

A person over 80 years old who
exhibits little cognitive decline

A person who watches video content online, or who
combines regular TV watching with related digital content

DECCAN CHRONICLE

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PAGE
9

Democracy wins? The losers take it all



Mohan Guruswamy

We saw an interesting twist to a unanimous people's verdict in Maharashtra. The BJP-Shiv Sena alliance campaigning on an unabashed Hindutva platform won a clear mandate winning 160 of the 288 seats. The BJP that won 105 seats had a strike rate of over 70 per cent (105 out of 152), while the Shiv Sena had a strike rate of about 40 per cent (56 out of 124). Clearly, it was a win for the worst Hindu revanchism, for the Shiv Sena stands or, is it now stood, for everything right of the RSS. In fact, the Shiv Sena even makes or made the Bajrang Dal and VHP looks tame. Be that as may be, it was an unambiguous victory for the combined retrograde ideologies of the RSS and SS.

The people of Maharashtra had spoken and under normal circumstances their wishes should have been respected. But the election results and their performance clearly told the Shiv Sena that their time was running out. The once junior partner of the alliance — the BJP was now the engine of the right wing in Maharashtra. It could no

longer be sure of its place in Maharashtra politics the next time. So it bailed out of the alliance.

The pre-election alliance of the BJP and Shiv Sena won over 42 per cent of the popular vote, while the two Congresses together won only 32.6 per cent of the popular vote. If there was any morality and decency left in our politics, the rightful government in Maharashtra should have been of the two undesirables. But that was not to be. Uddhav Thackeray did an Ajit Pawar on the BJP by pulling out of the right-wing formation.

Sharad Pawar has never made any bones that he believed in to old adage that "politics is the art of the possible". What Otto von Bismarck said was a little more. He actually said: "Politics is the art of the possible, the attainable — the art of the next best." In Maharashtra's case, it clearly was the less worst.

What was possible in Maharashtra went way beyond what was thinkable. The secondary theme of the BJP-led alliance was to arrest the growth of corruption in the state by promising to arrest Ajit Pawar and change his way of life in jail. The suddenly marooned BJP found a life-saver when Ajit Pawar did an

Uddhav Thackeray on the family party, the NCP. It had nothing to do with policy or political morality. It was a question of his place in the family pecking order. Like Sonny Corleone, Ajit Pawar too had a tendency towards the rash and went alone to meet his fate.

Now we have the likelihood of a Shiv Sena-led government with the two Congresses supporting it from within. The BJP may very well say it is glad to have the Shiv Sena monkey off its back. Narendra Modi once described the Shiv Sena as a *hafta* collection party. Now the BJP can hope to muscle into the Shiv Sena base and become the biggest *hafta* collecting party in India's richest state.

But this is not a simple "art of the possible" power play. This newly-scrambled alliance of a renegade Hindutva group with two clan-led Congresses has major implications for Indian politics. Soon after the Supreme Court's somewhat judicially dubious verdict on the King Rama birthplace in Ayodhya, many in the Congress welcomed the judgment, just as many of its leaders welcomed the scrubbing of Article 370. By deciding to remain quiet on it, the so-called liberal or centrist parties in our political firmament made their ideological choice. They all moved rightwards. Now they are allied with the ugly face of that reality. Allied with a party that viscerally hates religious, ethnic and regional minorities. So where does this leave Indian politics? Do we now have two right wing formations?

MAHARASHTRA

What we have witnessed in these past weeks in Maharashtra is a complete collapse of the notion of politics being about a vision for a better future and what is best for the people. Instead, we saw a sordid drama played out in five-star hotels in Bombay, with money replacing vision and ideas.

When the team led by B.R. Ambedkar wrote the Constitution, it obviously did not contemplate the capricious disregard for norms and consistency inherent in our leaders. How "we" look is a no longer a concern. In the Maharashtra drama, we saw all provisions and expectations of the Constitution flouted and trampled on by all the constitutional authorities. The Maharashtra governor, Bhagat Singh Koshiyari, an RSS apparatchik, willingly allowed himself to be lied to and apparently accepted signatures by all the newly elected NCP MLAs on sheets of paper attached to Ajit Pawar's "letter of support" to the BJP's chosen legislative party leader, Devendra Fadnavis. Common sense would have told Mr Koshiyari that while some support for Ajit Pawar was possible, all was impossible. Clearly, the governor never stopped being

an RSS apparatchik and allowed that to overpower his sense of morality. Clearly, he has shown himself as not fit to hold that position. The Prime Minister used a rarely-used provision to be used during a war or financial emergency to facilitate the daybreak coup leading to Fadnavis being sworn in as chief minister.

What we have witnessed in these past weeks in Maharashtra is a complete collapse of the notion of politics being about a vision for a better future and what is best for the people. Instead, we saw a sordid drama played out in five-star hotels in Bombay, with money replacing vision and ideas.

The Pawar family schism that so impacted Maharashtra politics is yet another metaphor for the collapse of the party system in the country. From Punjab to Tamil Nadu, we now have a party system that is neither constitutional nor legal. Though the founders of this Republic never used the term "political party" even once in the Constitution, from day one we were intended to be and are a party based democracy. When people elect representatives they are in fact choosing parties.

How parties function then becomes critical to our democracy. If parties did not function or are not required to function in a prescribed constitutional and democratic manner, the leadership inevitably migrates into the hands of an elite, as we have seen in almost all our political parties now. These political parties have now factions that

come together on the basis of a shared region, religion or caste, with any one of these impulses being the dominating motive for coming together. Take each of our many parties. The only party that claims a pan-Indian appeal has long ceased to be anything but an old feudal order presided over by an aristocracy. None of these parties has a formal membership, a formal requirement for membership, forums for participation and articulating aspirations of their communities, or facilities to choose leaders by any formal process other than general and often-simulated acclaim.

We have seen the transition of democratic styles in many of the world's established democ-

racies. The US saw power passing from a self-nominating conventional process to a primary based system that binds the convention to the choice of individual party members. This kind of a transition did not happen in India. On the other hand, we migrated from a system where parties consisted of equals sharing a common purpose and, sometimes, goals to one where power passed into the hands of a self-perpetuating political aristocracy. Like the Gandhis, Pawars and Thackerays.

The writer, a policy analyst studying economic and security issues, held senior positions in government and industry. He also specialises in the Chinese economy.



PMO ordered illegal electoral bond sale before vital Assembly elections



Nitin Sethi

This is Part 3 of the 6-part #PaaisaPolitics investigative series by HuffPost. Reprinted with permission from the Huffington Post.

On January 2, 2018, the Narendra Modi-led Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government notified the rules governing the controversial new electoral bonds scheme.

Soon, Prime Minister Modi's office ordered that these rules be broken to allow for an illegal sale of electoral bonds. This was first justified as an exception and then made into a practice.

The electoral bond scheme, implemented over the fervent objections of the Reserve Bank of India, the Election Commission of India and India's opposition political parties, legalised the influence of big business in India's elections by providing them and others a route to secretly donate to parties and opened the doors for offshore money to pour into Indian politics.

First announced in Arun Jaitley's 2017 budget day speech, the bonds offered complete anonymity to donors. The donor would not need to divulge the source of funds and the political party would not need to disclose who it got the funds from. Another change, implemented at the same time, removed limits on election funding by corporations — meaning they could now funnel as much money as they wanted to the parties of their choice.

To this end, in January 2018, the government specified four 10-day windows in January, April, July and October each year when the State Bank of India (SBI) would sell these bonds to donors. The rules also allowed for an additional 30 days sale of electoral bonds in years when a general election was scheduled.

Now, previously unpublished government documents, obtained by transparency activist Commodore Lokesh Batra (Retd.) and reviewed by HuffPost India, show how the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) directed the finance ministry to break its own rules to approve the unscheduled and

illegal sale of electoral bonds for state assembly elections on two separate occasions.

These state elections — in Karnataka, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram, Rajasthan and Telangana — were the last round of polls before the Modi government's first tenure ended, and were expected to set the political narrative for the 2019 General Elections in which the BJP eventually trounced its rivals.

But in the first ever sale and donation of bonds in March 2018, BJP garnered 95 per cent of all political donations made through this particular funding channel, shows the party's annual report. Data is not yet available for funds that BJP or others got through electoral bonds in the run-up to assembly elections during the financial year 2018-19.

The PMO's intervention to open extra windows for political donations via electoral bonds is significant because the limited sale periods were intended as a precaution against money laundering. As HuffPost India has reported, the Reserve Bank of India had initially recommended that the bonds only be sold twice a year for a short duration.

PMO'S MEMO

The rules for electoral bonds were broken at the first given opportunity. SBI was supposed to sell the first tranche in April 2018, but the first round was opened a month earlier in March 2018 instead. ₹222 crore worth of bonds were bought in this round, with 95 per cent going to the BJP.

The following month, in April 2018, SBI opened another window for political donation — in this, bonds worth another ₹114.90 crore were purchased and donated. But the government was still not satisfied.

With the Karnataka state elections due in May 2018, the PMO instructed the finance ministry to open a special and extra window of another 10 days.

To be sure, the PMO did not explicitly link its request to impending polls in Karnataka, but finance ministry officials caught on to the link.

An officer in the finance ministry noted that the extra win-

ELECTORAL BONDS-3

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's office directed the finance ministry to break its own rules to approve the special and illegal sale of electoral bonds just before critical state Assembly elections

dow period was being asked by the PMO in the run-up to the assembly elections.

He drew attention to the fact that this was not allowed under the current rules.

"Para 8 (2) of the notification regarding Electoral Bearer Bonds issued on January 2, 2018 however, refers to the elections only for the House of People (Lok Sabha)," Vijay Kumar, deputy director in the department of economic affairs handling the electoral bond scheme, wrote in internal file notings on April 3, 2018. "This would imply that additional issuance of Electoral Bearer Bonds cannot be meant for state assembly election."

Kumar suggested that the problem perhaps lay with the rules rather than with the PMO, and so suggested the rules be changed.

The rules, Kumar wrote in his April 3 2018 note, did not reflect the "intent" of their draftsmen, and that the bonds had always been meant to be used for both Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assembly elections. He said this "omission" needed to be rectified.

His suggestion was shot down by the secretary for economic affairs, the topmost bureaucrat in the department, S.C. Garg, who said the observation was incorrect.

"This special issue was meant only for Lok Sabha. If we were to open a special window for assembly elections as well, there will be several special windows, sometime, in a year. No need for amendment," Garg wrote on April 4, 2018.

A week later, on April 11, 2018, Kumar sought to make explicit the contradiction between what the rules said, and what Prime Minister Modi's office wanted.

"PMO desired to open a special 10-day window for issuance of electoral bonds," Kumar, the deputy director, wrote to his superiors. "However as per para 8(2) of the notification on electoral bond Scheme, dated January 2, 2018, an additional 30-day window could be specified by the

Central government in the year of the general elections to the House of People. At this stage, such a special window with general elections to Lok Sabha far away, may not be in consonance with the wordings of the notification."

This was the first time officials put down in writing that the instructions had come from none less than Prime Minister Modi's office.

In Indian bureaucratic practice, even instructions directly from the Prime Minister are referred to as those from the 'Prime Minister's Office' on government records.

At the mention of the PMO, Garg, the secretary of economic affairs, quickly fell in line and reversed his position.

On April 11 itself, he wrote a note to finance minister Jaitley, where he said the electoral bonds were allowed to be issued only four times in a year that elections to the Parliament are not to be held.

This, he said, was done "as the electoral bonds are bearer bonds, it was considered safe and adequate that only four windows in a normal year should be provided to make political contributions through electoral bonds for ensuring that these bonds are not used as a currency."

This, as mentioned earlier, had been done after warnings by the RBI.

Yet, Garg then suggested that finance minister Jaitley break the regulations that the Union government had approved and notified just four months ago in January 2018.

"In view of the requirement, we may, as an exception, open an additional window for the period of May 1-10, 2018," Garg concluded.

Garg left the nature of the "requirement" unspecified, but Jaitley signed off on the exception anyway.

The finance ministry in its files claimed that this illegal sale of electoral bonds just before Karnataka assembly elections, on the instructions of the PMO, was being approved as an exceptional case.

But a spate of critical assembly elections were scheduled at the end of 2018. Breaking the regulations governing electoral bonds would become a habit for the BJP government.

The finance ministry told HuffPost India via email that it would not be able to provide detailed responses to specific questions because it was busy preparing next year's Union Budget, but said that all the decisions were taken "in good faith".

"All the issues raised in the

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

The Prime Minister's Office did not respond to queries.

STATE ELECTION CASH STASH

With elections scheduled in November and December 2018 for Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram, Rajasthan and Telangana, the same deputy director Vijay Kumar, on October 22 2018, moved a proposal to his seniors for another special window to sell electoral bonds in November 2018, ahead of the assembly elections. This time, he did not say where the instructions came from, but made clear the purpose of these instructions.

His note made clear that the BJP-led Union government had decided to treat May 2018's "special" but illegal window as a precedent to be followed.

To quote from Kumar's October 22, 2018 note: "In view of the forthcoming State assembly elections in five states and as per the directions, additional 10-day special window for issuance of Electoral Bonds is proposed, on the analogy adopted at the previous occasion of issuance of electoral bonds through special window during May 1-10, 2018 by the government in view of state assembly elections in Karnataka with the approval of the finance minister."

Both Garg and Jaitley signed off without hesitation. ₹184 crore worth of electoral bonds were bought by donors from SBI in this phase, and given to political parties.

What was initially a one-off illegal breach of regulations in May 2018 under orders from Prime Minister Modi's office had been institutionalised by his government as practice by the end of the year. By May 2019, more than ₹6,000 crore worth of electoral bonds had been sold and secretly donated to political parties. If the first tranche of bonds sold offered any lessons, it is likely that the party in power, BJP, garnered most of the money.

■ To be continued

Careful what you wish for



Sadguru Rameshji

Many people have experienced in their lives that whatever they were worried about came true. Whatever they did not want to happen, happened. Most of these unfavorable and unpleasant situations are created by us, though unconsciously, unwantedly and unknowingly.

