, in 10 minutes we can prove our majority

— Sanjay Raut, Shiv Sena leader

Fadnavis on Saturday returned as chief minister propped up by NCP's Ajit Pawar, who was made his deputy, just hours after the new alliance of Shiv Sena, NCP and Congress reached a consensus that Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray will be their chief ministerial candidate.

Mr Fadnavis and Ajit Pawar were sworn in by Governor Koshiyari at a hush-hush ceremony here, leading to lifting of the President's rule in the state.

Ajit Pawar's volte face created fissures in the NCP, whose chief Sharad Pawar distanced himself from his nephew's dramatic action, saying the decision to back Mr Fadnavis was his personal choice and not that of the party.

"If the BJP had majority, why was the swearing in done in such secrecy?" Raut asked, and said the governor acted in a "biased manner", giving enough time to the BJP.

"The Shiv Sena and NCP were given 24 hours and the BJP has been given time till November 30," he said.

Taking a dig at the BJP, Mr Raut said, "I thought the BJP understands trade."

— PTI



BJP MLA meet in the presence of Maharashtra chief minister Devendra Fadnavis, Chandrakant Dada Patil, Bhupendra Yadav and other leaders at Vasant Smriti in Dadar, Mumbai, on Sunday.

— DEBASISH DEY

Will complete 5-year term: BJP

Shelar says Sena committed sin of abandoning its founder's thoughts

AGE CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI, NOV. 24

As the power struggle in Maharashtra intensifies, the BJP has expressed confidence that its government would complete its five-year term.

The BJP held a meeting of its newly elected MLAs at its office Vasant Smriti at Dadar on Sunday afternoon. The meeting was attended by most of the 105-elected members of the BJP, barring six MLAs.

Speaking after the meeting, Mr Shelar said that the strategy to comfortably pass the floor test was discussed and decided in the meeting. "We also passed a resolution congratulating Devendra Fadnavis and Ajit Pawar on taking oath as chief minister and deputy chief minister. The state witnessed a festive atmosphere when Mr Fadnavis took oath as the CM," he said.

The party also accused the Sena of committing

the 'sin' of abandoning its founder Bal Thackeray's thoughts of aligning with the Congress and the NCP for the sake of acquiring power in Maharashtra.

"The Sena committed the sin of abandoning Bal Thackeray's thoughts of aligning with the BJP and insulting the popular mandate by going with the Congress and the NCP," he said.

Mr Shelar expressed the confidence that Mr Fadnavis will win the floor

trust with a majority in the 288-member Assembly. "The legislature party meeting deliberated on strategy to be adopted during the floor test," he said.

He also justified the BJP's move to align with Ajit Pawar, saying even the Sena has joined hands with Congress president Sonia Gandhi. He also said that Ajit Pawar's whip would be applicable to MLAs of the NCP by virtue of him being the 'leader of the NCP legislature party.'

BJP flays Sena over chief's 'evil deeds'

SONU SHRIVASTAVA MUMBAI, NOV. 24

Emboldened by its new government in the state, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has launched a scathing attack against its former ally, Shiv Sena.

BJP leader and MLA Ashish Shelar on Sunday hit out at the Shiv Sena, stating that evil deeds were committed when Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray had gone to meet Congress leader Ahmed Patel in the middle of the night. Mr Shelar's jibe was in reference to a late-night meeting between Mr Patel and Mr Thackeray on November 12. According to sources, the meeting took place at a five star hotel in Mumbai.

'Missing' MLA urges family not to worry

Mumbai, Nov 24: Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader Nitin Pawar, for whom a missing complaint was filed on Sunday, has posted a video urging the people to not worry about him.

"I request my family and the people to not worry about me. I am with Sharad Pawar, Ajit Pawar and Chhagan Bhujbal. Nothing otherwise should be thought, by my family and people," he said in the video.

A complaint had been filed by Nitin's son at Panchwati police station, saying that his father had gone out of home for a meeting of the party on November 23, but had not returned.

Nitin has won from the Kalwan assembly seat in Maharashtra.

— ANI

Sena supporter attempts suicide

Mumbai, Nov 24: A Shiv Sena supporter allegedly tried to commit suicide in Maharashtra's Washim district apparently after being upset over party chief Uddhav Thackeray not becoming the chief minister, police said on Sunday.

The incident took place at Manora Chowk on Saturday evening when Ramesh Balu Jadhav, a resident of Umari village in Washim, located around 580 km from Mumbai, came there for some work.

When he got the news that BJP leader Devendra Fadnavis was sworn in as the chief minister, Mr Jadhav, who was inebriated, inflicted several cuts on his hands with a blade, an official at Digras police station said.



NCP leader Jayant and Dilip Valse Patil come out after meeting Maharashtra deputy chief minister Ajit Pawar at Churchgate in Mumbai on Sunday.

— ASIAN AGE

Modi hails people's maturity after Ayodhya verdict

Prime Minister says public's restraint proves that there is nothing bigger than national interest for Indians

AGE CORRESPONDENT With agency inputs NEW DELHI, NOV. 24

The patience, restraint and maturity displayed by the people after the Supreme Court delivered its verdict in the Ayodhya case proves that there is nothing bigger than national interest for Indians, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Sunday. In his monthly "Mann ki Baat" radio programme he said after the "historic verdict", the country has moved ahead on a new path, with a new resolve.

"It is my hope and wish that New India imbibes this feeling and forges ahead in a spirit of peace, unity and goodwill," he said. In other remarks on the programme while interacting with a group of National Cadet Corps cadets, Mr Modi said, "I never had the desire to enter politics, but now that I am a part of it I give my best on how to work for the people."

When one of the cadets asked him "had you not been a politician, what would you have been," Mr Modi described it as a "difficult question". "Now this is



PM Narendra Modi with Chhattisgarh governor Anusuiya Uikey during a meeting in New Delhi on Sunday.

— PTI

a very difficult question because every child goes through multiple phases in

life. Sometimes one wants to become this, sometimes one wants to become that, but it

is true that I never had the desire to enter politics, nor I ever thought about it," he said.

In his last Mann ki Baat address on Diwali, Mr Modi had referred to the 2010 Allahabad high court judgment on the Ayodhya issue. He had recalled how the government, civil society and people had maintained peace and harmony back then.

"This time too, when the Supreme Court pronounced its judgment on November 9, 130 crore Indians once again proved, that for them, national interest is

supreme. The values of peace, unity and goodwill are paramount in our country," he said. The Prime Minister said the apex court verdict was "embraced with open arms".

"They accepted the verdict with ease and with peace... I am particularly grateful to them for the patience, restraint and maturity shown by them," he said. The prime minister was of the view that while on the one hand, a protracted legal battle has ended, on the other, the respect for the judiciary has grown in the country.

BHU staff seeks replacement of Muslim teacher

NITIN MAHAJAN NEW DELHI, NOV. 24

About 50 faculty members and former professors of the Banaras Hindu University have come out in support of students opposing the appointment of Firoz Khan to the Sanskrit Vidya Dharm Vignyan Department (earlier known as the faculty of Hindu theology).

In a letter to President Ram Nath Kovind, who is also a visitor to the Banaras Hindu University, these senior academics have called for the immediate annulment of the appointment of Mr Khan to the department and for him to be placed in any other Sanskrit-teaching department of the university.

The academics have pointed out that appointment of Mr Khan was done by violating the tradition and established norms of the University the letter says, "the Sanskrit Vidya Dharm Vignyan department should not be tinkered with as the appointment of any non-Hindu is against the established norms and tradition of the department."

They stated that the department has been operating for over 100 years and the appointment of a non-Hindu would be a break in tradition, causing irreparable damage to the students at university. "The appoint-

ment of any non-Hindu to the department would cause disruption to the religious, tradition, karna kanda education of students training to be acharyas and shastris of the religion," the submission to the President adds.

The submission to the President has the signatures of over 50 serving and retired members of the Sanskrit Vidya Dharm Vignyan department. The letter of the senior serving and retired faculty of BHU comes soon after the Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh affiliate, Samskrita Bharati, backed Mr Khan for the appointment to the post.

"The students of this department can't be forced to study under a Muslim or Christian teacher. If this is down it is going to lead to unprecedented chaos and the acharya parampara would become void. If educated under a non-Hindu the doors of employment and religious practices by Hindu organisations would be forever closed for these students," the letter adds.

TIMELINE

9.30 AM: Senior Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Raut says Ajit Pawar supported the BJP due to the fear of jail

9.30 AM: NCP MLA Baban Shinde, the supporter of Ajit Pawar, meets party chief Sharad Pawar at his Silver Oak residence

9.50 AM: NCP MLA Anil Patil, who accompanied Ajit Pawar for the oath ceremony, tweets saying he is with the party

10.30 AM: NCP Leader Dilip Walse Patil reaches Ajit Pawar's residence

11 AM: Jayant Patil, the newly appointed NCP legislative party leader, reaches Raj Bhavan, to meet the governor along with the support letter of party MLAs

11.05 AM: BJP MLA Ravindra Chavan reaches Hotel Renaissance at Powai, where NCP MLAs have been put up

1 PM: BJP leader Ashish Shelar says that chief minister Devendra Fadnavis has the support of 170 MLAs and he will prove the majority

3 PM: The meeting of BJP legislative party starts at Vasant Smriti

3.40 PM: Shiv Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray holds a meeting with Sharad Pawar and the NCP MLAs at Hotel Renaissance

4.11 PM: Ajit Pawar tweets thanking PM Narendra Modi

Odisha's Ganjam district set to introduce water-bells in schools

AKSHAYA KUMAR SAHOO BHUBANESWAR, NOV. 24

Odisha's Ganjam district administration has decided to introduce 'water bells' in schools under its jurisdiction to ensure that students drink adequate quantities of water to stay healthy, a senior official said on Sunday.

