











Politics

The government is considering bringing amendments to the Prevention of Child Marriage Act, said Smriti Irani



Happy that SC has started making judgments available in nine languages.  
— Ram Nath Kovind  
President

IN BRIEF

Chautala seeks release from jail

**New Delhi:** Former Haryana chief minister O.P. Chautala, serving 10-year jail term in the JBT teachers recruitment scam, told the Delhi High Court on Tuesday that he deserved to be released early under the Centre's policy of special remission as he has already spent seven years in prison. The plea was opposed by the Delhi government which said the 84-year-old INLD chief was not eligible for the relief as he was convicted under the Prevention of Corruption (PC) Act and as per the proviso of the government notification, such convicts cannot be granted special remission. — PTI

NIDs closer to 'important' status

**New Delhi:** The Parliament on Tuesday gave its nod to a Bill seeking to declare the National Institutes of Design (NIDs) in Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Assam and Haryana as institutions of national importance. The National Institute of Design (Amendment) Bill, 2019 was approved by the Lok Sabha after the House rejected amendments moved by Trinamul Congress (TMC) member Saugata Roy that West Bengal's institute should be included in the bill. The Bill was later approved by voice vote. — PTI

LS members back ban on e-cigs

**New Delhi:** Members in Lok Sabha have supported a bill to ban the production, import and sale of electronic cigarettes though the Congress questioned the government's decision to adopt the ordinance route for the legislation. The discussion on the bill remained inconclusive and health minister Harsh Vardhan would reply on Wednesday. The Prohibition of Electronic Cigarettes Production, Manufacture, Import, Export, Transport, Sale, Distribution, Storage and Advertisement Bill, 2019, seeks to replace an ordinance.

OPPOSITION RUCKUS IN BIHAR OVER NRC

NAYEAR AZAD  
PATNA, NOV. 26

The Opposition on Tuesday disrupted the proceedings of the state assembly over the demand for a resolution to prevent the implementation of National Register of Citizenship (NRC) in Bihar. While raising the issue in the state assembly members of RJD and CPI-ML waved posters and raised slogans against the government from the well of the House. Members of RJD said that the opposition would continue to raise the issue in the state assembly "till a resolution is passed to prevent NRC in Bihar". The issue surfaced after the BJP state unit leaders recently adopted an aggressive approach on the implementation of NRC in the state. Top BJP leaders including MPs Giriraj Singh, Gopal Narayan Singh and Rakesh Sinha have been in favour of the implementation of NRC. Reacting against the opposition's demand for a resolution to prevent implementation of NRC in Bihar, JD(U) MLA and minority welfare minister Khurshid Ahmed said that "we cannot allow those who are not Indians. We should identify people who have infiltrated and are living illegally in our country". The minister's statement on the issue may create some discomfort in the JD(U) camp.



Congress president Sonia Gandhi reads out the Preamble of the Constitution as Opposition party MPs look on during a protest at Parliament House in New Delhi on Tuesday.

Can't preserve rights without fulfilling responsibilities: Modi  
Time now to focus on duties, says PM on Constitution Day

**New Delhi, Nov. 26:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday chose the 70th anniversary of the adoption of the Constitution to emphasise on people's duties, saying their rights were stressed upon earlier but time has now come to focus on citizens' responsibilities as well. In his address to a joint sitting of Parliament to mark the Constitution Day, he also made an oblique reference to the Emergency, which was imposed by the then prime minister Indira Gandhi, saying that countrymen had made failed attempts targeting the Constitution and that it remained unwavering. A special aspect of the Indian Constitution is that it highlights both rights and duties of citizens. "Let us think about how we can fulfil duties

Opp. parties boycott special session

AGE CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI, NOV. 26

Expressing its protest over the political developments in Maharashtra prior to the sudden resignation of chief minister Devendra Fadnis and his deputy Ajit Pawar, the Congress and other Opposition parties on Tuesday boycotted the Constitution Day celebrations in the central hall of Parliament and held a

joint protest in front of Ambedkar's statue inside the complex.

Displaying the changing political dynamics, even the Shiv Sena joined the Congress and other parties in boycotting the function. The Congress said that it was duty bound to save the spirit of the Constitution by not allowing it to be pawned to an "autocratic government which is blinded by the

insatiable lust for power".

Incidentally even as the Opposition was lamenting the alleged dilution of the Constitution's values, President Ram Nath Kovind while addressing the joint sitting of both the Houses, said that all three organs of the state, persons holding constitutional posts, members of civil society and citizens should abide by "constitutional morality".

ed, "We cannot preserve our rights without fulfilling our responsibilities".

Noting that the Constitution begins with "we the people of India", he said people are its strength, inspiration and aim. — PTI



PARLIAMENT DIARY  
BY GAUTAM LAHIRI

MAHARASHTRA DRAMA IMPACTS LOK SABHA BUSINESS



The moment news emerged that deputy chief minister of Maharashtra Ajit Pawar had tendered his resignation, the discussion on the Special Protection Group Act (Amendment) Bill was deferred for another day. Home minister Amit Shah was supposed to take up the Bill for consideration and passing. MPs were getting ready for discussion on the Bill. Home minister had a meeting with Prime minister Narendra Modi immediately after the resignation of deputy chief minister Ajit Pawar. In the Lok Sabha, Trinamul MP Sougata Roy rushed into the House and informed Speaker Om Birla that Ajit Pawar had resigned. At the time, BJP MP Kiron Kher was speaking in the House. Amid the commotion over the Maharashtra political crisis, the Special Protection Group Act (Amendment) Bill was deferred.

AGITATED SPEAKER THREATENS TO WITHDRAW FROM THE CHAIR

Speaker Om Birla expressed anguish over the ruckus inside the Lok Sabha on Monday. In the business advisory committee meeting, he announced that if MPs repeat the behaviour in the future, he would withdraw from the Chair and ask the panel of chairmen to run the House. Seniors members present in the meeting tried to convince Speaker and argued that unruly incidents had often taken place in the past too. Nevertheless, all MLAs in the meeting also promised to maintain discipline as much as possible. Congress MPs, meanwhile, complained that the marshals had manhandled two lady MPs. However, the Speaker refuted the charges.

DEFYING BOYCOTT, TMC MP NUSRAT JAHAN ATTENDS JOINT SESSION

Actor-turned-TMC MP Nusrat Jahan again hit the headlines for the wrong reasons. Even as her party, along with the Opposition, boycotted the Joint Session of the Parliament to commemorate adoption of the Constitution, she decided to reach the central hall to listen to Prime Minister Narendra Modi. When some journalists questioned her, she feigned ignorance. After some time, leader of the Trinamul parliamentary party, Sudip Bandopadhyay, asked the chief whip about the faux pas. But chief whip Kalyan Banerjee told him that he had circulated the message to all MPs.

Govt plans to merge 2 UTs; bill is tabled in LS

**New Delhi, Nov. 26:** The government on Tuesday introduced in the Lok Sabha a bill to merge Union Territories Daman and Diu, and Dadra and Nagar Haveli into one.

The proposed legislation -- The Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu (Merger of Union Territories) Bill 2019 -- was introduced in the House by Union Minister of State for Home G Kishan Reddy.

The move comes three months after Jammu and Kashmir was bifurcated into the UTs of Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh.

"In view of the policy of the government to have 'Minimum Government, Maximum Governance', considering small population and limited geographical area of both the Union Territories and to use the services of officers efficiently, it has been decided to merge the UTs of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman Diu into a single UT," Reddy said.

The merged Union Territory will be named as Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu.

The merger of the two UTs, located along the western coast near Gujarat, is done for better administration and check duplications of various work.

So far, both the Union Territories have separate budgets and different secretariats even though they are just 35 km apart. Dadra and Nagar Haveli has just one district while Daman and Diu has two. Both UTs were under the Portuguese rule for a long time. —PTI

Sunni Waqf Board not to file review petition

Lucknow, Nov 26: The Sunni Central Waqf Board decided on Tuesday that it would not file a review petition against the Supreme Court verdict in the Ayodhya case, but was yet to take a call on whether to accept a five-acre alternative plot for a mosque, its chairman Zulfar Farooqi said.

"The Board has considered the judgement of the Supreme Court passed in the Babri Masjid case. The Board has reiterated its stand that it will not file any review petition in the Supreme Court," Mr Farooqi said in a press release issued after a meeting of the board attended by seven of its eight members.

Six members present at the meeting were of the view that the review petition should not be filed, he said, adding, "Advocate Abdur Razaq Khan has put in his dissent as he was in favour of filing review petition." The Sunni board was a main litigant in the

**Ayodhya verdict**  
It was yet to take a call on whether to accept a five-acre alternative plot for a mosque  
The members felt they needed more time to decide on the matter, the chairman said  
The AIMPLB has already said a review petition will be filed against the judgment

Ayodhya case. The meeting also considered whether to accept the five-acre alternative land given by the apex court for building a mosque in Ayodhya, Mr Farooqi said, adding that the members felt they needed more time to decide on the matter so as to ensure that it was appropriate as per the Shariat.

"All further action in compliance with the order of the Supreme Court, including the issue of five-acre land in Ayodhya, are still in consideration of the board and no decision has yet been taken. The members of the board have asked for more time to formulate their views. As and when any decision is taken, it will be communicated separately," the release said.

In a unanimous verdict on November 9, the Supreme Court had paved the way for the construction of a Ram Temple at the disputed site in Ayodhya.

It also directed the Centre to allot a five-acre plot to the Sunni Waqf Board for building a mosque.

The All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB) has already said a review petition will be filed against the judgment. It is also against accepting the alternative site to replace the mosque that was demolished in Ayodhya in 1992. — PTI



Ranjit Singh aka Indore's Singham cop.

chewing gum" one of his social media followers commented to demon-

WHAT THE BILL ENTAILS

The bill prohibits the discrimination against a transgender person, including denial of service or unfair treatment in relation to education, employment and healthcare.  
The bill also seeks to provide rights of health facilities to transgender persons including separate HIV surveillance centres, and sex reassignment surgeries.

certificate of identity for a transgender person by making an application to the district magistrate for a certificate of identity, indicating the gender as 'transgender'.

Elaborating on the provisions of the bill, the social justice minister Thawar Chand Gehlot said that the bill is aimed at eliminating discrimination against transgenders

and the government will form a national council for its implementation after the legislation is brought into effect.

Mr Gehlot added a transgender person will be able to avail the benefits of schemes offered by states as well as the Centre.

He said the recommendations and suggestions of the standing committee of the Lok Sabha have also been incorporated in the bill.

The motion to refer the bill to a select committee of the Rajya Sabha was moved by Tiruchi Siva of the DMK. However, it was defeated after voting took place. Mr Siva stressed that given the sensitivity of the issue and the insult, discrimination and atrocities inflicted on the community, the bill should be sent to the select committee.

"We can wait for another six weeks till the next session for such a crucial bill's scrutiny for slow and steady legislation to provide full justice to the community. The bill in the present form has several lacunae," he had said.

Computer Baba enrages MP mantri

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY  
BHOPAL, NOV. 26

Madhya Pradesh river trust chairman Namdeo Das Tyagi, the seer who loves to be called Computer Baba, along with his army of followers has launched a campaign to curb illegal sand mining in Narmada, leaving state mining minister Pradeep Jaiswal upset.

