

HYDERABAD | TUESDAY | 26 NOVEMBER 2019



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Chhattisgarh Invite

Minister K.T. Rama Rao has been invited by Chhattisgarh to attend National Tribal Dance Festival from November 27 to 29

DECCAN CHRONICLE

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Schools in a fix over national song

ATHER MOIN | DC
HYDERABAD, NOV. 25

Government schools in the old city are in a dilemma over the instructions of the district education officer (DEO), Hyderabad making it mandatory to chant 'Vande Mataram' during the morning assembly. They believe it will create unnecessary tension as parents will oppose it.

DEO B. Venkata Narasamma held a meeting of deputy education officers and deputy inspectors of schools on October 31, in which she reviewed various matters related to the functioning of government and aided schools. The minutes of the meeting were prepared by the education department and sent a week ago to the headmasters of the schools for implementation.

Agenda No. 12 of the said meeting dealt with the morning prayer and a schedule was given. It says: 'prayer should be conducted in a systematic manner: A. Vande Mataram B. Jayajayahe Telangana C. Pledge D. News reading e. Sukhti and GK questions F. Message by HM/teacher about 2 mins G. National anthem. Rhythm should be maintained in the prayer.' This created confusion among the teaching fraternity, particularly those working in the old city.

Mohammed Kashif, whose ward is studying in Asifnagar government school, said that reciting Vande Mataram is against the beliefs of Muslims. It is the basic tenet of Islam that nobody and nothing else is entitled to be worshipped except Allah. "We respect and love our country, but it does not mean that we have to worship it. Students should not be forced to recite Vande Mataram," he said. He hopes the government will intervene and issue

■ **ABDULLAH FAIZ**, secretary, public relations, students Islamic organisation, Telangana, says the orders to sing Vande Mataram during assembly is unconstitutional.

instructions to the education department not to insist on the song during the assembly.

A senior government teacher, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said it is a sensitive matter which creates problems for them when many parents are irked at this mixing of religion in education and Muslims have reservations about the song. "When we sought clarification with the officials, they told us that it is not compulsory," the teacher said.

Abdullah Faiz, secretary, public relations, students Islamic organisation, Telangana, said the DEO's orders to sing Vande Mataram during daily assembly is unconstitutional and against the Supreme Court's 2017 judgment which clearly states that Vande Mataram cannot be given status on par with the national anthem as there is no provision in the constitution regarding a national song.

Likewise, Article 51 of the constitution only mentions national flag and national anthem, but not national song. "We, on behalf of SIO TS strongly condemn such orders and demand the authorities to repeal it as soon as possible to avert any controversy," he said.

National president of the All India Ideal Teachers Association Prof. Anwarullah Khan said officials should not insist on anything that is not mandatory. Vande Mataram has no legal sanctity such as the national anthem. This kind of instruction will create unnecessary problems in schools, he said.

RUN AND RIDE ON WORLD DISABILITY DAY

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 25

Aditya Mehta Foundation (AMF) will commemorate this year's World Disability Day with 5 km and 10 km run and ride here on December 1.

The initiative is aimed at showing that the disabled too can accomplish several things that able-bodied people can.

The run is being organised in collaboration with Hyderabad and Cyberabad police, Sports Authority of Telangana State, National Police Academy, CRPF and celebrities from diverse fields.

"We expect 10,000 able-bodied to run and ride in support of the cause and show solidarity and raise awareness about para-athletes," said a release from the Foundation.

AMF endeavours to empower the disabled and help them gain a sense of achievement and dignity through sports.

The Foundation is helping athletes by providing prosthetic limbs, sports equipment, specialised sports wheelchairs, travel and other expenses for participating in national and international tournaments.

People keen to participate can register their entries on <http://bit.ly/DisabilityDay2019AMF>.

■ The 5 km and 10 km run and ride is being organised in collaboration with Hyderabad and Cyberabad police, Sports Authority of Telangana State, National Police Academy, CRPF and celebrities from diverse fields, in commemoration of this year's World Disability Day.



Hyderabad Metro Rail trial run being carried out between JBS metro station to MGBS on Monday.

— S. SURENDER REDDY

JBS-MGBS Metro trial run on

Travel to be cut down from 45 min to 16 min between 2 key bus stations

MADDY DEEKHITH | DC
HYDERABAD, NOV. 25

Hyderabad Metro Rail Limited on Monday commenced a trial run on corridor II from Jubilee Bus Station (JBS) to Mahatma Gandhi Bus Station (MGBS).

The long awaited corridor would pass through the core city connecting nine Metro stations: JBS-Parade Grounds, Secunderabad West, Gandhi Hospital, Musheerabad, RTC X Road, Chikkadpally, Narayanaguda, Sultan Bazar and MGBS covering 11 kms.

A team of technical experts and engineers led by HMRL manager N.V.S. Reddy and L&T MRHL MD K.V.B. Reddy travelled by Metro on this corridor and observed various technical and safety parameters and performance of the train during the trial run.

It would take 16 minutes to cover this corridor from JBS to MGBS, as against 45 minutes by road, said N.V.S. Reddy.

N.V. S. Reddy said that the data and other inputs in these tests will be sent online to M/s Thales in Canada, which is supplying communication-based



The new Metro line will pass by the iconic Clock Tower in Secunderabad.

train control (CBTC) technology.

Signalling and train con-

trol software will be fine-tuned based on these inputs for safe operation of metro trains in automatic mode with CBTC technology.

After receipt of satisfactory performance and safety certification from Thales, the internal safety assessor (ISA) M/s. Halcrow and other Indian and international organisations, the commissioner of Metro rail safety (CMRS) will be invited for the final safety clearance of the corridor. After CMRS safety certification, the corridor will be thrown open for passenger operations.

During a series of trial runs to be carried out in the next few weeks, a large number of technical specifications, performance criteria and safety standards will be tested under the following broad categories: signalling tests and safe train separation tests; brake test by the signalling and train control system; overhead electric (OHE) - rolling stock (metro coaches) current collection tests; passenger information announcements and display tests; dummy passenger evacuation tests and degraded mode operation tests.

Onion price hits an all-time high

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 25

The price of onions is ranging from ₹80 to ₹100 per kg in the city as the prices rose steeply. A highest ever price of ₹11,000 per quintal in the wholesale market was witnessed on Monday.

In the last few days, prices varied from ₹5,000 to ₹7,000 per quintal. But on Monday, the prices saw a major rise as it hit an all-time high. Till last week, prices were fluctuating between ₹60 and ₹70 per kg.

Telangana is dependent on Maharashtra for onions and the transport from the state has been low due to incessant rains. Earlier, 120 to 150 lorries per day used to transport onions but the number fell down to 80 lorries now.

The sky-high prices have



An onion vendor displays a sign ₹100 per kg in Hyderabad on Monday.

— PTI

forced kirana stores and small retail shops against store onions.

G Ramesh, a kirana store owner in A.S. Rao Nagar, says, "In one kg onion, if half kg is wet or of bad quality, customers fight with us. They say that we have got bad stock and are charging them for it. For this reason, since a month, I have stopped sell-

ing onions." People are being extremely cautious while buying onions.

Madhumita Chowdhary, a housewife, explained, "I would pick 5 kgs of onions from the super markets as it was cheap. But, of late, I buy only one kg.

Apart from the price, most of the onions smell bad. They attract fruit

flies during the day and rodents at night." The sorry state of onions has forced people reduce its use in cooking and also as raw salads.

A number of salads in India are onion-based and there is a switch to other leafy vegetables, cucumbers and beetroot.

With the price of onion continuing to sky rocket, there are vendors who are taking orders for wedding season by offering discounts. One of the reasons is clearance of stock.

Venkat Ramana, a trader in Secunderabad vegetable market, said, "I am offering discounts only for large orders of weddings. This is to keep my stocks moving."

Vendors who have huge stocks are not seeing the desired sales and are keen to roll it out for weddings and party orders.

SUPPORT | SYSTEM

Docs say attitude of patients vital, discussion with peers gives confidence

Belief, a common thread among cancer survivors

ADITYA CHUNDURU | DC
HYDERABAD, NOV. 25

Scores of 'head and neck' cancer survivors gathered at Basavatarakam Cancer Hospital on Monday, as part of their counselling and support group's efforts to instill confidence in new patients.

Attacked by a group of cancers that develop in the mouth, throat, nose and salivary glands, life is not easy for them. Robbed of their voices and forced to speak through prostheses, they nevertheless manage to live their lives with their heads held high.

In 2015, C. Krishna Rao, a 66-year-old retired teacher from Visakhapatnam, was having trouble speaking.

"My voice became very low. When we went to the doctor, I was told I had cancer. I went through radiation therapy for six months. However, it was clear a surgery was needed. My voice box (larynx) was removed in July 2016,"

he said. Later, he received a tracheoesophageal voice prosthesis (TEP) transplant. Today, there is a hole between his collar bones, which he has to cover with his fingers every time he wants to speak. He does this to block the airflow into his lungs and force it through his mouth.

Rao, by his own admission, is leading a 'normal life.' "We (survivors) cannot breathe through our noses. We have to use our mouths. We also have to be careful while eating, since there is a chance of food particles getting lodged in our throats. But, other than that, everything else is normal. I have even travelled to the USA," he said.

Rao's voice is largely normal. However, others have been so fortunate. People like Sriramulu, who is in his mid-60s, have to speak through an "electro-larynx," a cylindrical object that has to be



K. Aruna

pressed under the chin.

The voice is almost robotic. However, Sriramulu is happy with the fact that he can communicate with people.

His wife said, "When he underwent surgery in 2015, he would cry every day over his losing voice. Today, he is very happy. He insists on doing everything himself. He travels in RTC buses to the shop he works in. He buys his own train tickets. He even speaks to his grandchildren on the phone regularly."

There were many patients who needed some



C. Krishna Rao

confidence. K. Aruna, a housewife from Haliya in Nalgonda district, was diagnosed with cancer just a year ago. Two months ago, her larynx was removed. She is yet to learn how to speak from her esophagus. She was enthusiastically asking other patients how long it would take to speak. Her husband Kotesh said, "The doctors said she cannot get a TEP. She will get an electro larynx. Right now, I just want her to get better. She is unable to eat anything. She eats in very small portions."

Survivors who overheard

Kotesh's anxious words assured him that his wife would get better soon.

Many survivors covered their throats with pieces of cloth — some men buttoned up their shirts to cover the holes in their throats. They belonged to a wide variety of backgrounds. For instance, Sathish Babu, 40, from Chittoor, was a daily wage labourer when he was diagnosed with mouth cancer. For three years, he has not been able to work. His wife works as a cook in an anganwadi centre to support their family with two children. Manda Krishna from Nellore district, who doesn't have a tongue, continues to drive a school van in his native village.

Then there were people like Ravikumar from West Godavari district, who is unable to talk, whose chartered accountant son takes care of him.

Dr Chandrasekhar Rao, senior consultant in the

hospital's head and neck oncology department, said, "We want the survivors to interact with their peers. When they share their experiences, they have more confidence in their own treatment. Their attitude is very important in their recovery."

Dr Chandrasekhar also said that many patients from underprivileged backgrounds were unable to buy the prosthesis that could help them talk. Support groups such as these help them get in touch with donors. For instance, two donors on Monday decided to donate five laryngeal voice prostheses to the hospital.

Life after cancer can indeed be tough. But the survivors said they were glad they had a support system to share their thoughts and fears with. A survivor from Madhya Pradesh said, "Believing that you can get better is half the battle won."





Don't Privatise

CPI state secretary Chada Venkat Reddy alleged Modi Govt giving priority to privatize PSUs, allowing private investment in defence sector

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Nine arrested for Kalapathar murder

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 25

Nine persons, including a juvenile, were arrested by Kalapathar police in connection with the murder of a 45-year-old businessman.

Md. Ahmed, the businessman, was hacked to death on November 22 in Mecca Colony. Kalapathar police registered a case and started investigating. They found that Ahmed was having an extramarital relationship with a woman for the last five years.

About two years ago, a panchayat was held in the presence of elders of both the woman and the businessman's families. Ahmed was warned against continuing his relationship with the woman. However, Ahmed did not stop and continued visiting the woman in her husband's absence, leading to his murder.

■ ABOUT TWO years ago, a panchayat was held in the presence of elders of both the woman and the businessman's families. Ahmed was warned against continuing his relationship with the woman. However, Ahmed continued visiting the woman.

The accused have been identified as Md. Azmathullah, 17-year-old son of the woman, Abdul Subhan, 19, Abdul Samad Khan, 19, Md. Sohail Khan, 22, Md. Salman Ali Khan, 27, Hyder Hussain, 33, Abdul Aziz, 19, and Md. Azhar, 19. Police seized one axe, two knives, a dagger and four bikes used in the offence. The accused have been produced before a court for judicial remand.

CM KCR flexed his 'muscle' on weak; rejoicing victory over hapless RTC staff

— K. Krishna Saagar Rao
BJP spokesperson

Cops harass us, says Mahila body

Hyderabad: Alleging that the state police was repeatedly summoning them to police station without mentioning the reasons, activists of Chaitanya Mahila Sangam (Frontal Organisation) approached High Court. Ms M. Swapna and two other ladies filed a petition, stating that the Medipally and Kushaiguda police had threatened them after illegally detaining their kith and kin. The petitioners said that the police had forced them to fill the proforma without disclosing the reasons, when they went to the police station. They sought direction to the police that they produce the proforma duly filled by them, before the court.

STATE POLICE INSPIRES ARMY OFFICERS

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 25

Army officials of Telangana and Andhra Sub Area (TASA) visited the Hyderabad Police Command and Control Centre to understand the IT initiatives taken up by the city police.

The team of officials included Major General R.K. Singh, General Commanding Officer (GoC) TASA.

Ajani Kumar, Commissioner, Hyderabad City Police, explained about the IT initiatives being pursued by them in traffic management and enforcement, crime detection and prevention and other activities.

The city police commissioner He also highlighted about community policing and people-friendly policing initiatives.

He took the delegation around the Command and Control Centre, during which they interacted with the policemen manning the centre.



Biodiversity flyover from where a speeding car fell on Saturday.

— P. SURENDRA

GHMC committee to probe biodiversity flyover mishap

Panel to study geometrical design, alignment and safety parametres

MADDY DEEKSHITH | DC
HYDERABAD, NOV. 25

The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) on Monday constituted an independent four-member committee to give a report on accidents on Biodiversity flyover. The panel comprises Prof. S. Nagabhushan (adviser road safety for World Bank project), Mr

T.S. Reddy, (traffic engineer and road safety specialist), Prof. Srinivasa Kumar (Associate professor-traffic and transportation, OU) and Mr Pradeep Reddy (road safety audit expert).

The committee will check the geometrical design, alignment, and safety parameters adopted on Biodiversity level II flyover.

A senior GHMC official said that the team of experts inspected the spot on Monday and collected designs and drawings of the project. He said that the expert committee will inspect the flyover to check the execution of drawings and other parameters prior to submission of the report. On Saturday, a speeding car travelling

on the newly-opened flyover lost control and fell off the bridge, damaging two cars underneath the flyover. A woman was killed, while six others were injured in the incident.

Though civic authorities claimed that the flyover design was as per norms, road transport experts said that there were various faults in

the designs. On November 10, a software employee, who was in an inebriated condition, killed two people and injured four persons after he rammed his car into two vehicles before knocking down two persons who were taking selfies after stopping their bike on the flyover. Subsequently, the civic body put a selfie ban.

Anand was beacon of hope for family

ADITYA CHUNDURU | DC
HYDERABAD, NOV. 25

Abhishek Anand, who was killed by a speeding drunk driver in the early hours of Monday, was a beacon of hope for his family.

Son of a farmer in Bhagalpur district in Bihar, Anand was the breadwinner for his family. His father, brother and sister are devastated by his loss. However, his mother does not know about Anand's fate as she is in coma. She was hospitalised four months ago after a road accident in Bihar. She too was hit by a speeding vehicle while walking on the road.

Abhishek Anand had graduated from Sathyabama University in 2015. After stints in various multinational corporations, he started working with Pega Systems in July 2019. After his mother's accident, he asked his family to move to Hyderabad, so that she could be taken care of better. Anand's uncle Suresh Gupta, an IT professional, said, "Abhishek was insistent that the family move to Hyderabad. The family was very worried about his mother's health. They were hoping for a miracle now that she is



Abhishek Anand

Hyderabad. They were very appreciative of how Anand took care of her. He spent all his savings on her treatment. She has largely been unresponsive. But there are hopes that she will get better soon. Before this could happen, tragedy has struck the family again and Anand has lost his life," said Gupta.

Anand's brother Abhinav is 21-years-old and has just finished his education. He joined an IT company in the city only a few months ago. His sister, who is a year older than Anand and known to the entire family as 'gudiya', stays at home. His father is a semi-literate farmer.

The ill-fated Royal Enfield motorcycle he was riding when he was hit by the car was bought in May 2016. He was riding with his college friend Lisa Dhar when the incident hap-

Alcohol content in blood was 185 mg

From Page 1

"The duo on the bike fell on the median and the car dragged them for some distance. Abhishek died on the spot with multiple injuries while the pillion rider, Lisa, suffered severe injuries. She is admitted to a private hospital for treatment and is currently in the Intensive Care Unit," said Madhapur inspector, S. Venkat Reddy.

He went to Novotel hotel and consumed alcohol there. He was driving in a drunk condition and moved his vehicle onto the wrong side of the road and ended up killing the techie, said the inspector. "When tested with the breath analyser, the blood alcohol content of the accused was recorded as 185 mg. However, his blood samples have been col-

lected and sent for forensic analysis. He was taken into custody and a case has been registered based on a complaint from Abhinav Anand, the brother of the deceased," said inspector Reddy.

Abhishek's body was shifted to Osmania General Hospital mortuary and handed over to his family after the post-mortem examination on Monday.

It may be recalled that on November 11, P. Abhilash, 28, a techie working with Cognizant drove his car in a drunk condition and hit two persons who were standing on the Biodiversity flyover under Raidurgam in the IT corridor area of Cyberabad.

The duo was thrown on the ground and death was instant for them.

"There needs to be some kind of justice. Abhishek was this family's hope. Today, they have been brought onto the roads. This is just unfair."