Imagine each thought you think as a mental photograph. These images then signal the subconscious mind as well as cosmic forces to create a real life situation. Cosmic forces understand images sent by the subconscious mind as signals for our desire. Then cosmic forces influence us and push us to take such actions that make the image convert into a real life situation. If we are careful in our thoughts, imagination and feelings then we can avoid creating unwanted painful situations in life. In fact we can start creating all those situations which we really want for our success, prosperity, happiness and well-being. There should not be any negative thoughts, imaginations and worries for anything. You should not allow your mind to focus on something which you don't want... otherwise you actually strengthen the neural networks of your brain and would create the image for something which you don't want.

Worry is actually a very powerful form of negative goal setting. Five laws to create what you want in life and avoid creating what you don't want:

- (1) Stop worrying and fearing for anything in life and instead direct your mental focus on those things, situations and circumstances which you want. "Never focus on anything which you don't want".
- (2) Whenever you cannot stop your worries then offer them at the feet of God and ask Him to take care of it as you are incapable of handling your worries. Accept whatever you get as a gift from God.
- (3) Seek forgiveness from all those people whose feelings, knowingly or unknowingly, you have hurt.
- (4) Visualise your positive goals with positive affirmations.
- (5) Meditate regularly and learn to relax and control your mind.

Sadguru Rameshji is a modern age spiritual guru and the force behind Poorna Ananda, a Hyderabad-based centre for spiritual evolution and joyful living. He can be contacted at www.poornaananda.org

India buys one lakh tonnes of U.S. wheat

WASHINGTON, Nov. 26. India has bought 1,00,800 long tonnes of US Western White Wheat at 1.46-1/4 Dollars per bushel.

Officials here said the purchases comprised 38,000 tonnes from Cargill, 25,000 from Continental Grain, 22,000 from Louis Dreyfus, and 15,800 from Toshoku.

India still has to buy about 117,000 tonnes of US Hard Winter and approximately 59,000 tonnes of Western White Wheat under PL-480 purchase authorisations already issued by the United States Department of Agriculture.

In addition, PL-480 purchase authorisations for about 2.2 million tonnes remain to be issued to cover the full three million tonnes of wheat under a PL-480 agreement signed last October. — *Reuter.*





Big blow

In a blow to Pak PM Imran Khan, the country's top court ordered temporary suspension of army chief Gen. Qamar Javed Bajwa



We plan to have our own fighter jet ready in five to six years

— **Tayyip Erdogan**
Turkish President, amid dispute with US over purchase of F-35 jets

IN BRIEF

Copter strike kills 13 French soldiers

Paris: A midair collision between two helicopters has killed 13 French soldiers fighting against Islamic extremists in Mali, French President Emmanuel Macron said on Tuesday. Macron expressed deep sadness at the news of the Monday evening crash, which took place during a combat operation. In a written statement, he expressed his support for the French military and stressed the courage of the French soldiers fighting the persistent Islamic threat in the Sahel region. Defense minister Florence Parly said an investigation has been opened to determine the circumstances of the accident.

Quake in Albania kills at least 14

Thumane: Rescue crews used excavators to search for survivors trapped in toppled apartment buildings on Tuesday after a powerful pre-dawn earthquake in Albania killed at least 14 people and injured more than 600. The 6.4 magnitude quake was felt across the southern Balkans and was followed by multiple aftershocks. In nearby Bosnia, another tremor with a preliminary magnitude of 5.4 struck southeast of the capital and rattled Sarajevo. There were no immediate reports of casualties and only minor damage in that earthquake. The quake in Albania collapsed at least three buildings while people slept, and rescue crews were working to free people believed trapped.

Indian diaspora in Oz gets \$3M boost

Melbourne: The government of Victoria in Australia on Tuesday announced an assistance of Aus\$3 million for the state's Indian diaspora to help the country's largest Indian community renovate and revamp its temples and construct centres for cultural activities. Minister for multicultural affairs Richard Wynne, while announcing the infrastructure fund on Tuesday, said, "We're delivering on a promise to help build and upgrade Indian community facilities." "Victoria is home to Australia's largest Indian community. They have helped make Victoria one of the most successfully multicultural places in the world," Wynne said. The grant will be made available to state's Indian community to be used for upgrading temples, community centres and other community facilities and can be used by Indian non-profit organisations.

GREEN | METHOD

Acceptance of drink remains psychological issue

Recycled water used to brew beer

Stockholm, Nov. 26: Having reservations about drinking recycled sewage water? Have a beer!

Swedish experts have used recycled sewage water, passed it through delicate membranes and cleaning processes including reverse osmosis and turned it into the country's first hot-selling beer.

Experts at the IVL Swedish Environmental Research Institute, famous beer-maker Carlsberg, Sweden and New Carnegie Brewery here joined hands to use the water from the city to brew beer and to overcome the mental block regarding drinking of recycled water.

The popularity of the recycled water beer PU:REST, which was launched in May 2018, has soared with 6,000 litres of it being sold in the market so far, IVL expert Rupali Deshmukh said.

■ Swedish experts attempted to recycle sewage water by passing it through delicate membranes and cleaning processes and turning it into cleanest possible water.

■ The process involves cleaning it in an energy-efficient manner using specially made membranes followed by a reverse osmosis and filtration mechanism.

■ Experts carried out detailed lab testing of the recycled water after which professionals at a brewery took over the remaining process.



She said the recycled water is so clean that they had to add salt to it. It is all about acceptance of that water which is more of a psychological issue, Deshmukh said, adding that the institute is not in the business of selling alcohol and the project is to prove a point of recycling waste water to potable levels.

The IVL has set up a pilot and demonstration facility

in Hammarby Sjostadsverk to recycle sewage water by passing it through delicate membranes and cleaning processes and turning it into cleanest possible water, said project manager at IVL Staffan Filipsson.

"Resistance to drinking reused waste water is quite high. We were working on how to overcome this resistance. Technically drinking reused water is not a problem at all but the bigger

issue is overcoming mental blocks," Filipsson said.

He said the idea had cropped during one of the discussions one-and-a-half years ago. The team contacted executives at New Carnegie Brewery who reverted within a week showing interest, he said.

"Brewery people said this was a great idea and they were interested in being part of it. We had approval from authorities to brew beer from the waste water," Filipsson said.

The process involves cleaning it in an energy-efficient manner using specially made membranes followed by a reverse osmosis and filtration mechanism.

The IVL experts carried out detailed lab testing of the recycled water after which it was delivered to New Carnegie Brewery where professionals took over the remaining process.

— PTI

'WAY BEHIND CLIMATE GOALS'

- It said global emissions need to fall by 7.6 per cent, each year, every year until 2030 to limit global temperature rises to 1.5°C.
- Three years after 195 countries signed the Paris treaty on climate change, emissions have risen on an average 1.5 per cent annually over the last decade, hitting a record 55.3 billion tonnes of CO2 gases in 2018.
- The Paris deal committed nations to limit temperature rises above pre-industrial levels to 'well below' 2°C, and to a safer 1.5°C if at all possible.
- Taking into account current Paris pledges, the world is on track for a 3.2°C temperature rise, something scientists fear could tear the society.
- The UN's emissions gap report highlighted specific 'opportunities' for big emitters to push their economies into line with the Paris goals.

The United Nations Environment Programme in its annual assessment on greenhouse gases said the world will miss its chance to avert climate disaster without an immediate fall in fossil fuel emissions.

While the UN insisted the 1.5°C goal is still attainable, it acknowledged that this would require an unprecedented, coordinated upheaval of a global economy that is still fuelled overwhelmingly by oil- and gas-fuelled growth.

While advice varies between countries, the theme is clear: completely phase out coal, significantly pare back oil and gas, and dramatically build up renewable energy.

G20 nations were singled out as laggards: although they produce around 78 per cent of all emissions, only 15 rich nations have outlined plans to reach net-zero.

We are failing to curb greenhouse gas emissions. Unless we take urgent action now and make very significant cuts to global emissions we're going to miss the target of 1.5°C.

— **INGER ANDERSEN**, executive director, UNEP

Don's actions diminish Pentagon's command

Navy chief's sacking rakes up debate on Trump's control

Washington, Nov. 26: President Donald Trump's interventions in US military policy, from reversing a Navy SEAL's demotion to withdrawal from Syria to a transgender ban, increasingly undermine Pentagon leadership, defense experts said on Tuesday.

The firing on Sunday of navy secretary Richard Spencer, who challenged Trump's intervention in the SEAL commando's case, was the latest sign of the US military's struggle with Trump's off-the-cuff, highly political micromanagement. Critics called it a sign of "disarray" that could send dangerous signals to troops on the ground and to US allies overseas that the Pentagon command structure can be overruled at any time by Trump, who wields authority as the US commander-in-chief.

"The senior military leadership is in a really difficult position," said Mara Karlin, director of strategic studies at the School of Advanced International Studies at Johns Hopkins University. "In terms of civil-military relations, what has been happening with the President is not a Democratic issue or a Republican issue, it's a dysfunctionality issue." Last week, Trump defied the Pentagon leadership by

rejecting their plans to demote and force navy commando Edward Gallagher out of SEALs after his conviction for having posed for a picture next to the body of a Islamic State fighter.

Trump was drawn to supporting Gallagher after *Fox News* made his case a conservative political cause early this year. Navy officials feared that letting off Gallagher, who avoided conviction on murdering a prisoner in Iraq, would signal to other SEALs that they can get away with crimes.

"This was an outrageous, irresponsible interference by President Trump in the military justice system," Democratic senator Jack Reed said. "It signals to people that they can operate outside the rule of law and the Geneva Convention." But it was only the latest intervention by Trump in military affairs.

Earlier this year, while the Pentagon was assessing bids for a \$10 billion cloud computing contract, Trump weighed in against Amazon, which owns the *Washington Post*, a frequent critic of his administration.

Trump has interfered in numerous other ways. He forced the Pentagon to reallocate funds from base construction projects to his US-Mexico border wall.



US President Donald Trump, First Lady Melania Trump with the military dog in Washington, on Tuesday.— AFP

Dog that helped kill Baghdadi honoured

Washington, Nov. 26: US President Donald Trump has honoured Conan, the specially trained 'hero dog' who helped US commandos in the mission that led to the death of ISIS leader Abu Bakr-al Baghdadi.

Baghdadi, 48, died in October after the world's most wanted terrorist was chased by the US special forces along with military working dogs. He blew up his suicide vest following the US raid on his compound in Syria's Idlib province.

The dog, who was injured during the mis-

sion that killed Baghdadi, visited the White House on Tuesday and met President Trump in his Oval Office. It later appeared before the White House press corps in the Rose Garden along with Trump, the First Lady Melania and Vice President Mike Pence.

Introducing the Belgian Malinois as "probably the world's most famous dog, Trump said he had given Conan a plaque and called the canine commando so brilliant, so smart.

— PTI

AIRPORTS ON ALERT IN LANKA AFTER COP FLEES

Colombo, Nov. 26: The Sri Lankan government has put airports on alert to stop police detectives leaving without permission after a top officer who had reportedly received death threats fled the island, police said on Tuesday.

The alleged threats against inspector Nishantha Silva came after the November 16 election of Gotabaya Rajapaksa, who was also under investigation by him. A spokesman said names of 704 officers had been sent to immigration authorities.

— PTI

भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण
AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER (ID : 2019_AAI_36389_1)

E-Tenders are invited on behalf of the Chairman, Airports Authority of India for the work of "Establishment of IT Infrastructure for Disaster Recovery at Hyderabad and O&M Services for 05 Years" with an estimated cost of ₹ 1102514229/-. Please visit CPP portal at <https://etenders.gov.in> for downloading the tender document, eligibility criteria, other related corrigendum & online submission of the e-tenders. The detailed NIT can also be seen on the AAI website at www.aai.aero. Further clarification/corrigendum in this regard, if any, will be put up only on CPP portal/AAI website. (N-72/2019-20)

INDIAN RAILWAYS
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(RAILWAY BOARD)

No.2019/Track-III/MC/14 New Delhi, dt. 26.11.2019.
Procurement of Track Relaying Trains (TRT)
(Broad Gauge 1676mm) for Indian Railways.

1. Electronic bids are invited for and on behalf of the President of India for Track Relaying Trains (TRT).
2. The interested tenderers are advised to visit the website <http://ireps.gov.in> for details, downloading of the tender documents and submission of their e-bids.

Dinesh Tripathi
Director Track (MC)
Railway Board

3801/19
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

National Pension System Trust (NPS Trust)
3rd Floor, Chhatrapati Shivaji Bhawan,
B-14/A, Qutub Institutional Area, New Delhi-110 016

INVITATION TO BID (ITB)

National Pension System Trust (NPST), established by Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) for taking care of the assets and funds under NPS in the best interest of the subscribers, invites proposals for engaging a consultant for development of Risk management framework for NPS Trust.

The ITB documents containing detailed information on the eligibility criteria, technical requirements and commercial considerations in specified format can be downloaded from www.npstrust.org.in or www.eprocure.gov.in.

Interested entities, which satisfy the prescribed eligibility criteria, should submit their proposals in the specified format to the above mentioned address latest by 15:00 hrs on Wednesday, 18 December 2019.