All the schools in Ganjam district have been instructed to ring three 'water bells' from Monday to remind children to drink water, the official said.

"We have decided to introduce water bells in all schools in the district, including government, private and Anganwadi ones, from November 25. The necessary instructions have been issued to school authorities," said district collector Vijay

● The collector said the initiative aimed at making drinking of water a habit among children to ensure that they stay hydrated.

Amruta Kulange.

The collector said the initiative aimed at making drinking of water a habit among children to ensure that they stay hydrated.

The initiative was first started in Kerala and replicated in Karnataka and Telangana while Andhra Pradesh is considering implementing it across the state, he said.

Ganjam District Education Officer (DEO) Sanatan Panda said the water bells would be rung at 11.40 am, 1.30 pm and

3.15 pm from Mondays to Fridays. "On Saturdays, the bells will be rung at 8 am, 9.30 am and 10.50 am. Each break will last for five minutes and it will be compulsory for every student to drink water during that period," he said.

Mr Panda said all the schools in the district have drinking water facilities. "Most of the children carry water bottles to the schools. Those who do not have bottles can drink water from the institutes' facilities," he said.

The DEO said the collector is mooting to provide the children with water bottles that are not made of single-use plastic under the 'Mo School' (My school) initiative.

However, he added that this may take some time.



Bihar deputy chief minister Sushil Kumar Modi rides a bicycle during the Fit India Movement, part of Swami Vivekananda Swasthya Cycle Yatra, in Patna on Sunday.

— PTI



Governors, LG's are "most important link" to ensure better coordination between Centre and states, says President Ram Nath Kovind



Knowledge more important than faith to understand Buddha — Dalai Lama Tibetan leader

SHORT TAKES

Youth kills self after quizzing over drugs

Bhubaneswar: A youth of Kukudanga village in Talcher area of Odisha's Angul district allegedly committed suicide after being reprimanded by police over brown sugar consumption. The deceased, identified as Jesha Pradhan (26), was returning home with his brother after attending a wedding. In the meantime, a police team was questioning two youths on the particular road for consuming brown sugar. The cops reportedly detained Pradhan and his brother. Though the two brothers pleaded innocence, police took their photo with the accused duo and reprimanded them. Later, Pradhan went home and ended his life.

Maoists torch 9 vehicles in C'garh

Bhopal: Maoists on Sunday torched a number of vehicles and machineries used for mining in the iron ore mining facility of state-owned National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC) at Kirandul in Chhattisgarh's south Bastar district of Dantewada. According to the Bastar police, a group of armed Naxals stormed the NMDC's Kirandul mining, located on Bailadila hills and set ablaze six dumper trucks and three excavators. The ultras also looted 16 mobile phone sets from drivers and helpers of these vehicles, before fleeing the spot.

Parents end lives after killing kids

Agartala: A couple allegedly committed suicide in West Tripura district after poisoning their two children, the police said on Sunday. The incident has triggered a political slugfest in the state with the CPI(M) and the Congress blaming it on unemployment and starvation, while the ruling BJP accusing the erstwhile Left Front rule for its alleged failure to implement poverty eradication measures. The police recovered the bodies on Saturday and sent them for post-mortem. — PTI

SHARAD BLASTS AJIT PAWAR

■ **Continued from Page 1** tweets raised eve more eyebrows in political circles. He said: "I am in the NCP and shall always be in the NCP and @PawarSpeaks Saheb is our leader. Our BJP-NCP alliance shall provide a stable Government in Maharashtra for the next five years which will work sincerely for the welfare of the State and its people (sic)." His comments created a lot of confusion within the NCP as they indicated Sharad Pawar was aware of his nephew's actions. However, the NCP chief promptly came forward to clear the dust. "There is no question of forming an alliance with @BJP4Maharashtra. NCP has unanimously decided to ally with @ShivSena & @INCMaharashtra to form the government (sic)," Mr Pawar tweeted. "Shri Ajit Pawar's statement is false and misleading in order to create confusion and false perception among the people (sic)," he added. Earlier, the efforts of NCP leaders to bring Ajit Pawar back to the party yielded no results. Senior leaders Jayant Patil and Dilip Walse-Patil met Ajit Pawar at his residence to persuade him to change his mind. But their efforts yielded no positive results. Rohit Pawar, the grand-nephew of Sharad Pawar, meanwhile, also appealed for unity both within the family and the party.

Centre extends ban on Bodo insurgent outfit by 5 more yrs

AGE CORRESPONDENT WITH AGENCY INPUTS NEW DELHI, NOV. 24

The Union home ministry on Sunday extended the ban on Assam-based Bodo insurgent group, the National Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFB) by another five years. "The NDFB has been indulging in illegal and violent activities, intending to undermine the sovereignty and territorial integrity of India in furtherance of its objective of achieving a separate Bodoland", said Union home ministry in a notification, extending the ban on the north east militant group. The ministry extended the ban on NDFB under the provisions of sub-section (1) of section 3

► **The ministry said the group has been indulging in extortion of money from various sections of the society to finance and execute its plans to create a separate Bodoland**

of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967. The ministry said by its unlawful and violent activities, the NDFB has been "undermining the authority of the government, spreading terror and panic among people, causing carnage and ethnic violence, resulting in killings and destruction of properties of non-Bodos, inhabiting the Bodo-dominated areas in Assam".

"For the aforesaid reasons", the notification said "the Central government is of the opinion that the NDFB's activities are detrimental to the sovereignty and integrity of India and that it is an unlawful association".

The Central government, the notification added, is also "of the opinion that unless NDFB's unlawful activities are kept under control, the organisation may re-group and re-arm itself, make fresh recruitment, indulge in violent, terrorist and secessionist activities, collect funds and endanger the lives of innocent citizens and security forces personnel". "Therefore, circumstances do exist, which render it necessary to declare the NDFB as an

unlawful association with immediate effect," it said. Accordingly "in exercise of powers conferred by sub-section (1) of section 3 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 (Act 37 of 1967), the Central government hereby declares the NDFB, along with all its groups, factions and front organisations, as an unlawful association".

The ban on NDFB comes with immediate effect and will last for five years, said a senior official of the Union home minister. The ministry said the group has been indulging in extortion of money from various sections of the society to finance and execute its plans to create a separate Bodoland.



An NCC cadet displays his skills during the National Cadet Corps Day in Jabalpur on Sunday. — PTI

Barter 'PoK for tomatoes': MP farmers' offer to Imran

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY BHOPAL, NOV. 24

Tribal farmers of Jhabua in Madhya Pradesh have made an 'offer' to Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan to help the latter end the unprecedented tomato crisis facing his country, suggesting him to barter Pak-occupied Kashmir (PoK) with the pulpy vegetable.

In a letter to the cricketer-turned-PM of Pakistan, the Jhabua farmers' union said their offer of "tomato for PoK" would not only help bring down the skyrocketing prices of the vegetable in his country but also normalize relations between India and Pakistan.

The letter has also set some other conditions to resume supply of tomato

■ **In a letter to Pakistan's PM, the Jhabua farmers' union said their offer of "tomato for PoK" would not only help bring down prices of the vegetable in his country but also normalize India-Pak relations.**



to Pakistan from Madhya Pradesh.

Besides deportation of fugitive underworld don Dawood Ibrahim to India by Pakistan, the farmers also sought apology from the neighbour for the 26/11 Mumbai terror attack.

The offer by Jhabua farmers comes in the wake of tomato prices in Pakistan touching as high

as ₹400 per kilo these days, making Mr Khan a butt of jokes by people in his country.

A girl in Pakistan was seen wearing 'tomato chain' instead of customary gold chain in her neck during her wedding apparently to poke fun at Mr Khan for acute shortage of the glossy red vegetable in the country.

Five tribal dominated districts of Madhya Pradesh, Jhabua, Ratlam, Khargone, Shajapur and Dhar, are known for producing tomato.

Tomatoes were earlier supplied to Pakistan from these districts through 'mandis' (agriculture markets) in Mumbai and Delhi. However, farmers in these districts have stopped supplying tomato to Pakistan in protest against Pulwama attack.

SC seeks letters

■ **Continued from Page 1** deputy chief minister Ajit Anantrao Pawar.

In the course of the hearing, Mr Mehta informed the court that he has no instructions from the governor and he was appearing in his capacity as solicitor-general. However, later during the hearing, he clarified that he was appearing for the Central government.

The court, for the time being, kept in abeyance the prayer seeking a direction to governor Koshiyarti to invite the "Maha Vikas Aghadi", comprising the Shiv Sena, NCP and Congress,

Cong will corner BJP

■ **Continued from Page 1** Ajit Pawar in the Supreme Court.

On Sunday, the Congress demanded an immediate floor test, and alleged that the BJP was "running away" from proving its majority in the Maharashtra Assembly as it does not have the required numbers. Congress leader and former CM Prithviraj Chavan said the Supreme Court should order a floor test immediately to stop the horse-trading by the BJP.

Congress' chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala said the cur-

Former MP CM Kailash Joshi passes away at 91

Leader's 'unusual' sleeping habit had cost him his chair

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY BHOPAL, NOV. 24

Veteran Jan Sangh leader and first non-Congress chief minister of Madhya Pradesh Kailash Joshi, whose brief tenure in office was marred by a bizarre controversy over his "unusual" sleeping habits, passed away here on Sunday after prolonged illness.

The widower was 91 and is survived by three sons and three daughters.