Anand's family is still dazed. Gupta said,

pened. Lisa has been admitted at KIMS Kondapur with multiple fractures. Doctors say her condition is stable.

Anand's family is still dazed. Gupta said,

Dalit woman gang-raped, murdered in Asifabad

DC CORRESPONDENT
KUMARAMBHEEM ASI-FABAD, NOV. 25

Villagers found the dead body of a woman, Teku Laxmi, 30, in the forest area of Yellapatar in Lingapur mandal, K u m a r a m b h e e m Asifabad district on Monday. Police visited the scene of o with a dog squad and started an investigation.

A missing case was filed with the local police by Laxmi's family members on November 24.

Stab marks were found on various parts of her body.

It is suspected that some unidentified persons gang-raped and murdered Laxmi and left her body in the forest area.

Laxmi belonged to the Budaga Jangalu, a Dalit community, who came to Lingapur mandal from Khanapur and was doing some petty business of selling balloons and bangles locally.

Hundreds from people from various villages

staged a protest over the incident and demanded that the central government punish the accused involved in the rape and murder.

The irate agitators demanded punishment by hanging the accused to teach a lesson to others.

Leaders of the Budaga Jangala community said there was no protection for Dalit women, especially Budaga Jangalu who earn their livelihood by selling small items by visiting villages.

TO WHOM SO EVER IT MAY CONCERN PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform to all that the notice published in the Deccan Chronicle Daily on dt. 21/11/2019 and by Mr. M. Vijay Kumar Goud, Advocate on behalf of his client Sri Sankuri Ramdas, S/o. Late Balaiah, R/o. Secunderabad cancelling the Development Agreement-cum-General Power of Attorney, dated 13.11.2014 executed in favour of M/s. Avinash & Sukesh Constructions and thereby issuing legal notice, dated 11.11.2019 is misconceived and misleading the public in general. On behalf of my client M/s. Avinash & Sukesh Constructions suitable reply given to legal notice, dated 21.11.2019 and bringing all facts and in particular that in accordance to Clause No. 23 of the said Development Agreement-cum-G.P.A. any dispute has to be referred to arbitration and the clause is very specific that if disputes arise in between the parties touching these presents the matter shall be referred to the arbitrators one chosen by each party and in case of any difference of opinion between such arbitrators, they shall nominate a common umpire and their award shall be final and binding on both the parties and the alleged public notice is against to the said provision as such the said alleged public notice is unilateral and without any basis only to misconceive the public and without concluding dispute before arbitrators in accordance to Clause No. 23 Sri Sankuri Ramdas any act shall be arbitrary and illegal.

Sd/- Y. SREE RAGHAVA RAO,
Advocate
H.No. 11-12-491, Plot No. 491,
Road No. 9B, "CF" City,
Warangal Urban District

Notice of Lodgement of Petition of Appeal to the Respondent RULE 8(i) & (iii) OF ORDER XIX, S.C.R.2013) IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA CIVIL APPELLATE JURISDICTION CIVIL APPEAL No. 11986 of 2018

(Appeal by Special Leave granted by this Court's Order dated the 07th December, 2018 in SLP(C) No. 7939 of 2018 from the Judgment and Order dated the 07th February, 2018 of the HIGH COURT OF DELHI AT NEW DELHI, DELHI in RFA No. 117 of 2018)

D.E. SHANTHI
DEEPAK CHAUDHURI and Others

Appellant
VERSUS
Respondents

1. M/S IMPERIAL COOPERATIVE PVT. LTD
6-3-713, TOPAZ BUILDING PANJAGUTTA,
DISTRICT-HYDERABAD.

ANDHRA PRADESH-500082

TAKE NOTICE that the Appellant above-named has on the 12th March, 2018 filed in the Registry of the Supreme Court, Petition for SLP(C) No. 7939 of 2018 (Copy enclosed) from the Judgment and Order of the High Court above mentioned and pursuant to this Court's order dated 07th December, 2018 granting Special Leave to Appeal the case has been registered as CIVIL APPEAL No. 11986 of 2018.

NOTICE IS HEREBY given to you that if you wish to contest the appeal, you may appear before this Court within thirty days of the receipt of this Notice either in person or by an Advocate -on-Record of this Court appointed by you in that behalf and take such part in the proceedings as you may be advised.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE THAT in default of your appearance within the time prescribed, the appeal will be proceeded with and determined in your absence and no further notice in relation thereto shall be given to you.

Dated : 18th november 2019

Assistant Registrar



THONDAN P.O. KUPPUUSWAMY

WILL MISS YOU
THONDAN P.O. KUPPUUSWAMY, 94 (ex South Central Railway), who has been in the service of Lord Rama for last 58 years, from our first festival in 1962, reached the Lotus feet of Lord Rama on November 23, 2019. (Ninth day functions on December 1, 2019 - Son: Sri P.K. Jayaraman 94403-94248). Thondan Kuppusswamy has also been a part of our Pidi Arisi Annadhanam service for 52 years, since its beginning in 1967. We pray Lord Rama to grant him a fine place in Swargam.

Sri Rama Navami Cultural Festival Committee, Secunderabad.

(S/1920/D01304)

8th ANNIVERSARY The memory of righteous is blessed Prov 10:7 "In loving memory of my dear husband"



Dr. R.D.V.J. PRASAD RAO
Retd. Principal Scientist (Plant Virologist)
N.B.P.G.R. Rajendranagar, Hyderabad.
D.O.B.: 15.07.1947 D.O.D.: 26.11.2011
Inserted by:
WIFE : INDIRA & FAMILY

7th DEATH ANNIVERSARY "For the Godly who die, shall rest in peace." Isaiah 57:2 IN LOVING MEMORY OF



Late Smt. BOLLAM MARY DOROTHY
(Retd. Head Nurse)
W/o Late Bellam Prabhhu Charan
Called to glory on 26.11.2012
Inserted by:
Family Members and Relatives

The Memory of the Just is Blessed. "Prov. 10:7 22nd ANNIVERSARY



GOVADI EBENEZER
Promoted to Glory on 26th Nov. 1997
Your dedication and prayers were so strong that we are still blessed and sustained.
Inserted by: Wife: G. Mary
Children & Grand Children.

12th DAY CEREMONY



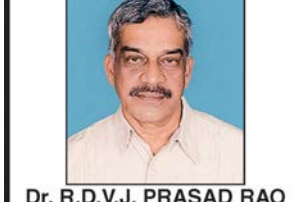
DR. K.S. RATNAKAR
Director : GMRF Global Hospitals
Expired On : 17-11-2019
VAIKUNTA SAMARADHANA :
From 1.00PM on 28th Nov.2019 at our Res. Ananda Sai Nilayam H.No.1-2/6159, Street No.4, Lane-2, Karthikaya Nagar, Nacharam, Hyderabad - 76.
Inserted by Family Members
6362311912 / 040-29701815

8th Death Anniversary



K.V.NARASIMHACHARYA
D.O.B. : 26-8-1931 D.O.D. : 25-11-2011
It's been 7 year that you disappeared from our sight but not from our memories left from our touch but not from our hearts
Fondly Remembered by :
FAMILY MEMBERS
Ph: 9848012870 / 09901334477

8th ANNIVERSARY The memory of just is blessed Prov 10:7



Dr. R.D.V.J. PRASAD RAO
(Retd. Principal Scientist (Plant Virologist))
NBPGR, Regional Station
Rajendranagar, Hyderabad.
D.O.B.: 15.07.1947 D.O.D.: 26.11.2011
Alfred Vijay Rudrapati (Son)
Jenny (Daughter-in-law) Joey & Sammy (Grand Sons, USA) Merlyn Sandeepa Maripatta (Daughter) Maripatta Joseph (Son-in-law) Joanne, Kaitlyn (Grand Daughter, USA)

ORPA exchanged her temporary TENT for a permanent HOME! BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE



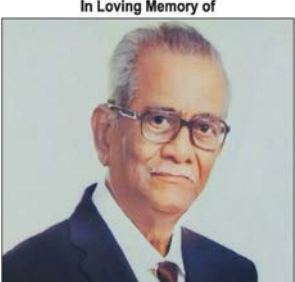
Mrs. G. ORPA ANURADHA
(St. Georges Grammar (Prep) School, Abids, Hyd)
26-11-1963 - 19-08-2012
W/o Goda Vinod Dinakar, APCOB, AGM (Retd.)
Inserted by: Vinod Dinakar, Rohit Varun, Linet Merlyn, Levi Jayden, Raymond Jordan (Grandsons)
Mob: 8074778025, 9885562388
(S/1920/D01309)

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 2 Timothy 4:7 IN LOVING MEMORY OF



S DAVID CHANDRASEKARAN
Executive Director (Retd.)
LIC of India
DOB: 30.07.1940 DOD: 25.11.2019
Memorial Service will be held on 29.11.2019
Inserted by: Family Members
Mobile: 9966350308 / 9955683056
(CA-3078)

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE In Loving Memory of



Mr. JONNALAGADDA ISAAC JOHN
Retd District & Sessions Judge
DOB: 26-11-1930 DOD: 05-10-2014
"A good name is better than precious ointment, and the day of death than the day of birth"
Ecclesiastes 7:1
Inserted by: Family Members

FOND REMEMBRANCE 3rd DEATH ANNIVERSARY



Mrs. MADHURI RANI
W/o Late Dr. B.C. Mathur
DOB: 16-03-1943 DOD: 26-11-2016
Inserted by:
RAJINI RANI & BHARAT MOHAN LAL
(S/1920/D01289)

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE



M. SURENDRA KUMAR RAO
(S.K. RAO)
D.O.B. : 26-11-1936 D.O.D. : 10-05-2008
Forever and ever more,
we preserve your memories with us.
With Love from
YOUR FAMILY MEMBERS



Golden words

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe urged China to preserve a free Hong Kong and backed Beijing's 'one country, two systems' principle of governing it



We cannot afford four more years of Trump's reckless and unethical actions

Michael Bloomberg
New York City Mayor

IN BRIEF

Britain in a mess, says Tony Blair

London: Former prime minister Tony Blair said on Monday that Britain was in a dangerous mess and that neither his own Labour Party nor Prime Minister Boris Johnson's Conservatives deserved to win a Dec. 12 election. Britain is holding an election three years ahead of schedule because parliament was deadlocked over Brexit, unable to agree on how or even whether to leave the European Union. "We're a mess," Blair said, adding, "The buoyancy of the world economy has kept us going up to now, but should that falter, we will be in deep trouble." Blair said both major parties were peddling fantasies.

Kenya landslide claims 43 lives

Nairobi: The toll from landslides that hit villages in northwestern Kenyan county of West Pokot has reached 43, local officials confirmed. "I have received reports from search teams that the death toll has risen to 43," John Lonyangapuo, the Governor of West Pokot County said. At least seven children are among the total number of deceased. The bodies of the victims have been recovered and dozens of more people are injured, West Pokot County Commissioner Apollo Okello said. Flooded roads and bridges were swept away after the incident, hindering rescue operations, Okello added. President Uhuru Kenyatta sent out condolences to those lost in the disaster.

Assange needs medical care: Doc

London: More than 60 doctors have written to British authorities asserting that WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange urgently needs medical treatment at a university hospital. The doctors said in a letter published on Monday that Assange suffers from psychological problems including depression as well as dental issues and a serious shoulder ailment. Assange is in Belmarsh Prison on the outskirts of London in advance of an extradition hearing set for February. He is sought by the US on espionage charges relating to his WikiLeaks work. The letter was sent to home secretary Priti Patel. Dr. Lissa Johnson of Australia said an independent medical assessment is needed to determine if Assange is "medically fit" to face legal proceedings. The letter was distributed by WikiLeaks.

DRIVER PLEADS GUILTY TO TRUCK DEATHS

London, Nov. 25: A Northern Irish man, who is charged with the manslaughter of 39 Vietnamese nationals found dead in a truck near London last month, pleaded guilty to assisting unlawful immigration and to acquiring criminal property. Maurice Robinson, 25, was not asked to enter a plea to 41 other charges, including 39 counts of manslaughter. No trial date was set and Robinson is next due in court on Dec. 13. The victims, 31 men and boys and eight women, were found on an industrial estate in Grays, Essex, not far from docks on the River Thames, on Oct. 23. The oldest of the victims was 44 while three were aged under 18. Another 23-year-old man from Northern Ireland was separately charged with conspiracy to arrange or facilitate the travel of people with a view to exploitation and conspiracy to facilitate the commission of a breach of UK immigration law.

All in the game



Iraqi children play a game of football on a street blocked with burning tyres, amid a general strike in the southern city of Basra. The demonstrations rocking the capital and Shiite-majority south since October 1 are the biggest grassroots movement the country has seen in decades. Sparked by outrage over rampant government corruption, poor services and lack of jobs.

— AFP

Iran's plot to attack Saudi
Tehran opted to target oil installations of America's ally, Saudi Arabia

Bahrain, Nov. 25: Four months before a swarm of drones and missiles crippled the world's biggest oil processing facility in Saudi Arabia, Iranian security officials gathered at a heavily fortified compound in Tehran. The group included the top echelons of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, an elite branch of the Iranian military whose portfolio includes missile development and covert operations. The main topic that day in May: How to punish the United States for pulling out of a landmark nuclear treaty and re-imposing economic sanctions on Iran, moves that have hit the Islamic Republic hard. With Major General Hossein Salami, leader of the Revolutionary Guards, looking on, a senior commander took the floor. "It is time to take out our swords and teach them a lesson," the commander said, according to four people familiar with the meeting. Hard-liners in the meeting talked of attacking high-value targets, including American military bases. Yet, what ultimately emerged was a plan that stopped short of direct confrontation that could trigger a devastating US response. Iran opted instead to target oil installations of America's ally, Saudi Arabia, a proposal discussed by top Iranian military officials in that May meeting and at least four that followed. This account, described



PEOPLE SAID Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei approved the operation, but with strict conditions: Iranian forces must avoid hitting any civilians or Americans

by three officials familiar with the meetings and a fourth close to Iran's decision making, is the first to describe the role of Iran's leaders in plotting the Sept. 14 attack on Saudi Aramco, Saudi Arabia's state-controlled oil company. These people said Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei approved the operation, but with strict conditions: Iranian forces must avoid hitting any civilians or Americans. "There was no confirmation of their version of events by Iran's leadership. A Revolutionary Guards spokesman declined to comment. Tehran has steadfastly denied involvement. Alireza Miryousefi, spokesman for the Iranian Mission to the United Nations in New York, rejected the version of events the four people described. He said Iran played no part in the strikes, that no meetings of senior security officials took place to discuss such an operation, and that Khamenei did not authorize any attack. "No, no, no, no, no, and no," Miryousefi said to

detailed questions on the alleged gatherings and Khamenei's purported role. The Saudi government communications office did not respond to a request for comment. The US Central Intelligence Agency and Pentagon declined to comment. A senior Trump administration official did not directly comment on the findings but said Tehran's 'behaviour and its decades-long history of destructive attacks and support for terrorism are why Iran's economy is in shambles'. Yemen's Iran-aligned Houthi rebels, at the center of a civil war against Saudi-backed forces, claimed responsibility for the assault on Saudi oil facilities. That declaration was rebuffed by US and Saudi officials, who said the sophistication of the offensive pointed to Iran. The kingdom is Iran's principal regional rival and a petroleum giant whose production is crucial to the world economy. It is an important U.S. security partner. But its war on Yemen, which has killed thousands of civilians, and the brutal murder of Washington-based

journalist Jamal Khashoggi by Saudi agents last year, have strained its relations with US lawmakers. There was no groundswell of support in Congress for military intervention to aid the Saudis after the attack. The 17-minute strike on two Aramco installations by 18 drones and three low-flying missiles revealed the vulnerability of the Saudi oil company, despite billions spent by the kingdom on security. Fires erupted at the company's Khurais oil installation and at the Abqaiq oil processing facility, the world's largest. The attack temporarily halved Saudi Arabia's oil production and knocked out 5% of the world's oil supply. The assault prompted US secretary of state Mike Pompeo to accuse Iran of an 'act of war'. In the aftermath, Tehran was hit with additional US sanctions. The United States also launched cyber attacks against Iran, U.S. officials told Reuters. The plan by Iranian military leaders to strike Saudi oil installations developed over several months, according to the official close to Iran's decision making. "Details were discussed thoroughly in at least five meetings and the final go ahead was given" by early September, the official said. All of those meetings took place at a secure location inside the southern Tehran compound attended by supreme leader Khamenei. — Reuters



Benjamin Netanyahu

IRAN PLANNING ATTACKS ON ISRAEL: BIBI

Jerusalem, Nov. 25: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu accused Iran of planning attacks against the Jewish state and said everything possible would be done to prevent them. The premier, who was indicted on corruption charges and is seen to be battling for his political life, made his remarks on a visit to an army base near the border with conflict-ravaged Syria. "Iran's aggression in our region, and against us, continues," Netanyahu said. "We are taking all actions to prevent Iran from entrenching our region. This includes thwarting the transfer of lethal weaponry from Iran to Syria, whether by air or overland. We will also take action to thwart Iran's effort to turn Iraq and Yemen into bases for launching rockets and missiles at Israel." — AFP

Pro-democrats grab HK power

Hong Kong, Nov. 25: Hong Kong's leader pledged to listen to public opinion on Monday and referred to deep-seated problems in society after a landslide election victory by opponents of Chinese rule amid months of sometimes violent pro-democracy unrest. Democratic candidates secured almost 90% of 452 district council seats in Sunday's poll, held during a rare weekend lull in clashes with police, despite a strongly resourced and mobilised pro-establishment opposition. Hong Kong's pro-Beijing chief executive, Carrie Lam, said the government respected the results and wished "the peaceful, safe and orderly situation to continue". "Quite a few are of the view that the results reflect people's dissatisfaction with the current situation and the deep-seated problems in society," Lam said. "The government would 'listen to the opinions of members of the public humbly and seriously reflect,' her statement said. The elections saw record turnout after six months of protests and brought upset wins for democrats against heavy-weight pro-Beijing opponents, greeted in some voting centres by chants of 'Liberate Hong Kong' and 'Revolution Now'.