Contact: Deputy General Manager, Email- dgm1@npstrust.org.in, Phone: 011-26514032. davp 15112/11/0012/1920

भारत सरकार / Government of India परमाणु ऊर्जा विभाग / Department of Atomic Energy इंदिरा गांधी परमाणु अनुसंधान केंद्र / Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research कल्पक्कम / Kalpakkam - 603 102.			
AMENDMENT No.1 for Tender No.CEG/IGC/1577/2019			
Name of work : Construction of SASTRA building and SED storage shed at IGCAR, Kalpakkam. Following amendment/correction shall be carried out in the Notice Inviting Tender for the above mentioned work.			
NIT Page	Description	As per NIT	Shall be read as
1	Dates of availability of Tender Documents for view and download	From 13-11-2019 (10:00 Hours) to 26-11-2019 (15:00 Hours) on website www.tenderwizard.com/DAE .	From 13-11-2019 (10:00 Hours) to 03-12-2019 (15:00 Hours) on website www.tenderwizard.com/DAE .
2	Pre-bid meeting	Contractors are requested to send their pre-bid queries by e-mail (jeyaraman@igcar.gov.in (or) ashokj@igcar.gov.in) not later than 29-11-2019 . Pre bid meeting will be held on 04-12-2019 . Pre-bid clarification will be sent to all contractors by e-mail and uploaded in website on 06-12-2019 .	Contractors are requested to send their pre-bid queries by e-mail (jeyaraman@igcar.gov.in (or) ashokj@igcar.gov.in) not later than 06-12-2019 . Pre bid meeting will be held on 11-12-2019 . Pre-bid clarification will be sent to all contractors by e-mail and uploaded in website on 13-12-2019 .
2	Last date for submission of Original DD/BC/PO etc. towards EMD.	On or before 11-12-2019 (15:00 Hours) either at Liaison office (TCPAS) at Shastri Bhavan, Chennai whose address is Head, TCPAS, TC & QCD, 6th Floor, Shastri Bhavan, No:26, Haddows road, Nungambakkam, Chennai – 600 006. (OR) at Office of Chief Engineer, Civil Engineering Group, IGCAR, Kalpakkam – 603102. The tenderer shall be required to submit the Earnest Money in a sealed envelope marked 'Earnest Money.' If the tenderers fail to submit original DD/BC/PO etc, within the prescribed period as mentioned above those tenders will be summarily rejected.	On or before 18-12-2019 (15:00 Hours) either at Liaison office (TCPAS) at Shastri Bhavan, Chennai whose address is Head, TCPAS, TC & QCD, 6th Floor, Shastri Bhavan, No:26, Haddows road, Nungambakkam, Chennai – 600 006. (OR) at Office of Chief Engineer, Civil Engineering Group, IGCAR, Kalpakkam – 603102. The tenderer shall be required to submit the Earnest Money in a sealed envelope marked 'Earnest Money.' If the tenderers fail to submit original DD/BC/PO etc, within the prescribed period as mentioned above those tenders will be summarily rejected.
2	Last date and time of closing of online submission of tenders:	11-12-2019 (14:30 Hours)	18-12-2019 (14:30 Hours)
2	Date and time of online opening of Technical Bid	17-12-2019 (15:00 Hours) at Office of Chief Engineer, CEG, IGCAR, Kalpakkam Only.	24-12-2019 (15:00 Hours) at Office of Chief Engineer, CEG, IGCAR, Kalpakkam Only.
2	Date of verification of credentials for e-Tendering mode	18-12-2019 to 24-12-2019 (Except 21.12.2019 & 22.12.2019). Note: Original documents substantiating the eligibility criteria all mentioned should be produced for verification during evaluation process. If the tenderers fail to submit original credential for verification, within the prescribed period as mentioned above those tenders will be summarily rejected.	26-12-2019 to 03-01-2020 (Except 28.12.2019 & 29.12.2019). Note: Original documents substantiating the eligibility criteria all mentioned should be produced for verification during evaluation process. If the tenderers fail to submit original credential for verification, within the prescribed period as mentioned above those tenders will be summarily rejected.
All other terms and conditions remain unchanged.			
Chief Engineer, CEG, IGCAR			



64 core
Next year, AMD will release the first Threadripper CPU with 64 computing cores and 128 threads

2 SDKs harvest SM user data

OneAudience and MobiBurn discontinue their respective SDKs

DC CORRESPONDENT
with agency inputs
HYDERABAD, NOV. 26

Social media giants, Facebook and Twitter, on Monday, announced that hundreds of users had their personal data improperly accessed after they used it to log into certain Android apps that were downloaded via the Google Play Store.

According to a CNBC report, both firms received reports from security researchers that a software development kit (SDK) named One Audience gave third-party developers access to personal data.

The data includes the email addresses, usernames and most recent tweets of people who used their Twitter accounts to access apps including Giant Square and Photofy.

The report further said that it may have been possible for a person to take control of someone else's Twitter account via this vulnerability. However, the security researchers didn't find any evidence of any hostile takeover.

FB LAUNCHES NEW MARKET RESEARCH APP

■ **FACEBOOK HAS** a new market research app launching today called Viewpoints, just a few months after the company introduced an Android data collection app called Study designed to monitor what and for how long users are accessing other software on the Google-owned operating system.



■ **IN JANUARY**, Facebook shut down a market research app ostensibly offered as a virtual private network (VPN) provider.

■ **THE APP** was marketed to teens and used a special software certificate Apple gives out to businesses, designed mainly to allow the distribution of internal apps to employees, but not the public.

■ **FACEBOOK'S RESEARCH** efforts now live on in Viewpoints and Study. With Viewpoints, Facebook isn't peering into how you use third-party apps. Instead, it's an app that will give you rewards for filling out surveys.

The company said it has also informed Google and Apple about the vulnerability so that they can take further action.

The warning comes as Facebook, Google and Twitter are all facing heightened scrutiny from regulators, lawmakers and users for the ways that personal data is used by outside developers to track and target consumers.

Meanwhile, Facebook, in a statement, said, "Security researchers recently notified us about two bad actors, One Audience and Mobiburn, who were paying developers to use malicious SDKs in a number of apps available in popular app stores. After investigating, we removed the apps from our platform for violating our platform policies and issued cease and desist letters against One Audience and Mobiburn."

their accounts," said Lindsay McCallum, a Twitter spokeswoman. Twitter further said it will be informing users who were affected.

Firings spark dissent in Google

San Francisco, Nov. 26: Google on Monday fired four employees on the grounds they violated data security policies, prompting ire among colleagues concerned it was retaliation for worker organizing.

One of the workers fired was connected to a petition against Google working with the US immigration and border patrol agency. She confirmed her firing in a message posted on Twitter.

A memo to employees titled "Securing our data" sought to correct what it contended was misinformation about the purported wrongdoing, saying it involved "systematic searches for other employees' materials and work," according to reports by US media.

Google, the money-making engine of parent company Alphabet, confirmed a copy of the note published by Bloomberg but declined to comment further.

However, a Medium account connected to a massive walk-out by Google employees last year argued that the four



workers were fired in an attempt to crush efforts to organize staff.

"Four of our colleagues took a stand and organized for a better workplace," read the post by Google Walkout for Real Change. "When they did, Google retaliated against them." Authors of the post contended that Google policies on data security were tightened to provide cover for getting rid of workers involved in efforts to unionize. "They think this will crush our efforts, but it won't," the Medium post said.

"One of the most powerful companies in the world wouldn't be retaliating against us if collective action

didn't work."

The Google workplace long seen as a blend of fun, goodwill and free food has been disrupted by employee opposition to top-level decisions ranging from making contracts with the military to tailoring a version of the search engine for China and the handling of sexual misconduct allegations. Google employees poured out of buildings at the company's Mountain View campus a year ago, filling courtyards and patios in solidarity with co-workers who staged similar demonstrations at offices in countries around the world to protest the company's handling of sexual misconduct. — AFP

Joining a new SM platform does not make sense



Rohan Seth

Mastodon is what's happening in India right now. Indian Twitter users are moving to the platform and have taken to using hashtags such as #CasteistTwitter and #cancelallBlueTicksinIndia. A key reason for this to transpire is that Twitter has been, to put it mildly, less than perfect, in moderating content in India. There is the incident with lawyer Sanjay Hegde that caused this to blow up, along with accusa-

tions that Twitter had been blocking hundreds and thousands of tweets in India since 2017 with a focus on accounts from Kashmir.

Enter Mastodon. The platform, developed by developer Eugen Rochko, is open-sourced, so no one entity gets to decide what content belongs on the communities there. Also, the data on Mastodon is not owned by one single corporation, so you know that your behavior on there is not being

quantified and being sold to people who would use that to profile and target you.

Plus, each server (community) has a relatively small size with a separate admin, moderator, and by extension, code of conduct. All of this sounds wonderful. The character count is also 500 words as opposed to 280 (if that is the sort of thing you consider to be an advantage).

Mastodon is moving the needle forward by a significant increment when it comes to social networking. The idea is for us to move towards a future where user data isn't monetised and people can host their own servers instead.

As a tech enthusiast, that sounds wonderful and I honestly wish that this is what Twitter should have been.

Keeping all of that in mind, I don't think I will be joining Mastodon. Hear me out. A large part of it is not because Mastodon does not have its own problems, let's set that aside for now and move on to the attention economy.



Much like how goods and services compete for a share of your wallet, social media has for the longest time been competing for attention and mind-space. Because the more time you spend on the platform, the more ads you will see and the more money they will make. No wonder it is so hard to quit Instagram and Facebook.

Joining a new platform for social media today is an investment that does not make sense unless the other one shuts down. There is a high chance of people initially quitting Twitter, only to come back to it while being addicted to another platform. The more platforms you are on, the thinner your attention is stretched. That is objectively bad for anyone who thinks they spend a lot of time on their phone.

If you're lucky to be one of

the few people who do not suffer from that and are indifferent to the dopamine that notifications induce in your brain, this one doesn't apply to you. Then there is the network effect and inertia. I for one, am for moving the needle forward little by little. But here, there is little to gain right now, with more to lose.

Network effects are when products (in this case, platforms), gain value when more people use them. So, it makes sense for you to use WhatsApp and not Signal, as all your friends are on WhatsApp. Similarly, it makes sense for you to be on Twitter as your favorite celebs and news outlets are on there. Mastodon does not have the network effect advantage, so most people


who do not specifically have their network on Mastodon, do not get a lot of value out of using it.

In addition, there is inertia. Remember when we set aside Mastodon's problems earlier, here is where they fit in. Mastodon is not as intuitive as using Twitter or Facebook. That makes it a deal-breaker for people of certain ages and also happens to be a significant con for people who don't want to spend a non-trivial chunk of their time learning about servers, instances, toots, and so on.

There also isn't an official Mastodon app, however, there are a bunch of client apps that can be used instead, most popular among them is Tusky, but reviews will tell you that it

is fairly buggy and that is to be expected. There is so much right with Mastodon. It is a great working example of the democratisation of social media. It also happens to exist in an age where it would be near impossible to get funding for or to start a new social media platform. The problem is that for people who don't explicitly feel the need or see the value in joining Mastodon, are unlikely to split their attention further by joining a new platform. The switching costs, network effects, and inertia are simply too high.

(Rohan is a policy analyst at the technology and policy programme at The Takshashila Institution. Views are personal.)



INDIAN NAVY

An Ocean of Opportunities

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COURSE COMMENCING – JUL 2020


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(d) Fields such as e-mail address, mobile number are mandatory fields.
(e) All relevant documents (preferably in original) Date of birth proof (as per 10th /12th certificates), 10th marksheet, 12th marksheet, JEE (Main)-2019 score card (indicating All India Rank) and a recent passport size colour photograph should be scanned in original in JPG/TIFF format, for attaching the same while filling up the application.
(f) If any scanned document is not legible / readable for any reason, the application will be rejected.
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RBI red-flags rising Mudra loans stress

Probe finds bearings collusion by units of SKF, Schaeffler & Tata Steel

Overleaf



quick BITES

INDICATORS		%
Sensex	40,821.30	-0.17
Nifty 50	31,718.30	0.51
S&P 500	3,138.71	+0.16
Dollar (₹)	71.69	-0.23
Pound Sterling (₹)	92.24	-0.52
Euro (₹)	78.75	-0.32
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	37,673	+50 -0.13
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	\$63.90	+0.25
IN 10-Yr bond yield	+6.478	+0.011
US 10-Yr T-bill yield	+1.735	-0.029

* As of 9:30 pm IST

ICICI Pru, HDFC MF get ₹437 cr from Essel Group

ICICI Prudential Mutual Fund and HDFC Mutual Fund said they have received payments to the tune of Rs 437 crore from Essel Group. ICICI Pru MF has got Rs 270 crore as repayment and interest while the same for HDFC MF has been Rs 167 crore. With this, ICICI Pru's exposure to Essel has become nil. HDFC MF holds NCDs secured by a pledge shares valued at Rs 275.63 crore.

CSB Bank IPO subscribed 87 times

The initial public offering of CSB Bank was subscribed 86.89 times on the final day of bidding. The IPO received bids for over 100 crore shares against the total issue size of 1.15 crore shares, as per NSE data till 18:45 hours. The retail individual investors category was subscribed 44.25 times, QIBs 62.18 times and non-institutional investors 164.68 times.

IIT-K launches cyber security programme

The Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur in partnership with TalentSprint on Tuesday announced an advanced certification programme on cyber security and cyber defence. The programme is designed for current and aspiring professionals who are keen to explore and exploit the latest trends in cyber security technologies.

Oyo's net loss widens to ₹2,385 cr in FY19

Oyo Hotels and Homes' net loss widened to Rs 2,384.69 crore for the FY19 against a net loss of Rs 360.43 crore in FY18, as per a valuation report filed by the company with Registrar of Companies. Revenue from operations rose to Rs 6,456.90 crore for 2018-19 from Rs 1,413.02 crore. The financial results are unaudited and have been prepared by the valuers and not by its auditors, Oyo said.

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■ Target cut to \$1,485 an ounce; prices may go up next year Citigroup cuts gold's three-month target

SANGEETHA G
CHENNAI, NOV. 26

Assessing the recent bearish trends in the bullion market, Citigroup has cut its three-month gold price target by \$90 an ounce. However, the company is still bullish about the long-term prospects of gold and expects fresh cyclical highs by 2021.

"Citigroup has cut its three-month gold price target to \$1,485 from \$1,575 an ounce. According to the note, they are still bullish saying that they "remain bullish bullion in the medium-term and still project fresh cyclical highs being breached by 2021," reported Kitco.com.

In September, Citigroup had been extremely bullish about the yellow metal, as it had predicted that the prices might rally above \$2,000 an ounce in the next two years. While the assumption still holds ground, in the short-to-medium-term, the prospects look rather subdued.

Gold has fallen from its annual high of \$1,580 an ounce to the \$1,460 levels now. In the past three to

four weeks, considerable weakness has been evident in the bullion counter, as some of the macro-economic factors that have been pushing the prices up were seen faltering.

Though the US Federal Reserve has not reversed its rate cut regime yet, it has been sending out signals that the economy is in a better shape and probably it would go slow with cuts, said Himanshu Gupta, Vice President and Head of Commodities and Currencies Research at Globe Capital.

The US-China trade war is also seen cooling down, with both parties sitting down to talks for at least partial resolution. Market expectations are that both parties will arrive at some tariff reduction decisions

this time. A reduction in global uncertainty is a negative for safe haven assets like gold. Chinese consumers, grappling with the slowest economic growth since the early 1990s, were also seen shunning gold, anticipating further decline in prices.

In fact, the two large consumers of physical gold—China and India—have seen tremendous drop in consumption since prices started moving up. This has also undermined gold's prospects.