He was admitted in a private hospital last month after he com-



plained of discomfort. He breathed his last in the hospital in the morning.

The former chief minister, who had created a record then by winning Assembly polls from his home constituency of Bagli in Madhya Pradesh for eight times in a row, headed the Janata Party government in the state in June, 1977.

His 'unusual' sleeping habits had caused embarrassment not only to him but also for his government then, leading to curtailment of his tenure

to one year. He was said to have been forced to ignore the protocol of receiving then Prime Minister Morarji Desai at the airport here, when the latter had arrived in Bhopal on a three-day visit to MP then, as he had fallen asleep at the time.

In fact, the Opposition then had made his sleeping habits a major issue to target his government.

Born on July 14, 1929 in the village of Haat Pipliya in Dewas district in MP, late Mr Joshi was one of founding members of Jan Sangh (the old face of Bharatiya Janata Party).

'No power can stop building of mandir'

Pandu (Jharkhand), Nov. 24: Union defence minister Rajnath Singh on Sunday said no power in the world could get in the way of construction of a "grand" Ram temple in Ayodhya.

Addressing a poll meeting here in Bishrampur Assembly constituency, the minister also noted that the Rafale fighter jets, acquired by the country from France, were capable of destroying terror camps across the border.

Amid "Jai Shree Ram" chants, he said, "A grand Ram temple will be built in Ayodhya and no power in the world can stop that from happening. The path for construction of the temple has been cleared by the Supreme Court."

Talking about the abrogation of Article 370 in Kashmir, the veteran BJP leader said, "In 1952, Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee (founder of the Bharatiya Jana Sangh, the predeces-



Rajnath Singh

sor to the BJP) had said that there cannot be two Constitutions, two prime ministers and two flags in one country.

We have fulfilled his dream and lived up to the promise made in our poll manifesto."

Condemning the Maoist violence over the past two days in the poll-bound state, he said, the BJP governments at the Centre and the state would give a befitting reply to those responsible for the attack.

"I have seen a couple of incidents happening in Jharkhand.

"You should be rest assured that the BJP governments at the Centre and the state will not allow anybody to use guns. A befitting reply will be given to them," he insisted.

— PTI

Snake bite case: Victim's classmates threatened

Wayanad, Nov. 24: Classmates of a girl, who died of snake-bite at a government school here, alleged on Sunday that they were threatened by some people, claiming to be past students, for giving statements against the school management.

The students said they were threatened when they went to record their statement with the Child Rights Commission about the snake-bite incident. "They alleged that we

have been trained to talk against the school. No, it was not the case. Our friend and classmate died. We will stand strong in this case. We will stand with her family," Nimisha, a classmate of Shehala told a TV channel. Her father Rajesh too said some people threatened them by saying witnesses would have to face the consequences alone.

The police have registered a case in this regard. — PTI

MLAs kept in hotel

■ **Continued from Page 1** Congress leader Ahmed Patel had arrived at the J.W. Marriott Hotel on Sunday to meet the MLAs from his party. Mr Patel was holding a meeting in the hotel with senior leaders, a source said.

Senior Congress leader Nasim Khan said: "We are confident that the BJP will fail in proving its majority on the floor of the House."

PTI adds: Senior Congress leader Ashok Chavan on Sunday alleged that BJP leaders had booked rooms in hotels where his party MLAs were put up and were contacting some of them. Speculation was rife that the task of getting MLAs into the BJP's fold has been entrusted to senior leader

Radhkrishna Vikhe Patil, who had crossed over from the Congress to the BJP ahead of the October Assembly polls.

When asked about the speculation, Mr Vikhe Patil gave a cryptic and open-to-interpretation reply, stating: "I have good relations with all MLAs."

Mr Chavan told reporters that some Congress MLAs had told him about

the move by the BJP. "Our MLAs are united and will not be poached," Mr Chavan said.

The Congress legislators were earlier supposed to leave for Jaipur; but were later put up in Mumbai in view of the fast-paced political developments, according to sources.

N-E students in Delhi

■ **Continued from Page 1** entered India till December 2014.

Expressing deep anguish over the BJP's plan to pass the CAB, AASU president Dipankar Nath said: "The Narendra Modi government wants to pass the communal and unconstitutional citizenship bill to offer protection to illegal Bangladeshis. This attempt to pass the bill is not only against the inter-

ests of the indigenous people, but also a violation of the Assam Accord. Besides continuing with the movement against the bill across the Northeast, we are here in Delhi to take our protest to the national level." The Jamaat-e-Islami Hind has, meanwhile, opposed the plan to carry out the NRC exercise all over the country, as well as the proposed Citizenship Amendment Bill.

50 YEARS AGO IN

DECCAN
ChroniclePM reaffirms
faith in
socialism

New Delhi: 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 programmes.

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

The requisitioned AICC session did not adopt any formal resolution on the economic policy.

After Mrs. Gandhi made a statement on economic policy, the House debated it for three hours.

Interim Congress President C. Subramaniam announced at the meeting that panels would be appointed for various subjects and their reports would be submitted to the Working Committee before the plenary session at Bombay.

The interim President Mr. C. Subramaniam announced the nomination of 10 others to the 21 member committee which will also be an interim body until the plenary session to be held in Bombay in the last week of December.

Initiating a discussion on the economic policy, Mrs. Gandhi said that the Congress had passed many resolutions on economic matters at Avadi, Bhubaneswar, Bangalore and other places. "I wish to assure you that everything stated therein would be carried out."

Without making a reference to the 10-point programme Mrs. Gandhi stressed that since the time before the session was limited, she was not going into the details of these economic programmes."

Health policy pointers for India in China's tryst with privatisation

Sucheta Dasgupta
focus

■ Our neighbour's experience of commercialising medical care provides valuable insights into balancing concerns of equity and access to drugs, diagnostics and treatment with revenue and growth

Overprescription of costly drugs, gratuitous diagnostic tests and informal ententes between private clinics and the corner drugstore? These are everyday realities that a patient in every city and small town routinely suffer en route to treatment. Money may not be the doctor's dilemma as much as it is that of the unethical businessman; and it is inevitable for private healthcare providers to see illness as a market to exploit and have the shareholder's and not the patient's best interests at heart. Yet, call it a failure of public funding or of policymaking; or call it

the principle of liberalisation and fair play, private sector participation in healthcare is here to stay in India and at the global level.

Interestingly, India is not alone in its struggles to balance equity with profitability in this domain, and insurance costs with, say, revenue. The experience of a large economy next door, that of China, which, significantly, has followed an egalitarian model of development, offers lessons and clues to our problems. These have been carefully researched and cogently presented to policy enthusiasts in the field by Rama V. Baru, faculty at the Centre of Social Medicine and Community Health, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi, and Madhurima Nundy, sociologist and assistant director at Indian Institute of Chinese Studies, in a slim volume titled *Commercialisation of Medical Care in China: Changing Landscapes* (Routledge, pp.112, ₹695).

It would indeed be the original sin of liberal illiberalism if we refuse to look at these invaluable insights that have come up in this process and not pressure policymakers to factor them into their thoughts on the viability of Ayushman Bharat and the challenges of the Accredited Social Health Activist programme, the building block of India's sadly-neglected National Rural Health Mission. The ASHAs are indeed India's equivalent to China's barefoot doctors — community health workers trained by allopaths to man the network of primary-level healthcare centres in the world's most populated country. With privatisation kicking in starting 1978, the barefoot doctors have decreased in numbers.

The late 1970s saw the advent of market socialism in China leading to decollectivisation of agriculture and the collapse of the cooperative medical



Madhurima Nundy (3rd from left) and Rama V. Baru (4th) at the launch of their book at India International Centre Annexe in New Delhi

scheme which funded basic healthcare. Public hospitals were commercialised and autonomised. Foreign capital entered the business through manufacturing and sale of medical devices soon after economic liberalisation in the 1980s. The 1990s saw the growth of private hospitals at the secondary and tertiary levels by Chinese entrepreneurs in the eastern and southeastern provinces, especially in Beijing and Shanghai.

Quite laudably, China had achieved near-universal health coverage with 90 per cent of its rural population enjoying it by this time. By 1985, however, this percentage had fallen to 5.4 per cent. The 1990s saw rapid increase in out-of-pocket health expenditure and inability to access care. It led to a reversal in health status indicators and a resurgence of communicable diseases such as tuberculosis.

● The SARS epidemic in 2003 had acted as a wake-up call for the Chinese government which responded by reinvesting in and strengthening primary-level 'gate-keeper' healthcare

So what are the lessons that the China experience in privatising medical care provide us? These are three-fold. The first is that at 6.36 per cent of its gross domestic product China invests about five-and-a-half times more than India in healthcare. India invests only 1.15 per cent of its GDP in this sector. And for China, this investment is increasing. Second, unlike India where the NRHM has very little penetration and is alarmingly understaffed where it is present, China had already succeeded in building a robust primary

healthcare network before it shifted to market socialism. This, as well as the availability of government funding, has enabled it to undertake course corrections whenever public health indicators have dipped too low or there has been any kind of crisis. For instance, the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) epidemic in 2003 had acted as a wake-up call for the Chinese government which responded by reinvesting in and strengthening primary-level 'gate-keeper' healthcare. Third, the government has reinvested in a deeper public health insurance scheme. This happened when out-of-pocket expenditure of citizens shot up in the first decade of commercialisation to 60 per cent of the population. With government intervention, this figure has again come down and is now at 30 per cent.