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CARRIE LAM, Pro-Beijing leader

While district councils deal with local issues such as transport, their members also form part of the election committee for Hong Kong's chief executive. This could give them some influence over the next vote in 2022, although they only account for 117 of its 1,200 members. Democratic Party chairman Wu Chi-wai described the election as the first step in the long way to full democracy. "This district election shows that the central government needs to face the demands of a democratic system," he said. Along with universal suffrage, the protesters' demands include an independent inquiry into perceived police brutality. The voting ended with no major disruptions across the city of 7.4 million people on a day that saw massive, though orderly, queues form outside voting centres. "This is the power of democracy. This is a democratic tsunami," said Tommy Cheung, a former student protest leader who won a seat in the Yuen Long district close to China's border. — Reuters

Esper fires Navy secy in SEAL row

Washington, Nov. 25: Defense secretary Mark Esper has fired the Navy's top official, ending a stunning clash between President Donald Trump and top military leadership over the fate of a SEAL accused of war crimes in Iraq. Esper said that he had lost confidence in Navy secretary Richard Spencer and alleged that Spencer proposed a deal with the White House behind his back to resolve the SEAL's case. Trump has championed the matter of Navy Chief Petty Officer Edward Gallagher, who was acquitted of murder in the stabbing death of an Islamic State militant captive but convicted of posing with the corpse while in Iraq in 2017. Spencer's firing was a dramatic turn in the fast-changing and politically charged controversy. It exposed fissures in Trump's relationship with the highest ranks of the US military and raised questions about the appropriate role of a commander in chief in matters of military justice.



Edward Gallagher

Gallagher was demoted from chief petty officer to a 1st class petty officer after his conviction by a military jury. Trump, however, restored Gallagher's rank this month. The situation escalated again in recent days. On Wednesday, the Navy had notified Gallagher that he would face a Navy SEAL review board to determine if he should be allowed to remain in the elite force. While Trump then tweeted that he would not allow the Navy to remove Gallagher from the SEALs by taking away his Trident Pin, which designates a SEAL member, the White House told the Navy it could proceed as planned, according to a Navy officer. — AP

TURKEY NOT TO RESUME SYRIA OFFENSIVE

Ankara, Nov. 25: Turkey is fully abiding by the agreements it reached with Russia and the United States regarding northeast Syria and is not resuming its military offensive. Ankara reached separate agreements with Moscow and Washington last month to remove the Kurdish YPG militia from a swathe of land in northeast Syria bordering Turkey, which in return stopped its military offensive against the militia. But Ankara has previously said neither Russia nor the United States had kept up their side of the deal, and threatened to launch a new operation. The security source said that Turkey was responding to attacks by the YPG in the region within the scope of self defense. The weeks of fighting displaced tens of thousands of civilians. — Reuters

SHOCKING FACTS Leaked papers reveal brainwashing, not job training, at camps

Secrets of China's Xinjiang camps

Shanghai, Nov. 25: Classified Chinese government documents made public by an international group of journalists describe the repressive inner workings of detention camps in Xinjiang, in a second rare leak in days of secret files concerning the troubled western region. The publication on Sunday of the documents by the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists follows a *New York Times* report on Nov. 16 based on a cache of secret papers revealing details of China's clampdown on ethnic Uighurs and other Muslims in the region. United Nations experts and activists say at least 1 million Uighurs and members of other largely Muslim minority groups have been detained in camps in Xinjiang. The ICIJ says it obtained a 2017 list of guidelines 'that effectively serves as a



A guard tower and barbed wire fences are seen around a section of the Artux City Vocational Skills Education Training Service Centre in China's Xinjiang region. — AP

manual for operating the camps', with instructions on how to prevent escapes, maintain secrecy about the camps' existence, indoctrinate internees and 'when to let detainees see relatives or even use

the toilet'. Other documents it obtained include 'intelligence briefings' showing how police have been 'guided by a massive data collection and analysis system that uses artificial intelligence to select

entire categories of Xinjiang residents for detention'. Foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang told a news conference on Monday that Xinjiang affairs were an internal

matter of China's, and that a stable and prosperous Xinjiang was the best response to what he said amounted to slander. The *Guardian* newspaper, an ICIJ affiliate, reported the Chinese embassy in London as saying 'the so called leaked documents are pure fabrication and fake news'. Reuters was unable to independently verify the authenticity of the documents. The leaks come amid a rising international outcry over China's broader human rights record in Xinjiang. The United States has led more than 30 countries in condemning what it called a 'horrific campaign of repression'. Beijing denies any mistreatment of Uighurs or others in Xinjiang, saying it is providing vocational training to help stamp out Islamist extremism and separatism and to teach new skills. — Reuters

DECCAN

Chronicle

26 NOVEMBER 2019

Govt must recognise J&K not yet ‘normal’

The recent statement of the Union home minister in Parliament suggesting that Kashmir has returned to a state of normalcy conceals more than it reveals. The government cited police data of stone-throwing incidents, and violent acts of murder and bomb attacks and the like, to assert its claim that the situation was far better since August 5, when a constitutional dismantling of the state of J&K was announced, than in the period earlier. But these are unlikely to carry conviction with the people in the Valley.

Around 5,000 people were detained around August 5. Many were political activists, including separatist elements, some of whom take to the streets and resort to violence. Their arrest would bring down incidents of violence. In addition, every inch of land was covered by soldiers with weapons. It appears the blanket security presence is not the norm now. The test of violent crimes would be when this year’s extreme winter ends, and all elements are freed.

It is glaring, though, that the top mainstream leaders of Kashmir, including three former chief ministers, are still in detention. What kind of normality can it be when Kashmir’s most important public figures, who swear by the Constitution of India and have rallied their forces and directed their political trajectory against terrorism and secessionism, remain behind bars?

An official claim of normality in such circumstances can only make us the world’s laughing stock. Recently, even after the national mood was sought to be bolstered by an authoritative official statement that it was now business as usual in the Valley, a group of prominent citizens from New Delhi, led by Yashwant Sinha, who was finance minister in the Atal Behari Vajpayee government, was prevented from meeting the detained former CMs.

The group comprised a distinguished retired civil servant of the J&K cadre who once survived a terrorist attack, a retired top officer of the Indian Air Force who is a Kashmiri Pandit, a well-known public activist and a senior journalist — a perfectly harmless group of eminent Indians. They had gone to Kashmir to view “normality”. They couldn’t meet any detainees. They were also prevented from going out of Srinagar. In effect, they were themselves brought under close supervision and subjected to tight control, something similar to preventive detention.

There seems nothing normal about a situation such as this. Indeed, there is everything unusual and strange. Oddly enough, the day after the Union home ministry claim was publicised, the ongoing people’s strike in the Valley, characterised by the voluntary closure of shops, which had been slackening somewhat, came to be renewed with greater vigour than earlier. The major towns are once again locked down.

The time may have come for the government to offer a more sober assessment of ground realities to the people of the country, instead of simply trying to score propaganda brownie points.

A wake-up call for Kerala

Even political rivals of Kerala’s LDF government will give the Leftists credit for their performance on two fronts — general education and public health. Over 45,000 classrooms have gone hi-tech in the past three and half years, each room with proper furniture, mounted projector, laptop, etc. The government has pumped in money to the public health system by improving infrastructure in government hospitals and appointing new staff. There are as many as 55 primary health centres with NQAS accreditation in the state.

But all the good work failed to come to the aid of Shehala Sherin, a Class 5 student of Sarwajana School in Sulthan Bathery in the northern Wayanad district when she suffered a snakebite; a neurotoxic snake was supposed to have been hiding in a hole in the classroom! A doctor at Suthan Bathery taluk hospital confirmed the snakebite, but suggested she be taken to Kozhikode medical college, about 3-4 hours away, as the hospital had no ventilator to put her on should the child face complications while being administered anti-snake venom. She died on her way.

The whole episode demands that the government, while pressing ahead with introducing global standards in education and healthcare, take a deep breath and assess the ground realities. Hilly Wayanad, a new tourism hotspot in Kerala with its cool climes and coffee estates, has been a backward district all along. The state, being ruled by the Left Front, which is wedded to egalitarian principles, must ensure that its most backward areas get adequate care while the rest of the state climbs its way up.

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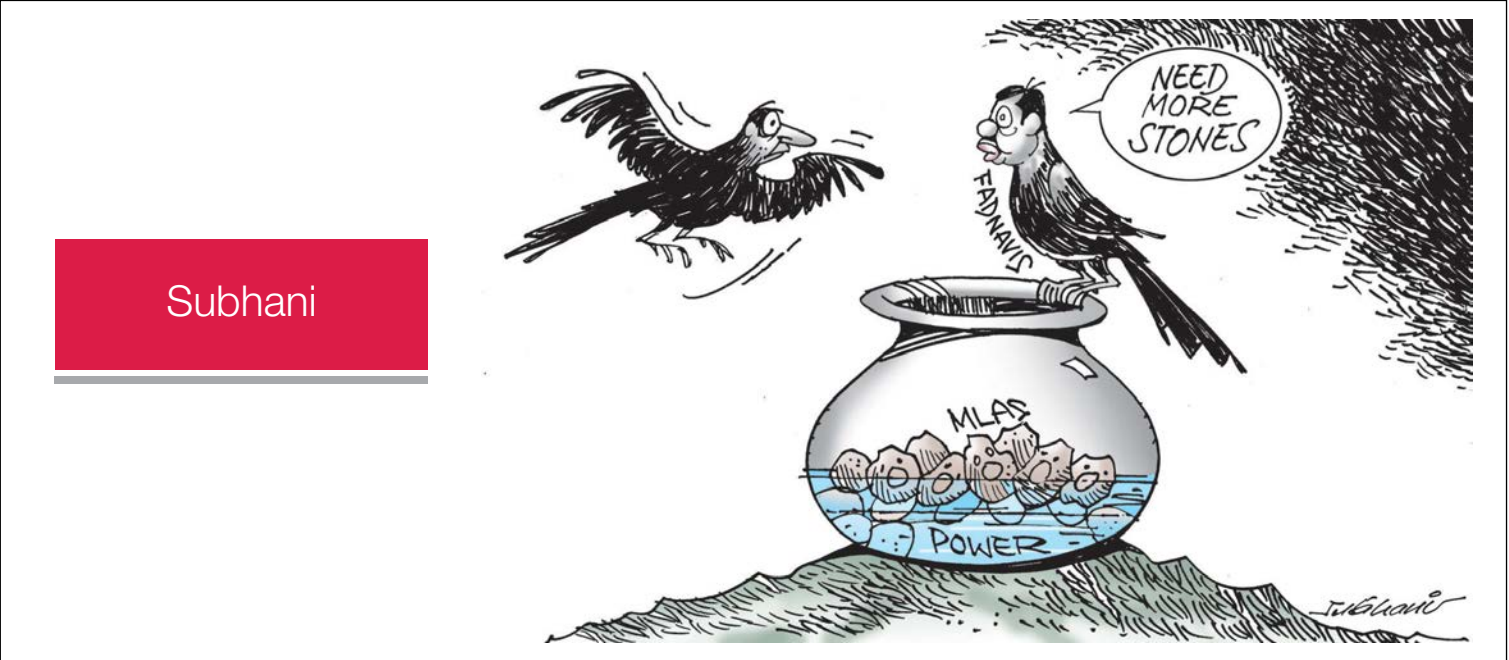
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Playing fast, going slow: Politicians & apex court



Integrity is the name of the crisis that the BJP has created by its actions in Maharashtra. In order to end a minor crisis, it has created a monumental one. And the President, the Maharashtra governor, the Prime Minister and the Union home minister have all been sucked into it.

The crisis, both constitutional and political, is evolving by the hour and just at the ponderous 24-hour cycle of a day. Stalled by the Supreme Court for 48 hours now, the political Opposition in Maharashtra has decided to tackle the issue of legitimacy of the dawn drama in Maharashtra on November 23 by challenging the claim of majority of the newly-installed ministry of Devendra Fadnavis of the BJP and Ajit Pawar, of disputed political affiliation, since he is no longer the legislature party chief of the Nationalist Congress Party.

The signed list of 162 members of the Maharashtra Assembly submitted by the Shiv Sena, NCP and the Congress to governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari makes nonsense of two things — first, the governor’s integrity, and second, the constitutional legitimacy of the Devendra Fadnavis government. The governor used his wisdom to organise the dawn drama by writing to home minister Amit Shah that President’s Rule in Maharashtra should be immediately revoked. Without calling a Cabinet meeting, Prime Minister Narendra Modi concurred with the judgment and requested the President of India, Ram Nath Kovind, to sign on the dotted line.

Mr Koshyari then arranged a speedy swearing-in. In doing so, the governor must accept responsibility for having reasons to believe that Mr Fadnavis’ claim was backed by a “stable” majority that would end the “uncertainty” in the nation’s finance capital, namely Mumbai. The list of 162 MLAs, with their signatures, contradicts the truth of the governor’s call, that Mr Fadnavis had a majority. The home minister bought the governor’s story, and then sold it to the Prime Minister, who then advised the President to revoke President’s Rule and make way for a Fadnavis government.

The BJP can trade all the horses it wants, but it cannot put back together again the broken bits of its claim to being a clean party. Instead of draining the stinking swamp of intrigue and corruption created allegedly by the Congress over 70 years, the BJP has deepened and widened it. It swindled; its claim to a majority was a fraud. The BJP can pass the buck to Ajit Pawar for perpetrating the fraud, by submitting a list of MLAs from the NCP who supported the new deal, though in fact the majority of these MLAs were not party to the deal. In buying Ajit Pawar’s scam, the BJP is an accessory.

By stalling for time to do something with the

The BJP has become an expert at pulling off heists. By normalising poaching or defections to stitch together majorities, it mocks the institution of political parties and multi-party democracy.

documents it asked for and ponder on the arguments it heard, the Supreme Court is allowing itself to be swamped. In any case, the Supreme Court cannot decide on the integrity of the people involved. Nor can it question the intentions of those involved. Deconstructing the difference between the Supreme Court’s response in the Karnataka case and the Maharashtra one, must await what the court finally has to say on the matter. What cannot be postponed is raising an alarm over the snowballing constitutional crisis.

The body snatching tactics of the BJP have been honed over several successful such ambushes. In the popular imagination, it overturns negative mandates into positive outcomes by launching “Operation Lotus” or Operation Kamal. In Karnataka, by handing out 13 BJP tickets to contest the byelections, the connection between Operation Lotus and defections is as simple as putting two and two together. In Goa, the BJP accommodated the bulk of Congress MLAs and put itself in power. In Haryana, the BJP won over the Jannayak Janta Party. Being the party with a minority of MLAs, as in Maharashtra, is not a hurdle; the BJP has the necessary magic to jump over it.

The BJP has become an expert at pulling off heists. By normalising poaching or defections to stitch together majorities, it mocks the institution of political parties and multi-party democracy. The lament of “libtards” or “secular sepoys” or people simply opposed to the Sangh Parivar that the

Opposition in India has crumbled is entirely true. If the opponent can be taken over when the BJP’s ends require it, no matter what the means used, then political parties do not matter. Therefore, the idea of multi-party democracy is invalid. Minor hitches like the anti-defection law are just that. As long as the BJP issues tickets to defectors and ensures that they win, other political parties are shells with signboards.

Prevailing under any circumstances seems to be the BJP’s modus operandi and the future that the party is committed to establishing in India. The events in Maharashtra confirm this. Having accepted on November 8 that he did not have a majority as the Shiv Sena would not back a government led by him, the sudden ascension to the chief minister’s chair was an incredible transformation. The timing of the event, hours before the NCP, Shiv Sena and the Congress were expected to stake their claim to form the government in Maharashtra underscores the determination of the BJP to prevail.

The question is, can this be read as a signal to voters in Jharkhand that they should back off from supporting parties other than the BJP? There are a series of questions that follow from the events in Maharashtra. Will the Maharashtra operations become the template for future state Assembly elections in India for as long as the BJP does not crumble under its own contradictions? Can this be read as a signal to the non-BJP-ruled states that there will be another heist? And will the courts be turned into gobsmacked spectators? If events outpace the speed at which the courts can respond to issues of legitimacy, then that is exactly what they will be. Neither fair play nor justice have any meaning left as the BJP barrels its way into office, with or without a mandate.

The writer is a senior journalist in Kolkata

LETTERS

DISGUSTING

It is disgusting to note that each passing election sees elected lawmakers being bought and sold like cattle. It is time for us to wake up and put a full stop to this. A member who gets elected on a particular symbol of a party should remain a member of that party for the full term or till the Assembly or Parliament dissolved. If any elected member changes his/her loyalty to any other party then he or she should be automatically disqualified for the rest of the term. This I believe will put some sense in the heads of the elected members at least till the respective House is dissolved.

Susai Rayer
Shamshabad

RECTIFY FLYOVER

I request the authorities concerned to take necessary steps to rectify the geometrical issues in the design of the Biodiversity flyover near Gachibowli immediately. The Hyderabad Traffic Police and the GHMC should set up speed breakers way before vulnerable curves to prevent accidents.

Syed Mushtaq Zainulabideen
Tolichowki, Hyderabad

Email your letters to
info@deccanmail.com,
editor@deccanmail.com. You can also send them to Editor, Deccan Chronicle, 36, Sarojini Devi Road, Secunderabad-500 003.

50 YEARS AGO IN DECCAN Chronicle

US to destroy germ weapons

WASHINGTON, Nov. 25.

President Richard Nixon today announced that the United States would destroy all existing stockpiles of bacteriological weapons.

He told newsmen the USA would never employ germ warfare even if an enemy were to do so. He also announced that future Government research in the biological will be limited to defensive measures such as a search for immunisation serums against germ weapons others might use.

The President in a formal statement said he was taking a series of moves in the chemical bacteriological areas as “an initiative toward peace”.



Aisha Khan

Peg gender on human rights, not only in an economic lens

We are living in a divided and unequal world that is socially fractured and economically uneven. Hatred, hypocrisy, prejudice, conflict and war are creating uncertainties and destabilising societies. Some regions are enjoying peace, security and prosperity, while others are struggling to break a chronic cycle of conflict and violence.