Further, the US treasury yields were seen recovering from their lows, allaying fears of a global recession. The global equities, including the US market, picked up well in recent times, leading to flow of money from risk-averse

assets to riskier assets.

Citigroup's downward revision of price target comes at this backdrop. However, market watchers do not anticipate any further sharp fall from the current levels. On the other hand, they expect prices to move up next year and gain further strength in 2021.

"We could see gold perhaps correcting to \$1,440-\$1,420 levels and some consolidation is insight in the next three to four weeks as the fund managers would consolidate their positions by the year-end. However, thereafter prices can move up and by next year gold can break this year's highs. Possibly it can go up beyond \$1,600 and remain within \$1,700," said Gupta.

According to him, there is no trend reversal yet for gold. The trade war is not over yet and the global growth still is predicted to be lower. The US Fed has not started increasing the interest rates and this is good for gold. "We have seen some profit booking after gold rallied 20 per cent from the recent lows. The fundamentals have not reversed," he added.

Bringing rupee trading home is an uphill task

SUBHADIP SIRCAR
NOV. 26

As London does more rupee trading than Mumbai, authorities in India are taking steps to get foreigners to transact onshore. Analysts say that will be no easy task.

There's no good reason for market participants to switch from excellent global trading hubs such as Singapore and London, said Jeffrey Halley, a senior market analyst at Oanda Asia Pacific Pte, who's extensively traded currencies in offshore markets over a three-decade career. For Schroder Investment Management Ltd, the need to add more counterparties would just increase investors' trading costs.

India's authorities are concerned a surge in rupee trading overseas threatens the stability of the currency, especially in times of stress. That worry has intensified after London overtook Mumbai as the top trading centre. In response, India

has been moving to make its onshore market more attractive and preparing to replicate offshore centers in specially designated financial zones within the country.

For Halley, that's like fighting the waves. "Institutions have access to a Michelin 3-star menu" of currencies from "all over the world, all in one centre," in hubs like Singapore and London, he said. "Banks would have no incentive, from a purely cost basis alone, to set up a separate operation onshore."

At issue is the rise of derivatives known as non-deliverable forwards (NDFs)—bets on the direction of a currency made in offshore centres, beyond the rules of domestic authorities and without the need to deliver the currency itself. The contracts, which allow investors to hedge, arbitrage and speculate in non-convertible currencies such as the rupee, can be traced back to the 1990s but have surged in popularity in recent years.

Location	2016 (\$ billion)	2019 (\$ billion)
UK	~35	~40
India	~15	~20
Singapore	~10	~15
Hong Kong	~5	~10
US	~5	~10

Figures in \$ billion (Average daily volumes in April) Source: BIS

London has become the biggest centre for trading the Indian currency, according to the latest survey by the Bank for International Settlements in September. Average daily volumes for the rupee in the UK soared to \$46.8 billion in April, exceeding the \$34.5 billion recorded in India. Volumes have also substantially jumped in other centres like Singapore, New York and Dubai.

"It will be a better world for us if there is no NDF market, but we cannot wish it away," former Reserve Bank of India chief Duvvuri Subbarao famously said during the

US taper tantrum of 2013 when the Indian currency was plummeting to record lows on an almost daily basis, with NDFs blamed for a surge in speculative trading.

In a report in July, an RBI task force on offshore rupee markets recommended getting trading back to the onshore market by extending trading hours and allowing local banks to offer price quotes to foreigners round the clock. It also said non-deliverable forwards trading should be permitted in special centres within India that would replicate the attractiveness of offshore locations.

In October, the RBI said it would allow rupee trading by customers outside the jurisdiction of the domestic economy in low-tax venues.

The International Financial Services Centre in the Gujarat International Finance Tec-City, or GIFT City, an effort by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to replicate the market in Singapore, is awaiting regulatory approvals before becoming the country's first venue to offer NDF rupee contracts.

In the existing onshore over-the-counter market, foreigners are allowed to hedge only on the basis of their underlying expo-

sure. They can only enter into plain vanilla forwards and option contracts and are generally not allowed to rebook a contract once canceled.

BSE's subsidiary India International Exchange (IFSC) Ltd, which will probably spearhead the launch of the rupee derivatives, says the new venue will be cost-competitive. But that alone won't be enough to attract trading, according to investors.

Manu George, Senior Investment Director at Schroder Investment Management in Singapore, said it's difficult to see a situation where offshore trading migrates to within India's borders.

"India is not a major FX trading hub and so it's inefficient from a firm's point of view as there are more counterparties to generally trade FX than onshore in India," he said. "Adding further counterparties adds to the cost and expense of setup and trading."

—Bloomberg

Mid-cap shares may be in line for a comeback

ERIC LAM
NOV. 26

India's smaller companies have earned another look after suffering through some two years of underperformance relative to their larger peers.

The divergence between the two groups is "significant" compared with longer-term historical correlations, according to Citigroup Inc. The MSCI India Mid-Cap Index has lost 17 per cent in the past two years, while the benchmark S&P BSE Sensex Index has gained more than 20 per cent.

With better risk-reward post underperformance, we would selectively look to add mid-caps," Citi analyst Surendra Goyal wrote in a note this week. "Valuation discount of mid caps versus large caps is close to 10-year highs, highlighting the improved risk-reward and low expectations. In two years, mid-cap sentiment seems to have

gone from extreme optimism to huge pessimism." Companies across India—big and small—are grappling with a slowing economy amid waning consumption. The government has announced a series of reforms to arrest the slide and attract investment, including an overhaul of controversial labour laws, aggressive cuts to corporate taxes, relaxation of foreign investor rules and the biggest privatisation drive in more than a decade.

India's economy is forecast to slow further to 6 per cent growth this year, following a deceleration in 2018, according to economists surveyed by

Bloomberg.

"One of the reasons to buy mid and small caps is the high return potential" if investors can pick a winner, Goyal said. Of course, this is easier said than done. The analyst notes that only 2 per cent of small caps have become large caps over the past 10 years, while 20 per cent either have ceased to exist or are no longer listed.

The odds are a bit better for mid caps, with 15 per cent able to elevate to large-cap territory, but on the other hand almost two-thirds were downgraded to small caps.

Top mid-cap picks from Citi include cement maker ACC Ltd, biotech Biocon Ltd and L&T Finance Holdings Ltd.

Financials, health care, materials and industrials make up more than 70 per cent of the MSCI mid-cap index. Less than a third of the 26 names in the gauge are in the green this year.

—Bloomberg

‘Govt not honouring contracts’

Mumbai, Nov 26: Biggest constraint to doing business in the country is poor contract enforcement, and the blame for the same rests mostly with the government. The government delays payments or does not deliver on promises made earlier, posing challenges to businesses, Principal Economic Advisor to the finance minister Sanjeev Sanyal said on Tuesday.

Even as we have leapfrogged on the overall ease of doing business ranking, we are still ranked 163rd among 190 countries when it comes to enforcing contract, and only “dysfunctional and war-affected” countries follow us, he said.

“The biggest constraint to doing business in our country is simply the business of enforcing contracts. Unfortunately, many people have whined about it for long, but very little actual thinking has gone into it,” Sanyal told an event organised by impact investing firm Aavishkar.

TVS Motor drives in new Apache range

MICHAEL GONSALVES
PUNE, NOV. 26

TVS Motor, India’s third biggest two-wheeler maker, on Tuesday introduced BS VI compliant new range of TVS Apache RTR 200 4V and TVS Apache RTR 160 4V motorcycles to boost sales.

The new bikes also get a new LED headlight. This series of TVS Apache RTR 4V motorcycles were the first roll-out of BS-VI vehicles from the stable of TVS Motor Company.

The Apache RTR 160 4V (drum) has been launched at Rs 99,950, while the RTR 160 4V (disc) has been priced at Rs 1.03 lakh. The BS6 Apache RTR 200 4V, meanwhile, now costs Rs 1.24 lakh at pan Indian showroom.

“The new 2020 range of Apache RTR series offers an array of premium features enabled by cutting edge technology and will transform performance biking,” Meghashyam Dighole, Head - (Marketing) Premium Motorcycles, at TVS Motor Company, said.

Protesting farmers sow PepsiCo seeds

Ahmedabad, Nov 26: Farmers’ rights activists on Tuesday sowed FL-2027 potato seeds on a plot of farmland here to protest food and beverages major PepsiCo’s reassertion of rights over the variety.

Farmers in Gujarat have been claiming that under the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers’ Rights (PPVFR) Act, 2001, they can sow the seed without the company’s permission.

PepsiCo registered FL-2027 variety in 2016 and introduced it in Gujarat for cultivation. The company uses it for production of wafers.

On September 23 this year, PepsiCo had asserted in a letter to Authority under the PPVFR Act that as the “holder of certificate of registration for FL-2027”, it has the “rights under the Act to pursue necessary actions against individuals and companies alike who infringes its rights”.

Kapil Shah of the Beej Adhikar Manch said various organisations fighting for farmers’ rights have asked them to sow the seeds. — PTI

Deputy Governor Jain urges banks to monitor lending RBI red-flags rising Mudra loans stress

FC BUREAU
NEW DELHI/MUMBAI NOV. 26

Concerned over the unexpected growth of non-performing assets (NPAs) in Mudra loans, the central bank on Tuesday cautioned banks that some risk in the system could emerge from the space in the future, and hence, banks should monitor such loans.

“The growing stress in Mudra loans, which has crossed more than Rs 3.21 lakh crore system-wide, and banks need to monitor such loans closely as unsustainable credit growth in the sector can risk the system,” Reserve Bank India (RBI) Deputy Governor M.K. Jain said.

While addressing a Sidbi event on micro-finance in Mumbai, Jain said, “Mudra loans are a case in point. While such a massive push would have lifted many beneficiaries out of poverty, there has been some concerns at the growing level of NPAs among these borrowers.”

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had launched the Mudra scheme in April 2015



to offer speedier credit up to Rs 10 lakh to small businesses, which are non-corporate, non-farm small/micro enterprises and which normally do not get bank funds due to their poor or mostly no credit rating. These loans are extended by banks, NBFCs, RRBs, cooperative banks and small finance banks. Interestingly, it can be recalled that within a year of the launch of the scheme, the then RBI governor Raghuram Rajan had warned of asset quality troubles bubbling in the scheme but the then

finance minister Arun Jaitley had brushed aside the concerns.

The government had in July informed Parliament that total NPA in the Mudra scheme of over Rs 3.21 lakh crore has jumped to 2.68 per cent in FY19 from 2.52 per cent in FY18. Since inception of the scheme, over 19 crore loans have been extended under the scheme up to June 2019, the government had said. Of the total, 3.63 crore accounts were in default as of March 2019.

However, according to an RTI reply, the bad loans in the Mudra scheme soared a

whopping 126 per cent in FY19—jumping by Rs 9,204.14 crore to Rs 16,481.45 crore in FY19 from Rs 7,277.31 crore in FY18. “Systemic risk may arise from unsustainable credit growth, increased inter connectedness, pro-cyclical and financial risks manifested by lower profitability,” Jain said.

“It is interesting to see leading e-commerce companies tying up with banks and NBFCs to offer working capital loans to their suppliers, that are mostly micro and small enterprises, at competitive terms,” he added.

Stating that GST has hit the informal economy significantly, he further said that as a result of the improved digital footprint, MSMEs have become attractive clients for banks, NBFCs and MFIs, thereby reducing their dependence on informal source of funds. “The cost of credit for MSMEs will also come down meaningfully as lending will shift from collateral based lending to cash flow based lending,” he said.

Probe finds bearings collusion by units of SKF, Schaeffler & Tata Steel

ADITYA KALRA
NEW DELHI, NOV. 26

An Indian antitrust investigation has found that units of Tata Steel, Sweden’s SKF and Germany’s Schaeffler colluded on the pricing of bearings, a report seen by Reuters shows, opening them up to potential fines.

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) began an investigation in 2017 after allegations that five companies colluded on bearings prices from 2009-2014 to pass higher raw material costs onto customers in the auto sector.

The CCI can fine firms up to three times the profit made in each year of wrongdoing or 10 per cent of revenue, whichever is higher. European Union antitrust regulators fined SKF, Schaeffler and three Japanese auto parts makers \$1.3 billion in 2014 for taking part in a bearings cartel from 2004 through 2011.

CCI’s investigations arm said in a report dated May 6, which has not been made public, that it analysed company emails, call records and executive testimonies and concluded that SKF India, Schaeffler India,



National Engineering Industries and Tata Steel’s bearings division contravened antitrust law by discussing and agreeing prices.

SKF, the world’s largest maker of ball-bearings, said in a statement it had assisted the investigation and disputed any claim of wrongdoing.

Schaeffler did not respond to a request for comment. Tata Steel and National Engineering Industries - part of Indian conglomerate CK Birla Group - declined to comment beyond saying the CCI proceedings were confidential.

The investigation arm’s 106-page report said it found no evidence against the fifth firm, ABC Bearings, part of U.S. firm Timken Co. ABC Bearings declined to comment. — Reuters

Reliance Naval surges 700% in record streak

RONOJOY MAZUMDAR
& P R SANJAI
NOV. 26

The penny stock hasn’t declined for a single session since Sept. 9 in a rally that has lifted it to Rs 7.67 from its record-low close of 95 paise. That’s the longest winning streak since the company’s trading debut in 2009.

The revival of the shipyard is crucial for Anil Ambani, who is betting on cash flows from government defense contracts as Prime Minister Narendra Modi plans to spend billions of dollars on national security. Brokers say the stock’s parabolic advance is likely driven by speculators, rather than by a change in the company’s fortunes.

“This could be a purely speculative move by certain market operators with a vested interest as there is no change in fundamentals of the company, which is reeling under various troubles,” said Arun Kejriwal, Director at KRIS, an investment advisory firm in Mumbai. “It is quite easy to create such triggers on shares as prices are too low.”

The company didn’t immediately respond to calls and emails seeking comment.

Meanwhile, the bankruptcy tribunal is considering putting Reliance Naval and Engineering in bankruptcy as lenders led by IDBI Bank have decided not to restructure the company’s debt. Even after the recent gains, the company’s shares are down 45 per cent for the year. —Bloomberg

Discoms may get loans to clear dues to RE firms

NEHA DASGUPTA & SUDARSHAN VARADHAN
NEW DELHI, NOV. 26

India has asked state lenders to provide over \$1 billion to government power distribution companies to clear long-standing debts to green energy firms that could hinder further investment, three sources familiar with the plan said on Tuesday.