The Chinese government's role today is split

between public funding of social insurance for curative services and provisioning of private healthcare. Its now-limited investment in public institutions, especially at the multi-specialty ('sub-specialty?') level, means the imperative to generate revenue in the short term through healthcare remains an important goal. This brings up the question, should all arms and activities of the government be aimed at fiscal profligacy? Pertinently, China continues to be the world's largest manufacturing economy and exporter of goods with a growth rate that is currently higher than that of India.

Says Prof. Baru, author of the study and part of a pioneering unit of China watchers in public health: "Why don't you see the value in investing in education and health? Even medical education has now been commercialised in India. Indian students

from lower income households who do not make it to government colleges are moving out to China and Ukraine for medical education because the course fee is cheaper. It is leading to money going out of the country and brain drain. Upon return, these students who have opted for the English medium courses of medical study which are of a lower standard are unable to clear exams and compete with homegrown doctors."

However, the private sector's influence in this field is irreversible. "That's because when markets come in, they reconfigure the health sector. There is a certain logic of the market that plays out in this case and the public sector is increasingly being transformed by its presence. That is what the China experience shows us, that the public sector as we once knew it is no longer there anymore," Prof. Baru says.

Fantastic storytellers and where to find them: Organic markets!



Reshil Charles
meanwhile

■ It's an early November Sunday morning at the restored 90 acre Sunder Nursery against the magical backdrop of a 14th century Serai... A large part of the country goes through life eating everything the organic evangelists shun, possibly not even aware of what 'clean' food is. Just happy to eat. You won't find them in these bubbles (oops, I meant markets).

Here's a joke I heard — Lalaji lands up at the nutritionist with all sorts of dietary problems ranging from cholesterol to sugar. Nutritionist tells him to switch from white to black rice and refined sugar to jaggery. Lalaji finds his solution at the Sunday organic market. It works him wonders. He goes on to tell ten more lalas. The nutritionist becomes Rujuta Diwaker (possibly the most commercially successful one in the country) and organic markets transform into a goldmine for entrepreneurs with the gift of a gab that can turn you lactose intolerant, even if you are not!

It's an early November Sunday morning at the restored 90 acre Sunder Nursery against the magical backdrop of a 14th century Serai. Old tombs stand firmly rooted in their colourful past, surrounded by endless gardens that bear generously spread trees and flowers no less in colour. If further plans materialise, then soon Humayun's tomb on the other side of the road (and the Zoo behind) will be connected to it and Delhi's equivalent of New York's Central Park (and also one of *Time* magazine's 100 greatest places in the World) will have an interconnected five-kilometre path winding through a commendable example of preserving a historic city's heritage. But when I ask for a *pancake* at a stall at the 'Earth Collective' organic market that sets up here every Sunday in the courtyard, the story "made with our own home-made cacao, and ingredients sourced from our organic farm" to justify a single piece at ₹250, evokes the same 'feel good' sensation as the one about

Sunder Nursery's restoration. Only, the gardens and tombs don't need words to words to sell. They are there to see. The pancake is sold *entirely* on Tanvir Logan's word, with the invitation to visit his "Crumaco kitchen and farm and vet the ingredients for yourself", should I want justification. But at that time, in that place, the *story* is the backbone of the product at Urban organic markets.

To be clear — what we are talking of here are not simply raw organic 'produce' markets (though raw produce is available) where the seller spreads out carrots and tomatoes straight from the farm with no exchange of words, other than haggling for price. Be it Chennai, Hyderabad, Chandigarh, Mumbai, Delhi, Bangalore, Ahmedabad, Goa (all cities with urban organic markets), a common trend of weekend organic markets has emerged over the years that are held in malls, farmhouses, restaurants, historic sites and gardens. The products cover a wide range of honey, organic red, black and brown rice (pardon me if I missed a colour), essential oils for the body and soul, home-made muesli, Himalayan pink salt, Kombucha tea, plantation coffee, craft beer and all sorts of other pesticide and preservative free ingredients for your meals. The sellers are an interesting mix of mid-career shifters, energetic young start-ups, retired folk and some very happy and glowing people who wear their brands on their sleeves and *look* the product (literally, in the case of the essential oils and 'homemade' items). Since the products are sometimes a complete shift from what the regular stores and markets offer, statements like "this honey comes from bees in Himachal that extract nectar from a specific flower known for its benefits", "I source my rice from the Northeast so the lesser known Northeastern farmer can get his due", and the punch line from the *white* man in the corner who "loves India



A glimpse of the Sunday organic market at Sunder Nursery near Humayun's Tomb in New Delhi

and figured If I'm here I might as well put out some gluten-free vegan pies", start pouring out as hooks to lure you into arms distance. Once you actually show interest, some very interesting personal back stories of why a lot of the sellers turned organic, emerge. It is hard not to sample a product or buy that 'gluten-free' pie, when you hear of how eating 'clean' has helped some of them live better with Diabetes and in some cases, overcome cancer. Or when Annu tells you how she used work as domestic help at the house of an expat and learnt how to make 'vegan khana' there, and today runs a healthy catering business

with her husband.

"I personally vet each story before I offer a space to anyone to set up a stall at the market. There are quite a few vague and superficial brands and sellers out there. Over the years I've developed a nose to sniff them out and keep them far from my market", assures Meenu Nageshwaran, who charges ₹2,500 a stall at her year-round Sunday organic market — The Earth Collective. Having turned organic herself in the early 2000s after being diagnosed with diabetes, she went on to start a home kitchen, give organic cooking classes and slowly came into the organic business with the market, which has shifted many loca-

tions before settling in at The Sunder Nursery courtyard in Delhi. "You do know that we have become the largest and most trusted market all over India?" she states, based on the conclusion of being "told so by customers".

The 'story' continues at the Bandra Farmers Market in Mumbai, where "there are those customers who come right at the start, get their products and leave. Those who come with time in hand, do their entire weeks shopping and sample all sorts of organic products while having conversations with the sellers about the story behind it, and those who come to eat and enjoy a Sunday morning and get to know more about the organic world and make new friends in the process."

Kavita Mukhi, founder of the Bandra market, may have held

herself back thirty years ago from "shouting about it from the rooftop" when she discovered how living and eating organic boosted her "energy levels and immunity", but allowed her conversion to flow into starting (and recently opting out of) the organic brand Conscious Foods, as well as run an organic store and become a consultant to young entrepreneurs setting up organic cafes and brands. "The stories about where and how sellers source their products help in better communicating them", she agrees. "customers can see through smart words and the 'gut' feeling, plays a key role. If the product does not make the *difference* it claims to, the story falls flat."

Why organic is expensive and whether one should blindly convert to it is another debate all together with arguments on both sides. One fact is, that for the moment these markets cater to a small section of society with money to experiment (remember Lalaji?). Dr Shantiswaroop Dhar, a leading Gastroenterologist, points out a few more. "Before switching to gluten free/wheat free/dairy free products, one needs to first check whether they are actually *allergic* to gluten, dairy and wheat in the first place. Yes, eating clean and pesticide free food does make people (possibly) feel lighter and better, but there are many who have health issues despite that. Food is one aspect of life. A lot of people feel that as long as they eat clean, they can smoke and drink away, sleep at odd hours — all factors that contribute to rising stress levels, that eventually make or break health." Hence, a large part of the country goes through life eating everything the organic evangelists shun, possibly not even aware of what 'clean' food is. Just happy to eat. You won't find them in these bubbles (oops, I meant markets).

Reshil Charles is a Web and TV producer, presenter and writer who tracks trends



A campaign to encourage abstinence from alcohol during January

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

THE ASIAN AGE

MONDAY | 25 NOVEMBER 2019 | NEW DELHI

Seeking secretive funds, govt overruled RBI



Nitin Sethi

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

Days 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 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."

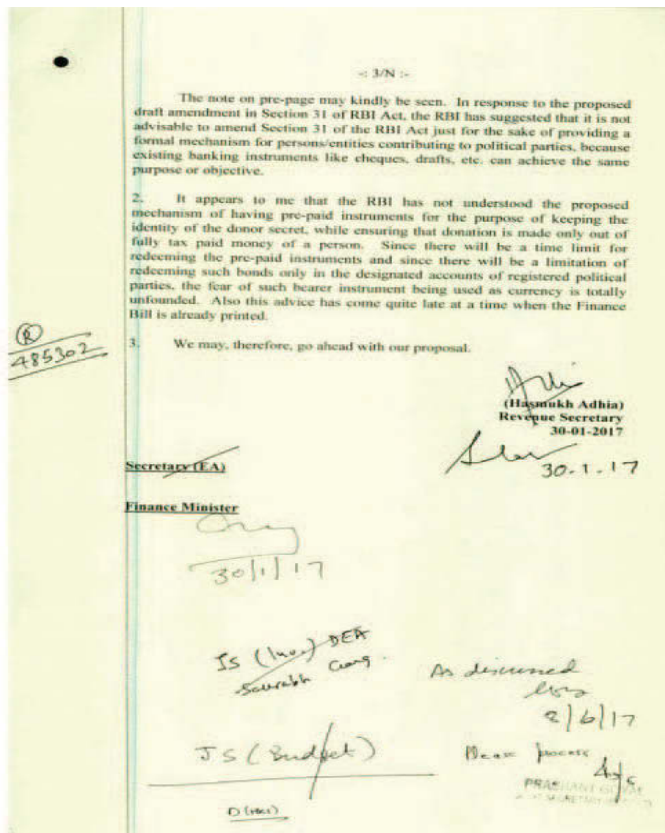
To counter RBI's warning that the bonds would seriously undermine a core principle of central banking and set a bad precedent, the finance ministry did not even try to provide an economic argument.

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

We 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.

The 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.