In South Asia, the causes for divisions within and between countries are many — creating fissures and fault lines that fuel tensions, and making the region volatile and societies vulnerable. Add to this the plight of women within society, and these issues become even more complex. Gender inequality is a deep-rooted issue that is interpreted in a number of ways by different people. However, given the patriarchal nature of society, shifting from entrenched values will not be easy. Discrimination, harassment and violence occur at home and in the workplace, albeit in different ways;

either overt brutality or covert threats, usually based on the anticipated reaction from society or the victim’s capacity to respond.

In order to develop an integrated understanding of gender issues in South Asia, it is important to contextualise it in the prevailing socioeconomic, religious and geopolitical conditions; account for the fact that constitutional guarantees and legal provisions do not automatically lead to implementation; and acknowledge that discrimination persists within the family and societal institutions. The gap between legislation, policy and practice remains an impediment.

At first glance, South Asia appears rich in cultural constructs such as family ties, social networks and economic relations, as well as assumptions of social harmony and pursuit of spiritual over material values. However, underlying this idealistic conceptualisation is the harsh reality of divisions and discriminations based on gender,

caste, creed and socioeconomic disparities. While the universality of gender inequality in the labour force affects growth, other insidious factors — especially those that treat women as if they were children of a lesser god — are even more alarming. Without a fundamental shift, opportunities for women will remain few, growth will be stunted, inequalities will prevail and biases will continue to shape social values, thus slowing down the process of empowerment.

This has major human rights implications. We tend to equate worth with economic strength, social standing and occupation in positions of authority. Acknowledging that productive outputs are indeed core drivers of sustainable economic growth, this cannot be used as the sole criterion for granting or withholding fundamental human rights, which intrinsically guarantee equality for all irrespective of station in life. Human rights are not based on

who is rich or poor, employed or unemployed, young or old, etc. They are about equality, freedom, dignity and respect for all.

This is why it is important to shift our focus away from framing women’s empowerment in purely economic terms, and instead create the space to foreground the human rights of women and link it directly with equal opportunity, access to resources and freedom of choice.

Women are a heterogeneous group and a product of their society. A vast majority fall prey to the brainwashing that begins at birth and continues throughout their lives, making most women feel that striving for equality is either immoral or a sin. This restricted intellectual conceptualisation of womanhood prevents them from striving harder and demanding their rightful place and share in society. This web of cultural constraints, reinforced by a regressive and coercive interpretation of religion, acts as a mental barrier and

effectively handicaps women psychologically who are then unable to demand full emancipation. The majority of South Asian women are not free agents who are empowered to make their own life choices, ranging from education, marriage, employment, family planning and financial investments.

Given the existing gender imbalance in wage, income, wealth and participation in the labour market, the impacts of climate change will act as a threat multiplier for women. There is, therefore, an urgent need to separate economics from gender empowerment and peg it on human rights. In this emerging scenario, if freedom and empowerment are framed only in economic terms, then the rights of many — especially women — will increasingly be usurped and violated, reducing them to lives of subservience, destitution, oppression and exploitation.

By arrangement with Dawn

The economics of giving away goods or services

A pair of socks chosen to make an impression, to stand out or to express something about oneself

DECCAN CHRONICLE

TUESDAY | 26 NOVEMBER 2019 | HYDERABAD

Oped

PAGE 9

In Kashmir, ‘democracy and morality can wait’



Gowhar Geelani

When it comes to Kashmir, both “democracy” and “morality” can wait! The dawn of August 5, 2019 came on Kashmiris like a “betrayal”. In the eyes of many perceptive Kashmiris, “the latest betrayal should not be a cause of real surprise or shock if one were a good student of history and the Kashmir conflict”.

For them, what happened on August 5 this year was a stark reminder that something similar had happened several times before — first in August 1953, and then again in 1964.

For Kashmir, the season of betrayals has been never-end-

ing. On August 9, 1953, the “prime minister” of Jammu and Kashmir, Sheikh Abdullah, was unceremoniously dismissed as the head of the state, and then imprisoned for over two decades in separate stints from 1953 to 1975. To begin with, Sheikh Abdullah, on charges of “treason”, remained in prison for 12 years with two brief intermissions — in 1958 and 1964.

Independent India’s first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru allowed Sheikh Abdullah, once his bosom friend, to visit Pakistan to meet the Pakistani military dictator, Gen. Ayub Khan, in Rawalpindi in 1964. However, Sheikh Abdullah was again put behind bars on his return to Srinagar. This time, however, for a longish term. By then,

Nehru had also passed away.

Celebrated historian Perry Anderson noted in *The Indian Ideology*: “The Intelligence Bureau had little difficulty convincing (Pandit Jawaharlal) Nehru that he (Abdullah) had become a liability, and overnight he was dismissed by the strapping heir to the Dogra throne he had so complacently made head of state, and thrown into an Indian jail on charges of sedition.”

Not only was the Sheikh accused of being “seditious” he was also falsely accused of “receiving money from Pakistan” in what became known as the Kashmir Conspiracy Case.

In the 1940s, Sheikh Abdullah was largely seen as an unrelenting figure of Kashmiri nationalism. He was the founder of the National Conference, which in 1931 began as the Muslim Conference and was the first political party of the erstwhile Jammu and Kashmir. Besides this, Sheikh Abdullah became the first Muslim “prime minister” of Jammu and Kashmir after a Kashmiri Pandit (Hindu), Ramchand Kak. He had also

In the eyes of many key Kashmir watchers, there has been hardly any difference between how the BJP is operating in Kashmir at the moment, or how the so-called secular Congress Party has dealt with Kashmir in the past

spearheaded the Quit Kashmir movement against the Dogra ruler, Maharaja Hari Singh.

The late Professor Balraj Puri, a well-known academic from the Jammu region, was enraged over Sheikh Abdullah’s dismissal as prime minister and his detention. With the aim of registering his protest over the issue, he met Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru in New Delhi. But Puri’s earnest trip to Delhi did not bear any fruit.

He wrote in his book *In Kashmir Towards Insurgency* that “Nehru warned me against being too idealistic and asserted that the national interest was more important

than democracy”.

Historian Anderson, while referring to Puri as “an anguished admirer (of Nehru) from Jammu”, wrote: “When an anguished admirer from Jammu pleaded with him not to do so, he replied that the national interest was more important than democracy: ‘We have gambled at the international stage on Kashmir, and we cannot afford to lose. At the moment, we are there at the point of a bayonet. Till things improve, democracy and morality can wait’.”

Similarly, according to a Kashmiri academic, Prof. Ghulam Rasool Malik: “Nehru’s quiet reply (to Balraj Puri) had been that democratic rights were not applicable to Kashmir.” This was written by Prof. Malik in his essay “In The Arms of Fire” in a book titled *A Desolation Called Peace*.

Meanwhile, soon after Sheikh Abdullah’s dismissal from office and later arrest in 1953, the Congress Party installed Ghulam Mohammed Bakshi’s regime. Bakshi’s government was considered both brutal as well as corrupt and, according to Anderson,

“depended entirely on the Indian security apparatus”.

When after a decade in office, Bakshi’s utility was over and he too was considered a liability for New Delhi, the Congress installed another man named G.M. Sadiq. Unlike Sheikh Abdullah and Bakshi (both “prime ministers”), Sadiq was installed as chief minister. Sheikh Abdullah was discarded for Bakshi, and Bakshi for Sadiq. As an aside, all Assembly elections till 1977, and also the one in 1987, were rigged.

Additionally, it was during Sadiq’s government that the nomenclatures of Sadr-i-Riyasat (president) and Wazir-e-A’zam (prime minister) were dispensed with, and replaced by those of “governor” and “chief minister”, which was perceived by native Kashmiris as a major assault on Kashmir’s regional autonomy after the Sheikh’s arrest and removal.

In the mid-1960s, chief minister G.M. Sadiq dropped all cases against Sheikh Abdullah and his associates, including the infamous Kashmir Conspiracy Case.

In the eyes of many key Kashmir watchers, there has been hardly any difference between how the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is operating in Kashmir at the moment, or how the so-called secular Congress Party has dealt with Kashmir in the past. Both parties have stripped off Kashmir’s autonomy in the name of “national interest”, “national security” and “national integration”.

On August 5, 2019, the BJP not only removed Kashmir’s autonomy, the saffron party also divided the state into two separate Union territories — Ladakh and Jammu and Kashmir. Native Kashmiris have interpreted the BJP’s move as a “strategy of revenge and repression”, with an ideological and civilisational view on Kashmir. A Kashmiri on the street says that it is a “smash and grab” operation.

But please do remember, when it comes to Kashmir, “democracy and morality can wait”!

The writer is a journalist, author and political commentator

Confidential EC meet exposes govt lies to Parliament



Nitin Sethi

This is Part 2 of the 6-part #PaissaPolitics investigative series by HuffPost. Reprinted with permission from the Huffington Post.

Eager to legalise a route to anonymously funnel corporate money into the coffers of political parties, the Narendra Modi-led government dismissed the Election Commission of India’s strident opposition to electoral bonds, lied to the Indian Parliament and finally resorted to a hurried cover-up when its misstatements were caught out.

Previously unpublished documents obtained by *HuffPost India* reveal that three senior bureaucrats came up with six different convoluted explanations to protect then minister of state P. Radhakrishnan when he was caught lying about electoral bonds on the floor of the Parliament, Indian democracy’s most hallowed ground.

A confidential note, included in the documents, show senior bureaucrats knowingly sought to mislead Election Commission officials in an ultimately unsuccessful attempt to blunt the EC’s opposition to electoral bonds.

The Election Commission wasn’t the only one to see its suggestions summarily disregarded. The government made a show of asking Opposition political parties for their views on the matter, even as the finance ministry continued to design the scheme without waiting to hear back from them or responding to their queries.

Taken as a whole, the documents reviewed by *HuffPost India* expose the Narendra Modi government’s double-peak on electoral bonds, a controversial financial instrument first unveiled in 2017 by then finance minister Arun Jaitley, that allows any corporation, trust, NGO or individual to donate unlimited amounts of money to India’s political parties.

Ninety five per cent of the money gathered by the first tranche of such bonds has gone to the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), according to data compiled by the Association for Democratic Reforms.

The Supreme Court is currently hearing a petition on the legality of such bonds. Now, documents obtained under the Right to Information Act by transparency activist Commodore (Retd.) Lokesh Batra suggest that the government’s utterances and assurances on the matter cannot be trusted, even when they are made before institutions like the Parliament.

In the winter session of Parliament in 2018, Rajya Sabha member Mohammad Nadimul Haque asked the government a simple question: Had the Election Commission of India raised concerns about electoral bonds?

The then minister of state for

finance, P. Radhakrishnan, replied that the government had not received “any concerns from the Election Commission on the issue of Electoral Bearer Bonds”.

This was false, as internal communications between the government — also exposed by Batra, the transparency activist — soon made clear. Haque filed a breach of privilege complaint against the minister for lying to Parliament, and the media picked up the story.

Now, *HuffPost India* can reveal just how the government tried to walk back from Radhakrishnan’s false utterances in Parliament. Even the government’s response to the breach-of-privilege complaint was not wholly honest. Implicit in all this correspondence is one simple question: Why was the government so eager to muzzle the Election Commission’s opposition to Electoral Bonds?

The finance ministry told *HuffPost India* it would not be able to provide detailed responses to specific questions as it was busy preparing next year’s Union Budget, but said that all the decisions were taken “in good 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 decision making process,” the finance ministry said in an email.

COVERING UP EC OBJECTIONS

In May 2017, the Election Commission of India wrote to the Union ministry of law and justice, warning that electoral bonds would help political parties hide illegal donations from foreign sources. Dubious donors could now set up shell companies to funnel black money to politicians and mask the true source of the money.

The Commission wanted electoral bonds and other legal changes made by the government to reduce transparency in funding of political parties to be rolled back.

On July 3, 2017, the law ministry forwarded the Election Commission’s concerns to the department of economic affairs of the finance ministry; but the finance ministry simply pretended it had never heard from the Commission.

Rather than responding to the Commission’s fundamental concerns in writing to the law ministry, then finance minister Arun Jaitley ordered a meeting be called with both the RBI and the Election Commission to “finalise the structure of the Electoral Bonds”.

ELECTORAL BONDS-2

Documents obtained by HuffPost India reveal that three senior bureaucrats came up with six different explanations to protect then minister of state P. Radhakrishnan when he was caught lying about electoral bonds on the floor of the Parliament

In the face of such strident opposition from the EC, the government chose to steamroll ahead, rather than revisit its insistence on a secrecy-laden funding route for political parties.

The meeting was held on July 19, 2017, and attended by two officials from the Election Commission. Economic affairs secretary S.C. Garg later recorded in his files that he briefed the two and “laid emphasis that the scheme does provide a level-playing field and encourage transparent funding of political parties”.

Records from the law and justice ministry show the Election Commission was still not impressed.

A note dated September 22, 2017, by Garg, addressed to the finance minister and marked “confidential”, points to another meeting that he held on July 28, 2017, directly with the then Chief Election Commissioner Achal Kumar and two Election Commissioners Om Prakash Rawat and Sunil Arora.

In his note, Garg wrote that he had told the Commissioners that companies would make accounting entries in their books when buying electoral bonds, which would ensure “complete transparency” regarding the “source of funds used for buying electoral bonds” as well as the “quantum of political donations”.

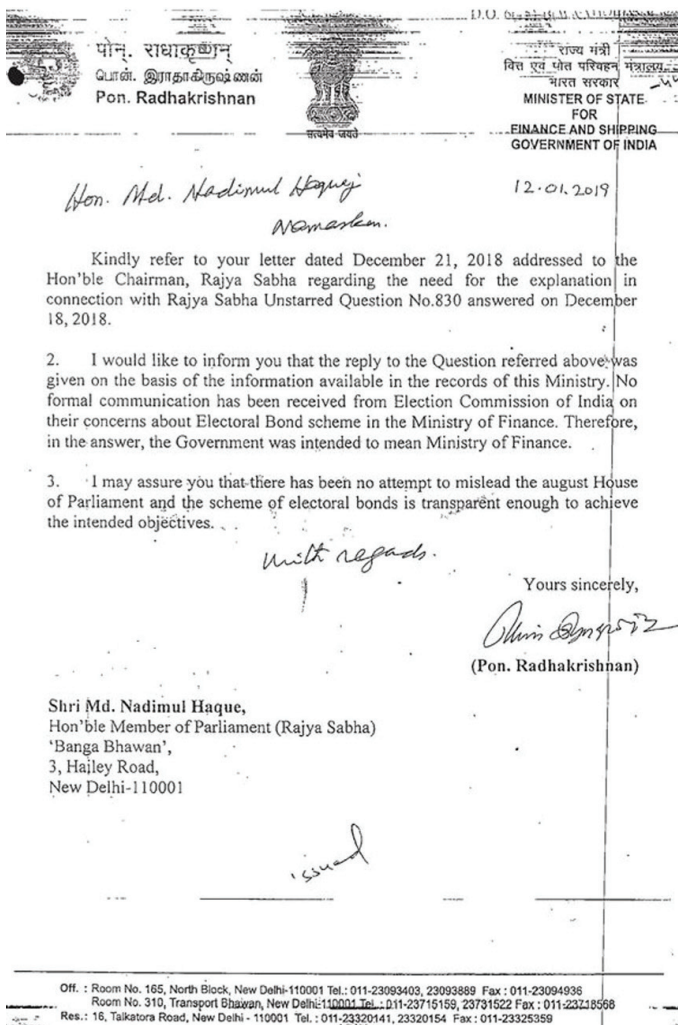
This was false: Companies are not required to detail to whom they donated electoral bonds in their profit-and-loss statements and balance sheets. Only the aggregated profit-and-loss accounts and balance sheets, which form part of the annual submissions to the government, are available for public scrutiny.

Garg said he explained to the Commissioners the “provisions and justification for key features of the electoral bonds for ensuring anonymity of the donations made, which ensures greater degree of freedom to the donors and provide a level playing field to the political parties”.

Garg’s confidential note points to several concerns raised yet again by the Election Commissioners in person in this meeting, including that the bonds could allow shell companies to launder money to political parties. It also points out how the Commission still wanted the government to change some provisions to provide more transparency.

Yet, he records, “It is my understanding that the Commission was reasonably satisfied about the electoral bonds being a fair and more transparent system of political donations.”

This was, once again, a false statement.



The letter sent by P. Radhakrishnan

Even as late as October 2018, the law and justice ministry records show, the Election Commission continued to insist upon the rollback of the bonds and other anti-transparency provisions the government had introduced. The ministry’s records also show the finance ministry continued to ignore reminders to respond to the Commission’s formally submitted views.

These records of face-to-face meetings between officials of the finance ministry and the Election Commission, and all the correspondence detailed above, makes clear that the finance ministry knew of the Election Commission’s objections to the electoral bond scheme.

Which makes it all the more puzzling why minister of state for finance Radhakrishnan, responding to Haque’s question in the winter session of 2018, confidently told Parliament that the government had not received “any concerns from Election Commission on the issue of Electoral Bearer Bonds”.

Transparency activist Batra’s revelations that the Election Commission had indeed written to the ministry of law and justice with its objections were published in the press. Based on these, Haque sent a notice for breach of privilege, which was forwarded by the Rajya Sabha secretariat for the finance ministry’s response on December 28, 2018.

Radhakrishnan had been caught misleading Parliament, and the finance ministry tied itself in knots to defend the indefensible.

Several options, all of them lies, each more convoluted than the other, were proposed as a way to hide the facts.

One official, deputy director Vijay Kumar, who had been

handling the electoral bond scheme all through, advised on January 1, 2019, that while the economic affairs secretary Garg had even met the Election Commissioner officials personally on the issue, they could still say that the Election Commission had not directly apprised them of their concerns in writing. So, he advised his seniors that the minister of state for finance, Radhakrishnan, had not lied to the Parliament.

The economic affairs secretary Garg had a more sophisticated argument, steeped in deeper bureaucratise, to make. He first admitted Radhakrishnan had given a wrong statement to Parliament. On January 2, 2019, he penned down his views, “There is a flow in the answer given. It has been stated that the government had not received any concerns from the Election Commission. If it was noted that the ministry of finance did not receive any concern it could have been correct in light of the facts brought out above.”

Then he suggested two options:

“Either clarify to the minister that the government in answer for parts (d) and (e) was meant to be ministry of finance or make a clarificatory statement in the House about correct facts of the case. Please examine and let us discuss with FM,” he penned down.