The companies owe solar and wind power generators including Goldman Sachs-

backed ReNew Power and Softbank-backed SB Energy over 97 billion rupees (\$1.35 billion), according to the Central Electricity Authority, an arm of the federal power ministry.

Adding to the problems of the power generators, a new government in Andhra Pradesh—which owes renewable energy firms more than any other state—wants to renegotiate its contracts, saying the prices it pays are inflated.

The New Delhi govern-

ment has asked state lenders Power Finance Corp Ltd, REC Ltd and IREDA to extend short-term securitised loans to the distribution firms at preferential rates, two sources in government and one in industry said.

Commercial banks are unwilling to lend to these firms because of their high outstanding debt.

The government wants to

ease cashflow constraints and reassure wary investors that new projects are safe to participate in, one of the sources said. “It is meant to show our intent to secure developers’ revenues,” the source said.

Foreign investment is central to India’s green energy ambitions, and a slowdown in overseas funding could hurt Prime Minister Modi’s commitment to increase adoption of

renewable energy.

India is looking to install 175 gigawatt (GW) in renewable energy capacity by 2022, solar and wind power generators say.

Japan’s SoftBank Group Corp has plans to invest up to \$100 billion in solar power generation in India.

Andhra Pradesh, which accounts for about a 10th of India’s renewable energy capacity, owes green energy generators Rs 2,510 crore (\$353 million), over a fourth of all dues. — Reuters

21 ‘corrupt’ tax officers sacked

New Delhi, Nov. 26: The government has compulsorily retired another 21 “corrupt” tax officers in the fifth tranche of its crack-down on errant officials accused of corruption and other malpractices, finance ministry sources said.

The Central Board of Direct Taxes — the agency that overseas income and corporate tax collections — compulsorily retired 21 Group B officers of the rank of Income Tax Officer under Fundamental Rule 56 (J) in the public interest, due to corruption and other charges and CBI traps, they said.

Since June, this is the fifth round of sacking of corrupt tax officials. With this, 85 officers, including 64 high ranking tax officers, have been compulsorily retired. Of the high ranking officers, 12 were from the CBDT.

The last round of sacking was in September when 15 Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) were compulsorily retired.

Sources said the officers retired in the latest round include three in the Mumbai office of the CBDT and two in adjoining Thane district. Other officers sacked were posted in Vishakapatnam,

Hyderabad, Rajahmundry, Hazaribag in Bihar, Nagpur in Maharashtra, Rajkot in Gujarat, Jodhpur, Madhopur, and Bikaner in Rajasthan and Bhopal and Indore in MP.

Sources said the action was in line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s address to the nation from the ramparts of the Red Fort when he had said some black sheep in the tax administration may have misused their powers and harassed taxpayers, either by targeting honest assessee or taking excessive action for minor or procedural violations.

“We have recently taken the bold step of compulsorily retiring a significant number of tax officials, and we will not tolerate this type of behaviour,” he had said.

More than half of the officials retired were those who were arrested by the CBI for allegedly receiving illegal gratification. One of them was caught accepting a bribe of ₹50,000. One official allegedly had over ₹20 lakh cash in his bank locker while a Thane officer had acquired immovable and movable assets worth over ₹40 lakh in his and his wife’s name, the sources said.

In June, the government had compulsorily retired 15 commissioner-level officials of CBIC on charges of corruption, collecting and giving bribes, smuggling and even criminal conspiracy. Thereafter, the government had compulsorily retired 12 senior IRS officials from the Income Tax department over charges of corruption, sexual harassment, disproportionate assets under Rule 56(J) of the Central Civil Services (Pension) Rules.

In August, the government compulsorily retired 22 CBIC officials. The Rule 56(J) of Central Civil Services (Pension) Rules, 1972 provides for periodical review of the performance of government servants with a view to ascertain whether they should be retained in service or retired in public interest. As per these instructions, the cases of government servants covered by FR 56(J), 56(1) or Rule 48(1) (b) of CCS (Pension) Rules, 1972 should be reviewed six months before they attain the age of 50-55 years, in cases covered by FR 56(J) and on completion of 30 years of qualifying service under FR 56(1) or Rule 48 of CCS (Pension) Rules, 1972. — PTI

Emirates offers Indian cashew delicacies to pax

RITWIK MUKHERJEE
KOLKATA, NOV. 26

From butter chicken, khajua badam diya macher and pongal to shahi paneer, murg korma and many more—it’s cashew all the way. In different avatars—whole, sliced and paste, if you are travelling to any destination from India on an Emirates flight. The connect is simple. Every year, India exports over 80,000 tonne of cashew kernels, valued at more than \$900 million. Nearly 22 per cent of this revenue comes from cashew exports to the UAE, where Emirates is based. In 2017-18, UAE imported 21 per cent of India’s total cashew exports and became the largest importer of the nut.

Little wonder therefore that Emirates is using this popular buttery nut extensively in its international and regionally inspired cuisine, gracing its sumptuous dishes, beginning on November 23, the World Cashew Day. The airline has been specially preparing masala cashews, Indian style, sourced from Tamil Nadu to get the perfect snack that is neither greasy nor sticky for its



First and Business Class passengers. The largest international airlines is leaving no stone unturned to make Indian cashews reach beyond the country’s shores to over 150 destinations across 85 countries and territories. At present, Emirates serves nine Indian cities: Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Chennai, Delhi, Hyderabad, Kochi, Kolkata, Mumbai, and Thiruvananthapuram, with 170 weekly services. From Dubai, Emirates connects customers to 159 global destinations in 85 countries and territories, spanning six continents

“It is actually a story about the meticulous efforts of an airline to cater to the preferences and needs of its passengers

with a rare gastronomic delight. It goes well with our brand philosophy,” said Emirates officials.

Significantly, every year, Emirates serves around 33 tonne of masala cashews around its global network, and 125 tonne mixed nuts of which cashew is a key ingredient, besides almonds, pistachios and macadamia. This is not counting the tonnes of cashews the airline buys to include in its regional and international dishes, Emirates spokesperson added.

While cashews cross the seven seas mainly by ocean freight, Emirates SkyCargo, the cargo division of the airline, steps in quickly to transport urgent shipments. This year for example, SkyCargo transported more than 50,000 kg of cashews from Kochi to Los Angeles during the months April to October. Indian cashews on Emirates’ global services of 159 destinations has piqued interest, created awareness and more opportunities for Indian farmers and industry. The airline recognises its significant role in connecting communities and fostering trade.

The country must clean up or clear out dodgy brokers

ANDY MUKHERJEE

Any attempt at sweeping out a corner of India’s financial system means bringing investors face to face with creepy-crawlies. Disagreeable as the task is, it’s also necessary.

More than \$200 billion in bad loans tumbled out when banks were made to open their attics to the regulatory broom four years ago. That cleanup isn’t over, and already it’s the stockbrokers’ turn. Who knows what will emerge?

Investors are waiting to find out after the Securities and Exchange Board of India, or Sebi, banned Karvy Stock Broking Ltd, a middleman for nearly 250,000 clients, from taking on new customers. The reg-

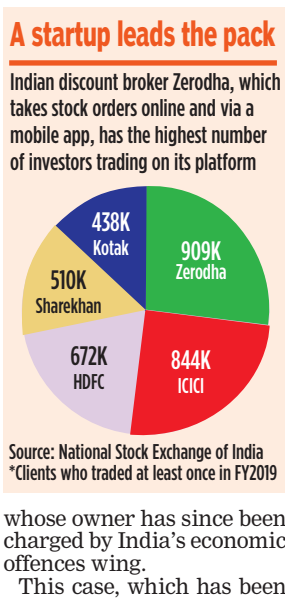
ulator said in its interim order that the broker may have helped itself to investors’ money and securities and diverted as much as \$150 million to its real-estate business.

Karvy’s management has denied the charges and told employees that it can provide “necessary clarifications” to the regulator. The amounts involved aren’t large enough to cause system-wide panic. What worries market participants, however, is that they all know the practice that Sebi wants to uproot—commingling clients’ and broker assets—is rampant.

Unearthing bad behaviour is a welcome first step. At stake is the integrity of mar-

kets, including sanctity of contracts and guaranteed settlement of trades. The authorities are keen that assets, where the underlying risk emanates in India, should be traded onshore, and not via derivatives in Singapore, Hong Kong or London.

However, when a foreign investor enters into an option trade in India, he could risk facing off against a broker who’s using stolen client securities as margin. If such trades are then annulled, the party that won the market bet feels cheated. That’s what happened to Citigroup Inc earlier this year in a deal involving Allied Financial Services Pvt Ltd, a broker



whose owner has since been charged by India’s economic offences wing. This case, which has been

keenly followed even outside India, seems to have woken up the regulator.

India is hardly immune to the global trend of sliding fees and trading commissions. Unlike other places, market pressures haven’t led to the kind of brutal consolidation that should have taken place. Too many small, independent shops are still open for business even as their owners try to sell themselves to bigger intermediaries. Meanwhile, nearly a million active, mostly younger Indian traders have moved to the likes of Zerodha, an online broker that charges nothing for shares held for longer than a day and collects less than 30 cents on intraday and derivative orders. To mask the underlying

problem of missing industry-wide profitability, some traditional brokers are boosting their proprietary trades—or extending leverage to customers—by dipping into clients’ funds. The Business Standard estimates it to be a Rs 10,000 crore (\$1.4 billion) problem with three dozen brokers under investigation. The true extent will only become clear as Sebi presses on with enforcement. The regulator read the riot act in June and said that from September clients’ securities couldn’t be pledged to raise funds by brokers even with their owners’ permission.

Now that Sebi has started the cleanup, it must take its broom to the dark crevices. Fundamentally, the regulator must ask if it’s safe to let

so much client money and stock be entrusted to so many poorly capitalised brokerages just to make equity investing accessible to the wider public. Even the conduct of bigger intermediaries needs closer supervision. Derivative contracts have built-in leverage. When brokers lure day traders to these products by offering additional leverage for trades they must enter and exit in five minutes, they aren’t helping foster a healthy equity culture. Technology and economics have done their bit to nudge the industry toward a much-delayed consolidation. It’s time for the regulator to do its job, regardless of the unpleasantness that crawls out. —Bloomberg



Not Guilty

In a 30-page written ruling, Madrid's Audiencia Provincial Court acquits former Liverpool and Real Madrid star Xabi Alonso of tax fraud

DECCAN CHRONICLE

WEDNESDAY | 27 NOVEMBER 2019 | HYDERABAD

Games

PAGE 14

RUSSIAN | DOPING

WADA wants four-year ban

World Anti-Doping Agency's Compliance Review Committee called for the sanctions, which would see Russia banned from next year's Tokyo Olympics, to be approved at a meeting in Paris on December 9.

The Russian Anti-Doping Agency (RUSADA) had been suspended for nearly three years previously over revelations of a vast state-supported doping program.

However WADA said in its statement on Monday that the data handed over was beset with problems, describing it as "neither complete nor fully authentic."

It said hundreds of adverse analytical findings had been removed while underlying raw data and PDF files had been deleted. While some of the deleted findings had taken place in 2016 or 2017, when the Russian doping scandal first erupted, other information had been removed in December 2018 or January of this year — shortly before the data was delivered to WADA.

WADA also said someone in the Moscow laboratory had planted fabricated messages in a key database — between November 2018 and January 2019 — in an attempt to support a theory that doping whistleblower Grigory Rodchenkov had drizzled false entries into the system as part of an extortion plot.

Full disclosure of the data from the Moscow lab was a key condition of Russia's controversial reinstatement by WADA in September 2018.

— AFP

RUSADA CHIEF BRACES FOR TOUGH SANCTIONS

Moscow, Nov. 26: Russia's anti-doping chief said on Tuesday that he expected the country to be barred from all sporting competition for four years, after a bombshell recommendation from the World Anti-Doping Agency that shocked Russian athletes.

WADA's Compliance Review Committee recommended the ban on Monday, accusing Moscow of falsifying laboratory data handed over to investigators.

Asked if he expected the recommendation to be upheld, RUSADA chief Yuriy Ganus said: "That's the reality."

"We are plunging, for the next four years, into a new phase of Russia's doping crisis," Ganus said, pointing out that the ban would affect Russian athletes at the 2020 Summer Olympics in Tokyo and 2022 Winter Olympics in Beijing.

"The most difficult and tragic thing is that our athletes have become hostages of the actions of our sports officials," he added.

The proposed sanctions are the latest chapter of a saga which began in 2015, when an independent WADA commission investigating allegations of Russian doping said it had found evidence of a vast state-sponsored system stretching back years.

Russians would operate under a system similar to what was done in 2018, when 168 athletes went to Pyeongchang, South Korea, and competed under the banner "Olympic Athlete from Russia."

WADA says, was the planting of evidence in an attempt to implicate the lab's former director, Grigory Rodchenkov. The planted evidence claimed Rodchenkov, who blew the whistle on the Russian doping plot, did so as part of a scheme to extort money from athletes.

Under the proposal, Russians would operate under a system similar to what was done in 2018, when 168 athletes went to Pyeongchang, South Korea, and competed under the banner "Olympic Athlete from Russia."

The system would be in place in Tokyo, at the 2022 Winter Olympics in Beijing and at world championships in a number of sports.

— AFP

Thunder strike gold Oklahoma rally past Warriors for first away win

Washington, Nov. 26: Chris Paul hit a 19-footer with 36 seconds left to put Oklahoma City ahead and Alec Burks missed a contested shot in the paint moments later on the other end, sending the Thunder to their first road win of the season with a 100-97 victory over the Golden State Warriors on Monday night.

The Warriors led most of the way before the Thunder scored the final 13 points.

Glenn Robinson III scored 25 points and Ky Bowman added 24 as injury-plagued Golden State competed with just eight healthy players. The Warriors lost their third straight game and 10th in 11, committing five of their 12 turnovers in the final quarter.

Meanwhile, Milwaukee's Giannis Antetokounmpo and Los Angeles Lakers star LeBron James delivered exceptional scoring efforts as their conference-leading clubs stretched NBA win streaks to eight games.

Greek playmaker Antetokounmpo scored 50 points, grabbed 14 rebounds and added six assists to rally the Bucks over the visiting Utah Jazz 122-118.

The reigning NBA Most Valuable Player's run of 17 double-doubles to start a season is the NBA's longest since 1976.