There 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)

The 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 Gorakh, 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 experience, no need to become scholars.

Once a sannyasin asked Ramana Maharshi about Samadhi, and his answer was: Holding on to reality is Samadhi. Holding on to Samadhi with effort is Savikalpa Samadhi. Merging in reality and remaining unaware of the world is Nirvikalpa Samadhi. Remaining in the primal, pure, natural state without effort is Sahaja Nirvikalpa Samadhi. We can see that these are mere words for those who are not on the path of experience. They have no use for others just as the word, water, does not quench thirst.

Talking of the mystic woman, whose name was Sahajo, Osho explains: In the bliss of awakening, she drinks the juice of her own self-nature. And it is very easy to drink, it is very easy to drown in this atmosphere, it is very easy to immerse yourself in these waters. It is natural. Nothing has to be done at all. It is showering without any cause, a showering without clouds. Even the clouds are not there, so where are these showers coming from? The sky is clear, there are no clouds and it is raining — showering without clouds. Nothing has to be done inside you; no cause has to be searched for. Sahaj means without any cause. 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



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

AGE 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.

REVIEW

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 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.



—PTI

Iranian hackers are targeting industrial control systems

AGE 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

AGE 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	-0.15
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.

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■ 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

Dipam started BPCL sale process before Cabinet nod

FC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, NOV 24

The Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (Dipam) has started the sale process of Bharat Petroleum Corp Ltd (BPCL) more than a month before the Cabinet decision last Wednesday to sell the entire government stake in the oil major. In the run-up to the decision, the Dipam had on October 11 issued advertisements seeking transaction and legal advisors as well as asset valuers for the stake sale, but masked the identity of the state-owned firm by merely saying they operate under the administrative control of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, or Ministry of Power, or Ministry of Shipping or Ministry of Railways. After that on November 20, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) gave the go-ahead for the BPCL sell-off. Soon after the Cabinet approval, Dipam unmasked the identity of disinvestment targets by issuing 'corrigendum' to the October 11 Request for Proposals. The RFP wanted asset valuer to identify, describe and list all proper-



ties and assets, including intangibles, and value them by comparison method, income capitalisation, discounted cash flow, cost approach or re-placement valuation method. The corrigendum said: "Strategic disinvestment of state of Government of India in a CPSE may be read as 'Strategic disinvestment of Government of India shareholding of 53.29 per cent in BPCL (except its equity shareholding of 61.65 per cent in Numaligarh Refinery Ltd (NRL) and management control thereon) along with transfer of management control to a strategic buyer." It may be noted that the CCEA also approved sale of the government's entire stake in Shipping Corporation of India Ltd (SCI), THDC India Ltd and North Eastern Electric Power Corp Ltd, or Neepco, to a

strategic investor along with management control. It also approved sale of 30.8 per cent of its 54.8 per cent interest in Container Corp of India Ltd, or Concor. Apparently in a hurry to conclude the sale of BPCL within this fiscal, the Dipam has set a 50-day deadline for an outside asset valuer to carry out the valuation of all assets of the oil major from the date of issue of an appointment letter, as per the RFP. The last day for submission of bids for appointment as asset valuer was November 4. According to sources, once the process of valuation is completed, invitation of price bids from potential acquirers can be done soon after. "The stake sale will follow a two-stage process of first inviting expression of interest (Eoi) from potential bidders, who will after due diligence be asked to submit price bids in the second part," the source said. Sources, however, said that the Dipam might invite Eoi from potential bidders pending receipt of the valuation report but price bids will come in only after getting the valuation report. A similar process will be followed for SCI and Concor, they said.

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

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.

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 arecaut 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

Commodity Compass

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 past 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



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.

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 ₹600 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 Rathie

Depreciation on

biz assets allowed

Q 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.

Q 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.

Q 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@rathieandmalanis.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)



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.

Plane crashes in Congo, 17 killed

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 Opp.

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 mobilising grassroots 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 TEHRAN'

Washington: 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.

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

Record numbers vote in Hong Kong local elections

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 Congress approves 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 offence. 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 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 criticised for his econom-

ic, 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 Swa-po 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." 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



Beckham left star struck

David Beckham was left 'star struck' after he had an encounter with the 'Mother of Dragons' from *Game of Thrones* Emilia Clarke



I was never raised on Santa as a kid, so I do not know how to play this out

— John Legend, American singer

IN BRIEF

Security forces raid Egypt media office

Cairo: Egyptian security officials have raided the offices of one of the country's few remaining independent media outlets, and what has been described as the last bastion of press freedom in the country, the Guardian reported. "Plainclothes security forces have raided *Mada Masr's* office in Cairo," the outlet said on Twitter. "Staff are currently being held inside, and their phones have been switched off." Security forces left 3.5 hours later after detaining at least three staff members including the editor-in-chief. — Agencies

Director of Perry Mason Marks dies

Los Angeles: Longtime producer and director Arthur Marks, who helmed many episodes of the *Perry Mason* TV series and produced several hit blaxploitation films, died at age 92. Marks passed away Nov. 13 at his home in Woodland Hills, California, his son Paul said Saturday. "My brother and I learned everything about the film industry from my father," said Paul Marks, who is a TV producer. "He was a pillar of the industry. He taught us the morals of the industry." — AP



Won't happen again: Sam Hunt after arrest

Los Angeles: Singer Sam Hunt has apologised to his fans in the wake of his arrest in Nashville on charges of driving under the influence. The singer took to Twitter on Saturday to post his apology. "Wednesday night I decided to drive myself home after drinking at a friend's show in downtown Nashville. It was a poor and selfish decision and I apologize to everyone who was unknowingly put at risk and let down by it. It won't happen again," he had written. The singer, 34, had been taken into custody on Thursday. — PTI

EX-MEMBER OF K-POP GIRL GROUP FOUND DEAD

Seoul: K-pop star and TV celebrity Goo Hara was found dead at her home in Seoul on Sunday, police said. Police said an acquaintance found the 28-year-old dead at her home in southern Seoul and reported it to authorities. The cause of death wasn't immediately known. Police refused to provide further details. Goo made her debut in 2008 as a member of the girl group Kara, which had big followings in South Korea, Japan and other Asian countries. She later worked as a solo artist and appeared on many TV shows. In May, Goo was reportedly found unconscious at her home and was hospitalized. She was embroiled last year in public disputes with an ex-boyfriend who claimed to be assaulted by her. Goo accused the man of having threatened to circulate a sex video of her. The case made her the subject of tabloid fodder and malicious online messages. In October, another K-pop star Sulji, was found dead at her home near Seoul. She was known for her outspokenness that was rare among female entertainers in conservative South Korea. Before her death, she appeared in a show and spoke out against online backlash she received over her lifestyle. — AP



Goo Hara



Statues of cats, a crocodile mummy and a wooden statue of goddess Neith are displayed after the announcement of a new discovery carried out by an Egyptian archaeological team in Giza's Saqqara necropolis, south of capital Cairo, on Saturday. — AFP



People walk on a footbridge across the flooded Riva degli Schiavoni waterfront in Venice on Sunday. — AFP

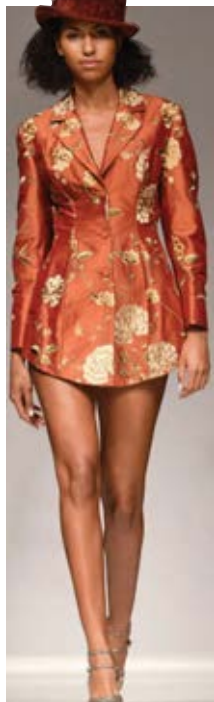


Bebe Rexha performs at Barclays Centre in New York City on Saturday. — AFP

Taiwanese actress Pink Yang at the red carpet of the 56th Golden Horse film awards, dubbed the Chinese 'Oscars', in Taipei on Saturday. — AFP



Eva Longoria (left) and Dania Ramirez at ABC's 30th Anniversary Talk Of The Town Gala in Beverly Hills, California, on Saturday. — AFP



A model walks the ramp during a fashion show in Budapest on Saturday. — AFP

Man found dead in US flat had died 3 years ago

Dallas: A US Navy veteran whose body was found inside his apartment in Dallas, Texas, is believed to have lain dead there for three years. Ronald Wayne White's family said they had reported his absence to the authorities on numerous occasions. His body was discovered during an investigation of apartment units whose tenants had not been using water in the DeSoto area complex, BBC reported. Staff who broke down the bolted front door found him on the kitchen floor. Mr White, who would have been 51 in 2016, had worked as a defence contractor since leaving the US Navy. He lived alone after he and his wife divorced, and frequently travelled outside the US on business. His mother, Doris Stevens, who lives in Long Island in New York, said her son had regularly contacted her but his calls ceased three years ago. She said she had reported her son missing to several different police departments, but had been told that because he was an adult and travelled extensively for work, a missing person investigation could not be opened. "My biggest question is, how in the world could my son have been dead in that apartment and nobody knows anything?" she told Dallas TV station WFAA. "All them days, holidays, I just suffered. Because nobody wanted to help find him."

White's third-floor modern apartment was located at the very north-west corner of apartment complex. — Agencies



Ronald Wayne

'Half of Shakespeare's Henry VIII was written by another playwright'

New York: It has been widely accepted that Shakespeare worked with an uncredited author to complete *Henry VIII*. Now, a new algorithm provides further proof that credit for the play should be evenly split between the Bard and his contemporary, John Fletcher. The five-act recounting of the British monarch's life marks a stylistic departure from the master playwright's earlier works, but historians haven't agreed on whom partial credit belongs. The 19th-century British scholar James Spedding was the first to formally posit that John Fletcher, Shakespeare's peer in the prestigious King's Men drama troupe, wrote several scenes throughout the *Henry VIII* based on the rhythm of the verses. Other historians suggest Philip Messenger, Fletcher's frequent collaborator, might've had a hand in the play, too. In an attempt to finally give credit where credit is due, Petr Plecháč of the Czech Academy of Sciences in Prague trained an algorithm to identify patterns in language and rhythm in all three playwrights' works written during the same time period as *Henry VIII*.