State mining minister on Tuesday took strong exception to such actions by Computer Baba advising him not to interfere in affairs of his department.

"Please do not meddle in my department. You should better focus on your 'Bagairi'", the minister said.

The religious leader, who was rewarded by Kamal Nath government for supporting Congress in the 2018 Assembly elections by appointing him chairman of the newly created trust, has been camping in the bank of Narmada at Raheti in Sehore district since Saturday to stop the mining mafia from mining sand in Narmada.

The seer has also demanded the local administration to take immediate action against the sand mafias to save Narmada.

The seer, who is a member of the Digambar Akhara, has announced that he would deploy 2000 seers across the bank of Narmada to stop illegal mining along the holy river.

Dancing cop Ranjit lands in trouble

Caught hitting auto driver, netizens reduce him from 'Singham' to 'chewing gum'

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY  
BHOPAL, NOV. 26

The Indore cop who became an online sensation almost overnight for managing traffic with moon-walk-style dance has incurred wrath of his fans for assaulting an auto driver in the city.

Ranjit Singh called 'Singham cop' for adopting the unique way of regulating busy traffic in Indore has been trolled on social media for thrashing the auto driver in public. "Singham turns into

strate his disapproval for the cop's 'unwarranted' actions.









## Bail unlikely

ED opposes bail plea of Ratul Puri in VVIP copter scam



Service sector can help India achieve target of \$5tn GDP

— Piyush Goyal  
Union minister

## SHORT TAKES

### Kashmir bizman assets attacked

**New Delhi:** The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has taken possession of assets worth ₹6.20 crore in connection with a terror funding case against Kashmiri businessman Zahoor Ahmad Shah Watali, the federal agency said on Tuesday. “These properties are in the form of land parcels and are located in Sozeith and Goripora villages of Budgam district, Union Territory of J-K,” the agency said in a statement. The total value of these assets is ₹6.20 crore and they are in the name of Watali and his family, it said. The ED had attached these properties in April this year under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) and has now taken possession. — PTI

### Activist cancels plan to visit Sabari

**Kochi:** Ending an over 12-hour-long standoff with devotees opposing the entry of women in the menstrual age group into Sabarimala temple, a team of gender rights activists led by Trupti Desai on Tuesday night called off their decision to visit the hill shrine of Lord Ayyappa. Desai announced the decision to go back to Maharashtra after police, citing security reasons, denied them protection amid protests by devotees, members of a right wing outfit and BJP here, against their entry into the shrine. Desai had reached here early Tuesday along with five others to proceed to the temple. — PTI

### Aadhaar centres in Odisha hospitals

**Bhubaneswar:** Odisha government on Tuesday decided to open Aadhaar facilitation centres at hospitals and urban local bodies for generation of the 12-digit unique identity at the time of birth and issue of birth certificates. This was decided at the State Level Unique Identification Implementation Committee Meeting held under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary A K Tripathy here. “For the purpose new updated kits would be procured,” the chief secretary said. — PTI

## 1ST THACKERAY TO BE MAHA CM

■ **Continued from Page 1**  
Thackeray decided that Sharad Pawar's daughter should be elected unopposed and did not nominate any candidate against her. “Today Pawar Saheb is guiding me. This is not give and take though,” he said.  
Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari has called a special Assembly session at 8 am on Wednesday where a floor test will be conducted after problem Speaker Kalidas Kolambkar administers the oath of office and secrecy to all the 288 newly-elected members.  
Mr Kolambkar was appointed by the governor on the orders of the Supreme Court, which ordered a floor test on Wednesday.  
The Maha Vikas Aghadi comprises 154 MLAs of the Shiv Sena, Congress and NCP (including Ajit Pawar). They have also claimed the support of eight MLAs from smaller parties and Independents.  
While announcing his resignation as chief minister, Mr Fadnavis said: “Ajit Pawar decided to cooperate with us and hence we formed the government. But today he told me he was quitting due to personal reasons. He said he could not continue with the alliance for some reasons and he was resigning. Since he has resigned, we too do not have a majority.” After announcing his resignation, Ajit Pawar avoided all contact with the media and stayed at his residence for most of the day.



Defence minister Rajnath Singh, Union minister Nitin Gadkari, actor Amitabh Bachchan and others during a function to pay homage to 26/11 victims at Gateway of India in Mumbai on Tuesday. — PTI

## ■ Grenade attack near varsity, 4 injured

# Village head, govt official killed in J&K bomb blast

YUSUF JAMEEL  
SRINAGAR, NOV. 26

A village-head and a government official were killed and another person was injured as unknown assailants exploded a bomb at a village council in Jammu and Kashmir's southern Anantnag district on Tuesday to target the government's public outreach 'Back to Village II' (B2V2) campaign.

The week-long flagship programme, aimed at providing governance at the doorsteps of the rural populace and enlisting community participation across the Union Territory (UT) of J&K, began on Monday. It is the government's first major attempt to reach out to the people at rural level after abrogation of Article 370 and splitting J&K up into two separate Union Territories (UTs) on August 5.

Another grenade attack carried out in a marketplace in Srinagar's Hazratbal area earlier during the day left four persons injured. As the blast took place less than ten yards away from Sir Syed Gate—the main (southern) entrance to University of Kashmir—it created panic among the students, faculty and other staff present on the campus. The police termed it a 'low intensity' blast.

The authorities blamed separatist militants for both these incidents. They said that a manhunt has been launched for those involved in carrying out attacks.

Giving the details, the police said that militants hurled a hand grenade towards a Panchayat ghar in Hakura, Badagam village of Anantnag at 3.30

## Train service restored in Kashmir after 3 months

AGE CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI, NOV. 26

More than three months after Rail services were suspended in the Valley due to security reasons, train connectivity has been resumed fully in the Srinagar-Banihal section, Indian Railways said on Tuesday.

“During the winter season, snowfall often halts the movement of vehicles in Kashmir, in this situation, the train operation is considered the best mode of transportation. Indian Railways has restored train services to benefit the thousands of local

commuters to travel by train over the entire area between Baramulla to Banihal (138 Km). The decision to re-start the train services in Kashmir Valley was taken after due security audits and assurance by Government Railway Police, Jammu and Kashmir,” Ministry of Railways officials said.

Officials added that on November 7, the railway tracks were covered under snow with thickness of 20 to 45 cm due to heavy snowfall. “Rail snow cutting machines were pressed into the service to clear snow,” officials added.

## 2 Hizbul militants killed in Pulwama

**Srinagar:** Two Hizb-ul-Mujahideen militants were killed in 20-hour-long fire fight with security forces in Jammu and Kashmir's southern Pulwama district. The Army and police said that fighting broke out in Pulwama's Pachaar Rajpora area after the security forces laid siege to the village to flush out militants hiding in a private house on Monday evening.

trict during the intervening night of November 25 and 26.

The Jammu & Kashmir police said that a portion of the shrine dedicated to Mir Syed Muhammad Hamdani, a priest from Persia, at Kounsarbal area of Tral, was damaged.

# Supreme Court ordered televised trust vote

■ **Continued from Page 1**  
values and foster constitutional morality.”

The Supreme Court will, at an “appropriate time”, examine the larger issues touching on the Constitution, including the extent of judicial review of the governor's decisions to invite someone to form the government and the validity of the governor's satisfaction in the entire exercise of government formation.

The Supreme Court's order prompted the NCP's Ajit Pawar, who had been sworn in as deputy chief minister along with Devendra Fadnavis as chief minister, to announce his resignation. Soon after, Mr Fadnavis called a press conference to announce his resignation, signalling that he neither had the numbers nor could he muster them in the short duration of one day.

In the wake of the resignations, the top court's order has become intransigent. But since governor Koshyari has already appointed a pro-term Speaker, the later may go ahead and administer oath to the newly elected members at the special session of the Assembly called at 8 am on Wednesday.

The verdict is being seen as a boost for the Shiv Sena, NCP and Congress who had insisted on a

floor test within 24 hours—a plea that was resisted both by Mr Fadnavis, the BJP and the governor's office who wanted more time for “welding” the stable arrangement that had emerged on the intervening night of November 22 and 23.

Speaking on Mr Fadnavis' resignation and the implication of the top court's order, senior counsel and constitutional expert K.V. Viswanathan said that the “stern and categorical nature of the order forced the resignation. Mr Fadnavis knew that he did not have the numbers and was also not confident of getting majority support within 24 hours.”

Describing the entire episode as “sad” and “unfortunate”, Mr Viswanathan said, “The whole episode—from the hurried, early morning swearing in (of Fadnavis on November 23) to the resignations—is a sad and forgettable episode in the annals of India's constitutional history.”

Mr Fadnavis was administered oath by governor Koshyari at 7.50 am on November 23 after a night-long operation which saw the lifting of President's rule in Maharashtra at 5.47 am after the BJP leader staked claim to form government with the backing of 170 MLAs—105 of the BJP, 54 of NCP

and 11 Independents and others.

While ordering the floor test on November 27, the court relied on its earlier judgments, including one by a nine-judge bench on March 11, 1994, in the S.R. Bommai case in which Justice B.P. Jeevan Reddy had said, “If only one keeps in mind the democratic principle underlying the Constitution and the fact that it is the Legislative Assembly that represents the will of the people—and not the Governor... In our opinion, wherever a doubt arises whether the Council of Ministers has lost the confidence of the House, the only way of testing it is on the floor of the House.”

The court on Tuesday noted that the views expressed by the nine-judge bench were also the ones expressed by the Sarkaria Commission, Rajmanner Committee and the unanimous opinion expressed by the committee of five governors constituted by the President of India.

Referring to the top court's recent judgment on the disqualification of 17 lawmakers belonging to Congress and JD(S) in Karnataka, the Supreme Court said on Tuesday that this court has emphasised the “requirement of imbuing the constitutional morality by the constitutional functionaries.

## SC proposes to introduce AI system soon: CJI

**New Delhi, Nov. 26:** Chief Justice of India (CJI) S.A. Bobde said on Tuesday that the Supreme Court has proposed to introduce a system of artificial intelligence (AI) which would aid in the administration of justice delivery.

The CJI however made it clear that there should not be any impression that introduction of AI would ever substitute the judges.

“We propose to introduce, if possible, a system of artificial intelligence. There are many things which we need to look at before we introduce. We do not want to give the impression that this is ever going to substitute the judges,” Justice Bobde said at the Constitution Day function organised by the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA).

He said the Indian Constitution, which is called the “People's Constitution”, was drafted on this day in 1949 and this “sacrosanct document” represents the high watermark of consensus in the country's history.

“It does more than merely establishing institutions for governance of India, instead it is truly transformative in character. It marked a transition from the culture of authority of a colonial regime to the culture of justification of democratic purity,” he said.

Chief Justice Bobde added that the Constitution of India provides for an independent judiciary equipped with the power of judicial review. — PTI

# Vistara will start long-haul overseas flights soon: CEO

SRIDHAR KUMARASWAMI  
NEW DELHI, NOV. 26

After launching its fourth overseas destination flight to the Sri Lankan capital Colombo recently, full-service carrier Vistara has already begun the planning to launch its long-haul flights overseas from next year and is raising its service standards a “notch or two” on its international flights above those on its domestic flights to compete with foreign carriers flying abroad, Vistara CEO Leslie Thng said on Tuesday.