Based on the inputs from his boss, Garg’s subordinate, joint secretary of the budget division, came up with three innovative excuses to claim that the minister of state had not told a lie.

Two of these were based on bureaucratic jargon and the third on obfuscation of the truth. He said, “There exists no official communication

between the Election Commission of India and the ministry of finance informing the ministry of finance of any concerns on the issue of electoral bonds. The newspaper reports refer to the letter of ECI dated May 26, 2017. This letter was not received in the ministry of finance. Therefore ministry of finance never had any opportunity to examine the letter referred to in the newspapers.”

This was a lie. As other media reports have revealed, the Election Commission’s letter had been received by the finance ministry, including by the division that was drumming up these lies and the department of revenue, from where the idea of electoral bonds had originated on government records. To top it all, as *HuffPost India* has revealed for the first time above, the department of economic affairs secretary, Garg, had personally met the Election Commissioners on July 28, 2018 to discuss their apprehensions over electoral bonds.

Yet, Garg agreed with the argument that the government should brazen it out in the Parliament. So did finance minister Jaitley.

Consequently, on January 12, 2019, the minister of state for finance, Radhakrishnan replied to Haque, “No formal communication has been received from the Election Commission of India on their concerns about electoral bonds scheme in the ministry of finance. Therefore in the answer, government was intended to mean the ministry of finance. I may assure you there is no attempt to mislead the August House of Parliament and the scheme of electoral bonds is transparent enough to achieve the intended objectives.”

Batra, the transparency activist, exposed this cover-up as well. He found that the finance ministry had also received the Election Commission’s letter of objections through the law and justice ministry on July 3, 2017. This particular letter from the Election Commission was circulated to all departments and divisions that dealt with electoral bonds.

One of them — the financial sector reforms and legislation division under the department of economic affairs, which was supervising the implementation of the bonds — even agreed with the Election Commission’s views. But the finance ministry just would not respond in writing to the objections. To do so would have meant acknowledging the Commission had conceptual and fundamental problems with the electoral bonds and not just procedural concerns.

The Election Commissioners remained consistently opposed to the bonds even after meeting in person with economic affairs secretary, documents with *HuffPost India* show.

The Commission’s continued objections became public knowledge when, in March 2019, it reiterated its opposition to electoral bonds in an affidavit submitted to the Supreme Court. But by now, electoral bonds worth more than ₹1,400 crores had already been purchased by corporations and donated to political parties.

In August 2019, the incumbent finance minister Nirmala

Sitharaman sought to lay the controversy to rest. She tabled a “corrected reply” to Haque’s question in the Parliament.

The corrected reply, which now forms part of the parliamentary record, acknowledges that the Election Commission had raised serious concerns about electoral bonds. This time around, the finance ministry did not use the technical interpretation of bureaucratic rules to deny the facts.

Yet, rather deftly, Ms Sitharaman also avoided answering the other key question Haque had originally asked: What had the government done to address the concerns of the Election Commission?

To this question, the minister merely furnished a cut-paste answer detailing the features of the electoral bonds scheme that the government has been running for nearly two years.

WHO’S LISTENING?

It was not just the Election Commission or the RBI which the government pretended to consult during the setting up of the electoral bonds scheme even as it steamrolled ahead with its plans. It did the same to political parties as well, show documents.

On May 2, 2017, finance minister Jaitley wrote to India’s Opposition parties, asking for suggestions on how to improve and implement the electoral bond scheme.

Several wrote back. “I note that the government is concerned with the issue of transparency in electoral funding of political parties,” the Congress’s then treasurer Motilal Vohra wrote. “Transparency implies that the electorate must know 1) Who is the donor 2) Which is the donee political party and 3) What is the amount donated.”

In the absence of any specific scheme, Vora said the finance minister’s speech and public comments suggested the “donor’s names will be known only to the bank issuing the bond and the donee’s name will be known only to the income tax department. In effect only the government will know the names of the donors and the donee and the people will not know.”

He concluded, “We will be able to comment further only after we have studied the scheme promised to be made by the government.”

Having heard back from the political parties, some outlining serious misgivings about electoral bonds and some asking for more information, the finance ministry mandarins worked feverishly to draft out a scheme that served their political masters. Once done, they asked the then finance minister if the prepared draft structure and scheme of the electoral bonds should be shared with all political parties. Jaitley stayed silent on the question, indicating the details of the scheme should not be shared with other political parties.

The supposed dialogue with the Opposition was just another perfunctory exercise for the government to claim that the electoral bond scheme had been formulated after due consultations, just as it had tried to do with the RBI and with the Election Commission.

■ To be continued

Airtel, Jio bid for RCom assets

Tech antitrust cases may include privacy lapses

quick BITES

INDICATORS		%
Sensex	40,889.23	1.31
Nifty 50	12,073.75	1.34
S&P 500	3,127.48	+0.55
Dollar* (₹)	71.94	-0.07
Pound Sterling* (₹)	92.82	-0.44
Euro* (₹)	79.33	-0.33
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	37,895	+58
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	\$63.39	0.00
IN 10-Yr bond yield*	+6.495	-0.010
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	+1.771	0.00

Attend Dec. 16 meet or get arrested: NCLT

The Mumbai NCLT on Monday ordered the CEOs of Axis Bank and StanChart Bank to be personally present at the next hearing on December 16 in a case relating to the IL&FS fraud, failing which it threatened to get NBWs issued against them. An NCLT bench issued the ultimatum while hearing a contempt petition against them.

RCom shares rally 6% on asset sale buzz



Shares of RCom hit their upper circuit on Monday, rising over 6 per cent, amid reports that Bharti Airtel, Reliance Industries and three others may bid for the assets of debt-ridden company. On the BSE, shares of the company closed 4.55 per cent up at 69 paise apiece. Similarly, the stock advanced 6.67 per cent to settle at 80 paise on the NSE.

NephroPlus raises ₹316 crore for SE Asia expansion

Alternative asset manager Investcorp on Monday said it has closed ₹316 crore investment in dialysis service provider NephroPlus. The primary capital raised in this round will be utilised towards organic growth in India and taking the proven business model of NephroPlus to other markets, starting with South East Asia, Investcorp said.

InMobi's Glance acquires short video platform

Glance on Monday said it has acquired short-video platform Roposo for an undisclosed amount, a move that will provide it access to Roposo's network of professional, vernacular content creators and over 42 million users. The acquisition will enable Glance to tap into Roposo's regional influencers and create professional vernacular, video content in line with Glance's editorial guidelines.

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Early adapters of FASTags include commercial vehicles ■ 63 lakh FASTags issued so far

Congested NH tolls set to continue

SANGEETHA G CHENNAI, NOV. 25

With less than a week left before FASTags become a compulsory requirement at National Highway toll plazas, the slow adoption of the RFID tags means passengers will continue to face long congestion at the National Highways. Currently, FASTags, only 63 lakh issued so far, would account for about 40 per cent of the transactions at toll plazas.

According to the June quarter data of Worldline India, 52.2 lakh tags have been issued at the end of the quarter. Deepak Chandnani, MD, South Asia and Middle East, Worldline finds that the



total issuance would have moved up to 63 lakh by now. While millions ply on the national highways every day, only a fraction, currently, have FASTags. E-transactions account for just 35 to 40 per cent of the total payments at the 537 NH toll plazas.

By December 1, all the lanes in National Highway

toll plazas, except one, would become electronic toll collection compliant. One lane will also accept other modes of payment including cash. Entering a FASTag lane without the tag will be penalised by double charge. Though the ministry is planning to issue on-the-spot tags for those without one, this will lead to a lot of confusion and inconvenience in the single lane dedicated for other payment modes.

"Initially there could be some convenience in the toll plazas," said Chandnani. "Though 63 lakh tags have been issued, half of them are not active. Once the new arrangement becomes operational we would see a

large number of the inactive tags becoming active," said Chandnani.

Among different types of vehicles, fleets of trucks, cabs, taxis and buses have been early adapters of FASTags. Personal vehicles have witnessed comparatively slower adoption.

However, he hopes that once the electronic toll collection becomes mandatory in state highways in one or two years, the number of FASTags issued will double. "Currently, a large number of vehicles do not use the national highways or use them once in a month or so. However, many of them ply through state highways more frequently and this will necessitate FASTags.

Sensex hits new closing high, wealth rises by ₹1.81 trillion

Easy monetary stance of US Fed has improved liquidity

ASHWIN J PUNNEN MUMBAI, NOV. 25

The massive rally that took the Sensex to record highs have made investors richer by ₹1.81 trillion.

The market capitalisation (m-cap) of the BSE-listed companies rose to ₹154.55 trillion as the BSE benchmark surged 530 points to hit a fresh closing high of 40,889.23.

"Signs of a cooling in rhetoric between the US and China has contributed to a resumption in foreign flows into India — today's (Monday) market move is in line with similarly strong sentiment across Asian markets," S. Hariharan, head (sales trading), Emkay Global Financial Services, said.



"The prolonged trade war between the US and China was weighing heavily on Indian indices. Positive statements made by officials (from both the countries) last week indicating that a trade pact is likely by the end of

December 2019 are being welcomed," Sandeep Nayak, executive director and CEO of Centrum Broking, said.

Analysts said FIIs are preferring emerging markets such as India as the recent easy monetary stance of US Federal Reserve and the European Central Bank has improved liquidity in world markets.

"Whereas, India's economy is seeing a demand revival especially in the sectors of auto and consumer durables. The government providing relief to telecom companies over spectrum related dues and impending price increase planned by players has also revived interest in the sector," Nayak said.

From the 30-share pack, 28 stocks closed the day with gains led by Bharti Airtel, Tata Steel, IndusInd Bank and Axis Bank.

On the BSE, 1,413 scrips advanced, while 1,086 declined and 208 remained unchanged.

Analysts said indications that US and China will conclude a deal by next month lifted the sentiment across the globe.

Apart from that the reconstruction of Sensex indices and new developments over divestment to curb fiscal deficit provided confidence in Indian market.

Expectations of further cut in interest rate by the RBI gave advantage to rate-sensitive stocks.

FC BUREAU CHENNAI, NOV. 25

Stricter compliance of RERA will make nearly 2.75 lakh new ready-to-move houses available in top seven cities over the next one year. This is 21 per cent of the under-construction units in these cities.

According to property consultants, Anarock, developers have to complete their projects on time as per the new RERA norms. Though currently the demand is slow, they hope that demand will pick up by next year, especially in the affordable housing segment. Ready-to-move units usually meet higher demand as they do not attract GST.

"RERA is gaining stronger ground in most states and many of these

projected 2.75 lakh units are likely to be completed on time by December 2020. Developers are aware that ready-to-move homes are in greatest demand and will spare no effort in completing their projects on time," said Anuj Puri, chairman, Anarock.

Over 41 per cent or 1.13 lakh units will be in the affordable segment, 33 per cent or 90,770 units in the mid-segment and 16 per cent in the ₹80 lakh - ₹1.5 crore budget range. Only 10 per cent will be in the luxury and ultra-luxury segments. "Most buyers are focused on the affordable and mid segments and will have ample choice once this ready inventory hits the market by the end of next year. A whopping 74 per cent or 2.04 lakh units fall in these two segments," he added.

Sebi to tighten rules for brokers after Karvy debacle

ASHWIN J PUNNEN MUMBAI, NOV. 25

Market regulator Sebi is planning to further tightening the rules to deal with brokers misusing the client funds.

The move comes as a fallout of the recent fraud in Karvy Stock Broking.

The measures likely to be taken by Sebi include barring brokers from offering clearing and settlement services.

According to sources, regulator is looking at allowing only well-capitalised banks to offer services like clearing of trades, custody of client collateral and settlements.

The regulator feels that there is a systemic risk that needs to be addressed especially after the recent spike in incidents of broker defaults and misuse of

client funds.

Last week, Sebi banned Karvy from taking on new clients following alleged misuse of client securities for trades that were not authorised by clients.

At an estimated ₹2,000 crore, it is one of the largest defaults by a stock broker in India.

In fact, Sebi had been considering introducing a revised structure a few years back.

As per the plan, the client money will continue to be kept with depositaries such as NSDL and CDSL or a custodian and can be transferred to a broker only under the direction of the clearing corporation.

Sebi, which has been getting many complaints of misuse of client money by brokers, now wants to put in place a structure like a banking system where

client money can't be misused. The system will be similar to foreign institutional investors (FIIs) trade, where client money and security are kept at different places.

In the case of Karvy Stock Broking which manages accounts of 2,44,000 clients, several investors complaints came to Sebi on delayed payouts.

An annual inspection

conducted by NSE also pointed to discrepancies in trading between April 1, 2016 and October 2019.

"Prima facie a net amount of ₹1,096 crore has been transferred by KSBIL (Karvy Stock Broking Ltd) to its group company i.e. Karvy Realty Pvt. Ltd between from 1 April 2016 to 19 October 2019," said Sebi in the order citing the NSE inspection report.

Fewer women, minorities get patents in US: Data

EVAN SULLY

Plenty of women and members of minority groups are hoping to invent the next iPhone, blockbuster medicine or top-selling toy, but too often they don't get patents that would ensure they get paid for their ideas.

A new report from the US Patent and Trademark Office concludes that those disparities could cost the US its technological leadership because patents are frequently the first step to attracting investors.

"Innovation in the United States is highly concentrated, and vast swaths of our population are not fully participating," the study, released last month, concludes.

Harvard University study last year found whites are more than three times as likely to become inventors as blacks. Other research commissioned by the Institute for Women's Policy Research concluded that only 18 per cent of US patents list a woman as an inventor.

The October patent office study recommends Congress give the office authority to collect demographic data with its own confidential, voluntary surveys — conceding that they need to be careful to avoid the perception that such data might be used in examining patent requests and deter underrepresented groups from applying.

The study found a variety of factors that led to the under representation of women and minorities among patent holders, including a history of legal, economic and educational impediments — from slavery and segregation to laws that limited the ability of women to own property. There also continues to be a lack of diversity in the types of fields in which more ideas are patentable, including science, technology, engineering and math.

"It's difficult to tell where



in the system the exact breakdown occurs, but we do know it does occur," Patent and Trademark Office Director Andrei Iancu said in an interview.

Ultimately, the nation would benefit from expanding the diversity of patent holders, Iancu said.

"For an individual, it helps with your career growth and potential. For a company, it helps you make and sell your product and be more successful at it," he said. "In the aggregate, it helps the United States."

One person who overcame the odds is Janet Emerson Bashen, president of Bashen Corp., a

Houston-based HR consulting firm, who became the first African-American woman awarded a software patent in 2006 along with her cousin.

NO CREDIT

"I was looking at historic people and one of the things I ran across is a lot of African-American women who came up with something and didn't get credit for it," Bashen said in an interview. "I wanted to make sure I could protect what I was developing and I wanted to monetise it. What better way to monetise it than to patent it?"

Though American inventors still command the

largest portion of the nation's patents, the percentage is declining in high-tech fields such as artificial intelligence and blockchain. Consequently, that could reduce any advantage the US may hold in areas such as AI, wireless phones and the internet of things, according to a yearlong study conducted by the law firm Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton LLP and researchers at GreyB Services Pte.

"This is critical for our nation's economic vitality as our country becomes more diverse and technologically complex," said Leslie Flynn, a clinical assistant professor at the

University of Iowa's Tippie College of Business who testified before Congress in May on the issue.

POPULATION PROJECTIONS

Population projections from the US Census Bureau show that in 2045, whites will make up 49.7 per cent of the population compared to 24.6 per cent for Hispanics, 13.1 per cent for blacks, 7.9 per cent for Asians and 3.8 per cent for multiracial populations.

"I don't see how we can remain competitive if we're only allowing a small slither of the population to participate in innovation," said Charles Hudson, whose San Francisco-based Precursor Ventures firm specializes in investing in minority-owned startups.

"Right now, the amount of capital in the hands of people that are committed to supporting these folks is well, well below what the market needs."

Despite being underrepresented among patent holders, women and minority inventors throughout history have revolutionised their fields. Stephanie Kwolek in 1965 invented Kevlar, the lightweight

fiber in bulletproof vests. Elijah McCoy was a 19th century Canadian-born inventor and engineer of African descent who invented a lubricant that improved train travel and is reputed to be the source of the phrase "the real McCoy." His name is on the patent office's Detroit regional office.

NOBEL WINNER

More recently, the patent office touts such inventors as Frances Arnold, a woman chemist who has a patent for directed evolution of enzymes and in 2018 won a Nobel prize, and Marian Rogers Croak, a voice-over-Internet protocol pioneer who also patented text-to-donate technology after Hurricane Katrina and transformed the way Americans donate to charities.

Earl S. Bell, an African-American designer who obtained a patent in 2004 for an ergonomic chair, said "there are many people with inventions but they don't have the ability to patent them, much less attract investment funds."

"If that disconnect could be solved, the floodgates would be opened," he said.