Fletcher and Shakespeare share credit evenly, Plecháč got granular, outlining the frequency with which the authors used certain words to how often they used contractions, CNN reported. The findings almost definitively rule out Messenger's involvement. But the analysis suggests that John Fletcher wrote almost half of the play. The first two scenes of Act 1 have been unmistakably the work of Shakespeare based on the rhythm of the verses, but the next four scenes in the first and second act belong to John Fletcher. — Agencies

Jaipur litfest all set to make its Doha debut

New Delhi: The Jaipur Literature Festival will make its debut in Doha, their first in the Middle East, from December 12 to 14, announced organisers. The three-day literary carnival, organised by Qatar National Library in partnership with Teamwork Arts, producer of the annual JLF, will feature renowned literary figures from around the world to celebrate the power of the written word. The prominent authors and thinkers to attend the event include renowned poet-lyricist Javed Akhtar, veteran actor Sharmila Tagore, author Anita Nair and actor-author Kim Pereira. "The line-up also has Dr. Amal Mohammed Al-Malki, founding dean of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences at Hamad bin Khalifa University, Qatar Foundation; Buket Uzuner, selected among the 75 Most Influential Women of the Republic

of Turkey on the occasion of the Republic of Turkey's 75th anniversary; and spokesperson for Qatar's ministry of foreign affairs," they said, adding that the full list of speakers will be announced soon. The JLF, often called "the greatest literary show on Earth", for its Doha edition has in store informative and stimulating events, discussions, and lectures with participation from all sectors of society, including schools, universities, community groups and special interest groups — creating a platform for an engaging and vibrant exchange of ideas. It goes hand-in-hand with the Library's celebration of the Qatar-India 2019 Year of Culture, which features many events in November and December. "The event serves as an incredible opportunity for Qatar to meet writers," said Dr. Sohail Wastawy, executive director of the library. — PTI

UK woman cop quit Twitter over hairstyle abuse

Derbyshire: A police officer said "sexist and homophobic" abuse sparked by her hairstyle led her to leave social media. Deputy chief constable Rachel Swann made several media appearances while leading the evacuation of Whaley Bridge in August, BBC reported. Some viewers mocked her on Twitter. Ms Swann said the reaction reflected wider problems with social media and she was shocked her "mere existence could cause such a depth of feeling". About 1,500 people were evacuated from Whaley Bridge when a dam wall at the nearby Toddbrook Reservoir was damaged in August. Ms Swann, the senior officer in the operation, noticed comments about her on social media after she appeared before cameras at a press conference. "Yes, I am a woman. Yes, I might have a slightly different hairstyle. Yes, I am quite small," she said.



Rachel Swann

lems with social media and she was shocked her "mere existence could cause such a depth of feeling". About 1,500 people

UAE eyes new frontiers with law for regulating space tourism and mining

Dubai: The United Arab Emirates, which sent its first astronaut into space this year and has plans to launch a probe to Mars, is looking at other new frontiers — space tourism and mining. But first, says the chief of the Emirates Space Agency, there needs to be regulation. Within a few months the UAE will enact its first space law, he said, designed to attract investment and regulate the

► UAE, which sent its 1st astronaut into space this year and has plans to launch a probe to Mars, is looking at space tourism and mining

► 'We think it's going to come to (fruition) within the next 10 years,' Emirates Space Agency chief Mohammed al-Ahbab had said

activities and services of companies operating in the country. "It was approved by the government and now is in its final stage of issuing,"

the space agency's director general Mohammed al-Ahbab told AFP. The UAE, whose colossal skyscrapers and mega-projects put it on the

world map, hopes other-worldly new industries could be the key to its economic future. The country already has the most diverse economy in the oil-rich Gulf, but the once-booming property, tourism and trade sectors that have made it a regional powerhouse have sagged in recent years. So now it is looking beyond earth itself, with grand ambitions for a country whose cities rise out of the desert. — AFP

El Nino swings violently in industrial age: Study

Washington: Rising surface temperature in the tropical Pacific Ocean for prolonged periods leads to a climate process called the El Nino, which have become more extreme due to human-induced climate change, according to a major study with physical evidence spanning millennia.

The researchers, including those from the Georgia Institute of Technology in the US, said El Ninos have become more intense in the industrial age, which stand to worsen storms, drought, and coral bleaching.

The study, published in the journal *Geophysical Research Letters*, compared chemical deposits found on present-day corals — that are dependent on water temperature — with similar deposits on older coral records representing relevant sea surface temperatures from the past 7,000 years.

According to the study, the industrial age swings in the tropical Pacific wind and ocean temperatures — called El Nino

■ Rising surface temperature in Pacific Ocean for prolonged periods leads to a climate process called the El Nino, which have become more extreme due to human-induced climate change

■ Study compared chemical deposits found on present-day corals with similar deposits on older coral records representing relevant sea surface temperatures from the past 7,000 years

Southern Oscillation — is 25 per cent stronger than in the pre-industrial records.

The researchers found patterns in ENSO with swings of heating and cooling of the equatorial Pacific waters.

They said every few years alternatively spurred El Nino, and the sister climate phenomenon La Nina — a climate pattern where the surface temperature of the tropical Pacific Ocean drops below the normal.

"What we're seeing in the last 50 years is outside any natural variability. It leaps off the baseline. Actually, we even see this

for the entire period of the industrial age," said study co-author Kim Cobb from the Georgia Institute of Technology.

"There were three extremely strong El Nino-La Nina events in the 50-year period, but it wasn't just these events. The entire pattern stuck out," Cobb added.

As part of the study, the researchers plunged hollow drill bits into living coral colonies, and fossil coral deposits to extract samples. The samples collected from more than 20 years of field expeditions — from 1981 to 2015 — contained hundreds of records, they said. — PTI

NEWS NUGGETS

DUTCH DOCTOR DIES AFTER LASSA FEVER INFECTION

The Hague: A Dutch doctor who contracted Lassa hemorrhagic fever in Sierra Leone in West Africa after treating patients has died in hospital, while a second doctor is undergoing treatment, the top Dutch health official had said on Sunday. The unnamed doctor had been flown back to the Netherlands on Tuesday and had been treated at a special isolation ward at a hospital in Leiden near Schiphol airport. "The patient... who has been treated in strict isolation, has died last night," Dutch health minister Bruno Bruins said. — AFP

OLIVE RIDLEY IN ODISHA COAST FOR MASS NESTING AKSHAYA KUMAR SAHOO BHUBANESWAR

Bringing cheers to wildlife and nature lovers, thousands of Olive Ridley turtles have arrived at Gahirmatha Marine Sanctuary in Odisha's Kendrapara district for breeding and mass nesting. In view of arrival of endangered sea turtles, the forest department



had made all sorts of arrangements for safety of these aquatic animals. According to reports, as many as 18 camps have been set up and over 50 forest officials have been deployed to protect the Olive Ridelys. Besides, two temporary camps have been built at Babubali and Agarnasi islands.



Iggy Azalea Cardi

\$366K worth of jewellery stolen from Iggy's home

Atlanta: Rappers Iggy Azalea and Playboi Carti have told Atlanta police that \$3,66,000 worth of jewellery was stolen from their rental home. The *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* reports a police report filed Nov. 17 lists 19 pieces of jewellery including diamond rings, platinum bracelets and luxury watches. Amethyst Kelly, who performs as Iggy Azalea, told police the theft occurred Nov. 14, when the back door was unlocked so Jordan Carter, known as Playboi Carti, could get in. The report says that at some point, they realized a designer bag in which they keep jewellery was missing from the second-floor dining room of their 6,500-square-foot (600-square-meter) home. It says surveillance video shows a masked gunman wearing gloves coming in the back door just after 9:50 p.m. and leaving within 10 minutes. — AP



SPORT | Cricket

Pink ball Test to go around India: Dada

14



SPORT | Tennis

Nadal & Co. enter first Davis Cup Finals since 2012

15



GUIDE TO FORTUNE

Tick the answer and check them below.

1 In which year was Pulitzer Prize established?

- 1917
- 1920
- 1901

2 Who was the first Indian to win the World Amateur Billiards title?

- Wilson Jones
- Geet Sethi
- Manoj Kothari

3 What is the refrigerant commonly used for domestic refrigerators?

- Alcohol
- Ammonia
- Neon

SHORT TAKES

Man held for betting in SA league matches

New Delhi: A 27-year-old man allegedly involved in cricket betting on South African matches was arrested by the Delhi Police. While South Africa's Mazansi super league cricket match was being played in Port Elizabeth, Dishant Malik was caught red-handed betting for the match from his residence in south Delhi's Rajpur Khurd. Till his arrested, Malik had placed 59 bets amounting to ₹3.36 lakh. Seven mobile phones including a phone which was being used for receiving rates, two laptops, one register having handwritten details, wi-fi router, settop box, calculator and mobile chargers were recovered from him, police said.