The airline has been eye-

# ‘Deported’ from K’taka, but stuck in W. Bengal

## Suspected Bangladeshis living in pathetic state

RAJIB CHOWDHURI  
KOLKATA, NOV. 26

At a time when West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee is fighting the Narendra Modi government tooth and nail against its implementation of the National Register of Citizens (NRC) across the country, the state has started witnessing a peculiar practice: the deportation of Bangladesh migrants, detained from across the country, to their homeland in what the human rights activists call “Push-Back” style over the Indo-Bangla border.

The latest has come from the BJP-ruled government in Karnataka which dispatched 59 Bangladeshi migrants, including 25 women and 10 children, who were detained for allegedly having no documents, in a train from Puttaparthi in Andhra Pradesh to Howrah railway station in Kolkata on November 23, a day after Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina Wajed's meeting with the Trinamul Congress

supremo in the city on the sidelines of the inauguration of a Test Cricket match between the two countries.

According to sources, the Foreigners Regional Registration Office, Bengaluru, had issued the deportation order for the 59 people to Bangladesh so that they can be sent back home with the help of the West Bengal Police and the Border Security Force (BSF). Alleging human rights violation, a group

**We have received a list of 59 Bangladeshi nationals. The list was sent to our Head of Chancery by the authority which is in charge of the process. However, no further communication has taken place between us and any other authority**

— M.M. Iqbal,  
Bangladesh official in Kolkata

of the Association for Protection of Democratic Rights (APDR) activists demonstrated at the station as the Bengaluru City Police team handed over the Bangladeshi migrants to a Howrah government railway police team.

APDR vice president Ranjit Sur told this newspaper, “Most the 59 people have been accommodated at a state government building for the self-help groups near the Nischinda police station in Howrah. They have been living in pathetic condition. They are forced to sleep on the floors. There are no warm clothes, food or medicines for them.”

He elaborated, “But the cops did not entertain us. Addressing the CM, we submitted a deputation on Tuesday to the Block Development Officer of Jagachha, in charge of taking care of them. Our objection is against the

authority which identifies these people on the mere basis of their claim. There should be a legal process which determines a person's nationality. If the person claims to be from Bangladesh, repatriation can be made consulting the Bangladesh Deputy High Commission here.”

Mr Sur underlined, “But there is no certainty when these people would be set free. One of 59 people is Kamal Mistry from Nadia where his son also lives. He perhaps had his home in Bangladesh in the past. But he is not agreed to return to Bangladesh. When his son wanted to receive his father, he was threatened to be sent to Bangladesh also. The entire process exposes the government's severe inhumanity, injustice and autocracy.”

First Secretary (Press) of the Bangladesh Deputy High Commission in Kolkata Mohammed Mofakharul Iqbal told this newspaper, “We have received a list of 59 Bangladeshi nationals. The list was sent to our Head of Chancery by the authority which is in charge of the process. However, no further communication has taken place between us and any other authority.”

A senior IPS officer pointed out that the process involves the state police to hand over the migrants to the BSF, which in turn hand over them to the Border Guard Bangladesh, according to a 2013 guidelines of the ministry of home affairs.

## Incidents of bribery down by 10% since 2018: Survey

**New Delhi, Nov. 26:** Incidents of bribery in the country have reduced by 10 per cent since last year, according to a survey carried out in 20 states.

People in Delhi, Haryana, Gujarat, West Bengal, Kerala, Goa and Odisha reported low instances of corruption, while Rajasthan, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Jharkhand and Punjab had higher occurrences of corruption, it stated.

The ‘India Corruption Survey 2019’, which received 1,90,000 responses from people in 248 districts, also stated that 51 per cent Indians paid bribe in the last 12 months.

Transparency International India (TII) and LocalCircles conducted the survey.

India's ranking in the Corruption Perception Index 2018, released by TII, has improved three places compared to last year and now, the country's standing is 78 among 180 nations, a statement issued by the organisation said.

Cash is still the primary mode to pay bribes, as per the survey. Thirty-five per cent of the respondents said they gave cash as bribe in the last 12 months to get their work done, it stated and added that 16 per cent said they always managed to get their work done without paying bribes.

Though CCTV cameras are a slight deterrent, bribery still continues in government offices despite major computerisation and agents continue to thrive, the survey found.

The highest number of incidents of bribery were in authorities involved in property registration and land issues. The finding was backed by votes of 26 per cent of the respondents, it stated. Only 12 per cent citizens said bribery in property registration and land issues has reduced in the last 12 months. — PTI



50 YEARS AGO IN

DECCAN  
ChronicleIndia buys one  
lakh tonnes of  
U.S. wheat

**Washington:** 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.*

Durgapur  
exports 850  
tonnes of steel

**Calcutta:** The first consignment of 850 tonnes of a Japanese export order for 50,000 tonnes of ingot steel was shipped out from here on November 24.

The order was placed by Yawata Iron and Steel Company — one of the biggest steel makers of Japan on the Durgapur steel plant.

According to the steel plant authorities here, shipment of 10,000 tonnes against this order will reach Japan shortly. They did not, however, indicate the actual foreign exchange earned out of this contract.

A spokesman of the steel plant said this was the first time that Japan had come out to world market for purchase of steel ingots. The ingot supplied by Durgapur plant would be rolled in their rolling mills by the Yawata Steel Works, he said. The spokesman said that the steel plant exported during the period from April to September this year steel worth ₹4.50 crores. — *PTI.*

## ODDLY ENOUGH

Ducks 'win' lawsuit  
in French court

**Dax:** The ducks on a small French smallholding may carry on quacking, a French court ruled on Tuesday, rejecting a neighbour's complaint that the birds' racket was making their life a misery.

The court in the town of Dax ruled that the noise from the flock of around 60 ducks and geese kept by retired farmer Dominique Douthe in the foothills of the Pyrenees, southwestern France, was within acceptable limits, broadcaster France 3 said.

"The ducks have won," Douthe told Reuters after the court decision. "I'm very happy because I didn't want to slaughter my ducks." — *Reuters*

## Bahu Begum &amp; the poignant ruins of Awadh's first capital, Faizabad



Shona Adhikari

focus

■ This is the story of Faizabad as it was in 1722, when the Mughal court gave Nawab Saadat Ali Khan the charge of Awadh. Saadat Khan made the first settlements near Ayodhya on the banks of the River Ghaghra — including a fortress, his palace and his cantonment full of mud structures, naming it Faizabad — the capital of Awadh. Fortunately, painter William Hodges and the Daniel brothers have left splendid prints dated 1787 to give us glimpses of the fortress...

Faizabad the first capital of Awadh, still bears some of the royal look of a capital. However it took Muzaffar Ali's splendid film, *Umrao Jaan*, to make me want to know more about the city. In this film Amiran, a young girl, is shown being kidnapped as a child from her home in Faizabad. When she returns as Umrao Jaan — singer, dancer and poet — she is shunned by her family. It now seems as though Faizabad's history is much like the legend of Umrao Jaan, whose name and presence was forgotten by her family. The ancient city of Faizabad also appears to have met the same fate. It first lost out to Lucknow as the capital of Awadh and now it has lost its name. One wonders what will happen to the splendid structures and gardens that still remain to remind us of Faizabad... will they be looked after or just fade into ruins?

This is the story of Faizabad as it was in 1722, when the Mughal court gave Nawab Saadat Ali Khan the charge of Awadh. Saadat Khan made the first settlements near Ayodhya on the banks of the River Ghaghra — including a fortress, his palace and his cantonment full of mud structures, naming it Faizabad the capital of Awadh. Fortunately for us, painter William Hodges and the Daniel brothers have left splendid prints dated 1787 to give us glimpses of Faizabad's fortress and its surroundings.

Born Muhammad Amin Musawi, Saadat Khan had a wealthy merchant as a grandfather and a father who became a prominent official during the rule of Bahadur Shah I. The "Subah of Awadh" was under his charge and included the districts of Khalilabad, Faizabad, Gorakhpur, Bahraich and Lucknow — this was a province that stretched to the Himalayas in the north, Bihar in the east, till Kara Manikpur (Allahabad province) in the south and Kannauj in the west. A total area that covered 10, 171,080 *bigha* of land.

Prior to Nawab Saadat Khan's arrival, there was continuous friction between zamindars and jagirdars. Within a short while however, Saadat Khan was able to bring peace among them and through his capable management, the state's income rose from seven million to 20 million. Needless to say, Muhammad Shah was



(Clockwise from above) Qila Mubarak, built by the first Nawab of Faizabad; Bahu Begum's tomb; husband Shuja-ud-Daula

very pleased with his work and gave him the title of "Burhan-ul-Mulk". He was also able to enlarge the state boundary on the eastern front by taking over Benaras, Jaunpur, Ghazipur and Chunar.

Saadat Khan, one of the Mughal generals in the battle of Karnal against Nadir Shah, was captured during the battle. He died on the night prior to what is known as the 'Massacre of Delhi' by Nadir Shah on March 19, 1739, and is buried in the mausoleum of his brother Sayadat Khan. Saadat Khan's only child, a daughter, was married to his nephew Abul Mansur Khan — better known as Nawab Safdarjung. He was the second ruler of Awadh and added to the development of Faizabad, making it the military headquarters. Safdarjung spent a major

part of his rule in Delhi and after his death at the young age of 45 years in 1754, was buried at the majestic Safdarjung Tomb located in New Delhi.

Nawab Safdarjung's successor Nawab Shuja-ud-daula, the third Nawab of Awadh developed Faizabad into what we would consider a perfect capital — with the necessary roads, splendid buildings, mosques, *makbaras*, bazaars and royal palaces with splendid gardens. The city became busy and a centre for trade, attracting travellers of all kinds from Europe and Asia. These included merchants for trade, writers, poets, artists, dancers and singers.

Shuja-ud-Daula, Safdarjung's son and heir, had chosen Lucknow as his capital, but was persuaded to return to Faizabad after being defeated by the

British in the Battle of Buxar in 1764. He decided that if Faizabad was to be his capital, he needed to add many new structures including another fortress. The new fort that he built on the banks of the Saryu river was popularly referred to as Chhota Calcutta. It seems strange that Shuja-ud-Daula chose to call it "Fort Calcutta" — perhaps this may have been a ruse to humour the British, who had demanded a large sum of money from him. Since he did not have the necessary funds, his wife, popularly known as Bahu Begum, came to his rescue, by pawning her dowry.

Other important structures built during Shuja-ud-Daula's period, include the Chowk, Tirpaulia and numerous gardens. Many of these were built by Bahu Begum, who he mar-

ried in 1743. A dignified personality, Bahu Begum was also a strong support to her husband. It was with her prompting that he was able to face many problems. She was a woman of great distinction and rank, and most of the older buildings of Faizabad are attributed to her. Among these structures and gardens, there was the Anguribagh and the Motibagh in the south and the Asafbagh and Bulandbagh to the west of the city. Among the important buildings worth seeing are Gulab Bari and Moti Mahal, appreciated for their interesting architectural styles. It is because of these beautiful structures and gardens that gave Faizabad a prosperous look under Shuja-ud-Daula. One of its most visited and majestic structures is the tomb of Bahu

● Shuja-ud-Daula, Safdarjung's son and heir, had chosen Lucknow as his capital, but was persuaded to return to Faizabad after being defeated by the British in the Battle of Buxar in 1764

Begum built at a cost of ₹3 lakhs.