— Bloomberg



Charging tech

Finally, Oppo bring the much-awaited 20W VOOC power bank to India

SHORT TAKES



APPLE SET TO EXPAND OPS IN INDIA: PRASAD

New Delhi, Nov. 25: India's information technology minister Ravi Shankar Prasad said on Monday Apple Inc would expand its operations in the country and the iPhone maker's supplier Salcomp would make components at a plant near Chennai in southern India. Salcomp will invest ₹20 billion (\$278.67 million) over the next five years to make chargers and other components at the plant and the move will also create 10,000 jobs, Prasad said. Apple's phones made in India will also be exported, he said, adding that exports of mobile phones and components from the country would be worth \$1.6 billion each this year. — Reuters

AIRTEL X LABS ACQUIRES QUIKMILE

New Delhi, Nov. 25: Telecom company Bharti Airtel on Monday announced the 'acquire' of Gurgaon based Quikmile, a start up focused on building tech-enabled logistics platforms for India. The company did not disclose the size of the 'acquire' deal, which typically entails acquisition of people or teams. "Quikmile's team will now be a part of Airtel X Labs. Airtel's digital innovation factory, which focuses on IoT, Digital Engineering, Artificial Intelligence, and Machine Learning," Airtel said in a statement. Airtel X Labs team comprises of professionals from India and abroad, the statement said, adding that it is building advanced digital capabilities to serve the emerging needs of Digital India and is rapidly scaling up its teams and scope of work. — PTI



TESLA NOW HAS 2L ORDERS FOR CYBERTRUCK

San Francisco, Nov. 25: Tesla CEO Elon Musk indicated in a tweet on Sunday that the electric carmaker received 200,000 orders for its electric pickup truck within three days of its launch. Musk, who has been regularly tweeting about the Cybertruck's features since its launch late Thursday, has also been updating his followers with the number of orders the company has received. In an earlier tweet, Musk said the company had received 146,000 orders for Cybertruck, and tweeted again on Sunday saying "200K" - an apparent reference to the number of orders. The company's website shows that an immediate payment of \$100 is required to reserve an order for the Cybertruck, which has a starting price of \$39,900. The launch of its futuristic pickup on Thursday suffered a setback when the electric vehicle's "armored glass" windows shattered in a much-anticipated unveiling. The overall look of the electric vehicle had worried Wall Street on Friday, driving the automaker's shares to close 6.1 per cent lower. During the launch, Musk had taken aim at the design, power and durability of mainstream trucks, only to be shaken when his boast about his new vehicle's windows backfired. — Reuters

Web inventor launches plan to stop abuse

Aims to build 'a roadmap to build a better web'; more than 150 organisations have backed the plan

Berlin, Nov. 25: World Wide Web inventor Tim Berners-Lee on Monday unveiled a "Contract for the Web" to halt "misuse" by governments, companies and individuals, bringing several capitals and tech titans like Google aboard.

"If we don't act now — and act together — to prevent the web being misused by those who want to exploit, divide and undermine, we are at risk of squandering" its potential for good, Berners-Lee said in a statement from his World Wide Web Foundation.

Credited with laying the groundwork for the web — the universe of multimedia webpages accessible via the internet — in 1989, the computer scientist has since last year been developing the so-called Contract for the Web.

His unveiling of the final document Monday comes as government, business and civil society leaders gather in Berlin for the four-day UN Internet Governance Forum.

S'pore invokes 'fake news' law for 1st time

Singapore, Nov. 25: Singapore used its law to combat misinformation for the first time Monday, ordering an opposition figure to correct a Facebook post authorities said could "smear the reputation" of state investment funds. The legislation, which came into force last month, gives government ministers powers to order social media sites to put warnings next to posts authorities deem to be false, and in extreme cases get them taken

down. Tech giants including Google and Twitter have criticised the law, as have activists who fear it could stifle online dissent, but the government insists the measure is necessary to stop the circulation of damaging falsehoods. Brad Bowyer, a member of opposition group Progress Singapore Party, was ordered to correct a November 13 Facebook post in which he questioned the independence of state-linked investment vehicle

Temasek and sovereign wealth fund GIC. It came as speculation mounts that a general election could be called within months, although a weak and divided opposition is seen as no match for the long-ruling People's Action Party. The government's fact-checking site said authorities do not control the investment funds' commercial decisions: "The government does not influence, let alone direct, the individual investment decisions

made by Temasek and GIC." The statement, published alongside a screenshot of Bowyer's post stamped with the word "false" in red, corrected what it said were falsehoods and accused him of seeking to "smear the reputation" of the investment funds. Bowyer — a naturalised Singapore citizen originally from Britain — issued a "correction notice" to his original post, which directed readers to click on the link of the government website

for the "correct facts". Bowyer said he had no problem following the request but vowed not to be intimidated: "A responsible and vocal citizenry is as much a vital part of our democratic nation as is a responsible and listening government". He used to be a member of the People's Action Party but recently joined the Progress Singapore Party, a new opposition group backed by the prime minister's estranged brother. — AFP

years he has grown alarmed by abuse of the technology in society, business and politics. The WWW Foundation highlighted rising cyber-bullying, growing use of the web by politicians to manipulate news media and widespread online scams. It also noted that rates of web access in emerging economies lag far behind those in industrialised nations, with 46 percent of people worldwide not online. "We need real and durable involvement of emerging and developing countries," Germany's Altmaier said. "Free access to the internet must be a fundamental, human right, valid for people around the world." As well as his "Contract for the Web", Berners-Lee has looked to tackle the web's issues from a technical angle, in 2018 launching a development platform called "Solid" aimed at giving users control of their data. — AFP

Uber loses licence in London, vows to appeal

London, Nov. 25: London's transit authority on Monday refused to renew Uber's license to operate, putting the ride-hailing company's future in the British capital in doubt.

It's the latest chapter in Uber's rocky history with London transport officials, who have been subjecting the San Francisco-based company to ever tighter scrutiny over concerns about passenger safety and security.

Uber vowed to appeal the decision, which it called "extraordinary and wrong." The company, which has 21 days to file an appeal, can continue operating while the appeals process is under way.

Transport for London cited "several breaches that placed passengers and their safety at risk" in its decision not to extend Uber's license, which expires at midnight Monday.

The transit authority, known as TFL, said that despite addressing some issues, it "does not have

confidence that similar issues will not reoccur in the future." As a result, it deemed Uber "not fit and proper at this time."

The company fired back, pointing out that TFL had found it to be fit and proper in September, when it was given a two-month license renewal.

"We have fundamentally changed our business over the last two years and are setting the standard on safety," Jamie Heywood, Uber's regional general manager for Northern and Eastern Europe, said in a statement.

TFL had already been keeping Uber on a tight leash following concerns about aggressive corporate tactics and passenger safety. It had revoked Uber's license once before, in 2017, but a court later granted it a license lasting only 15 months, which TFL then extended for two more months in September, while also imposing a set of 20 stricter conditions. In the latest decision, the

transit authority said it was concerned that Uber's systems "seem to have been comparatively easily manipulated" by drivers.

One key issue was a change to Uber's systems allowing unauthorized drivers to upload their photos to other driver accounts.

This let them pick up passengers as though they were the booked Uber driver on at least 14,000 trips, which means all those journeys were uninsured, TFL said.

The change also resulted in some passengers traveling with unlicensed drivers, including one whose license was previously revoked by TFL.

TFL also faulted Uber for another "failure" that allowed dismissed or suspended drivers to create a new account and carry passengers. And it cited other "serious breaches" involving unspecified insurance-related issues.

Shares in Uber were down almost 6% in pre-market trading in New York. — AP

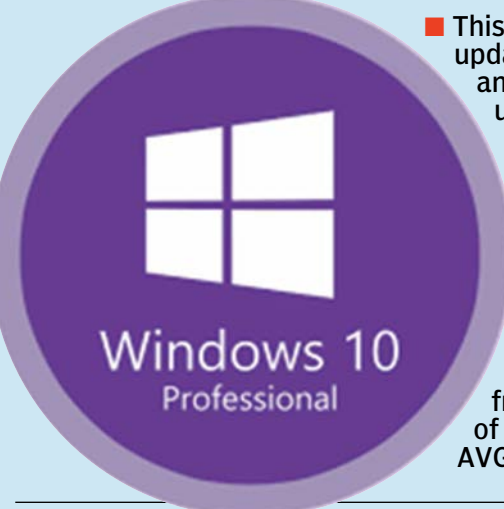


YET ANOTHER WINDOWS 10 UPDATE MESS

WINDOWS 10 USERS HAD HOPED THAT THE NOVEMBER 2019 UPDATE, SUPPOSEDLY A MINOR RELEASE, WOULD BE RELATIVELY PROBLEM FREE. HOWEVER, DASHING ALL HOPES, THE OS SEEMS TO HAVE BROKEN THE FILE EXPLORER

■ File Explorer is the app you use to browse the files and folders on your PC. So pretty important, then.

■ The biggest change the Windows 10 November 2019 Update brought was to update how you search File Explorer, giving you suggested files, and searching your online OneDrive account, when you use the search box to look for something.



■ This is yet another Windows 10 update that has included some annoying issues, and continues a pretty embarrassing run for Microsoft, where each new Windows 10 update the company releases appears to break more things than they fix.

■ The November Update, as well as the May 2019 Update, have been blocked from being installed by users of older versions of Avast and AVG.

■ As Windows Latest reports, people have been posting on Microsoft's community forum complaining about how when they click on the search box in File Explorer, they have to wait ages for the box to become responsive and a cursor appear.

5G subscribers to touch 2.6 bn by 2025

Stockholm, Nov. 25: Sweden's Ericsson expects the number of 5G subscriptions to reach 2.6 billion by the end of 2025, up from 13 million in 2019, with network coverage offering access to 65 percent of the world's population, it said on Monday.

With its current momentum, 5G uptake is expected to be significantly faster than that of LTE, the telecoms network equipment maker said in its biannual Mobility Report.

It added that 5G subscriptions would account

for 29 percent of all mobile subscriptions in 2025.

Ericsson, which competes with China's Huawei and Finnish rival Nokia, said that North America is expected to lead the 5G uptake with 74 percent of anticipated mobile subscriptions in its region in six years, followed by North East Asia and Europe.

"It is encouraging to see that 5G now has broad support from almost all device makers. In 2020, 5G-compatible devices will enter the volume market, which will scale up 5G adoption,"

Fredrik Jeydling, head of Ericsson Networks, said in a statement. The company's previous forecast in June predicted 1.9 billion 5G subscriptions in 2024 and network coverage to have reached more than 45 percent of the world's population.

Ericsson said that China's 5G launch in October had led to an update of estimated 5G subscriptions for year-end 2019 to 13 million from 10 million.

The mobile network industry has faced a tough period with subsidising

demand for 4G and older network equipment. 5G spending in North America has helped to fuel a return to growth.

LTE (4G) will remain the dominant mobile access technology by subscription during 2019-2025, Ericsson said, with 5.4 billion subscriptions in 2022 and 4.8 billion expected by the end of 2025. The new generation of mobile phone technology will bring faster data speeds and better accommodate a greater variety of connected devices. — Reuters

Now, brace for robots carrying your daily grocery

Italian company, Piaggio, joins the race for delivery robots along with giants such as FedEx, Amazon

Boston, Nov. 25: The first cargo-carrying robot marketed directly to consumers is on sale this holiday season. But how many people are ready to ditch their second car to buy a two-wheeled rover that can follow them around like a dog?

Corporate giants like Amazon, FedEx and Ford have already been experimenting with sending delivery robots to doorsteps. Now Piaggio, the Italian company that makes the Vespa scooter, is offering a stylish alternative to those blandly utilitarian machines — albeit one that weighs 50 pounds (23 kilograms) and costs \$3,250.

It's named the Gita (JEE'-tah) after the Italian word for a short, pleasurable excursion — the kind you might take to pick up some lacinato kale and gourmet cheese at the farmers market. Its creators have such trips in mind for the "hands-free carrier" that can hold produce and other objects as it follows its owner down a

sidewalk.

"We're trying to get you out into the world and connected to that neighborhood you decided to move to because it was so walkable," said Greg Lynn, CEO of Piaggio's tech-focused subsidiary, Piaggio Fast Forward.

Tech industry analysts are already declaring the Gita as doomed to fail unless it finds a more practical application, such as lugging tools around warehouses, hospitals or factory floors. "That's a lot of money for what is in effect just a cargo-carrying robot that's going to carry your groceries," said Forrester technology analyst J.P. Gownder.

On a recent November morning, Lynn was hunched over in a Boston waterfront park, pushing a button that triggered a Gita to "see" him with its cameras and sensors. Then came a musical whirring sound as the device — a squarish, bright red bucket with two oversized

wheels — rose up and signaled it was ready for a neighborhood stroll.

A young boy in a stroller pointed excitedly. Another pedestrian asked to try it, and playfully shouted "ah!" as it

swerved around, keeping in pursuit as she switched directions.

The Gita doesn't require a phone or intrusive people-tracking technology such as facial recognition or GPS.



"It basically just locks onto you and tracks you," said Piaggio Fast Forward's other co-founder, Jeffrey Schnapp. Other startups like Starship Technologies have a more conventional business plan for their own delivery robots. The company charges a delivery fee starting at \$1.99 if you order its rovers to bring you a Starbucks coffee or a lunch from Panda Express.

So far, the best habitat to find Starship's six-wheelers are relatively confined spaces such as college campuses; the University of Houston and the University of Wisconsin-Madison rolled them out this fall. The robots, which look like oversized ice chests on wheels, can carry up to 20 pounds (9 kilograms).

"I love them. I think they're so cute!" University of Houston freshman Sadie Garcia said as one of the machines rolled up with a

bagel sandwich she'd ordered. She said she was so cold she didn't want to leave her dorm.

Starship co-founder Ahti Heinla said his San Francisco startup once looked at selling the machines directly to consumers, but dropped the idea after realizing it would have to price them at more than \$3,000.

Amazon is experimenting with a similar-looking machine that delivers retail goods in a handful of U.S. neighborhoods. FedEx is testing its own delivery rover in partnership with Pizza Hut, Walmart, Target and Walgreens. Ford has showed off a gangly two-legged robot to carry items to homes. So far, none are as far along as Starship, which has hundreds of its machines already in service.

While Forrester's Gownder isn't impressed with the Gita, he's bullish about delivery robots of the Starship variety because their autonomy will help save labor costs.

Gownder said it's more of a question of whether ground-based rovers or aerial delivery drones will prove more successful.

The wheeled cargo robots that have already made it out into the wild have significant limitations.

Starship's machines still require plenty of manual supervision to load them with food orders. They rely on remote pilots to troubleshoot navigation problems. Customers also have to check a phone app to tell the vehicle where to go and to unlock the bin once it arrives.

The Gita, meanwhile, might still be impractical for many people. It favors paved environments that are dense enough to have stores in walking distance, but not so dense that the machines get lost in the crowd.

And anyone who is simply looking to pull home groceries without heavy lifting can find durable wagons online for less than \$100.

— AP



Kim Class

Kim Sei-young sank a 25-foot birdie putt at the final hole to win the CME Group Tour golf Championship

Games

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DECCAN CHRONICLE

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It's any player's dream to represent the country, it's the highest honour.

— Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan, Indian Davis Cup player on making his Davis Cup debut

SHORT

TAKES



Sneha Sharma

Sneha finishes sixth in Formula 4

Sepang, Malaysia: India's top woman racer Sneha Sharma came up with a stellar performance to finish overall 6th in Race Round 9 of the prestigious Formula 4 South East Asia Championship 2019, here at the Sepang International formula 1 Circuit, Malaysia. Sneha, one of the first women to break into the racing circles in the country, was the only Indian driver in the race, she was also the only woman competitor among all boys this round. Racing in a Formula 4 car and supported by Indigo Airlines & JK Tyre Motorsport, she was up against a formidable line up of drivers from seven different countries, mostly from Europe.

The 29-year-old clocked a best time of 2:16:665 in qualifying to finish 6th in race 4. She finished first race in 8th position before taking the 7th position in race 2 and 3. Despite facing power issues in race 1, she gradually grew into the round to finish 6th in the last race of the round.

Caicedo nets winner for Lazio

Milan: Felipe Caicedo snatched a late winner to keep Lazio third in Serie 'A' with a 2-1 victory over Sassuolo on Sunday, as England defender Chris Smalling scored and set up two other goals for city rivals Roma in a win against Brescia to move fourth.

Champions Juventus maintained their grip on the top of Serie 'A' with a 3-1 win at Atalanta on Saturday, to stay one point ahead of Inter Milan who eased past Torino 3-0 under the rain in Turin.

The two Roman outfits are now third and fourth respectively before Cagliari, a point behind in fifth, play at lowly Lecce after their game Sunday was washed out. Serie 'A' top-scorer Ciro Immobile struck to put Lazio ahead on 34 minutes with his 15th league goal this season.

Rafa juggernaut rolls on

Nadal won all 8 of his matches to help Spain win 6th Davis Cup

Madrid, Nov. 25: Rafael Nadal put the finishing touches to his extraordinary year by clinching a sixth Davis Cup title for Spain on Sunday as he beat Denis Shapovalov in Madrid to seal victory over Canada.

Nadal's 6-3, 7-6 (9/7) win over Shapovalov in front of an adoring home crowd at the Caja Magica gave Spain an unassailable 2-0 lead after Roberto Bautista Agut earlier battled past Felix Auger-Aliassime 7-6 (7/3), 6-3.

The 33-year-old had been an unstoppable force in Spain's pulsating semi-final against Britain on Saturday and never looked like letting this chance slip, with King Felipe VI and Real Madrid's Sergio Ramos watching on, along with Barcelona defender Gerard Pique.

Nadal's brilliance has been outstanding, even if this will surely go down as one of the finest seasons of the 19-time Grand Slam champion's career.

He added a fourth Davis Cup final success — three more than Roger Federer — to the ones he claimed in 2004, 2009 and 2011, while capping a remarkable 12 months that has included winning the French and US Opens, and ending the year as world number one. The Spanish team will also pocket a cheque worth \$2.1 million.

Nadal won eight of eight rubbers played this week and at times on Saturday, as when he stormed to singles and doubles victories against Britain, it was tempting to view Spain's progress as something of a solo effort.

But, unlike Canada, Spain have used all five of their squad, with Bautista Agut, Pablo Carreno Busta and Feliciano Lopez all playing at least one singles match, and Lopez and Marcel Granollers joining forces in the doubles.

Bautista Agut's win over Auger-Aliassime was particularly poignant, given Agut was returning after withdrawing from the team on Thursday, following the death of his father Joaquin. "I could not have played today without all the work of my teammates this week," said Bautista Agut on court.

I could not have played today without all the work of my teammates this week. After such a complicated week, I had to get out there and face it. Everything was difficult today. — ROBERTO BAUTISTA AGUT Spain's Davis Cup player, who lost his father on November 21



Rafael Nadal (right) clicks a selfie along with the trophy and his teammates after Spain defeated Canada 2-0 to win the Davis Cup final in Madrid on Sunday. In their first match, Spain's Roberto Bautista Agut battled past Felix Auger-Aliassime 7-6 (7/3), 6-3, while Nadal beat Canada's Denis Shapovalov 6-3, 7-6 (9/7) to help the hosts win the second and with it the tie.

Had nothing left, says elated Nadal

Madrid, Nov. 25: Rafael Nadal admitted he gave everything he had left to lead Spain to their sixth Davis Cup success on Sunday after they beat Canada in the final in Madrid.