Dishant Malik

1 held for theft of car batteries

New Delhi: Delhi Police on Sunday arrested a 21-year-old man who used to steal batteries from vehicles in Delhi's Vikaspuri area and then sell it in grey markets of the capital. Police said that with the arrest of the accused they have also solved 12 cases of house theft and burglary registered at Vikaspuri police station. The accused has been identified as Akshay, a resident of Vikaspuri. Police have also recovered nine batteries from the possession of the accused. During interrogation, the accused revealed that during nights he, along with his associate, used to visit residential areas of Vikaspuri and used to steal batteries from cars parked on the roadside.

Pickpocket held inside DTC bus

New Delhi: A man was held for pickpocketing inside a DTC bus enroute ISBT Anand Vihar, officials said on Sunday. The man was identified as Devi Singh, 23, a resident of Jahangirpuri, they said. On Saturday, at around 4.42 pm, mobile patrol van (MPV) staff comprising of ASI Josh Kumar and HC Dayal Singh were deployed at north Delhi's Burari flyover when a person informed them about a quarrel in a DTC bus at the nearby bus stop, said DCP (PCR) Sharat Kumar Sinha. The accused had pickpocketed the wallet of a 60-year-old passenger in the bus and on cursory search, the wallet containing ₹310 and some documents were recovered from him. When the MPV staff reached the spot, the accused tried to flee but was overpowered. A case was registered and the accused was handed over to the local police, the DCP said.

THE ANSWERS TO TODAY'S GUIDE TO FORTUNE

- Ammonia
- Wilson Jones
- 1917

JNU forms committee even before HRD panel report

JNUSU claims to have received no communication

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, NOV. 24

To resolve the ongoing issue between students and Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) administration, the JNU registrar has announced to form a high-level committee. The committee has also given time till Sunday evening to the students to send suggestions.

The students in JNU have been on strike for nearly four weeks against the draft hostel manual, which has provisions for fee hike, a new dress code, and curfew timings.

According to a circular issued by the JNU registrar, the committee has to get suggestions from student representatives to find solutions to the

HOSTEL FEE HIKE

▶ According to a circular issued by the JNU registrar, the committee has given time till Sunday evening to the student representatives to send suggestions

impasse over the proposed hostel fee hike among other issues.

A three-member high powered committee constituted by the HRD ministry on November 18 to restore normal functioning of the university has concluded its discussions with various stakeholders and is likely to submit its report soon.

The move was criticised by the JNU Students' Union (JNUSU), who said

the "so-called committee" of the JNU administration is timed before the high-powered committee appointed by the HRD ministry gives its recommendations.

"The level of shamelessness with this administration continues to rise wherein the mail has not been sent to the JNUSU even as government appointed committees find it common sense to recognise the legitimacy of the elected Union," JNUSU alleged.

Following protests, the varsity had announced a "partial" rollback and removal of clauses pertaining to the dress code and curfew but the students dubbed it as "eyewash." They have been demanding a complete "rollback" of the manual.



Members and supporters of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community hold placards during a pride parade in New Delhi on Sunday.

— BIPLAB BANERJEE

Toddler dies after slipping from pillion-rider's hands near hospital

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, NOV. 24

A nine-month-old toddler died after she allegedly fell from the lap of her grandmother who was sitting pillion on a two-wheeler after they lost balance at the entrance of the GTB Hospital in Shahadra area of Delhi. The incident took place on Friday. The child, a resident of Gaziabad, was allegedly suffering from pneumonia because of

which she was being taken to hospital for check-up by her uncle who was riding the two wheeler while she was in the lap of her grandmother who was a pillion rider, said the police.

The toddler's father was also unwell and her mother was taking care of him because which they cannot take the child to hospital, police added.

The two-wheeler was entering inside the hospital premise and at the same

time a car was exiting it due which the two wheeler lost control after which the child fell from the lap of her elderly grandmother, said the police.

The Shahadra police staff at the hospital immediately took the child to the doctors where they declared ger brought dead, police added.

A case under appropriate sections has been registered and action has been initiated, police added.

Yet another Haryana girl wins laurels for country

MADHUSUDAN SAHOO
NEW DELHI, NOV. 24

Rohtak-based rifle shooter Kajal Saini, who displayed indomitable spirit of "never give up", recently bagged gold medal in the 14th Asian shooting championship in Doha (Qatar).

Braving all odds, she made not only Haryana but the country proud by clinching two medals — gold and bronze — in the team event in the championship.

Rejoicing her achievement, Kajal, however, said it was not easy for her to grab these medals as no other member of her family had ever played shooting game earlier. "It's an expensive game and my father spent the majority share of his

salary on my practice. He always supported and motivated me in focusing on the game instead of paying heed to the expenses. Hence, I give full credit of my success to my father Vijay Saini and coach Manoj Kumar who guided me to reach the top," Kajal said.

Hailing from the small town of Rohtak in Haryana, Kajal recounted how it was difficult for her to pursue a shooting career. "My father was not financially sound to buy rifle for me by paying lakhs but I didn't lose confidence. I tried hard and continued practising shooting by procuring a rifle on rent. Once I passed through a miserable experience when the owner, out of the blue, refused to provide me a



Kajal Saini

rifle just before a match and I had to participate with a borrowed rifle from a fellow player. But I could not perform as well as expected," she said.

At present, Kajal is working very hard at

▶ Braving all odds, Kajal clinched gold and bronze in the team event in the Asian championship. ▶ It was not easy for her as no other member of her family had ever participated in shooting matches earlier, she said.

Karni Singh shooting range in Tughlaqabad for the South Asian Games, to be held in Kathmandu (Nepal) from December 1.

Her father is employed by the Delhi government and is posted at the fire brigade office in Connaught Place. Despite his financial constraints, he is leaving no stone unturned to establish his

daughter as a world-class shooter by providing her all possible facilities to hone her talent.

"Kajal's journey from winning gold at the college tournament to the Asian Championship was not easy. Not just she, we too had to face several challenges.

Since Haryana has no range for 50-metre rifle shooting, Kajal had to go to her maternal uncle's house in Najafgarh four years ago so that she could practise at the Tughlaqabad range daily. She used to board a DTC bus from Najafgarh early in the morning to reach Tughlaqabad and return late in the evening," said Mr Saini.

He pointed out that Kajal's performance gradually improved after practising at Tughlaqabad

range. She had also shown her talent by winning nine medals, including four gold, in the national shooting championship held in Kerala in 2017 and 2018. Since Kajal was facing multiple issues during her practice owing to rented rifles, they had to borrow money from relatives to buy a rifle for her in 2017.

"The new rifle proved lucky for her as she became a national champion by winning gold in the All-India inter-university tournament held in Jaipur. She was also selected to represent India in the World University Games held in Malaysia. However, she missed the opportunity of clinching a medal by a narrow margin," he added.

19-yr-old held at Metro station with ₹50L cash

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, NOV. 24

A 19-year-old man has been apprehended by CISF personnel at a Delhi Metro station here for allegedly carrying ₹50 lakh cash on behalf of a Gujarat-based transport operator, officials said on Sunday.

They said the incident took place on Saturday evening at the Barakhamba station when Thakur Dilip reached there with a bag to board a train to Chandni Chowk station.

The CISF (Central Industrial Security Force) personnel recovered ₹50 lakh cash—in denominations of ₹500, ₹200, and ₹100—from the bag of the man. As the commuter could not explain reasons for carrying such a huge amount in cash, his employer was summoned.

His manager, Jalpesh K.B. Patel (32), arrived at the station and said he is involved in the business of transport commission and trans-

fers cash on the instructions of his employer Dhruv Bhai Pol of Ahmedabad in Gujarat, a senior CISF officer said. The manager said this cash of ₹50 lakh was being similarly sent to Chandni Chowk, the officer added.

As there were no documents and valid reasons for carrying the cash, the case and money was transferred to the Income Tax department for further probe

▶ Cash amount of over ₹2 lakh in one single transaction has been banned since 2017

As there were no documents and valid reasons for carrying the cash, the case and money was transferred to the Income Tax department for further probe, he said. Notably, cash amount of over ₹2 lakh in one single transaction has been banned since 2017 by the government as part of a legal measure to check black money.

2 die, 1 hurt after bike slips due to chemical spill

New Delhi: Two men died and another was injured allegedly after coming in contact with an unknown chemical spilled on the road when their motorcycle slipped near Kashmere Gate here, police said on Sunday.

The deceased have been identified as Mahesh Chand (23), a resident of Gyanpur and Shivam (21), a resident of Rohini, they said, adding that 22-year-old Monu Sharma, a resident of Usmanpur, is undergoing treatment in a hospital.

According to the police, the incident took place on Saturday at around 5.45 am when three persons were returning on their motorcycle via Pul Duffrian after attending a marriage.

Their two-wheeler slipped on the main road due to some chemical spilled on the main road, suspected to have leaked from another vehicle.

They started experiencing burning sensation on their bodies allegedly after they came in contact with the liquid chemical, a senior police official said.

The picket staff from Kashmere Gate police station deployed in the area immediately took them to Aruna Asaf Ali Hospital, from where they were referred to JPN Hospital, the official added.

Two of them died during the course of treatment while the third injured person is undergoing treatment at the JPN Hospital, he said.

A case has been registered and further investigation is underway to identify the vehicle from which the said chemical leaked.

A crime team visited the spot and picked up samples to identify the nature and name of the chemical, the police said.