Nawab Asaf-ud-Daula, the son of Nawab Shuja-ud-Daula, was the fourth Nawab of Awadh. He, like his father, also preferred Lucknow and shifted Awadh's capital from Faizabad to Lucknow in 1775. It has been said that he decided to leave Faizabad, to distance himself from his dominant mother — Bahu Begum, who had begun interfering in his work after his father's death.

Asaf-ud-Daula, the fourth Nawab, was totally different from all the three previous rulers of Awadh. A keen lover of art in general, Asaf-ud-Daula is famous for his lyrics and composition. When forced to abdicate, while travelling to Calcutta with his whole retinue, he wrote a very special song that was first recorded and made popular, by the famous singer K.L. Sehgal. The song, "*Babul Mora*", is sung by famous performers till today.

Bahu Begum who died in 1816, continued to live at Faizabad till her death at the age of 86.

Her beautiful *maqbara* at Jawaharbagh is considered to be one of the finest buildings of its kind in Awadh. From the date of Bahu Begum's death in 1815 and the subsequent annexation of Awadh, began the slow and steady decline of Faizabad.

*The writer is an author, a professional communicator and an intrepid traveller*

## And welfare for all: Choosing happiness over populism

Kavish Rai  
meanwhile

■ A focus on encouraging social reform is necessary, as it is an inevitable cause and effect of welfare policy. Social reform in turn encourages innovation and economic growth and can act to save a society.

Policymakers and thinkers alike give a high priority to economic growth in modern democracies, and they are right in doing so, but does the economic system end with production and consumption, demand and supply and so on or should it also consider the significant impacts it has on society as well? With many modern liberal democracies going through radical changes in the manner in which politics is conducted, the economic system, which is embedded in society, cannot remain aloof to wider social and political changes afoot in liberal democracies.

In liberal democracies with a capitalist economy whose priorities are usually production-intensive processes such as procuring energy, manufacturing and so on and the corresponding consumption, the focus remains one that is based primarily on economic growth rather than social responsibility as well. With governments pursuing populist policies that resemble the economics of demand and supply, social discourse is deprived of discernment and critique necessary to form a more complete understanding in approaches to policy. We cannot keep taking shortcuts

that satisfy needs and aspirations in the short term rather than focus on solutions that are more deliberative. For this, we need to shift from an approach that looks only at populism to one that is people-centric. Such a people-centric approach would focus on things such as efficiency, productivity, employment, education, healthcare and so on of a welfare economy. The focus here is not solely on economic growth but on economic growth plus happiness, and needs an incremental approach.

To understand this incremental approach, let us consider the proposed Nyuntam Aay Yojana (Nyay) of the Congress Party: In a country like Sweden, where most people are skilled and educated, social security is not an end all for most people, and people still look to work in order to live a better life eventually. In Nyay, what seems lacking is the basic needs approach that India needs. Nyay lacks a phased approach. Instead of giving cash handouts outright, India could start by setting up *bhojanalays* where people are given basic nutritious food like eggs and also clean water. Once coverage is good, the next phase can consist of providing shelter and transportation to the needy which can

● In Nyay, what seems lacking is the basic needs approach that India needs. Nyay lacks a phased approach. Instead of giving cash handouts outright, India could start by setting up *bhojanalays* where people are given basic nutritious food...

of course be followed by other basic needs such as healthcare, education and clothing that are also infrastructural issues. This means that to satisfy their other needs, the able are still motivated to work. Thereafter, a budget can be worked out over social security in India.

Alongside an incremental approach towards creating greater satisfaction towards the delivery of policy, a focus on encouraging social reform is also necessary, as social reform is an inevitable cause and effect of welfare policy. Social reform in turn also encourages innovation and economic growth and can act to save a society from a crisis. People, in order to look for greater happiness and satisfaction in society, need a society that provides

an opportunity to carry out incremental social reform, and a culture that encourages discovery, innovation and freethinking greatly enhances this prospect.

A society can move towards such incremental social reform if the culture is one that is amenable to such. In this regard, public nationalism can be helpful in encouraging national unity on social reform. Public nationalism need not mean just conformity or agreeability to certain ideals, but can also be a creative and dynamic force if it is more amenable to encouraging social reform. For this, it is necessary that public nationalism not be limited to become an ideology or a collection of ideologies, but appear as a community of people, or maybe an aesthetic that does not constrict people from imagining.

All this is not too idealistic, but requires a shift in priorities from one that is centred only on production and consumption to one that also expands economic growth to include people-centric policies and incremental social reform. Such requires greater commitment and vigilance not only from the ruling classes, but also from people involved in the process. A society that encourages social reform will

naturally have the productive commitment of its people involved in such incremental social reform. What is required is a policy environment that is also professionally committed to encouraging a people-centric policy environment. Therefore, alongside theorising happiness and social reform, it is also necessary that such receives institutional support. Such is possible if people are trained and specialised towards such specific purposes. There is no shortage of will — but what can usually be found lacking is institutional support.

Populism and using emotive issues in policy do not do justice to issues at hand, and while people might be distracted at one moment they might lapse again into dissatisfaction the next. What is needed is for policy to create a society that fosters people-centric policies that generate happiness rather than simply focus on the productive process. In this it is important that human initiative be recognised and rewarded. We need to look at incremental social reform as also institutional solidarity that supports a society that encourages people-centric policies. Let us not limit our outlook to policy — let there be welfare for all.



I hear and I forget. I see and I remember. I do and I understand.

Everything in the world is about sex except sex. Sex is about power.

# THE ASIAN AGE

27 NOVEMBER 2019

## SC order brings cheer in Maha testing times

The Supreme Court's order Tuesday for a floor test in the Maharashtra Assembly on November 27 will gladden hearts as it came on Constitution Day, which was celebrated with customary pomp at Parliament House just after the court's order was passed. The three-member bench of Justices N.V. Ramanna, Ashok Bhushan and Sanjiv Khanna appears to have accepted the plea of the petitioners — the Congress-NCP-Shiv Sena combine — in toto as it also gave them satisfaction on two other counts — that the test of strength be conducted by a protem Speaker and not a regular Speaker; and the entire exercise be video-graphed (in the interest of transparency), with the result to be submitted to the court.

Each of these points of the petitioners had been contested by the BJP and the Central government. These entities had desired more time for the proposed floor test despite their claim to having the needed majority. Evidently, the court saw through the game, and in its order noted that delaying the vote of confidence in the government (sworn in by the governor in suspicious circumstances early on November 23) may leave room open for horse-trading.

**Should he [governor B.S. Koshiyari], then, put in his papers? Any self-respecting person should do so in such circumstances, though a formal requirement may not exist since the court made no direct comment.**

It is noteworthy that the Supreme Court order was passed after examination by it of two documents, which became the basis of the BJP's claim to have the right to form the government in association with Ajit Pawar, who seems to have played a trick to append the names (and signatures taken in a different context) of all 54 NCP MLAs while supporting BJP leader Devendra Fadnavis' case to be CM again. These documents are the list of MLAs presented to the governor backing Mr Fadnavis' bid, and the governor's formal invitation to the BJP aspirant to take the oath.

The Supreme Court's order is suggestive of the fact that it did not find the governor's decision to appoint Mr Fadnavis to be based on material that was reliable. This is an indirect indictment of the role of governor B.S. Koshiyari, an old RSS hand and a former Uttarakhanda CM, whose conduct in this case appears to have been coloured by partisanship.

Should he, then, put in his papers? Any self-respecting person should do so in such circumstances, though a formal requirement may not exist since the court made no direct comment.

In fast-moving developments hours after the court order, evidently realising he did not have the numbers, Devendra Fadnavis resigned as chief minister, just after his deputy Ajit Pawar too submitted his resignation. Mr Fadnavis said the BJP would now sit in Opposition and not "indulge in horse-trading". With Ajit Pawar back in the NCP fold, the chances of that succeeding were slim anyway. The stage appears set for the Sena-NCP-Congress to come to power as all eyes turn, once again, to the governor's office. These are testing times for India's democracy.

## Eggs and equality

First, the good news. The Madhya Pradesh government will introduce eggs in midday meals, starting April 2020, after anganwadis in the state approved the proposal despite stiff resistance from many quarters, with leader of Opposition Gopal Bhargava fantastically claiming it could turn children into "cannibals". The more sobering news is that this scheme, when implemented, will still be a differential one — excluding children from vegetarian families.

The social facts nationwide, meanwhile, continue to be as stark as ever — just one-third of states, mostly in the southern and eastern parts of the country, provide eggs to children in India — Bihar, Jharkhand and Uttarakhanda being the sole exceptions among the northern states, and recently Chhattisgarh. Even there, a few months ago, Jains and the Kabir Panth community had tried to put a spanner in the works.

The biological truth is that eggs remain the most efficient food for growth. Scientists frequently use eggs as a standard for measuring the protein quality of other foods, and at 93.7 per cent, eggs score higher than any other.

The problems of large-scale malnutrition and stunting in India are giant imponderables. While stunted adults never reach their full mental and physical potentials, destroying, even reversing, the demographic dividend that India famously enjoys from its predominantly young population, they pathetically go on to develop diabetes and high blood pressure should they be exposed to a healthy diet later in their lives. The offspring of these adults inherit this immeasurable loss. The worst sufferers are the ones with the least means to exercise choice, the poor and Dalits the largest majorities therein. It is a reality too bleak to contemplate.

Academic debate regarding food habits and traditions aside and notwithstanding, what we are doing to our children in the name of adherence to a majoritarian brahminical culture is, therefore, criminal, by the most liberal of estimates. What, for instance, would the former Shivraj Singh government now say to children deprived of a normal diet for the last 10 years? Would it spin a fiction like *Aamis* and brandish it before their credulous eyes? Would it even have the requisite imagination? Crucially, would it be able to distinguish between policy and art?

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Arifa Noor

### View from Pakistan

## Govt, Army & America: 'Frenemies' at all levels

On this very day, eight years ago, Gen John Allen, then commander of the International Security Assistance Force, was in Islamabad to discuss military matters in Afghanistan with then Pakistani army chief Gen Ashfaq Kayani. Late that night, he was woken up and told about a 'firefight' and that there were Pakistani casualties.

As Allen drove to the airport, he kept getting calls about the growing number of casualties — four, 12, and "by the time I get to the airport, it's over 20 dead". He called Kayani to offer his condolences and was told, "You have no idea what's happened here. I've lost my ability to manage our relationship now."

The Salala incident, as it is still called in Pakistan, led to the loss of 22 soldiers and two officers on two border posts, provoking Islamabad to close the Ground Lines of Communication for the American forces. It was seen as the final nail in the coffin of US-Pakistan relations as

they had evolved after 9/11, as well as an unfortunate ending to 2011, the year known as the annus horribilis for bilateral ties. It was a year that began with the Raymond Davis affair, followed by the raid to take out Osama bin Laden, and then Salala happened.

This unravelling as Pervez Musharraf and George Bush Jr departed from the scene has been depicted by Shuja Nawaz in his latest offering, *The Battle for Pakistan*, which picks up the story on the eve of the 2008 election. (The story is narrated from the book.) The book highlights the transactional relationship between the US and Pakistan, and one which has simply been about Afghanistan since the 1980s.