"I played one of the toughest possible opponents at the end of a long and difficult week, physically too because I put into this whole event all the energy that I had inside me," said Nadal.

"Honestly it's the perfect end to the season for all of us. We know how difficult it is to win this and how difficult it will be to win it again. We knew we had to convert this opportunity," the World No.1 added.

Feliciano Lopez, who played alongside Nadal during Spain's doubles win against Britain's Jamie Murray and Neal Skupski on Saturday, said Nadal had been a "superhero".

"There are things you can't describe with words," said Lopez. "If you ask me for my opinion, I will tell you he is a superhero. He can do things none of us can do. He is a great person and an extraordinary tennis player."

If you ask me for my opinion, I will tell you he is a superhero. He can do things none of us can do. He is a great person and an extraordinary tennis player. — FELICIANO LOPEZ Spain's Davis Cup player on Rafael Nadal

player," the left-handed player added.

At the end of his win, Nadal hoisted up Bautista Agut, who had returned to the team after withdrawing on Thursday due to the death of his father Joaquin. "It was very difficult," Bautista Agut said.

"I took the decision to go home on Thursday morning and I was back yesterday (Saturday) afternoon to support the team. "I had the opportunity to play today (Sunday) because all the team and all the players and the rest of the team have made an unbelievable effort since the first day. It was an amazing feeling on the court," Agut said after the win.

— AFP



Spain's Roberto Bautista Agut (left) and Rafael Nadal celebrate Spain's 2-0 win over Canada at the Davis Cup Finals in Madrid on Sunday.

SPANISH RUMBLE

The Spanish team will also pocket a cheque worth \$2.1 million.

Spain won their sixth Davis Cup title, first since 2011. Their other four titles have come in 2009, 2008, 2004 and 2000.

Of the six titles that Spain have won, Rafael Nadal has been a part of the squad for five — 2019, 2011, 2009 & 2004 of them.

Roberto Bautista Agut, who lost his father, three days ago, left the team to be with his family, attended his father's funeral on Saturday, and then returned to help his side win on Sunday.

In their semifinal against Britain, Spain had left space for Agut during their anthem.

Mavericks fly past Rockets

Los Angeles, Nov. 25: Slovenia's Luka Doncic continued his otherworldly start to the NBA season, scoring 41 points as the Dallas Mavericks won their fifth straight with a 137-123 victory over the slumping Houston Rockets.

Doncic, whose remarkable start has his per game averages at triple-double levels, also had 10 assists and six rebounds while Rockets superstar James Harden finished with 32 points and 11 assists in a showdown of dominant scorers.

The 20-year-old's fellow European sideskick Kristaps Porzingis, of Latvia, also recorded a double-double on Sunday with 23 points and 13 rebounds as the Mavericks led wire-to-wire for the victory.

Heading into Sunday's contest, Doncic was averaging 33.3 points, 10.8 rebounds and 11.0 assists during the Mavericks' five-game streak which included back-to-back wins over Cleveland and Golden State.

The Rockets dropped their third straight game following an eight-game winning streak. Houston had their moments when they came close to forcing a tie but they always fell just short.

Dallas shot 48 per cent overall and hit 17 of 44 three-pointers. The Rockets finished 10 of 44 from beyond the arc as Harden alone missed 13 of the 15 three-pointers he attempted.

— AFP

Marseille put 2 past Toulouse

Paris, Nov. 25: Marseille reclaimed second spot in Ligue 1 when they won 2-0 at 10-man Toulouse who cracked in the final 15 minutes.

In Toulouse, the home team were reduced to 10 men when right back Steven Moreira drove his studs into Bouna Sarr's knee and received a red card after a video review.

The home team defended in depth and even had a chance to take the lead in the 70th minute but goalkeeper Steve Mandanda denied it.

In the 76th minute, Dimitri Payet drew defenders then threaded a clever reverse pass to the darting Dario Benedetto who danced past Baptiste Reynet and coolly slid the ball into the goal.

Three minutes later, left-back Issiaga Sylla drove a clearance into Valere Germain. The ball bounced to Nemanja Radonjic, who advanced into the penalty area and curled it in.

— AFP

Motorsport scene has been stagnant, says Narain

C. SANTHOSH KUMAR | DC CHENNAI, NOV. 25

Having completed a mind-boggling 25-year journey as a professional race driver, Narain Karthikeyan belongs to that rare breed of Indian sportspersons who have proved age is just a number. The 42-year-old from Coimbatore who pulled off a stupendous drive to win the SuperGT race in Japan last Sunday is showing no signs of slowing down.

In a free-wheeling chat, Narain spoke about the importance of maintaining fitness, valuable lessons he learnt in Japan and the sorry state of Indian motorsport.

It's 26 years since you turned professional, competing in the Formula Vauxhall Junior championship in the UK as a teenager. What keeps you going in a sport where sheer passion alone is not enough to sustain a career?

There are many factors. Of course, you have to love your sport enough to pursue it with the same passion you had as a youngster. Apart from that, you have to accomplish results at regu-

lar intervals to keep the sponsors happy and meet your own standards. And in motorsport, you have to be in the right place at the right time. Being a professional racer from India is not easy, as all these factors have to fall in place. I am extremely glad I have survived this long.

Fitness plays a major role in the success of a race driver. How has your training regimen changed over the last few years?

I don't train like a 20-year-old. There's no high-intensity training required for my physique. Also, this year's SuperGT car is not as physical as the Super Formula car that I was driving until last year. SuperGT is, however, hard to drive, but it comes with some sophisticated technology. For example, the specially-made air-conditioning system keeps you cool inside the car. One of the key factors is that there are no injury worries. My long-time physical trainer Ramji Srinivasan and my support system in Coimbatore take good care of me. Every day, I spend one hour for workout and one hour for recovery. I split these into two sessions.

After Formula One, you dabbled in LeMans Sportscars and then moved to Super Formula in Japan without much success. In your maiden season in SuperGT, you have finished on the podium twice, including a win. Do you feel that you should have joined this series a little earlier?

I think I found some success in Super Formula where I spent four years. Yes, I couldn't win a race. It's a highly-competitive series. Japan's Kamui Kobayashi has been racing in Super Formula since 2015. He is a very talented and experienced driver. He finished on the podium in F1 (third in the 2012 Japanese Grand Prix). But he hasn't won a race in Super Formula. It clearly underlines the competition level in Japan. The Super Formula season is very short; only seven races in a calendar and you don't get time to build up. To add to that, testing is limited. SuperGT cars are also quick; probably 4 to 5 seconds slower than Super Formula. But then, there are a lot of tyre manufacturers who pump in insane resources into the sport. During winter testing in



Narain Karthikeyan on the podium.

Malaysia, we used 150 sets of tyres! SuperGT is a packed grid and you should know how to manage traffic. So, winning in Japan is always special.

This win should inspire you to go on for two-three years more in the same series...

Two-three years is a lot of time in motorsport. It's a yearly contract that I have signed. The manufacturers (Honda) will take a call on the extension.

Sunday's win at the Fuji Speedway came after almost six years. How do you rate the win in Japan compared to your previous triumphs in A1 GP, Auto GP, Nissan World Series?

When I won in the Nissan World Series (2004), my competitors were all young drivers, trying to move to Formula One. On an experience level, World Series was a level-playing field. In the current SuperGT, drivers come with a wealth of expe-

rience. Winning in Japan is always tough, perhaps the toughest outside of Formula One. Apart from driver experience, the technology that the series uses makes even Formula One look small. It's a different world, altogether.

You have raced in different parts of the world. You have been racing in Japan since 2014. What was your biggest takeaway from the Japan stint?

Tracks here are very challenging. They are old-school; narrow and very fast. A small error is enough to throw you out of the race. The local knowledge of these experienced drivers is phenomenal. In the beginning, I was finding it difficult to communicate with the Japanese engineers. Then, I made an effort to learn a few racing terms in Japanese. The time I have spent in Japan has taught me some valuable lessons. Japanese people are very orderly and do everything meticulously. They have a system in place and if you follow it, you will achieve success.

Being accepted in Japan, I would say, is one of the craziest experiences. They

have made me feel like I am a part of them. The Japanese love racing. The number of fans who throng the circuits on race weekends is crazy. They recognise you in restaurants. They look after you better than the Europeans.

Aren't you bored spending time in flights and hotels?

Travelling is the hardest part of any professional sportsperson's life. But I feel, it's getting easier. There are different route options and direct flights to faraway places. As a youngster, when I first started travelling, I didn't have the luxury of flying business class.

Indian motorsport has seen quite a few controversies in the recent past. You're one of the very few to have stayed away from all that. What's your take on the status of motorsport in India?

What saddens me is the fact that motorsport is still such a small sport in India. It's like a blip on the radar or nothing at all! But there are so many unwanted controversies. I think the fraternity should invest their energy in moving to the next step. The motorsport

scene has been stagnant. Except for a handful of drivers who are out on their own, nothing has changed.

Would you take up a role in the administration, just like your father, when you retire from the sport?

99.99 per cent, I will not involve myself in administration. Seriously, I don't have time to waste! It's not about one individual changing the system. A set of people have to come together and work towards that change. Of course, there are some good people in the federation and I am not doubting them. But there are also people with an agenda. In every sport, this is the case, but all the more in motorsport which is still trying to take baby steps. Administration is something I am not cut out for.

Who is the next big bet in Indian motorsport?

Jehan Daruvala who is currently competing in the FIA Formula 3. Maini brothers — Arjun and Kush — are also good. Jehan has the talent to become a professional driver at the highest level. But as we know, talent alone won't take you to F1!



Bailey's back

Former limited-overs captain George Bailey (in pic) is set to be Australia's new national selector alongside coach Justin Langer and chairman Trevor Hohns



He's never been to this part of the world where you have to perform in a certain way out.

— Joe Root, England's Test captain, urges Jofra Archer to improve

SHORT TAKES

England's Archer faces racism in NZ

Mount Maunganui: New Zealand Cricket bosses said on Monday they will personally apologise to England fast bowler Jofra Archer after he was racially abused during the first Test in Mount Maunganui.

Archer, considered one of the most promising all-rounders in world cricket, tweeted he was disturbed to hear racial insults "whilst battling to help save my team". The 24-year-old featured in a late show of resistance with Sam Curran in a 59-run stand for the ninth wicket before New Zealand wrapped up the match for an innings and 65 runs victory. "A bit disturbing hearing racial insults today whilst battling to help save my team, the crowd was been amazing this week except for that one guy," Archer tweeted. New Zealand Cricket's (NZC) public affairs manager Richard Boock said there is "zero tolerance towards abusive or offensive language" at all cricket venues in New Zealand. NZC "will contact Mr Archer to apologise for the unacceptable experience, and to promise increased vigilance in the matter when the teams meet in Hamilton," Boock said. — AFP

Bhaji wants Dada to change selectors

New Delhi: Veteran Indian off-spinner Harbhajan Singh is hoping that BCCI president Sourav Ganguly will "change" the current selection panel and bring "strong people" on board. The 39-year-old was reacting to wicketkeeper-batsman Sanju Samson being dropped from the Indian Twenty20 squad without getting a game in the recent home series against Bangladesh. "I guess they r testing his heart #selectionpanelneedto-bechanged need strong people there.. hope dada @SGanguly99 will do the needful," he tweeted. Harbhajan quoted a tweet from Congress MP Shashi Tharoor, who represents Thiruvananthapuram in the Lok Sabha, to make his point. Tharoor had expressed disappointment at the 25-year-old Kerala player not getting an opportunity. — PTI

MUMBAI THRASH KARNATAKA

Surat: Skipper Suryakumar Yadav blazed his way to an unbeaten 94 as Mumbai defeated Karnataka by seven wickets in a Group 'B' Super League match of the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy here on Monday to end the rival's winning spree. Mumbai were chasing a stiff 172-run target and Surya, who has been in great form, single-handedly guided the domestic giants to victory with an over to spare. Surya (94 not out off 53 balls, 11 fours, 4 sixes) walked in to bat after Mumbai were in a spot of bother at 44 for 2, losing openers Aditya Tare (12) and Prithvi Shaw (30) and still needing over 100 runs to win. The aggressive right-hander steadied the ship by stitching together a 46-run stand with Shreyas Iyer (14) for the third wicket. However, Karnataka pegged Mumbai back by removing Iyer in the 11th over. After Iyer departed, it was 'Surya show' at the C B Patel Ground as he toyed with the Karnataka bowlers, who wilted under his blistering attack. He hammered 11 fours and hoisted four towering sixes to stamp his class. His 53-ball 94 would have surely impressed the national selectors. The Mumbai captain then strung together a match-winning unbeaten 84-run stand for the fourth wicket with Shivam Dube (22 not out off 18 balls), who played the perfect second fiddle. Surya 2.0 was on display as he had all shots in the book and smashed the ball around to guide his side home. — PTI

BCCI to tinker with constitution

Board treasurer says cooling-off clause is set to be amended

New Delhi, Nov. 25: BCCI treasurer Arun Dhimal on Monday said the Board is not looking to dilute the age cap of 70 years for its office-bearers in the upcoming AGM but will discuss amending the cooling-off clause as experience of the officials "must be utilised".

In the agenda released for the Annual General Meeting, the first since former captain Sourav Ganguly took over as BCCI President, the Board has proposed significant changes to the existing constitution which dilutes some of the reforms recommended by the Supreme Court-appointed Lodha panel.

As per the current constitution, which is approved by the Supreme Court, an office-bearer who has served two three-year terms either at the BCCI or at the state association, goes into a compulsory

cooling-off for a three-year period. The current dispensation at the BCCI wants the cooling off period to kick in after the individual has finished two terms (six years), at the board and state association separately.

"We have not touched the age cap (of years) we have kept it like that. We have not made any amendment to that. With regards to the cooling off, our point of view is if somebody has gained experience by running the state association why give him a cooling-off, that experience should be utilised in the best interest of the game. If he can contribute in BCCI, why not," Dhimal said.

"If someone reaches 67 years of age after spending six years in a state association. If he has cooling off of three years, he is already 70 by then. He won't be able to contribute anything to the BCCI."



BCCI secretary Jay Shah (from left), president Sourav Ganguly and treasurer Arun Dhimal in this file photo.

The BCCI wants that the president and secretary be allowed to serve two consecutive terms before the cooling-off sets in while the treasurer and other office-bearers should be allowed to complete three terms (nine years) in one go. The current dispensation, led Ganguly, took charge last month ending the 33-month tenure of the

Supreme Court-appointed Committee of Administrators (CoA).

"You must have seen in the BCCI election (last month). Out of the 38 members part of the electoral roll, only four or five members had the experience of attending meetings previously. "So in case someone has gained experience in the state associa-

The BCCI wants that the president and secretary be allowed to serve two consecutive terms before the cooling-off sets in while the treasurer and other office-bearers should be allowed to complete three terms (nine years) in one go.

CHANGE IN TERM

Supreme Court has relaxed some Lodha recommendations in the past, including one state one vote, considering the technical difficulties in implementation.

Few of the recommendations were diluted by the Supreme Court itself. They understood that there are technical difficulties with regards to one state one vote. We don't have any issues with most of the recommendations but there are technical difficulties with some. — ARUN DHIMAL, BCCI treasurer

Supreme Court. We will put across our point of view. What are the practical difficulties we are facing with regards to few things. In case the court agrees with our idea, then will have those amendments," he said.

Will the Lodha reform be compromised if the amendments are ratified? "It is not like that," said Dhimal.

"Few of the recommendations were diluted by the Supreme Court itself. They understood that there are technical difficulties with regards to one state one vote. We don't have any issues with most of the recommendations but there are technical difficulties with some. "Even the CoA recommended changes to the conflict of interest of clause in the existing constitution. So we will go back to Supreme Court on the practical difficulties we are facing. If they don't then we continue with whatever we have." — PTI

Pace battery is full

Charged-up Indian fast bowlers earn high praise from different quarters

Kolkata, Nov. 25: India's fast bowlers are enjoying a rare moment in the sun after they combined to dismantle Bangladesh in the maiden day-night Test on Indian soil.

Shant Sharma, Umesh Yadav and Mohammed Shami took all 19 Bangladesh wickets to fall in Kolkata, a rarity on the sub-continent's pitches where spinners usually rule.

It surpassed the record 17 wickets taken by pacemen in a home Test in 2017 against Sri Lanka, also at Kolkata's Eden Gardens.

In the first pink-ball Test for both sides, India beat Bangladesh by an innings and 46 runs in just over two days to sweep the two-match series.

Skipper Virat Kohli has been all praise for his pacemen and said workload management was the key to keeping them in top shape.

"They gained more experience, now they're bowling well together," Kohli told reporters after India sealed the one-sided win on Sunday. "They take ownership of their own preparation, their own fitness and communication is very clear... We want you fresh for Test cricket, don't worry about anything else. "And they feel secure as well that if they

Doesn't happen often in India when the spinners hardly roll their arm over in a Test match. — IRFAN PATHAN, Former India fast bowler

don't play, we have back-up bowlers to come and do the job as well. So that bench strength is also helping us a lot."

The three quicks have been on a roll despite the absence of yorker specialist Jasprit Bumrah, who is recovering from a stress fracture of the back. Shami and Yadav took 24 wickets between them in India's 3-0 Test whitewash of South Africa last month.

Spinners Ravichandran Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja bowled a total of just seven overs against Bangladesh, who fell for 106 and 195.

"Doesn't happen often in India when the spinners hardly roll their arm over in the test match," Indian fast bowler Irfan Pathan wrote on Twitter.

However, the real test for the Indian quicks will come in January and February, when India will play two Tests in seamer-friendly New Zealand.

— AFP



Umesh Yadav



Ishant Sharma



Mohammed Shami

Umesh says change in grip helped achieve consistency

Kolkata, Nov. 25: Attributing his recent success to a tweaked bowling grip, India speedster Umesh Yadav said it has helped him achieve better control and more consistency in delivering outswingers.

Yadav finished with match figures of 8/81, which included a five-wicket haul in the second innings, to set up India's innings and 46-run win in their first ever day-night Test against Bangladesh on Sunday.