Four-time NBA MVP James scored 33 points and passed off 14 assists while Anthony Davis contributed 19 points and 12 rebounds to spark the NBA-leading Lakers in a 114-104 victory at San Antonio.

The Lakers improved to an NBA-best 15-2 to pace the Western Conference with Milwaukee atop the Eastern Conference at 14-3, the league's second-best record.

James made 13-of-24 shots from the floor, including 4-of-7 from 3-point range, and his 12 in the fourth quarter helped the Lakers improve to 7-1 on the road.

Antetokounmpo scored 32 points in the second half to spark a comeback for the Bucks and chants of "M-V-P" from Bucks fans.

Utah led 57-48 at half-time but surrendered 42



LeBron James (from left) of Los Angeles Lakers drives past Jakob Poeltl of San Antonio Spurs for a basket during their NBA game in San Antonio on Monday. Lakers won 114-104.

— AP

points to Milwaukee in the third quarter and made only 26.

Utah's Donovan Mitchell was driving for a tying layup in the dying seconds but Brook Lopez blocked the shot to preserve Milwaukee's victory.

RAPTORS FLY PAST PHILADELPHIA

Toronto's Pascal Siakam had 25 points and seven rebounds and Fred VanVleet added 24 points and eight assists in the Raptors' 101-96 home victory over Philadelphia.

Sixers big man Joel Embiid was held scoreless for the first time in his

career, the Cameroonian star missing all 11 of his shots from the floor, four from 3-point range, and three free throws.

Cameroon forward Siakam and VanVleet each scored five points in a game-ending 10-0 run for Toronto.

Jaylen Brown scored 24 points and Jayson Tatum added 20 as the Boston Celtics edged visiting Sacramento 103-102.

Bogdan Bogdanovic's 3-pointer gave the Kings a 102-101 edge but Boston's Marcus Smart answered with a layup to create the final margin.

The Kings, led by Buddy

Hield's 41 points, lost after Bogdanovic missed a 3-point shot and Cory Joseph missed a last-second tip-in try.

Miami matched Toronto and Boston at 12-4 by defeating Charlotte 117-100. Butler and Adebayo each had 21 points.

PORTLAND PIN CHICAGO BULLS

Carmelo Anthony scored 25 points to lead the Portland Trail Blazers over host Chicago 117-94.

The 35-year-old forward hit 10-of-20 from the floor, 4-of-7 from 3-point range.

Spencer Dinwiddie's jumper with 1.8 seconds

remaining gave the Brooklyn Nets a 108-106 victory at Cleveland.

The Cavaliers had scored nine points in a row to equalise before Dinwiddie hit the last of his 23 points.

T.J. Warren scored 26 points to lead six double-figure scorers for host Indiana in a 126-114 win over Memphis.

Luke Kennard scored 20 points and seven assists as Detroit defeated visiting Orlando 103-88.

Karl-Anthony Towns had 28 points, 13 rebounds and eight assists to spark Minnesota over Atlanta 125-113.

— Agencies



We are plunging, for the next four years, into a new phase of Russia's doping crisis.

— Yuriy Ganus, Russia's anti-doping chief, on WADA's proposal

SHORT TAKES HCA calls entries for inter-schools

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, NOV. 26

The Hyderabad Cricket Association is inviting schools to participate in its Under-14 inter-schools tournament.

Entries will be treated on a first-come-first-served basis. The entry fee is set at ₹1,000 towards charges for registration of players. Entries should be submitted by November 30 at the HCA office at Rajiv Gandhi International Cricket Stadium in Uppal, between 11 am and 5 pm. Schools should submit original birth certificates, school bonafide of each player and team list on the school letter head with stamp and seal of the school at the time of registration, the HCA secretary said in a press release.



Marco van Basten

Sport broadcaster suspends Basten

The Hague: Former Dutch forward Marco van Basten has been suspended from his role as a television analyst for one week after using a term associated with Nazi rallies.

The 55-year-old said "Siege Heil", which in German means "hail victory", on the Dutch edition of Fox Sports after a German coach was interviewed by one of the channel's reporters for the *De Eretribune* show on Sunday. The 'hail victory' phrase became notorious for its use at Nazi rallies.

Van Basten apologised later in the programme while Fox said in a statement on Monday that the comment was "stupid and inappropriate" and that it had suspended the three-times Ballon d'Or winner until Dec. 7. The channel added that Van Basten's wages for the week would be donated to the Netherlands Institute for War Documentation.

Van Basten's comment came on the same weekend players across the top two leagues of Dutch football stood still for the first minute of games to protest against racism. — Agencies

HYD PLAY RR IN FINAL OF BASKETBALL

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, NOV. 26

Strong contenders Hyderabad women set up title clash with Ranga Reddy with a convincing 40-25 win over Medak in the semifinals of the senior inter-district basketball championship being conducted by the Medchal & Malkajgiri District Basketball Association at the Secunderabad YMCA.

Hyderabad, boasting of Railway players, were swift and scored easy baskets. Only Monika of Medak was able to penetrate the strong Hyderabad defence.

In the other semifinal, Ranga Reddy beat Khammam 47-17. Earlier in the league phase, Hyderabad beat Karimnagar 39-4 and Khammam 42-10 to top the Pool whereas Khammam beat Karimnagar 24-17 to end second.

Ranga Reddy beat Warangal 43-10; Medak 58-47 and Mahbubnagar 45-27 to top the other Pool while Medak stood second by beating Mahbubnagar 43-33 and Warangal 38-17.

From cotton fields to national cross country

Aurangabad, Nov. 26: A 15-year-old girl, who works in the fields, has qualified for the national cross country championship, to be organised by the School Games Federation of India, in Punjab next month.

For Gayatri Sukhdev Gaikwad, who hails from Babulgaon Budruk village from the district, attending school and picking cotton in the fields is a routine. But what drives her is running.

And intense practice ensured she won a state-level cross-country event held in Satara in western Maharashtra and qualified for the national cross country tournament.

"Gayatri, despite recovering from a knee injury just recently, won in Satara and has qualified for nation cross country competition to be held in Punjab," her coach and

I train daily and have qualified for the tournament. I work with my family in the fields, where I pick cotton. I aim to win a medal in Punjab.

— GAYATRI SUKHDEV GAIKWAD after qualifying for the national cross country championship

teacher Satish Patil said on Tuesday.

"And our school has received confirmation letter from District Sports Office, signed by DSO Ashok Giri, in this regard. Gayatri will participate in training camp at Balewadi Sports Complex before the competition," an enthused Patil added.

According to Patil, the tournament will be held from December 11-15.

Gayatri said that she trains daily for three hours.

"I train daily and have qualified for the tournament. I work with my family in the fields, where I pick cotton. I aim to win a medal in Punjab," the budding runner said.

The young athlete is able to practice only for a session as she has to work with her family.

"She is the daughter of a farmer and picks cotton to help her family. She trains in just one session of three hours daily, that too after helping her family with household work before attending school," he told.

Apart from training at Jay Hind School in Aurangabad, she runs on the roads, for up to 10 kilometres at a time to pick up endurance the coach claimed.

— PTI

Andy recalls Dunblane school massacre

London, Nov. 26: Former world tennis number one Andy Murray reveals for the first time in a new documentary that he suffered from breathing problems and anxiety following the Dunblane School massacre.

The 32-year-old and his older brother Jamie were pupils at the school in Scotland where on March 13, 1996, Thomas Hamilton shot dead 16 children,

aged five and six, and a teacher in the gymnasium.

Andy Murray, then eight years old, had been on his way with his classmates to the gym when Hamilton — armed with four handguns and 700 rounds of ammunition — opened fire.

He was ushered away and told to hide under the windows of the headmaster's office whilst Jamie,

who is 15 months older, was in another classroom. Murray has rarely spoken about the massacre and did not want to be filmed talking about it.

But the documentary 'Andy Murray: Resurfacing' includes a voice-note that the three-time Grand Slam champion and two-time Olympic gold medalist sent to filmmaker Olivia Cappuccini. "You asked me a while

ago why tennis was important to me. Obviously I had the thing that happened at Dunblane. I am sure for all the kids there it would be difficult for different reasons. The fact that we knew the guy (Hamilton), we went to his kids' club, he had been in our car, we had driven and dropped him off at train stations and things.

Within 12 months of that happening, our parents got divorced. We don't talk about these things," says Murray in the documentary that will be aired on Friday.

Murray, who bursts into tears halfway through the voice-note, says the massacre precipitated a further traumatic sequence of events in the family. "Within 12 months of that happening, our parents got divorced," he said.

— AFP

Honour



Telangana para volleyballer Ragula Naresh Yadav (centre) is felicitated by Sarojini Academy CEO and former national volleyball player G. Kiran Reddy (left) on being selected in the Indian team for the IWAS World Games to be held at Nakhon Ratchasima in Thailand in February next year. The Academy also contributed a purse towards the ₹1.40 lakh he needs to participate in the championships. Naresh is still seeking sponsors to fund his trip to Thailand. He captained India's beach volleyball team to the fifth place at the Pingtan Beach World Series Open held at China earlier this year and also did well at the Nationals in Chennai to make the Indian side.





Burden

West Indian Chris Gayle feels he becomes a burden for his T20 teams whenever he flops with the bat



There hasn't been a single day over these last five years when Phillip's loss hasn't been felt.

— Kevin Roberts, CA chief pays tribute to late Phillip Hughes

SHORT TAKES

Gambhir gets a stand at Kotla

New Delhi: Gautam Gambhir finally saw a stand named after him at the Feroz Shah Kotla here on Tuesday but the felicitation became more of a sideshow with the former India opener lamenting the current mess in DDCA and even questioning president Rajat Sharma. Administrative chaos has come back to Delhi cricket again with president Sharma pitted against the apex council. The senior journalist was appointed president in July last year, when elections were held for the first time since 2013. He resigned earlier this month but the Ombudsman put his resignation on hold and asked him to continue. Gambhir, who played all his domestic cricket for Delhi and was also captain for a long time, rued the state of affairs in DDCA. He also questioned president Sharma for the delay in naming the North Stand after him. "I think the president can answer this question better because earlier I was told that stand will be unveiled during the India versus Australia game (in March), then they said it will be the first game of the IPL. This was what was told to me in the last six to seven months," Gambhir said. — PTI

Sourav, daughter indulge in banter

New Delhi: As soon as BCCI president shared a picture after the conclusion of the day-night Test between India and Bangladesh, Sourav Ganguly and his daughter Sana engaged in some funny banter on Instagram. Ganguly had posted a picture from the presentation ceremony in which he can be seen sporting a serious look. To this pose, Sana posted a comment saying: "What is it that you're not liking?" Ganguly, popularly known as 'Dada' quickly answered back: "that ur becoming so disobedient". However, after Ganguly's comment, Sana came back with a witty reply, saying she is learning from him on how to be disobedient. "Learning from you," Sana posted as a comment on Ganguly's post. The 47-year-old Ganguly had a busy last week as he arranged India's first-ever day-night Test. — Agencies

MSD to decide future after IPL

Shastri says IPL-13 will answer a lot of questions

New Delhi, Nov. 26: Former India captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni will take a call on his future after next year's Indian Premier League (IPL), a source close to the star cricketer said on Tuesday, seeking to quash the endless speculation surrounding his career.

Dhoni has been on a sabbatical since India's semifinal exit from the ODI World Cup in England in July. He has missed the tour of the West Indies and the home series against South Africa and Bangladesh.

"If at all MS will take a call on his future, it will only be after the IPL. You can't stop speculation as he is such a big player. He is in the best shape possible fitness-wise and has been training hard for the last one month," a source said.

"However the number of competitive games he will play before the IPL will be decided in due course," he added.

India coach Ravi Shastri said IPL-2020 will answer a lot of questions. "It all depends on when he starts playing and how he is playing during the IPL. What are the other people doing with the wicket-keeping gloves or what is the form of those players as opposed to Dhoni's form. The IPL becomes a massive tournament because that could be the last tournament after which more or less your 15 is decided.

"There might be one player who might be there and thereabouts in case of an injury or whatever. But your team I would say would be known after the IPL. What I would say is rather than speculating of who is where, wait for the IPL to get over and then you are in a position to take a call on who are the best 17 in the country," Shastri told IANS.

The 38-year-old, who captains Chennai Super Kings in the IPL, will also skip the limited-overs home assignment against the West Indies starting December 6 and comprising three T20

Internationals and an equal number of one-dayers.

National selection committee chairman MSK Prasad has already made it clear that the panel has "moved on" and Dhoni is aware of its intent to blood youngsters such as Rishabh Pant keeping in mind next year's T20 World Cup in Australia.

Pant, however, hasn't capitalised on the chances that have come his way and has copped criticism for sloppy work behind the stumps. Recently, Pant also drew flak for poor DRS calls, something that the seasoned Dhoni had aced. Dhoni, on his part, has not uttered a word on his future course of action.

He was, however, seen training with Jharkhand's under-23 team in Ranchi some days back, triggering a fresh round of speculation on a possible comeback.

On Pant, Shastri said: "I just tell him that you are young and nobody expects you to learn everything in one day. You are bound to make mistakes, but as long as you sit down and think about ways to rectify those mistakes, you know that is what this game will teach you. You are not going to be a superstar in one day. You will have your ups and your downs. That is life, but the more you work harder, the more the sacrifices you make, the better you will become."

BCCI President Sourav Ganguly has stated that Dhoni will get the respect that a player of his stature deserves and had ruled out an immediate retirement by the celebrated wicket-keeper-batsman.

"You know champions don't finish quickly," he had stated

when he took over as the Board President last month.

One of the biggest names in Indian cricket, Dhoni led India to two world titles — the 2007 World T20 in South Africa and the 2011 ODI World Cup at home.

The veteran has played 90 Tests, 350 ODIs and 98 T20 Internationals for India, accumulating over 17,000 runs.

He is also considered one of the best wicket-keepers in international cricket with over 500 dismissals in limited-overs format. He has nearly 300 Test dismissals to his credit.

— Agencies



What I would say is rather than speculating of who is where, wait for the IPL to get over and then you are in a position to take a call on who are the best 17 in the country.
— RAVI SHASTRI



MS Dhoni

Sachin is upset with lack of team spirit in Duleep

Kolkata, Nov. 26: Indian cricket icon Sachin Tendulkar feels BCCI president Sourav Ganguly should initiate a revamp of the Duleep Trophy as players competing in the event seem more focussed on individual performances than their teams.