The sentence about how Bush didn't have a Pakistan policy — he had a Musharraf policy — explains why the post-9/11 bonhomie was bound to fall apart. And once Musharraf (and Bush) are removed, the relationship hits rock bottom. Since then we have been in the phase where every good

moment or good bilateral visit is described as a 'reset' till the next crisis. And this 'reset' is nothing more than an effort — for the US at least — to get Pakistan to do more on Afghanistan, and every crisis is linked to Washington's unhappiness at the pace of progress in Afghanistan.

As Nawaz notes, during the Davis affair one of the reasons for US unwillingness to concede anything to Pakistan was the knowledge in Washington of OBL's location. But for one who makes a living out of following domestic politics, it is the parallel track of civil-military relations that proves more fascinating.

Nawaz may be focusing on Pakistan's most important external relationship but it seems as if an equal number of words and pages are spent on the most important relationship internally.

This is especially true of the PPP's five-year tenure where many near confrontations had a US link — be it the (unsuccessful) move to put the

interior ministry in charge of the ISI or the fracas over the Kerry-Lugar bill or the Memogate affair. Even the Raymond Davis affair saw friction between the two sides. In fact, in events such as Memogate, the internal friction completely dominated the event. There was little the US did or contributed.

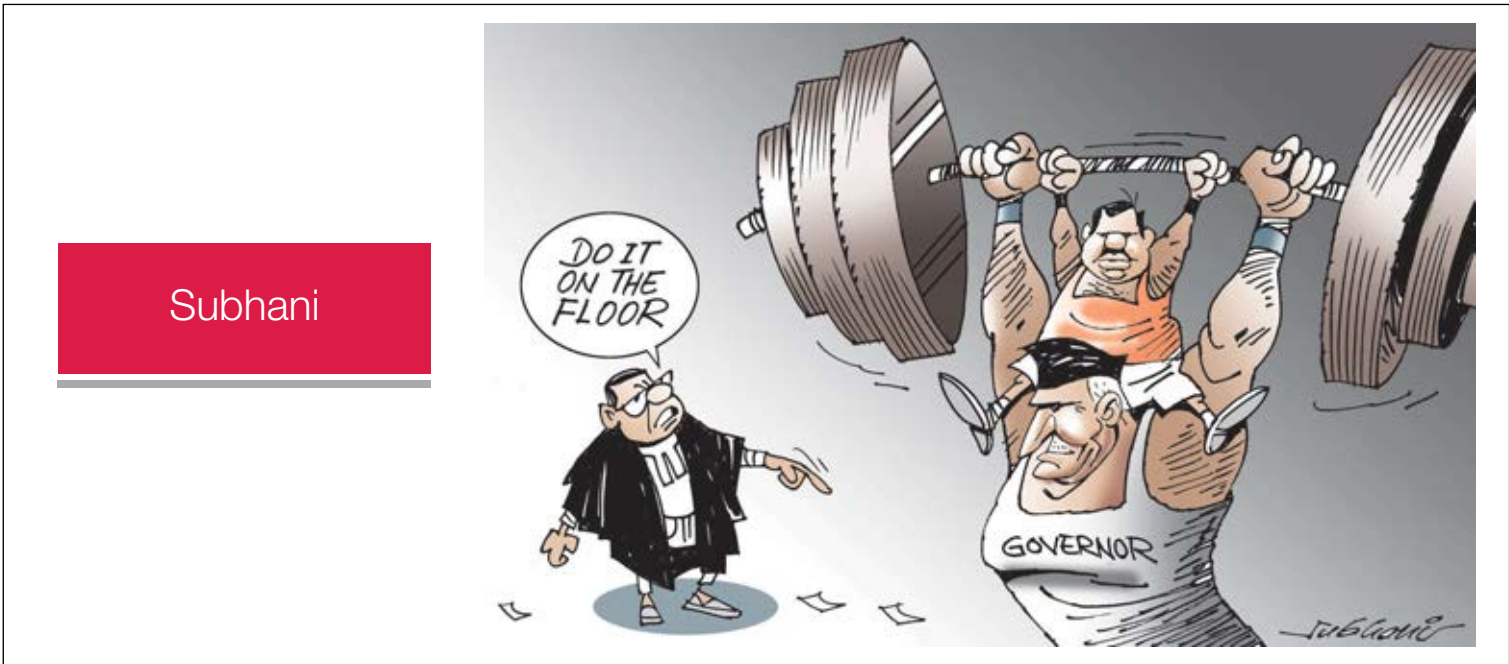
In others such as Raymond Davis or the Kerry-Lugar bill episodes, civil-military tension was part of the blowback, while the OBL raid provided a rare moment of unity. "The debate [in parliament] turned then from an indictment of the guardians of the frontiers to the cursing of Pakistan's 'American' friends ... This became the narrative of the day."

In contrast, the five years of the PML-N rule are different — it seems as if friction between the ruling party's prime minister and the military were solely due to internal matters especially linked to terrorism. Apart from the news leaks later in the PML-N tenure (which caused an

irreparable break between the establishment and the PML-N), one of the earliest issues said to have caused a chill in the relationship is Nawaz Sharif's decision to pursue talks with the Pakistani Taliban.

Indeed, there is no doubt that there was civil-military friction during both the tenures but in hindsight it seems that there is a difference between the two. The friction during the 2008-2013 period can be linked to the bilateral relationship in a way that is completely missing in the 2013-2018 period. Friction, in a way, is inevitable but during the PPP tenure, it was due to Washington's efforts to engage with Islamabad, while the PML-N perhaps was deemed guilty of trying to re-engage externally as it tried to hold the military responsible for the 'isolation'. Whether this difference is merely one of form or there is more to it, would be an interesting angle to explore.

By arrangement with Dawn



Subhani

## Jharkhand: The going won't be easy for BJP



Sanjay Kumar

While one can't deny the credit Jharkhand's chief minister Raghubar Das deserves for being the only CM to have completed his full term in office, that is no real indication of the BJP's electoral prospects in the state for the coming Assembly elections. In fact, the BJP seems to be on a slippery ground having failed to form an alliance with any of the regional parties. On the other hand, the Congress-JMM and the Rashtriya Janata Dal have managed to form an alliance to fight against the BJP. The parting of ways between the BJP's erstwhile NDA allies — the JD(U), Lok Janshakti Party and the All Jharkhand Students Union (AJSU) — would adversely affect the BJP's electoral prospects in the elections starting November 30. Clearly, the recent electoral verdicts in Haryana and Maharashtra seem to have had some impact on these NDA alliance partners, who decided to contest independently and not as part of the NDA alliance.

While all new governments formed in Jharkhand after the 2000, 2005 and 2009 Assembly elections saw frequent changes in government and frequent changes in the chief ministership, the BJP in alliance with the AJSU managed to successfully complete its full term in the government formed after the 2014 polls, even though these two together had only 42 seats in the 81-member Assembly. The BJP-AJSU managed to govern the state without much difficulty as the Opposition was badly divided, with the JMM having 19 members, JMM(P) with eight and Congress with six members in the

Assembly. Even though before the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, the Congress, JMM, JVM and RJD came together and formed an alliance against the BJP-AJSU alliance, these four parties together couldn't halt the victory march of the BJP, which swept the whole of North India. The BJP-AJSU alliance won 12 of 14 Lok Sabha seats and polled 55.3 per cent votes, while the UPA won only two seats and polled 34.6 per cent votes.

While the BJP-AJSU managed to increase its support base enormously in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, that should not be seen as an indicator of how people are likely to vote in the Assembly elections. The 2019 Lok Sabha polls were largely contested on the national issues, in the name of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. It is hard to imagine that Jharkhand's people would vote in the same way in the state polls.

There are two indicators to suggest that the BJP won't find it easy in the coming elections. First, the BJP did very well even in the 2014 Lok Sabha polls, winning 12 of 14 seat and polling 40 per cent votes; but soon after that its voteshare went down to 31.8 per cent, and it managed to win only 37 of the 72 Assembly seats. Seen in terms of votes per seat contested, the BJP polled 35.7 per cent votes, a decline of about 3-4 per cent compared to the 2014 Lok Sabha polls. Perhaps, the verdict in the 2014 Assembly polls in Jharkhand may have been different if the Opposition had formed an alliance. In as many as 14 seats (2014 Assembly), the combined vote share of the Congress and JMM, which fought against each other, was higher than the BJP-led alliance. There are thus

clear signals of people voting differently in the 2014 Assembly and 2014 Lok Sabha polls, held one after another in a short span of time. Clearly, the Assembly elections were fought more on local issues.

Reports from the ground suggest that while the BJP is trying to focus on the national issues and the Centre's flagship programmes, the JMM, Congress and other parties are trying to focus more on constituency-level local issues. What makes the BJP's situation harder is that AJSU's move to desert the BJP and contesting against it. As Haryana and many other Assembly elections since 2014 have indicated, sharp vote swings between the Lok Sabha and Assembly polls cannot be ruled out here as well.

The Jharkhand polls will be another test of the BJP's ability to overcome state-level anti-incumbency. While BJP has a massive success rate in winning state elections after 2014, in recent years, its record of success has not been as spectacular as it was immediately after the 2014 Lok Sabha polls. In Gujarat, the BJP just about managed to win a simple majority with its tally of seats below three digits. Most recently, in Haryana and Maharashtra, it emerged as the single largest party but is still short of a majority. While it managed to form the government in Haryana in alliance with the Jannayak Janata Party (JJP), it is still struggling in Maharashtra.

In a state with a very large adivasi popula-

tion, the electoral verdict rests heavily on 25 Assembly seats, where adivasis constitute a majority of the electorate. In the 2014 election, these seats were split between the BJP (11 seats) and the JMM (12 seats).

Data from surveys conducted by the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS) indicates the support base of parties are divided across caste communities. During the 2014 Assembly elections, support for the BJP came mostly from the upper castes, OBCs, and certain tribal groups. It received 50 per cent and 40 per cent votes among the upper castes and OBCs respectively. Adivasi voters, the numerically predominant social group in the state (nearly 27 per cent) were almost equally split between the BJP (30 per cent) and the JMM (29 per cent) in 2014. While almost half (47 per cent) of the Oraons voted for the BJP, the JMM retained support (40 per cent) among its traditional Santhal support base. The Congress was a distant third among all social groups, except Muslims, who form a minuscule proportion of state's electorate. The Congress had failed to win any seat which are adivasi majority seats, but it secured 10.8 per cent of the votes. Its success in transferring votes to its alliance partners in these seats could be the critical factor in this election.

Even though the Opposition parties may not have registered any major success in putting up a challenge to the BJP, but the narrative seems to have shifted little bit. The question is: Will this help the Opposition? Will voters cast their ballots over local issues or get swayed over national issues like Ram Mandir and/or by the recent developments in Kashmir?

The writer is a professor and currently director of the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies. The views expressed are personal.

### LETTERS

#### DIRTY PICTURE

The order of the Supreme Court bench comprising Justices N.V. Ramana, Ashok Bhushan and Sanjiv Khanna has undone the BJP. The resignations of Devendra Fadnavis and Ajit Pawar also show they did not have the numbers to form the government in Maharashtra as they had been claiming. They must have been banking on horse-trading tricks and the holding of a secret ballot to conceal the foul play but their plans came to an abrupt end when the justices ordered an open ballot for the floor test which would have had to be telecast live and, most importantly, conducted no later than 5 pm on Wednesday, thus robbing them of the time to work their strategems. Thank you, judges, for exposing this power-craven lot.