— PTI



It's all in mind

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

Clean up HCA: Rayudu to Azhar

Hyderabad: Ambati Rayudu on Sunday hit back at former India captain and HCA president Mohammed Azharuddin for calling him a “frustrated cricketer” and asked him to ‘clean up’ Hyderabad cricket and “save generations of future cricketers.” The 34-year old Rayudu, who has represented India in 55 one-day internationals and six T20 internationals for the country, told Azharuddin “let’s not make it personal” and there was a opportunity to clean up Hyderabad cricket. “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 tweeted. Rayudu had pulled out of the coming Ranji Trophy tournament attacking the HCA and in a tweet on Saturday urged Telangana Minister for Industry and Municipal Administration K T Rama Rao to look into the “rampant corruption” and address it. — PTI

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 magnificent century and Mohammad Rizwan fell five runs short of his first as Pakistan were dismissed for 335. Yasir Shah also made his highest Test score with a fighting 42 to allow the Pakistanis to head to the second Test with some momentum despite the loss. — 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.

— AFP

Day-Night contrast

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

4-in-a-row

India 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 (b8, lb9, w5) 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 pack: 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, Mohammed Shami and Umesh Yadav.

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 over-

seas.

“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. If they have that, they can compete better,” 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

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 (Sourav Ganguly) team. The belief is key and to be honest we've worked hard, and reaping the rewards of it,” Kohli said.

Home and Away

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

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

SHORTEST TESTS WITH AN OUTRIGHT RESULT IN INDIA

Balls	Opponent	Venue	Season
968	Bangladesh	Kolkata	2019-20
1028	Afghanistan	Bangalore	2018
1213	Australia	Mumbai	2004-05
1262	West Indies	Mumbai	2013-14
1325	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





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



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

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

Dutch legend on wrong foot

The Hague: Former Dutch football great Marco van Basten apologised Saturday after he was heard using a Nazi greeting to ridicule a Dutch television journalist's German during an interview. Van Basten, 55, who is regarded as one of the game's best ever strikers, made the comment on Fox Sports pay-to-view channel after an interview ahead of the Eredivisie clash between Ajax and Heracles. His words could be heard in the studio moments after TV presenter Hans Kraay's interview in German with Heracles' German manager Frank Wormuth. "Not too pretty, sieg heil, pfannkuchen (pancake)," Van Basten said, using the Nazi German greeting during World War II. His words unleashed a Twitter storm and during half-time in the match AC Milan forward made his excuses for what he termed an "ill-placed joke". "It was not my intention at all to shock people. I only wanted to 'explain' Hans' German," a Van Basten said. — AFP

CHETAN, BIKKU CLAIM 4TH ROUND

Bengaluru: Chetan Shivram and Dr Bikkur 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 Bikkur 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. He and all his favoured JK Tyre Motorsport teammates bit the dust, allowing a free run to the MRF men. Akshara's Chetan Shivram, who had won Round 2 as well in almost similar fashion, emerged as the overall INRC Championship leader with this victory. He (with Dilip Sharan as co-driver) claimed his own category too, the INRC 3, with an overall timing of 1:47:37:300 hours. That was just 12 seconds faster than Dr Bikkur Babu (with Milen George) of Team Champions, who pursued him relentlessly all through the day. The doctor finished ahead of Chetan in the day's first stage, SSS.

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



Spain's Feliciano Lopez (left) and Rafael Nadal celebrate after defeating Great Britain's Jamie Murray and Neal Skupski during their doubles semifinal match at the Davis Cup Finals in Madrid on Saturday. Spain won the match 7-6 (7/3), 7-6 (10/8).

— ROYAL SPANISH TENNIS FEDERATION

New format is succesful: Pique

Madrid, Nov. 24: Barcelona footballer Gerard Pique has insisted the inaugural Davis Cup Finals in Madrid have been an "absolute success", although he did admit some changes would have to be made in future.

The controversial week-long finals were launched by Pique's investment company Kosmos, replacing the old World Group which saw teams play each other in longer ties spread across the year.

The competition is an absolute success. The most important thing is that it has a soul... The players have reactions that they don't even have in the Grand Slams. Things are going to be retouched. The issue of the schedules must be retouched.

— GERARD PIQUE on the new Davis Cup format

"The competition is an absolute success," Pique told broadcasters Movistar on Saturday.

"The most important thing is that it has a soul... The players have reactions that they don't even have in the Grand Slams,"

he added. There have been some issues at the Caja Magica, with low attendances for many matches, while Wednesday's group-stage tie between the United States and Italy ended at 4:04am local time.

"I think this is the base and from there it will grow a lot," added Pique.

"Things are going to be retouched, obviously. The issue of the schedules must be retouched. But that's what happens to events when the format is changed," he added.

Pique arrived at the Caja Magica to watch Spain's semi-final against Britain after playing in Barcelona's 2-1 win over Leganes earlier on Saturday.

— AFP

NATIONAL | T20

Rahul helps Karnataka beat Punjab

Surat, Nov. 24: K. L. Rahul slammed an unbeaten 84 to help defending champions Karnataka thrash Punjab by seven wickets in a Group 'B' Super League game in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy T20 tournament here on Sunday.

Pacer Ronit More bagged four wickets to help Karnataka restrict Punjab to 163/6 before Rahul's blazing 48-ball 84 enabled the team to reach the target with two overs to spare.

It was Karnataka's third successive win in the tournament. They now sit atop of the points table.

For Punjab, young opener Shubman Gill fell for 11. They also lost other opener Abhishek Sharma (5) cheaply to be reeling at 18-2.

Skipper Mandeep Singh (76 off 50 balls) held the innings from one end and took the team out of the rubble. Anmolpreet Singh (11) failed to convert his start as Punjab lost the third wicket with 55 on the board.

Brief Scores: Punjab 163/6 (Mandeep Singh 76, Gurkeerat Singh 44, Ronit More 4/27) **lost to Karnataka 167/3** (K. L. Rahul 84 n. o., Manish Pandey 33, Mayank Markande 1/33). — P71

Bayern slam four past Duesseldorf

Berlin, Nov. 24: Managerless Bayern Munich went second in the Bundesliga on Saturday with a 4-0 romp at Fortuna Duesseldorf as leaders Borussia Moenchengladbach suffered a shock 2-0 defeat at Union Berlin.

Bayern's interim coach Hansi Flick enjoyed his third straight win since Niko Kovac was sacked earlier this month as Munich moved to within a point of Gladbach.

Bayern routed Dusseldorf with goals by Philippe Coutinho, Serge Gnabry, Benjamin Pavard and Coretin Tolisso, with Robert Lewandowski failing to score in a league game for the first time this season and ending his record 11-match run.

However it was the Poland forward who forced a corner from which Pavard scored the opening goal after 11 minutes.

His France team-mate Tolisso then doubled the lead in the 27th minute after Duesseldorf's US international Zack Steffen

surrendered possession. Serge Gnabry continued his goal-scoring run when he was presented with a simple tap-in by Thomas Mueller seven minutes later.

Lewandowski turned provider again with the 70th-minute cross which Coutinho swept into the net to complete the rout.

In Berlin, Gladbach suffered their third defeat this season as they became the latest top six club to lose to Union.

Having already beaten Dortmund and Freiburg this season at their Alten Foersterei stadium, Union took the lead with 15 minutes gone when Nigeria striker Anthony Ujah headed home a cross.

Union ensured their fourth straight league win in stoppage time when winger Julian Ryerson floated in a cross, which deflected off a Gladbach defender to present Swedish striker Sebastian Andersson with an easy header to round off a fine win. — AFP

REINE, ADELAIDE SCORE AS 10-MAN LYON WIN

Paris, Nov. 24: Lyon edged past Nice 2-1 at the Groupama Stadium on Saturday despite playing 56 minutes with 10 men to shoot up the table as coach Rudi Garcia claimed his third win in four Ligue 1 games.

The home side, who lost to Garcia's former club Marseille before the international break, moved up to fifth in the congested table having started the day 14th.

Jeff Reine-Adelaide gave Lyon a 10th-minute lead with a low finish from the edge of the area, before Moussa Dembele

slotted in his 10th league goal of the season from the penalty spot after being hacked down himself by Nice centre-back Christophe Herelle.

But Lyon's march to victory was dealt a blow in the 34th minute as Fernando Marcal was sent off for a dreadful challenge on Nice youngster Hichem Boudaoui.

Kasper Dolberg pulled one back for the visitors with 12 minutes remaining, but Nice defender Patrick Burner was also dismissed late on and Lyon claimed all three points. — AFP



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

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 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 inbounds 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



Top prize

Eliud Kipchoge, the first man to run a marathon in less than two hours, and 400 metres hurdles world champion Dalilah Muhammad win Athlete of the Year



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 IN TOKYO

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, setting a time of 1m47.034s to provisionally secure third place on the grid, before being promoted to the front-row after a penalty for fellow Honda runner Daisuke Nakajima. By the afternoon, the sky had turned clear at the 4.563km race track located south-west of Tokyo, leading to an all-dry race. Despite little dry running on the unfamiliar Hankook tyres, Karthikeyan proved to be just as quick as he was in the wet, tucking behind polesitter and Audi driver Loic Duval on the opening lap of the race. — PTI

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 defending 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 percent 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."

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".

LIVERPOOL LATE SHOW Earlier, Liverpool once again demonstrated their

THE RESULTS

PREMIER LEAGUE

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

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

Madrid clip high-flying Sociedad

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

Real Betis (Joaquin 37, Canales 90+4)	2
Valencia (Gomez 32)	1
Granada (Sanchez 67)	1
Atletico Madrid (Lodi 60)	1
Real Madrid (Benzema 37, Valverde 48, Modric 74)	3
Real Sociedad (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 La Liga match at the Bernabeu Stadium in Madrid on Saturday. — AP

CFC, Hyderabad look to bounce back

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 Lalanzuala 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 runs 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 WRESTLERS FINISH CAMPAIGN WITH 28 MEDALS

ASIAN C'SHIP

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), Sonipat'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

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