The batting maestro feels that team bonding is missing from the four-day tournament, which can be reinvented by bringing in four Ranji Trophy semifinalists along with two teams of promising U-19 and U-23 players.

"I want him (Ganguly) to consider looking at the Duleep Trophy...I feel Duleep Trophy is one tournament where one is getting to hear that players are possibly more focused on their own performances and what the next tournament is and they play accordingly," Tendulkar said.

"For instance if there's an IPL auction, or an upcoming T20 tournament or one-day, players end up playing in that mode and not for their team or looking at the need of the hour," he said.

The Duleep trophy was a five-team zonal tournament but now features India Blue, India Green and India Red in a round-robin format.

Ganguly took charge as the BCCI president on October 23 and within a week, he convinced the Bangladesh Cricket Board to play their first ever Day/Night Test at Eden Gardens.

As the former captain gears up for the BCCI's first



A file photo of India Red who won the 2019 Duleep Trophy.

Annual General Meeting on Sunday, Tendulkar wants him to spare some focus on Duleep Trophy.

"This is one change I would like to see because cricket has always been a team sport. It is all about team spirit bonding and playing together as a team. Not as individuals," he said.

Explaining his idea on how to revamp the Duleep Trophy, Tendulkar said to get players to compete as a team, it should be held right after the Ranji Trophy finals and among the four semifinalists, who play the whole season together.

"Top four Ranji teams and there should be two more teams because there would be a number of teams with talented individuals but which did not qualify. You pick these players from various teams, also pro-

mote talented age-group players from Under-19 and Under-23. "If there's someone exceptionally talented U19 then you can look at those players. Bring them and have this tournament together."

"So you have got the best of both. You have got four leading Ranji teams who have been playing together," he added.

— PTI



I feel Duleep Trophy is one tournament where one is getting to hear that

players are possibly more focused on their own performances and what the next tournament is and they play accordingly. — SACHIN TENDULKAR

Kohli closes in on top-ranked Smith, Mayank makes maiden entry in top-10

Dubai, Nov. 26: India captain Virat Kohli rode on his commanding century in the Day/Night Test to close in on top-ranked Steve Smith, while opener Mayank Agarwal made his maiden entry into the top 10 in the ICC Test rankings issued on Tuesday.

Kohli (928 rating points), who hit 136 against Bangladesh in the second Test in Kolkata, reduced the gap from 25 to three points with Australian

Smith (931) to retain the second spot.

Agarwal, who struck a double century in the first Test against Bangladesh in Indore, jumped one place to 10th with 700 points. He is the fourth Indian batsmen in the top 10 list. Cheteshwar Pujara (791) and Ajinkya Rahane (759) remained at fourth and fifth positions respectively.

England all-rounder Ben Stokes also reached the top 10 for the first time by

jumping three places after scores of 91 and 28 against New Zealand. Bangladesh's Mushfiqur Rahim gained four slots to reach 26th after scoring a fighting 74 in the second innings of the Kolkata Test while Liton Das is up eight slots to 78th position.

India fast bowlers Ishant Sharma and Umesh Yadav achieved career-high points after victories over Bangladesh.

— PTI

England to rally around Archer after racial abuse

Wellington, Nov. 26: England players will rally around an "emotional" Jofra Archer after the pacer was racially abused by a spectator in New Zealand, director of cricket Ashley Giles said on Tuesday, as local officials scoured CCTV footage to identify the culprit.

"It's a shame that sort of thing is still in society," Giles told reporters after Archer was subjected to racist comments after being dismissed late on day five of the opening Test in Mount Maunganui.

The Barbados-born bowler tweeted after the match that it was "a bit disturbing hearing racial insults today whilst battling to help save my team".

The 24-year-old later told *ESPNcricinfo* that the abuser was a solitary New Zealand spectator making comments "about the colour of my skin".

Archer has been a powerful advocate for diversity in cricket and Giles, when asked how the player was faring, replied: "The tweet, it was obviously emotional, it hurts."

"We fully support Jof, there is no place for racism in the game... you know what our team is like, they'll rally round him."

The incident has overshadowed the result of the first Test ever played at Mount Maunganui's Bay Oval, which New Zealand won by an innings and 65 runs.

Black Caps captain Kane Williamson described the taunt as "horrific", while New Zealand Cricket said the culprit would be reported to the police and face a life ban if identified from the venue's CCTV footage.

Williamson said such racism was "against everything that we as Kiwis are about". "It's a horrific thing. In a country and a setting where it is very much multi-cultural," he told news website *stuff.co.nz*. "It's something we need to put to bed quickly and have nothing like that ever happens again."

Both Williamson and New Zealand Cricket chief executive David White apologised to Archer. White ordered extra security to ensure there was no repeat at the second Test beginning Friday in Hamilton and called on spectators to "self-police" unacceptable behaviour. "We'll be increasing security around the areas where the players are," he told *Newstalk ZB*.

— AFP



Jofra Archer

Process to find umpires takes time: Taufel

New Delhi, Nov. 26: Not a single Indian features in the ICC's Elite Panel of Umpires right now and the celebrated Simon Taufel doesn't foresee anyone making the cut in near future either as he feels it takes a decade to create one world-class official.

S. Ravi, who was India's representative on the panel since 2015, was removed earlier this year after officiating in 33 Tests, including the Ashes, 48 ODIs and 18 T20 Internationals.

"It does take 10 years to get to world-class. I remember when we started our programme in India in 2006 and finished in 2016, it took 10 years to get S Ravi into the elite panel," the now-retired Taufel, who was adjudged the world's no.1 umpire from 2004 to 2008.

"So there needs to be a rethink (from the BCCI). I am not sure if there is anything wrong necessarily. They need umpires and Sourav Ganguly (new BCCI boss) perhaps is on the right path when he talks about strengthening domestic cricket and hopefully umpiring is part of that programme," he said. Taufel said another Indian can't be expected in the elite panel anytime soon as the process "takes time".

The 53-year-old Ravi was only the second Indian to enter the 12-member ICC elite panel of umpires after S. Venkataraghavan. "...it is not just about the umpires themselves, it is

● **Taufel said another another Indian can't be expected in the elite panel anytime soon as the process "takes time".**

● **Ravi was only the second Indian to enter the 12 member ICC elite panel of umpires after S. Venkataraghavan.**

about the structure and system. It is all about creating an environment where the umpires can grow.

"That means you need to have dedicated resources. You need to have an umpires' manager; umpires' coach, umpires' trainer," the Australian said.

"We also need to create an environment where people feel safe and there is meritocracy," he added.

After his retirement in 2012, the 48-year-old Taufel served as ICC's umpire performance and training manager until October 2015. Umpires are being scrutinised more than ever due to the increasing use of technology in the game, mainly the Decision Review System.

In the past, Taufel has spoken about the extreme challenges of umpiring, maintaining that the art cannot be perfected. Asked if he would have liked to be

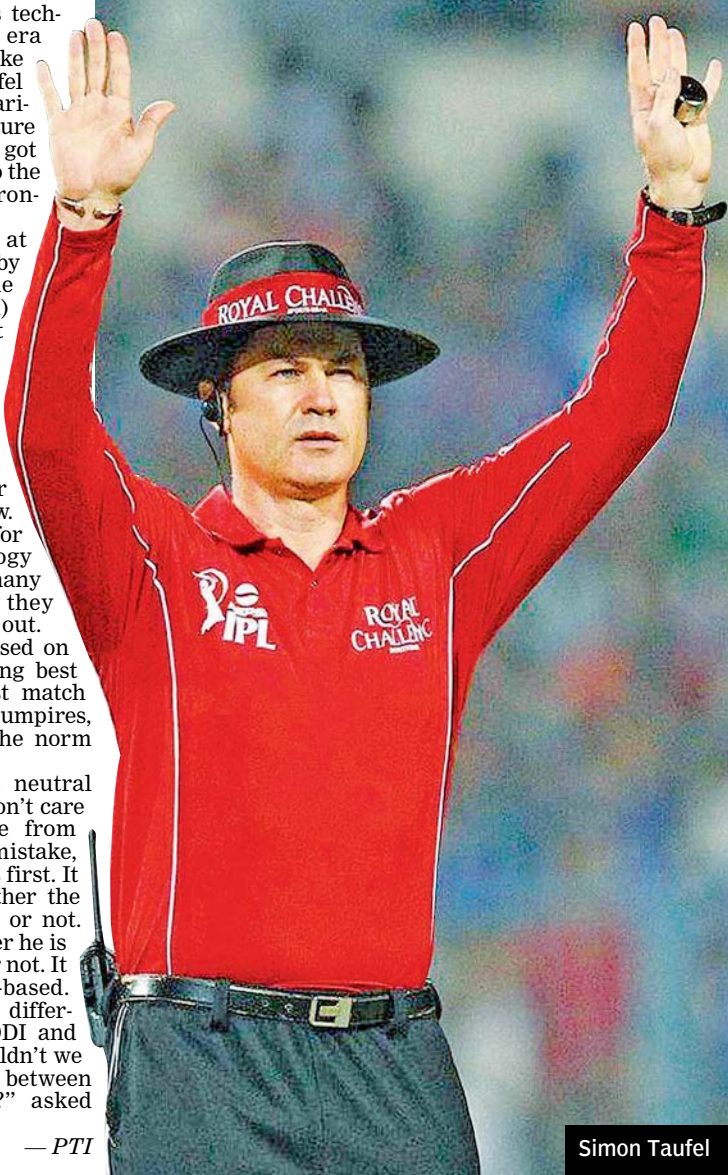
an umpire in this technology-driven era where each mistake is magnified, Taufel said: "Not necessarily. It is just the nature of the beast, you got to keep adapting to the changing environments."

"...if you look at comments made by Tim Paine (Australia captain) during the recent Ashes series, he spoke about how difficult it is for captains to get the reviews right, they have greater appreciation for the umpires now. Umpiring is not for everyone. Technology also shows how many good decisions they make," he pointed out.

Taufel also stressed on the need for having best umpires in a Test match over two neutral umpires, which has been the norm since 2002.

"When we have neutral umpires and we don't care where they come from and they make a mistake, so the game comes first. It is not about whether the umpire is neutral or not. "It is about whether he is doing a good job or not. It should be merit-based. Why have we got different policies for ODI and Test cricket? Shouldn't we be more aligned between the two formats?" asked Taufel.

— PTI



Simon Taufel



Ill health

Borussia Dortmund striker Paco Alcacer to miss crunch Champions League clash at his former club Barcelona as he has a gastrointestinal infection



Mo Salah looks really good. I'm not worried about it.

— Jurgen Klopp, Liverpool manager says he has no concerns about Salah's fitness ahead of their Champions League clash with Napoli

SHORT TAKES

Vinesh, Sakshi up for national title

Jalandhar: World Championships bronze medallist Vinesh Phogat and Olympic medal winner Sakshi Malik will be the star attractions among women in the 2019 Senior National Wrestling Championships, to be held in Jalandhar from November 29 to December 1.

Over 500 wrestlers will be vying for top honours in the men's freestyle, greco roman and women events during the championship. The field in the women's competition includes Vinesh (55 kg), Rio Olympics bronze-medallist Sakshi (62 kg), the promising Divya Kakran (68 kg), Seema Bisla (50 kg), Sarita More (57 kg) and Navjot Kaur (65 kg). The tournament will also witness some sizzling rivalries. While Kakran is expected to get a tough fight from Pinki in the 68kg category. Greco Roman ace Sajan (77kg), along with ace freestyle wrestlers Gaurav Baliyan (74kg), Sumit Malik (125kg), Satywart Kadian (97kg) and Rahul Mann (70 kg), will be among the stars to watch out for among men. — PTI

Advani in All India Billiards semis

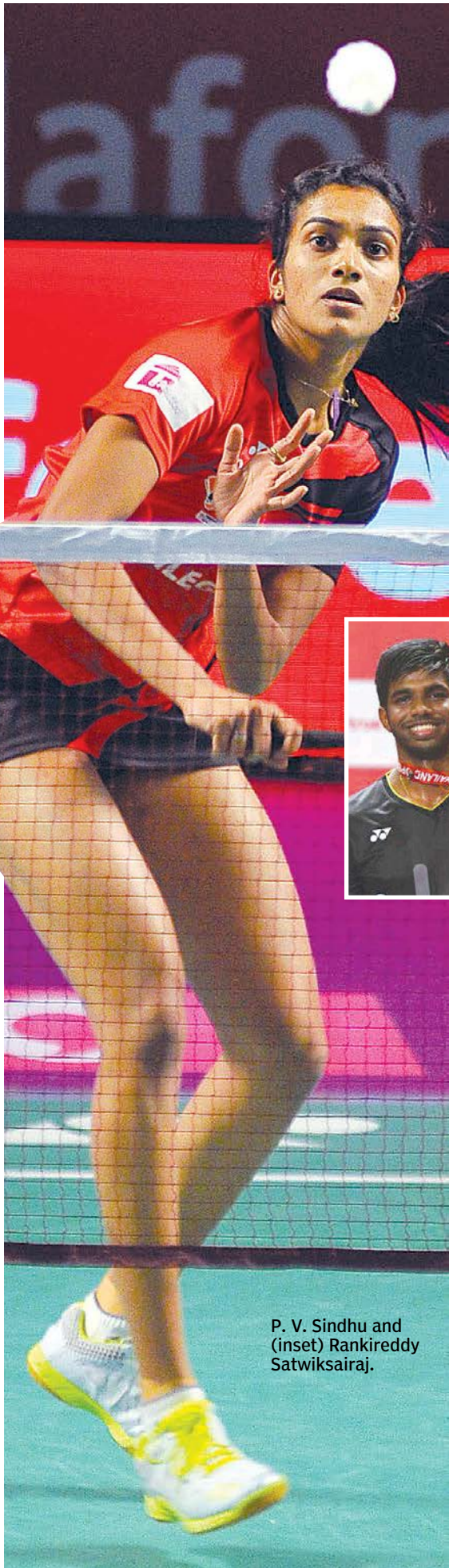
Lucknow: Cue sport ace Pankaj Advani on Tuesday stormed into the semifinal of the All India Open Billiards Championship here. The 23-time World billiards and snooker champion comfortably beat Akshay Kumar of Uttar Pradesh 1351-210 in the two-hour knockout tie. The Bangalore cueist scored heavily in the match, thanks to breaks of 296, 199, 177 and 109. The highest break of the tournament so far of 369 remains with Advani. In the other half of the draw, eight-time World billiards champion Geet Sethi of Gujarat scored a facile win over Nalin Patel. While the event is an open billiards tournament, a prelude to the National championships to be held early next year, the duo participated on invitation. — PTI

INDIAN ARCHERS BAG 3 BRONZES AT ASIAN MEET

Bangkok: Led by Atanu Das, Indian archers made a big statement by bagging three bronze medals on Tuesday, while ensuring at least three silvers at the ongoing Asian Championship here. The Indian archers are competing in the tournament as neutral athletes under the World Archery flag due to the suspension of the national federation (AAI). Das first clinched a bronze in the men's recurve individual event in the morning. He beat Jin Hayek Oh of Korea 6-5 in the shoot-off in the bronze medal contest. Das, who had also won a bronze in the recurve mixed team competition with Deepika Kumari on Monday, later completed a hat-trick of bronze medals by finishing on the podium in the men's recurve team event as well. Das teamed up with senior pro Tarundeep Rai and Jayanta Talukdar to beat China 6-2 in the bronze medal tie. Later, the Indian recurve women's team of Deepika, Laishram Bombayla Devi and Anikita Bhakat defeated Japan 5-1 to clinch another bronze medal for the country. The trio had earlier lost to heavyweights Korea 6-2 in the semifinals. Besides the Indian archers also stormed into the finals of three compound events scheduled to be held on Wednesday. — PTI

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Sindhu, Tai Tzu soar with top price



P. V. Sindhu and (inset) Rankireddy Satwiksairaj.



Satwik big buy among domestic players in badminton auction

New Delhi, Nov. 26: World champion P. V. Sindhu was on Tuesday retained by Hyderabad Hunters for ₹77 lakh in the auction for the fifth season of the Premier Badminton League here. World number one women's singles player Tai Tzu Ying of Chinese Taipei was also bought for joint highest amount of ₹77 lakh by defending champions Bengaluru Raptors after a bidding war with the Pune 7 Aces.