Sravana Ramachandran  
Chennai

#### COW COUNTRY

THE YOGI ADITYANATH government has renamed Faizabad Ayodhya, and now, perhaps buoyed by the Supreme Court's temple order, the Ayodhya Municipal Corporation has decided to do its bit to promote the cause of Hindutva by venerating the cow this season, getting coats for every bovine and lighting bonfires in the stables. The officials are justifying the costs in the name of compassion. Should that be the case, what of other strays, and what about the poverty-stricken? Are cows more equal than humans?

Arif Mahfooz  
Bengaluru

#### ARMADA'S ADVANCE

SPAIN'S TALISMAN Rafael Nadal once again brought glory to his country by piloting his team to an incredible 2-0 victory over first-time finalist Canada in the showdown at Madrid of the Davis Cup. After Bautista Agut cut Felix Auger-Aliassime down to size, Nadal sealed a sixth Davis Cup crown for his country with a straight-set win over the talented 20-year-old world no. 15 Denis Shapovalov in front of King Felipe VI and Real Madrid's Sergio Ramos. Kudos!

N.J. Ravi Chander  
Bengaluru

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A person who watches video content online, or who  
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THE ASIAN AGE

WEDNESDAY | 27 NOVEMBER 2019 | NEW DELHI

Oped

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7

# 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.

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# PMO ordered illegal electoral bond sale before vital Assembly elections



Nitin Sethi

This is Part 3 of the 6-part #PaissaPolitics 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 the aspects factored into the decisions making process," said the finance ministry.

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. Whatever situation they wanted to avoid, practically appeared before them. Are these experiences mere coincidences or there is a scientific reason behind their happening?

Most of these unfavorable and unpleasant situations are created by us, though unconsciously, unwantedly and unknowingly. There is some science working behind these happenings and once that is known one can even avoid creating these unwanted situations in life.

Imagine each thought you think as a mental photograph.

When you worry or fear for something, it is first exposed to your brain as an image of an unfavorable situation. As you focus more and more on your worried situation, the image in your brain begins to develop more clearly and gets fully exposed like a real situation.

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. These cosmic forces may also attract and influence other people who could help create those situations in our life. In this process, cosmic forces also create coincidences and permutations-combinations of several events for the success of manifesting those unwanted situations.

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](http://www.poornaananda.org)







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

SHORT TAKES



AT&T ENTERS INDIA WITH 2 HEADPHONES

New Delhi, Nov. 26: Known for its millions of wireless net-work subscribers in the US, AT&T announced the launch of its range of personal audio products in India. The company launched a pair of headphone — AT&T HPM10 over-ear wired head-phones and AT&T PBH20 over-ear bluetooth headphones. While both sport a light-weight, collapsible design and a microphone, the bluetooth headphone can playback for upto six hours and noise reduction capability. Meanwhile, AT&T has priced the pair of headphones are quite competitively priced at ₹899 and ₹1,999 respectively. Both the headphones will be available on e-commerce websites Amazon and Flipkart.



ALEXA COMING TO LOW-SPEC DEVICES

New Delhi, Nov. 26: With 2019 coming to an end, analysts expect even quicker proliferation of Internet of Things (IoT) in 2020. In what can only be considered to be a step in that direction, Amazon announced that Alexa voice assistant will run on devices with as little as 1MB of memory and a cheap Cortex-M processor. In lay man's terms, expect Alexa on all kinds of relatively dumb devices from lightbulbs to toys. Till date, Alexa required at least 100MB of RAM and an ARM Cortex-A processor. "We now offload the vast majority of all of this to the cloud," AWS IoT VP Dirk Didascalou told TechCrunch. "The only thing that the device still needs to do is wake word detection." That means companies will be able to reduce material costs by as much as 50 percent using lower-powered chips from NXP, Qualcomm and others, he added.



AWS ADDS 22 NEW LANGUAGES TO TRANSLATE

New Delhi, Nov. 22: Ahead of the AWS re:Invent conference, AWS's Amazon Translate to support 22 new languages to real-time translations. Amazon Translate now supports 54 languages and dialects, with 2,804 language pairs now supported. The neural machine translation service enables customers to easily translate information from one language to many. For instance, Siemens use it to analyse employee surveys in different languages, while Hotels.com uses it to translate customer reviews into many languages for localised websites around the world. The new supported languages are: Afrikaans, Albanian, Amharic, Azerbaijani, Bengali, Bosnian, Bulgarian, Croatian, Dari, Estonian, Canadian French, Georgian, Hausa, Latvian, Pashto, Serbian, Slovak, Slovenian, Somali, Swahili, Tagalog, and Tamil. On Monday, AWS also announced new services related to image recognition, voice-based UIs and IOT.

— Agencies

2 SDKs harvest SM user data

OneAudience and MobiBurn discontinue their respective SDKs

AGE 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, user-names 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 pos-

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**, Fb shut down a market research app ostensibly offered as a virtual private network 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, Fb isn't peering into how you use third-party apps. Instead, it's an app that will give you rewards for filling out surveys, testing new products, and more

sible 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.

"We think it's important for people to be aware that this exists out there and that they review the apps that they use to connect to

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 walkout 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, good-will 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



Will comply with data localisation: Google Pay

Kolkata, Nov. 26: Google Pay, a leading digital payment service provider, is in the process of complying with the regulations of data localisation, a company official said on Tuesday. The process needs to be carried out "carefully to prevent any disruption", Google Pay director (product management) Sharath Bulusu said here. "We will comply with all directives of the government. We are in the process of doing so," he told reporters, when asked about the data localisation. The RBI had asked payment companies to ensure that transaction's data are stored exclusively on local

servers. Generally, data localisation refers to storing data within India. "We have been providing services and the regulations came later. We will do it without interrupting services to 67 million users. Technically, it is not that easy. However, RBI is very supportive," he said. Bulusu was here to launch "Google Pay for merchants" in Kolkata. At the national level, around 3.5 lakh brick-and-mortar retail stores are on the platform and about 3,000 online merchants are accepting Google Pay, he claimed. As on September 2019, total transaction for the last 12 months was at \$110

billion and the number of active users rose three times to 67 million, he said, adding that "almost two-third of the payments happened outside top seven cities" in the country. At present, charges or MDR (merchant discount rate) are not imposed on merchants and users in order to promote digital payment in the country, he said. MDR is the rate charged to a merchant for payment processing services. Asked whether the company will charge users for payments to generate revenue, Bulusu said, there are multiple options that would be evaluated at an appropriate time in future. — PTI

App aims to make your sexting safe

AGE CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI, NOV. 26

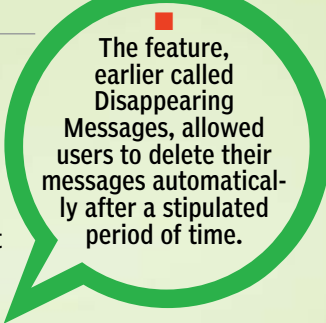
Sexting can be fun with consensual adults and unwanted 'eggplant' pictures are mostly uncalled for. However, at times sexting nudes of yourself may sometimes get shared on the internet without your knowledge and this can result in having your most intimate pictures getting flooded on various adult websites and forums. In a bid to better protect you while sexting, a new app has been developed and this could put your mind at ease. The app, .comdom that's been developed by Belgian telephone company Telenet allows you to tag your photos with a watermark that contains the name and phone numbers of the person that will receive the image. If the person who receives the image shares it, it can be easily traceable, according

to Telenet. Sexting can be fun with consensual adults and unwanted 'eggplant' pictures are mostly uncalled for. However, at times sexting nudes of yourself may sometimes get shared on the internet without your knowledge and this can result in having your most intimate pictures getting flooded on various adult websites and forums. In a bid to better protect you while sexting, a new app has been developed and this could put your mind at ease. The app, .comdom that's been developed by Belgian telephone company Telenet allows you to tag your photos with a watermark that contains the name and phone numbers of the person that will receive the image. If the person who receives the image shares it, it can be easily traceable, according to Telenet. A report by The Brussels

Times reports that about 50 per cent of individuals between 15 and 21 occasionally sext and oftentimes send and receive messages containing explicit content including images. This phenomenon has increased in the recent past not just because of smartphones but also due to the fact that sexting has become normalized. A report by De Morgen quotes Child Focus organisation by stating, "Five years ago, our advice would have been to simply not send sexts. Now we realise that it is part of the sexual experience of young people." A spokesperson for Sensoa, the Flemish expertise centre for sexual health states, "The app provides an in-between step, between either not sending a photo, or sending an 'unsafe' photo. The responsibility also gradually shifts to the person who sends the photo.

However, technology will not solve everything. A lot of attention still needs to be paid to sexual education, in which it is made clear that it is not okay to share received photos." The main intention of the app is to prevent people from sharing the images they receive. Fabienne Beckers who co-developed the app states, "The app lets you add the name and possibly also the phone number of the recipient to your picture. The recipient will then be much less inclined to share such a photo. You sometimes hear stories about photos of a pupil being shared with almost all students in a school. With this, that photo will also include the name of the perpetrator." The app warns that it is far safer not to show any identifiable features such as a distinctive birthmark or tattoos or piercings and it also provides you with

the option to blur your face. It also says that users should send these images to people whom they know very well and it also reminds you that you aren't obligated to send images at all if you don't want to. With that being said, the watermark will only make the image a lot more fuzzy as the transparent letters above the picture will make it difficult to see every detail. The app reads, "You can still very clearly see what you want to show. You can also play with that watermark a little. You can slide it away from the places you want to show, or put it on top of them. We also tested the app with a lot of young people, and most of them said that they would definitely want to use it." This app is available to download from the App Store and on comdom.be. It, however, isn't available on the Play Store.



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 #cancelallBlueTicks in India. 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 accusations 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 in-

tially 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 offi-

cial 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.)



NEW WHATSAPP UPDATES

WHATSAPP FOR IPHONE IS NOW RECEIVING AN UPDATE BRINGING IN A SLEW OF NEW FEATURES

■ The update version number is 2.19.120, and it packs an useful feature in the form of call waiting support, allowing users to receive another WhatsApp call while they are on one call.

■ Currently, the receivers don't get a call waiting notification when someone is trying to call them while they are in the middle of another call. The caller, however, does get to know that the receiver is 'on another call'.

■ The update also includes a redesigned chat screen and a key feature addition for Braille keyboard users.

■ Earlier this month, WhatsApp also rolled out new group privacy settings for Android and iPhone users both in a bid to curb spam invites.

■ Meanwhile, the latest Android beta of WhatsApp is said to show the company restarting work on a previously reported feature.

■ The latest Android beta from WhatsApp carries the version number 2.19.348. The update can be installed via Google Play beta programme, or can alternatively be side loaded using an APK from APK Mirror.

■ In this beta update, the Disappearing Messages feature reportedly sees its name change to Delete Messages.

■ The WhatsApp Delete Messages feature brings the ability to choose how long new messages will last, before they are deleted. Options include one hour, one day, one week, one month, and one year.

■ As is the norm with all features spotting, there is no word on when this feature will be enabled for beta users, or when it will roll out in the stable version.

■ The feature, earlier called Disappearing Messages, allowed users to delete their messages automatically after a stipulated period of time.