"Tweaking my bowling grip helped immensely," Yadav said during a conversation with India opener

Rohit Sharma on 'bcci.tv'. "My grip was different earlier so one or two balls would swing while a couple of them would either get deflected from the legs or run down the leg side for boundaries as byes. So it was difficult to control with this grip.

"So I spoke to my coaches and also while discussing within ourselves, I felt when I hold the ball properly, I have more control and chances of moving the ball. So my outswinger became consistent and I could also throw in a few inswingers after making that change."

Fellow pacer Ishant Sharma, who claimed five

wickets in Bangladesh's first innings and four in the second, said changing his wrist position helped him create angles which made life difficult for batsmen, especially left-handers. "I created angles in my bowling on the basis of my wrist position. If I come round the wicket to the left-hand, it would be more difficult for the batsman," Ishant said.

"I used to bowl but I couldn't get the edge because it would land on the off stump and would go out. Now, I bowl at the stumps, so it becomes difficult for the batsman." — PTI

Kiwis script a big win over English

BRIEF SCORES

England 353 & 197 in 96.2 overs (J. Denly 35, J. Archer 30, Santner 3/53, Wagner 5/44) lost to New Zealand 615-9 declared.

Mount Maunganui, Nov. 25: New Zealand said their comprehensive innings victory over England was among their very best after Neil Wagner's five-wicket burst sealed the first Test in Mount Maunganui on Monday.

The tireless left-armer took the last two England wickets in successive balls for a five-wicket haul and to complete the rout by an innings and 65 runs late on the final day.

While England captain Joe Root lamented a disappointing batting effort, and the lack of a bowler with Wagner's application, New Zealand skipper Kane Williamson celebrated his side's match-defining innings of 615 for nine declared.

"To lose the toss and be 350 behind in the first innings it required something special," Williamson said.

"It's certainly right up there in terms of a tough, grinding Test victory." BJ Watling's 205 and Mitchell Santner's 126 laid the platform for New Zealand's colossal 262-run first-innings lead.

England, resuming the final day at 55 for three and needing to bat through to stumps to save the Test, progressed patiently to 121 for four before New Zealand removed the last six wickets for 76 runs.

Wagner finished with five for 44

while Santner took three for 53.

"We saw the wicket deteriorate and knew if you could hit the wicket hard you would get some variable bounce. That allowed us to make the breakthroughs," Williamson said, admitting that he had concerns about how the match would finish.

"England have experience and some world-class players who've batted out draws before. If they were better than us today they were going to be able to save it. It did come down to the wire."

Root said England did not help themselves with the way they batted.

"Clearly some of the shots today were not good. Everyone's very aware of that. You can't fault effort but I put my hand up as well, that ball was treated with far too much respect."

Root said the England bowlers also needed to learn from the effort Wagner put in.

"He runs in all day and makes sure every ball means something," Root said, adding there were times England quick Jofra Archer could "unleash a little bit more". — AFP

<<<<

New Zealand's Neil Wagner (right) celebrates after taking a wicket.

— AFP

Paine takes early shot at Kohli

R. MOHAN I DC MELBOURNE, NOV. 25

Tim Paine has thrown an open challenge to Virat Kohli to come out to Australia and play a day-night Test match with the pink ball. Cock-a-hoop after beating Pakistan by an innings despite a fighting century from Babar Azam, the visitors were well beaten at the Gabba, the traditional Test series opener venue to any Australian cricket season. The Australian captain has in fact, poked the Indian elephant in the ribs with a hint that Team India and its skipper Virat Kohli like to pick an choose where they play their Test cricket. The last time the Indians came out to play Down Under they skipped Brisbane and the Gabba where the home team has not lost a Test for 31 years, not since 1988. "That's where we like to start our summer and it

has been so for long," Paine said in continuing to rub it into Kohli, whose team not only skipped the Gabba but also the pink ball 'test' in the traditional Adelaide Oval venue.

The Indians are due to play Tests in Australia next summer and 12 months before that Paine has kicked off a war of words, even if it's not quite psychological warfare as yet. Even more cheekily, Paine said at the Gabba on Sunday, "We'll ask Virat and see if we can get his permission to play here and even get a pink ball Test if he's in a good mood."

The suggestion is as the big bully of international cricket, Team India can pick and choose where and when to play.

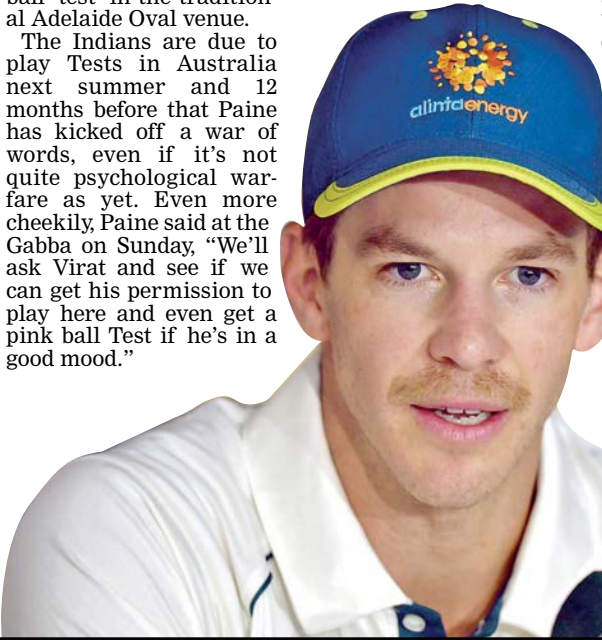
"We'll certainly be trying to play the first match there, we'll have to run that by Virat. We'll get an answer from him at some stage, I'm sure," Paine went on to say with a flow of vitriol.

After beating Bangladesh, skipper Kohli said India were open to playing a day-night Test in Australia.

Team India is a runaway leader now in the World Test Championship, but the tough games and series are yet to begin. Whereas India have played in

the West Indies and then at home, beating both South Africa and Bangladesh by huge margins, Australia are second after the win over Pakistan. While India may have a seemingly unassailable lead, the big challenges are yet to be met and they all lie in the future, like playing in Australia and England, a n d South Africa too.

We'll ask Virat and see if we can get his permission to play here and even get a pink ball Test if he's in a good mood. We'll certainly be trying to play the first match at the Gabba, we'll have to run that by Virat. We'll get an answer from him at some stage, I'm sure. — TIM PAINE, Australian captain





Srikanth withdraws

Kidambi Srikanth pulled out of the upcoming Premier Badminton League to focus on international events ahead of the 2020 Tokyo Olympics



It was a very poor performance. I could have changed all the players at half-time, except David (De Gea) as he kept us in it.

— Ole Gunnar Solskjaer, Man United manager

Archers bag Asian recurve bronze

Kolkata: The embattled Indian archers overcame all odds to ensure two medals in the recurve and compound mixed event of the Asian Archery Championships here on Tuesday.

Competing under a neutral flag due to the suspension of Indian federation, the Indian archers opened their account with a bronze medal in the recurve mixed pair event where Atanu Das and Deepika Kumari defeated Yichai Zheng and Shaoxuan Wei of China 6-2 without breaking a sweat.

But it was the compound mixed pair team of Abhishek Verma and Jyothi Surekha Vennam who produced a stunner ousting Korea 159-154 in a one-sided affair to set up a gold medal clash with Chinese Taipei, slated for Wednesday. The team eliminations are also slated from Wednesday while Indian women will also vie for Olympic quotas in the qualifications round on Thursday. — PTI

Sangram, Varsha win national titles

New Delhi: Haryana's Sangram Dahiya and Madhya Pradesh's Varsha Varman won the men's and women's double trap titles respectively at the 63rd National Shotgun Shooting Championship here on Monday.

Sangram shot 142 out of 150 targets to leave behind former world champion Ankur Mittal of ONGC, who managed 137 hits over the five rounds of 30 targets each.

Punjab's Prithvi Singh Chahal won bronze with a score of 135.

Varsha, in the women's category of 120 targets each, had 97 to her name to clinch the gold ahead of state-mate Manisha Keer, who had 93 hits. Mahima Vishwakarma ensured a MP sweep in the category, winning bronze with 92.

Both Sangram and Varsha also won the team gold for their respective states. — PTI

CARLSEN SHINES, ANAND JOINT 5TH

Kolkata: Viswanathan Anand suffered two defeats but as many victories kept him in the joint fifth place at the Tata Steel Rapid and Blitz tournament, a part of the Grand Chess Tour. Reigning world champion Magnus Carlsen continued his dominating run as he took his lead to an almost unassailable five points. The Norwegian is virtually assured of the title despite a whole day and many games to come.

Anand now has 4.5 points out of a possible nine and remains in contention for a berth in the Grand Finale of this tournament, to be held in London in December. The five-time world champion started with a loss to Russian Ian Nepomniachtchi but then recovered well to beat Aronian and Wesley So in round two and four. The rest of the games were drawn except against Carlsen when the Indian suffered another defeat.

With nine games on Tuesday still to come, Carlsen has a huge five-point lead with 21.5 points to his credit out of a possible 27 points.

Carlsen needs just two points from his remaining games to win. Hikaru Nakamura is currently distant second with 16.5 points followed by his compatriot Wesley So, who has 13.5 points. Anish Giri (13) is fourth while Anand shares the fifth spot with Ding Liren and Nepomniachtchi. — PTI

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Sheffield United's Oliver McBurnie (second from left) scores past Harry Maguire (right) of Manchester United in their EPL match in Sheffield on Sunday. The match ended in a 3-3 draw. — AFP

SHEFFIELD DAY

Man U pegged back by Blades after dramatic comeback

Sheffield, Nov. 25: Manchester United and Sheffield United shared the spoils after a dramatic 3-3 draw at Bramall Lane on Sunday, with the home side scoring a late equaliser after a three-goal blitz from the visitors in just seven minutes.

Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's team, outplayed for 70 minutes by the promoted side, trailed 2-0 after a first-half goal from John Fleck and a second-half effort from Lys Mousset.

Chris Wilder's team had been hungrier and more incisive all over the pitch but, from nowhere, United were back in the game and when 19-year-old Brandon Williams scored in the 72nd minute.

Manchester United suddenly looked full of ideas, with the game turned on its head. Solskjaer threw on Mason Greenwood to

THE RESULTS

Sheffield United 3
(Fleck 19, Mousset 52, McBurnie 90)
Manchester United 3
(Williams 72, Greenwood 77, Rashford 79)

replace Andreas Pereira, meaning United were operating with an attacking quartet of Greenwood, Marcus Rashford, Anthony Martial and Daniel James.

Just five minutes after Williams' strike, Greenwood equalised from close range after Rashford's cross.

With the home side rocking badly, United poured forward again. Rashford swept home in the 79th minute. The drama was not over, with Oliver McBurnie controlling the

ball and firing past David de Gea to level at 3-3 in the 90th minute. The goal stood after a VAR check for handball. The result means Manchester United are ninth in the Premier League table, nine points behind fourth-placed Chelsea while Sheffield United are sixth, a point ahead.

DEVILS DOMINATED

Earlier, Solskjaer's men were indebted to goalkeeper De Gea, who produced a stunning double-save to keep the score at 0-0 early in the game.

Solskjaer's team looked rattled, with Williams, on just his second Premier League start, making a couple of early errors and Phil Jones, on his first league appearance of the season, looking like an accident waiting to happen. — AFP

BANEGA PENALTY SENDS SEVILLA THIRD IN SPAIN

Madrid, Nov. 25: Ever Banega's first-half penalty proved enough to seal Sevilla a 1-0 win at Real Valladolid on Sunday as Julen Lopetegui's men jumped to third in the Liga table.

Sevilla are unbeaten in six league matches since a 4-0 thrashing at Barcelona last month and trail the reigning champions and Real Madrid by only one point, although they have played a game more. A tight encounter was settled by the only goal in the 13th minute, as Javi Moyano brought down former Manchester City winger Nolito and Argentinian international

Lucas Ocampos of Sevilla was sent off late on after receiving a second yellow card for time wasting, but the visitors held on to continue their excellent start to the season under former Spain and Real Madrid coach Lopetegui.

Barcelona lead the table on goal difference ahead of Real Madrid after beating Leganes on Saturday. Earlier on Sunday, substitute Kenan Kodro scored a late winner as Athletic Bilbao claimed a 2-1 win at Osasuna to move fifth. — AFP

Live on TV

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE	
Lokomotiv Moscow vs Bayer Leverkusen	from 11.25 pm on Sony Ten 2, HD
Galatasaray vs Club Brugge	from 11.25 pm on Sony ESPN, HD
Real Madrid vs PSG	from 1.30 am (Wednesday) on Sony Ten 1, HD
Tottenham vs Olympiacos	from 1.30 am (Wednesday) on Sony Ten 3, HD
Man City vs Shakhtar Donetsk	from 1.30 am (Wednesday) on Sony Six, HD
Juventus vs Atletico Madrid	from 1.30 am (Wednesday) on Sony Ten 2, HD
Crvena Zvezda vs Bayern	from 1.30 am (Wednesday) on Sony ESPN, HD

ISL | FOOTBALL CHENNAIYIN PIP HYDERABAD FOR FIRST WIN

Chennai, Nov. 25: Chennaiyin FC registered their first win of the Hero Indian Super League season six in dramatic fashion after edging past Hyderabad FC 2-1 at the Jawaharlal Nehru stadium here on Monday.

After seeing poor finishing hamper them for most of the game, Chennaiyin thought they had the winner when Andre Schembri (90+2') put them ahead in injury time. A few minutes later, Hyderabad equalised through Matthew Kilgallon (90+5'), but Nerijus Valskis sealed a sensational win seconds later, bringing the roof down in the stadium.

The win saw Chennaiyin leapfrog Hyderabad to the ninth spot while the ISL debutants suffered their fourth defeat in five games.

The game got off to a scrappy start with neither side able to assert themselves in a frantic opening period. Chances fell for Chennaiyin but poor decision-making meant the scores remained level. Just as it seemed Chennaiyin's goal drought would continue for yet another game, substitute Andre Schembri took matters into his own hands. The forward latched on to a cross from Edwin Vanspaul in injury time, held off his marker and fired a low shot past Kamaljit at the near post, registering Chennaiyin's first goal of the season.

But there was another twist in the tale as Kilgallon headed in an unlikely equaliser from a corner in the fifth minute of injury time. — Agencies

SCOTTISH OPEN BADMINTON

Sen wins fourth title of season

Glasgow, Nov. 25: Fast-rising Indian shuttler Lakshya Sen claimed his fourth title in three months, bagging the Scottish Open with a thrilling win over Brazil's Ygor Coelho in the men's singles summit clash here.

The top-seeded Indian overcame his Brazilian opponent 18-21, 21-18, 21-19 in a 56-minute final on Sunday night.

The 18-year-old from Uttarakhanda has now clinched three titles out of the four tournaments that he has played since September — SaarLorLux Open, Dutch Open, and Belgian International.

After losing in the second round of Irish Open, Lakshya made amends this week and dished out some superb performances right from the start.

"Happy to win the scotch open title! A hard fought match against my friend @co3lho12. It was really nice training with you in Denmark and playing a good match against you today," Sen tweeted.

The Indian began his campaign with a straight-game win over Austria's Luka Wraber, before defeating compatriot Kiran George to reach the quarterfinals.

The world no. 41 Indian then recorded another straight-game win over sixth-seed Brian Yang before seeing off France's Christo Popov in the semi-

● **The 18-year-old Lakshya Sen has now clinched three titles out of the four tournaments that he has played since September — SaarLorLux Open, Dutch Open, and Belgian International.**

finals. After this win, Lakshya will break into the top-40 in the BWF rankings and inch closer to a direct qualification in the top grade 2 events.

Lakshya thus joined fellow Indians Anand Pawar (2010 and 2012), Arvind Bhatt (2004) and Pullela Gopichand (1999) in winning the Scottish Open title.

During the final, Lakshya had fallen behind in the opening game but he managed to turn the tables and grab a 10-8 lead.

Lakshya came out firing in the second round and jumped to a 7-0 lead in the second game. The Brazilian slowly clawed back at 17-17 but Lakshya managed to bounce back into the contest.

The decider turned out to be an evenly-fought contest and both the shuttlers battled hard to gain the lead. Coelho enjoyed an 11-8 advantage at the break but a gritty Lakshya kept drawing parity and had the last laugh. — PTI



Lakshya Sen (left) poses on the podium with the cup after defeating Brazil's Ygor Coelho in the Scottish Open final in Glasgow on Monday.

SYED MODI | INTERNATIONAL

Saina withdraws, focus on Lakshya

Lucknow, Nov. 25: Saina Nehwal pulled out at the last moment to take some sheen off the Syed Modi International, beginning here on Tuesday, when the in-form Lakshya Sen will seek a third BWF World Tour title.

Three-time former champion Saina, who has been battling illness and injuries, is going through a bad patch, having lost six times in the first round this season.

The 29-year-old from Hyderabad has already pulled out of the Premier Badminton League to prepare for the next season.

World champion P.V. Sindhu has chosen to give the tournament a miss.

The 18-year-old Lakshya, on the other hand, will look to grab his maiden Super 300 crown this week following his title triumphs at two Super 100 events — Dutch and SaarLorLux Open — this year.

Focus will also be on the men's doubles pairing of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty, who won the Thailand Open Super 500 title and then reached the finals of French Open Super 750 this season.

Lakshya, who has been in Denmark for a two and half month training-cum-competition stint, claimed title wins at the Belgian International and Dutch and SaarLorLux Open.

In the women's singles,



Saina Nehwal

Mugdha Agrey will be one of the Indian challenges.

A host of Indian shuttlers, including 2016 winner Kidambi Srikanth, defending champion Sameer Verma and world championship bronze-medallist B. Sai Praneth, will eye the top spot in the men's singles this week.

Third seed Srikanth, who had reached the finals at India Open this year, will hope to end his two-year long title drought and gather valuable points to arrest the slide in his ranking in the pre-Olympic year when he takes on Russia's Vladimir Malkov.

Former Commonwealth Games champion Parupalli Kashyap, who grabbed the title in 2012 and 2015, will lock horns with France's Lucas Corvee. — PTI



Tottenham Hotspur head coach Jose Mourinho (second from left) at a team training session in London on Monday, the eve of their Champions League Group 'B' match against Olympiakos.

— AFP

— Agencies