There was intense bidding for India's men's doubles poster boy, Satwiksairaj Rankireddy, who won the Thailand Open in August alongside Chirag Shetty. The 19-year-old eventually went to the Chennai Superstarz for a whopping ₹62 lakh. "I am really happy to be a part of the Chennai team. I have many friends in Chennai and I am looking forward to play there. Every time we have played here the crowd has been exceptional and to represent them this season will surely be something that I am looking forward to," Satwik said. However, women's doubles specialist Ashwini Ponnappa surprisingly went unsold at the auction. Korea's world No. 22 doubles ace Ko Sung

● **Sindhu was retained by Hyderabad Hunters for ₹77 lakh while World No.1 Tai Tzu Ying was also bought for the same amount by Bengaluru Raptors.**

● **Men's doubles poster boy Satwiksairaj Rankireddy was bought by Chennai Superstarz for a whopping ₹62 lakh while women's doubles specialist Ashwini Ponnappa surprisingly went unsold.**

Hyun and Hong Kong's world No. 24 singles exponent Lee Cheuk Yiu were the only other shuttlers to cross the ₹50 lakh mark as the former went to Awadhe Warriors for ₹55 lakh while the latter was purchased by the North Eastern Warriors for ₹50 lakh. Parupalli Kashyap was the next costliest Indian shuttler to be sold to Mumbai Rockets for ₹43 lakh while Lakshya Sen will turn out for Chennai colours after the Season 2 champions purchased him for ₹36 lakh. Another top Indian player B. Sai Praneeth was also retained by

Bengaluru Raptors for ₹32 lakh.

Among other Indians who were retained by their respective franchises are men's doubles players B. Sumeeth Reddy (₹11 lakh by Chennai Superstarz) and Chirag Shetty (₹15.5 lakh by Pune 7 Aces). National badminton coach Pullela Gopichand's daughter Gayatri Gopichand was picked up by Chennai Superstarz for ₹2 lakh, while young Assamese shuttler Ashmita Chaliha was bought by her home team North Eastern Warriors for ₹3 lakh.

The PBL season 5 lost some sheen after London Olympics bronze medalist Saina Nehwal and Kidambi Srikanth pulled out of the event to focus on international careers. Seven teams will compete in the 21-day event to be played in Bengaluru, Chennai, Hyderabad and Lucknow from January 20 to February 9, 2020.

Bengaluru Raptors and Awadhe Warriors exhausted their entire purse of ₹2 crore while Pune 7 Aces saved ₹23.5 lakh. Pune and Chennai were the only teams to reach the maximum quota of 11 as 71 players were picked from a pool of 154 players at the end of the auction. Each tie will comprise five matches — two men singles, one women's singles, one men's doubles and one mixed doubles. — PTI

THE TEAMS

HYDERABAD HUNTERS: Vladimir Ivanov, Sourabh Verma, Daren Liew, Kiran George, Ruthvika Shivani Gade, Siki Reddy, Sean Vendy, Ben Lane, N. Sikki Reddy, P. V. Sindhu.

CHENNAI SUPERSTARZ: Kirsty Gilmour, Manu Attri, Gabrielle Adcock, Sanjana Santosh, Gayatri Gopichand, Satwiksairaj Rankireddy, Tommy Sugiarto, Sankar Muthusamy, Lakshya Sen, K. Sathish Kumar, B. Sumeeth Reddy.

BENGALURU RAPTORS: Eom Hye Won, Tai Tzu Ying, Brice Leverdez, Tak Ching Chang, Arun George, Chan Peng Soon, Ansal Yadav, Medha Shashidharan, B. Sai Praneeth.

PUNE ACES: Thi Trang Vu, Hendra Setiawan, Tse Ting Suet, Chris Adcock, Kuhoo Garg, Mithun Manjunath, Kazumasa Sakai, Rituparna Das, Loh Kean Yew, M.R. Arjun, Chirag Shetty.

MUMBAI ROCKETS: Pia Zebadiah, Kim Sa Rang, Parupalli Kashyap, Lee Dong Keun, Pranav Jerry Chopra, Jessica Pugh, Shreyansh Jaiswal, Shlok Ramachandran, Shriyanshi Pardeshi, Kim Ji Yung.

NORTH EASTERN WARRIORS: Michelle Li, Lee Yong Dae, Kim Ha Na, Ashmita Chaliha, Rutuparna Panda, Lee Cheuk Yiu, Kaushal Dharmam, Bodin Isara, Tanongsak.

AWADHE WARRIORS: Ko Sung Hun, Shin Baek Cheol, Christinna Pedersen, Subankar Dey, Ajay Jayaram, Ivan Sozonov, Tanvi Lad, Wong Win Ki Vincent, Beiweng Zhang.

PBL-5 AT A GLANCE

- ▶ **Total number of Teams:** 7
- ▶ **Total number of Venues:** 4 (Hyderabad, Lucknow, Bengaluru, Chennai)
- ▶ **Total number of players in Auction:** 154
- ▶ **Total number of Players sold:** 71

- ▶ **Most Expensive Buy:** Tai Tzu Ying — ₹77 lakh (Bengaluru Raptors)
- ▶ **Most Expensive Indian Buy:** Satwik Sairaj Rankireddy — ₹62 lakh (Chennai Superstarz)
- ▶ **Expensive Debut:** Ashmita Chaliha ₹3 lakh (North Eastern Warriors)
- ▶ **Auction purse for each Team:** ₹2 crore
- ▶ **Player cap:** ₹77 lakh.

- ▶ **Minimum Players per Team:** 9
- ▶ **Maximum Players per Team:** 11
- ▶ **Maximum Number of Foreign Players per Team:** 6
- ▶ **Minimum Number of female shuttlers per Team:** 3
- ▶ **Total Prize Money for the tournament:** ₹6 crore.
- ▶ **Broadcaster:** Star Sports/Hotstar.

GAYLE TAKES BREAK, WILL NOT TOUR INDIA

Johannesburg, Nov. 26: West Indies great Chris Gayle has said no to playing the three ODIs in India next month and rather wants to focus on his plans for 2020. West Indies are scheduled to play three T20s and as many ODIs in India starting December 6. He is also unlikely to feature in the T20 games. "West Indies called me to play ODIs, but I am not going to play," Gayle was quoted as saying by ESPNcricinfo following his team Jozi Stars' defeat in the MSL in South Africa. "They (selectors) want me to play with the youngsters but for this year I am going to take a break," he added. Gayle will also not play in the upcoming

edition of Big Bash League in Australia. "I am not going to the Big Bash. I'm not sure what cricket will come up, I don't even know how my name reached the BPL (Bangladesh league), but I have been drafted in a team and I don't even know how that happened," the West India batsman added. The 40-year old West Indies opener, who played for defending champions Jozi Stars in what was a disastrous MSL campaign for him, scored just 101 runs from six innings. He also lashed out at his critics. "As soon as I don't perform for two or three games, then Chris Gayle is the burden for the team," he said. — PTI

Carlsen wins but Anand runs out of steam, luck

Kolkata, Nov. 26: Viswanathan Anand ran out of steam and got eliminated from the Grand Chess tour, getting just one point in the last five games of the Tata Steel Rapid and Blitz tournament, which concluded here on Tuesday. Magnus Carlsen finished the tournament with a whopping 27 points and broke his own record in the Grand chess tour, bettering his 26.5 points scored at Abidjan, Ivory Coast earlier this year. The Norwegian was not at his best on the final day, but still came up with some exemplary victories to win by a huge four-point margin over Hikaru Nakamura of the United States, who finished second with 23 points in all. Such was Carlsen's dominance that the tied players on third place — Anish Giri of Holland and Wesley So of the United States —



Magnus Carlsen

scored only 18.5 points — a good 8.5 points less than the champion. Anand, who turns 50 next month, missed the Grand Chess tour finale by a whisker. The Indian ace was in the thick of things and looked poised to finish sixth when five rounds were remaining and he had scored back-to-back victories. It was the loss against

FINAL STANDINGS

1. Magnus Carlsen (Norway, 27)
2. Hikaru Nakamura (USA, 23)
- 3-4. Wesley So (USA), Anish Giri (Holland) 18.5 each
5. Ding Liren (China, 18)
6. Ian Nepomniachtchi (Russia, 17)
7. V. Anand (India, 16)
- 8-9. P. Harikrishna, Vidit Gujrathi (India, 14.5)
10. Levon Aronian (Armenia, 13).

compatriot Vidit Gujrathi that probably turned the tide against Anand. What happened next was simply devastating as Anand, in sight of a victory against Giri, let his clock run out of time. A draw with Nakamura followed by another loss against Carlsen sealed Anand's fate as his excellent campaign ended with a heartbreak in the end. — PTI

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Eyes on Ancelotti in Liverpool clash

Milan, Nov. 26: Napoli head for Liverpool on Wednesday for a Champions League clash which could prove crucial to coach Carlo Ancelotti's future at the troubled Italian club.

The three-time Champions League winning coach's second season at the Stadio San Paolo has proved to be a complicated one, after leading them to second in Serie A in his first year.

His team's fortunes have waned after the high of opening their Champions League campaign with a 2-0 win over reigning European champions Liverpool, with dressing room unrest amid friction between the players and club management.

Napoli president Aurelio De Laurentiis ordered the team to be confined to a week-long training camp earlier this month after a 2-1 league defeat to rivals Roma saw them slip to seventh in Serie A.

But as Ancelotti voiced his disagreement with the lockdown, the players all returned home after a 1-1 draw against Salzburg three days later, which stalled their bid to reach the Champions League last 16.

Ex-Juventus coach Massimiliano Allegri, meanwhile, was seen in the stands at San Siro on Saturday, fuelling speculation he could be waiting in the wings.

Napoli are still on course to qualify for the Champions League knockout rounds as they are second in Group E behind

Live on TV

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Zenit vs Lyon
from 11.25 pm on Sony ESPN, HD

Valencia vs Chelsea
from 11.25 pm on Sony Ten 2, HD

Barcelona vs Dortmund
from 1.30 am (Thursday) on Sony Ten 2 SD & HD

Slavia Praha vs Inter Milan
from 1.30 am (Thursday) on Sony Six SD & HD

LOSC vs Ajax
from 1.30 am (Thursday) on Sony ESPN SD & HD

Genk vs Salzburg
from 1.30 am (Thursday) on Sony Ten 3, HD

Liverpool vs. Napoli
from 1.30 am (Thursday) on Ten 1, HD

Liverpool, four points ahead of third-placed Salzburg with two games to play.

They will reach the last 16 if they beat Liverpool or if Salzburg do not beat Genk, having failed to advance past the group stages last season.

But they come up against a Liverpool side who have an eight-point advantage on top of the Premier League table and whose only loss this season came at the San Paolo.

To add to their problems Napoli will be without captain Lorenzo Insigne, who hurt his elbow in Saturday's match. — AFP



Chelsea's Christian Pulisic (left) and Andreas Christensen at a training session in London on Tuesday, the eve of their Champions League match against Valencia. — AFP

Chelsea target knockout berth

London, Nov. 26: Michy Batshuayi can boast an impressive goalscoring record. But the forward is finding it tough to convince Chelsea boss Frank Lampard that he deserves a place in his starting lineup.

The Belgium international has netted eight goals for club and country this season but has not been trusted to start a single game in the Premier League or the Champions League.

On Wednesday, Chelsea travel to play Valencia, where Batshuayi spent a few months on loan from August 2018 to January 2019, though he only found the net three times during his time in Spain.

Chelsea will be through to the Champions League knockout phase if they win but Batshuayi will be lucky to feature from the start. Nicknamed 'Batman' due to his name and love of

the superhero Batman, he joined Chelsea for around £33 million (\$43 million) from French side Marseille in 2016 as then-manager Antonio Conte's first signing, with a reputation as a sharp finisher.

But from the start he has been forced to play second fiddle at Stamford Bridge to forwards such as Diego Costa and Alvaro Morata. The 26-year-old has been farmed out on loan to Borussia Dortmund, Valencia and Crystal Palace over the past couple of years after being deemed him surplus to requirements.

The departure of Eden Hazard in June depleted Chelsea's forward resources, seemingly opening the door to Batshuayi, but now he finds himself behind 22-year-old England striker Tammy Abraham in the pecking order. — AFP