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.

Skoda VW to suspend Chakan ops for a month

Skoda Auto Volkswagen India said it will suspend production at its Chakan plant in Pune for a month from mid-Dec. to mid-Jan. to upgrade the facility for a new range of products. The company—earlier known as Volkswagen India—had suspended production for a month from mid-Oct. The firm said it is taking the step to prepare for India 2.0 nextgen products.

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	~38
India	~15	~25
Singapore	~10	~12
Hong Kong	~5	~8
US	~2	~3

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

Color calibration bars and registration marks.



## ‘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

## Axis MF’s new scheme to give insurance cover on SIP

**FC BUREAU**  
MUMBAI, NOV. 26

Axis Retirement Savings Fund, a new fund offer launched by Axis Mutual Fund has a unique proposition in form of life insurance cover linked to systematic investment plan (SIP) commitment made by the investors.

The NFO opens for subscription on November 29 and closes on December 13.

The fund offers three investment plans depending on the age and risk profile of the investor. Under ‘Aggressive Plan’ equity exposure will range between 65-80 per cent, under ‘Dynamic Plan’ where equity exposure will be dynamically managed, it will be 65-100 per cent and under ‘Conservative Plan’ the debt exposure will range between 40-80 per cent. The fund has lock-in period of five years or till the retirement age depending on diverse risk profile of individuals.

Axis Retirement Savings Fund will also offer a complementary insurance cover equal to the remaining commitment of their long term systematic

investment plans (SIPs), the risk cover would start after payment of 12 instalments and minimum tenure of SIP commitment is 3 years at monthly frequency.

Chandresh Kumar Nigam, MD & CEO, Axis Asset Management Company said, “Axis Retirement Savings Fund is our small step to help investors execute the most critical part of their financial plan, as retirement planning is slowly emerging as a critical issue for the working age population due to lack of formal social security and changes to traditional family support structures.”

“Insurance cover up to Rs 50 lakh will be available for resident individuals in the age of 18 years and not more than 51 years for the subscribers who opt for investment through monthly SIP for minimum three years and the insurance will commence upon completing 12 successful monthly SIP instalments,” according to NFO details provided by Axis Mutual Fund.

Insurance cover lapses after reaching 55 years of age or in case investor

misses three continuous SIP payments. Insurance cover also lapses on partial or full redemption/switch-out of units purchased before completion SIP investment tenure.

The insurance will be provided by HDFC Life Insurance Company, Axis MF said while announcing the new fund offer.

In the event of the demise of the investor, the insurance cover will take care of unpaid instalments of SIP committed by the investor.

A prospective investor who opts for the retirement fund at the age of 18 years may have to opt for a SIP of Rs 11,400 approximately till the age of 55 years for maximum Rs 50 lakh insurance cover, an official from Axis Mutual Fund said.

Somebody trying for a lower insurance cover of around Rs10 lakh can opt for Rs 10,000 per month SIP for 10 years. As his life insurance cover gets activated after 12 successful instalments, he becomes eligible for insurance benefit of Rs 10.8 lakh calculated by Rs 10,000 monthly SIP amount into remaining nine years.

**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 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-

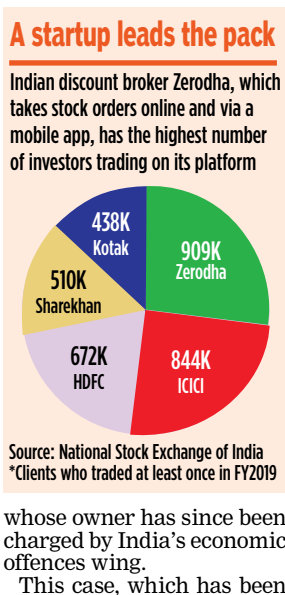
ulator said in its interim order that the broker may have helped itself to investors’ money and securities and diverted as much as \$150 million to its real-estate business.

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.

Unclearing 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





## Big blow

In a blow to Pak PM Imran Khan, the country's top court orders temporary suspension of Army Chief Gen. Qamar Javed Bajwa's tenure extension



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

### Arrests over online scam in Indonesia

**Jakarta:** Dozens of Chinese nationals have been arrested in Indonesia over an online scam that bilked victims out of millions of dollars, authorities said Tuesday. Acting on a tip-off from their Chinese counterparts, Indonesian police said they conducted a half dozen raids in the capital Jakarta and Malang city, arresting 85 Chinese nationals and six Indonesians. The roundup comes several days after almost 700 Chinese nationals were arrested in Malaysia where authorities raided a building and busted a major online investment scam operation. It was not immediately clear if the busts were related.

### 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 the 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.

### AIRPORTS ON ALERT IN SRI LANKA

**Colombo:** 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 the names of 704 officers had been sent to immigration authorities. "The move is to ensure that no officer leaves the country without following the proper procedure of obtaining permission for overseas travel," he said. The directive came after Silva left Sri Lanka on Sunday, reportedly seeking asylum in Switzerland. An inquiry was launched into his departure. Silva's investigations included high profile killings and corruption involving administration members under former President Mahinda Rajapaksa, brother of the new President. — *Agencies*



## '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 1.5C.

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

# 'Trump's hurried decisions curb Pentagon's command'

Sacking of Navy chief rakes up debate on the US President's control

## Trump honours 'hero dog'

**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 micro-management.

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 admin-

**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 mission 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

administration. Trump has interfered in numerous other ways. He



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

Conan a plaque and called the canine commando so brilliant, so smart.

Conan was hailed by Trump as a "special" animal who helped execute a "flawless attack" on the ISIS leader.

Trump also met with Special Forces involved in the attack in Northern Syria that resulted in the death of Baghdadi. The

commandos did not come out in the public.

"Al Baghdadi is gone, but it was a flawless attack," Trump told reporters.

Trump said he met with the soldiers and had given Conan an award. He said: "The dog is incredible."

He said both the soldiers and Conan did a fantastic job. — *PTI*

forced the Pentagon to reallocate funds from base construction projects to his US-Mexico border wall. — *AFP*

## AGAINST ABUSE



Women demonstrate on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women during a national strike in Bogota, on Tuesday. — *AFP*

## US, Israel for justice to victims of 26/11

**Washington, Nov. 26:** Remembering the victims of the 2008 Mumbai terror attack, the US on Tuesday said those responsible for this "heinous" crime must face justice.

In one of the deadliest terror attacks in India's history, 166 people were killed and over 300 injured when 10 heavily-armed terrorists from Pakistan created mayhem in Mumbai on November 26, 2008.

"On the 11th anniversary of the #MumbaiTerrorAttacks, our deepest sympathies to the families of the 166 innocent victims, including 6 US citizens."

The US honours their memories and is committed to seeing those responsible for these horrific acts brought to justice," acting assistant secretary of state Alice Wells said in a tweet. Meanwhile, Israel called

upon Pakistan to bring the perpetrators and facilitators of the heinous 2008 Mumbai terror attack to justice.

"Today we stand by the people of India and remember 166 people, including six Israelis, the victims of Mumbai terror attacks that took place 11 years ago," deputy director general of Israel's foreign ministry, Gilad Cohen, said in a tweet.

"This heinous attack was carried out by 10 terrorists belonging to Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba," Cohen added.

Six Israelis were killed in the 2008 Mumbai terror attack when the LeT terrorists also targeted Nariman House, popularly called the Chabad House, a place frequented by Jews, especially young backpackers travelling to India immediately after finishing their mandatory army service. — *PTI*

## 13 FRENCH SOLDIERS DIE IN COPTER STRIKE

**Paris, Nov. 26:** 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 exact circumstances of the accident.

The operation in West and Central Africa involves 4,500 personnel and is France's largest overseas military mission. — *AP*

**NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE**

The Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer (Const), Northern Railway, Shivaji Bridge, New Delhi: for and on behalf of the President of India invites open e-tender for the following work:- **Name of work and location:** Air Conditioning of new conference hall and electrification/rewiring work of officers chambers and officers rest house at CAO/C office complex and other offices of construction organization and electrification/rewiring work of Transit Accommodation 303 & 304 at Chelmsford Road and officers rest house at P.K Road. **Completion period of the work:** 06 Months. **Approx. Cost of work:** ₹ 41,50,120.32/- **Earnest Money to be deposited:** ₹ 83,000/- **Date & Time for submission of E-tender and opening of tender:** Tenders may be uploaded upto 11:30 hrs on 23.12.2019 date on IREPS web site i.e. [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) The bidders can participate in the e-tender. The tender will be opened at 11:30 hrs on 23.12.2019. **Detailed Tender Notice & Tender Document:** The detailed e-tender notice is available on Northern Railway web site i.e. [www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in) and tender document is available on [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) Above tenders document will be available for submission of offer on IREPS web site i.e. [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) from 09.12.2019 to 23.12.2019. All other terms and conditions in respect of above tenders are given in tender document. The detailed tender notice also can be seen on the Notice Board of the above office. **Tender Notice No. 17-Elect./DYCEE/C/T/124** **Dated:** 25.11.2019 **3795/19**

**Serving Customers With A Smile**

**SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED**

General public is hereby informed that a lady namely **Soniya, W/o Lt. Sanjeev Kumar R/o H.No. 58, Firni Road, Holambi Kalan, Delhi** has been missing/kidnapped since 09.08.2019 from the area of Narela Industrial Area, Delhi. In this regard, **DD No. 33-A dated 29.10.2019 has been registered at P.S. Narela Industrial Area, Delhi.** Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the missing/kidnapped lady but no clue has come to light so far. The description of the missing/kidnapped lady is as under:

**Name:** Soniya, **Gender:** Female, **Age:** 34 years, **Height:** 5'2", **Complexion:** Fair, **Face:** Round, **Built:** Thin, **Wearing:** Pink Colour suit-salwar and hawai slipper in her feet.

If anyone has any information regarding this missing Lady, kindly inform SHO/Narela Industrial Area, Delhi.

E-mail : [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in)  
Ph. : 011-24368638, 24368641  
Fax : 011-24368639

**SHO**  
P.S. Narela Industrial Area, Delhi  
Ph. No. 011-27787592, 27787593

**DP/792/ON/19**

**SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED**

General public is hereby informed that a girl (depicted in the photo), **Namely : Monika Soni D/o Shankar Lal R/o D-80, B-Block, Gali No. 27, Das Garden, Baprola Vihar, Delhi** has been missing/kidnapped since 31.10.2019 from the area of P.S. Ranhola, Delhi. In this regard a case vide FIR No. 676/19 u/s 363 IPC dated 31.10.2019 has been registered at Police Station Ranhola, Delhi. Her physical description is as under:-

**Age :** 17 Years, **Height:** 5', **Complexion :** Wheatish, **Face :** Oval, **Wearing :** Black suit-salwar and chappal in feet.

Any person is having any information/Clue about this missing/kidnapped girl, may inform SHO, Ranhola, Delhi at E-mail Id - [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in) or Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>

**SHO**  
P.S. Ranhola, Delhi  
Outer Distt., Delhi  
Fax No. 011-24368639  
Ph. No. 011-28363001, 28363002, 28363003

**DP/2889/OD/19**





## Social Work

Kim Kardashian teams up with family, including mother Kris Jenner and sister Kourtney, to help needy this thanksgiving

# Newsmakers

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THE ASIAN AGE

WEDNESDAY | 27 NOVEMBER 2019 | NEW DELHI



Rise of Skywalker script was put on sale on eBay after an actor left the script under a hotel's bed  
— J.J. Abrams  
Filmmaker

## IN BRIEF

### James Mangold to get CAS filmmaker award

Los Angeles: Ford v. Ferrari director James Mangold will receive Cinema Audio Society's filmmaker award at the 56th annual CAS Awards on January 25. According to The Hollywood Reporter, Oscar-winning recording mixer Tom Fleischman will receive the CAS career achievement award. Mangold has directed films like *Walk the Line*, *3:10 to Yuma*, *The Wolverine*, *Girl, Interrupted* and *Logan*, which he also wrote. He received an Oscar nomination for his screenplay for *Logan*. — PTI

### Keating and wife expecting 2nd child

London: Singer Ronan Keating has revealed that he and wife Storm are set to welcome their second child. The couple is already parent to two-year-old son Cooper. "Storm and I are having a baby! It's really exciting. She's feeling great," Keating told his Magic Radio Breakfast Show co-host Harriet Scott. Storm made the announcement on Instagram. "Another little Keating on the way," the 38-year-old captioned the image. The singer and Storm have been married since August 2015 and welcomed a son in April 2017. — PTI

### Australian Kangaroo killer avoids jail

Sydney: An Australian man, who deliberately mowed down at least 20 kangaroos with a truck, avoided jail on Tuesday after pleading guilty to animal cruelty, local media reported. The dead animals, including two joeys, were found littered over roads in the far south-east of the country in September. Bega District News reported that Nathan Sanger, 20, appeared in a local court Tuesday, where he admitted his role in the killing spree, which lasted an hour and sparked widespread outrage. — AFP



### LOPEZ TO RECEIVE SPOTLIGHT AWARD FOR HUSTLERS

Los Angeles: Jennifer Lopez will be honoured with the Spotlight Award at the 31st annual Palm Springs International Film Festival. According to Variety, the actor-singer will be honoured for her film *Hustlers* during the January 2 ceremony. "Jennifer Lopez is a star in every sense of the word and you will experience this in her latest film *Hustlers*. Starting with her show-stopping entrance, Jennifer brings to life the character of Ramona, an exotic dancer, who leads a group of dancer friends to steal money from their clients. "For this full-force yet grounded performance, deserving of awards consideration, we are thrilled to present Jennifer Lopez with this year's Spotlight Award," festival chairman Harold Matzner said in a statement. Past honourees include actors Julia Roberts, Timothee Chalamet, Amy Adams, Jessica Chastain and Rooney Mara. *Hustlers*, directed by Lorene Scafaria, has minted over USD 150 million since its September release. — PTI

## Cartoonist Sudhir Dar, known for his wit, passes away at 87

Dar's cartoons appeared in New York Times & Washington Post

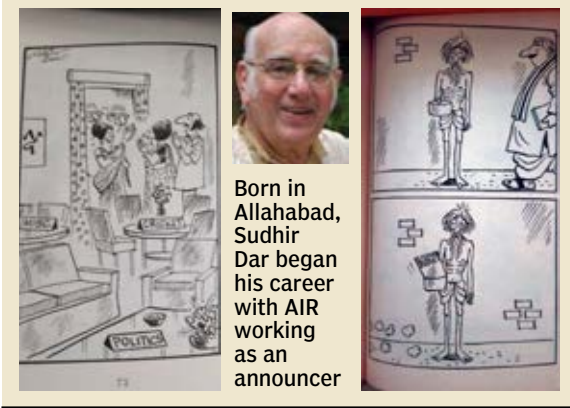
Renowned cartoonist Sudhir Dar, whose works graced several newspapers in a career spanning 58 years, died on Tuesday morning after suffering a cardiac arrest, his family members said.

He was 87 and lived in Gurgaon, a suburb of capital Delhi, where he shifted a few years ago.

Born in Allahabad (now Prayagraj), Dar began his career with All India Radio, working as an announcer.

While still in the AIR, he drew a sketch of *The Statesman's* editor during a radio talk and that led to the editor offering him a job as a cartoonist in *The Statesman* in 1961 where he used to draw a pocket cartoon titled *Out of My Mind*.

After that, he moved to the *Hindustan Times* to work as a political cartoonist, from 1967 for over



Born in Allahabad, Sudhir Dar began his career with AIR working as an announcer

two decades.

Dar's *This is It*, a pocket cartoon, appeared regularly on the front page.

He has also worked in *The Pioneer*, *The Independent* and *Delhi Times* and in 2000, he finally started working as a freelancer.

He also added another feather to his cap when

his cartoons appeared in the *New York Times*, *Washington Post* and *Saturday Review*, as well as *Mad* magazine, which called him a "Tasty Indian Nut".

Though Dhar was a political cartoonist, he refrained from satirising specific politicians, but took digs at more general

subjects like corruption, bureaucracy. According to Wikipedia, cartoonist Rajinder Puri also said, "Dar was never by inclination a political cartoonist. He is not a political animal."

"His attitude to politics is somewhat akin to what I imagine would have been the attitude of Bertie Wooster. Dar's forte was humour. Pure humour of the zany kind."

Among other feats, he has also illustrated diaries for the ministries of tourism, external affairs, Jammu & Kashmir and drawn calendars for the World Bank for 20 years.

Dar's cartoons, his wit and skill, will be thoroughly missed by people across the country. For his readers, he will continue to live on through his work, and in their hearts. — Agencies

## 9-foot high, 800 kg 'tallest' Gandhi statue outside India inaugurated



A new statue of Mahatma Gandhi, described as a gift to the UK city of Manchester, was unveiled amid fanfare in Manchester on Friday. The 9-foot high, 800 kg bronze statue, created by well-known Indian artist Ram V. Sutar, marks one of the tallest sculptures of the

Father of the Nation outside India. The statue marks the 150th anniversary of Gandhi's birth in 1869. It is also intended to celebrate Manchester's "multi-cultural and multi-faith" society. Gandhi had visited Manchester on his way to see mill workers in Lancashire in 1931. — PTI

## Emmy '19: Nawaz's McMafia best drama series, Lust Stories misses

New York: Nawazuddin Siddiqui-starrer *McMafia* has won the best drama series award at the 47th International Emmy Awards.

Soon after the win, the actor took to social media to express gratitude for the win.

"It's a pure delight to be receiving the beautiful winner trophy at the International Emmy Awards Gala in New York with one of my favourite director James Watkins for our work #McMafia Congratulations @jginorton #DavidStrathairn @oshricohen #MerabNindzi & the Team #McMafia @iemmys @bbc #bestdramaseries," Nawaz captioned his photograph with the show's team.

In 2018, Nawazuddin Siddiqui made his debut in the international TV show titled *McMafia*.

The 45-year-old actor played Indian businessman Dilly Mahmood in *McMafia*.

*McMafia*, produced by Cuba Pictures, revolves around Alex Godman (James Norton) a well-educated hedge-fund manager stuck with his Russian mafia family.

The show is inspired by the 2009 non-fiction book of the same name by journalist Misha Glenny.

Bollywood actress Radhika Apte also received "nomination medal" for the International Emmy Awards. The 34-year-old



Executive producer/director/writer James Watkins (left), actor Nawazuddin Siddiqui and executive producer Dixie Linder pose with the best drama series award for *McMafia* during the 47th International Emmy Awards gala in New York on Monday. Radhika Apte (right) arrives at the gala. — AP

Indian contingent included the teams of Netflix anthology *Lust Stories*, Netflix show *Sacred Games*, *The Remix* and *Witness: India's Forbidden Love*

actress was nominated for the "Best Actress in a Drama Series" for her role in Netflix's *Lust Stories*.

The Indian contingent at the International Emmys included the

teams of Netflix anthology *Lust Stories* (best TV movie/mini-series) (best actress for Radhika Apte), Netflix show *Sacred Games* (best drama series), *The Remix* (best non-scripted entertainment) and *Witness: India's Forbidden Love* (best documentary). Also present at the event were filmmakers Anurag Kashyap, Vikramaditya Motwane, Zoya Akhtar, Dibakar Banerjee, Karan Johar, producer Ronnie Screwvala, actors Radhika Apte and Kubbra Sait. — PTI



## Dead deer found with 7 kg plastic in stomach

Bangkok: A wild deer was found dead after swallowing 7 kilograms (15 pounds) of plastic bags and other trash in Thailand, an official said Tuesday, raising the alarm on waste littering the country's waters and forests.

The Southeast Asian country is one of the world's largest consumers of plastic with Thais using up to 3,000 single-use plastic bags each per year, whether for wrapping street food, takeaway coffee or packing groceries.

Marine animals like turtles and dugongs have died

in its waste-choked waters and autopsies have found that plastic in the stomach lining contributed to their deaths.

Now, the scourge of plastic waste is affecting Thailand's animals on land.

Officials said a 10-year-old deer was found dead in a national park in Nan province, around 630 kilometres (390 miles) north of capital Bangkok.

An autopsy discovered "plastic bags in the stomach, which is one of the causes of his death," said Kriangsak Thanompun, director of the protected region in the Khun Sathan

National Park. The bags contained coffee grounds, instant noodle packaging, garbage bags, towels and also underwear, according to photos provided by the national park.

The discovery of the deer comes months after a sick baby dugong won hearts in Thailand as she fought for recovery, only to pass away from an infection exacerbated by plastic bits lining her stomach. The demise of Mariam in August was widely mourned on social media, reviving public debate on Thailand's urgent need to tackle its plastic addiction. — AFP

## NEWS NUGGETS

### THE CHAINSMOKERS SET TO PRODUCE MUSIC DRAMA

Los Angeles: The Chainsmokers are set to serve as executive producers on drama series in development at Freeform. The series is titled *Demo* and follows a musician at 20s, who decides to leave behind her struggling indie rock band and her family to try writing pop songs in L.A. "At first she is eager to shed her past, she soon discovers that best songs tell the deepest truths, if only she can find the strength to tell hers," the plotline read. — PTI

### BILLIE EILISH TO GET BILLBOARD'S WOMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD

Los Angeles: Singer Billie Eilish will be honoured as Billboard's 2019 Woman of the Year on December 12.

According to the Hollywood Reporter, Taylor Swift will also be honoured at Billboard's event, receiving the

### WITTROCK JOINS AFFLECK-STARRER DEEP WATER

Los Angeles: Actor Finn Wittrock has been roped in to feature in erotic thriller *Deep Water*, starring Ben Affleck and Ana de Armas. The details of the role to be played by Wittrock, who recently starred in Oscar hopeful *Judy*, a biopic on the screen legend, are currently unknown, reported Deadline. Adrian Lyne is directing the thriller. Zach Helm and Sam Levinson have penned the script. — PTI

inaugural Woman of the Decade award. "Billie has disrupted the entertainment industry through her music and social media platforms, leaving an indelible impact on the global cultural zeitgeist. Her ability to speak to the Gen-Z population, making young adults feel accepted in today's society has quickly allowed her to be at the top of the charts. — PTI

## Hunt continues for suspects in Germany jewellery heist

Berlin: The police in Germany were Tuesday hunting robbers, who snatched priceless 18th-century jewellery from a state museum in Dresden in what local media have called the biggest art heist in modern history.

Authorities across eastern Germany have been put on alert after thieves made off with treasures from the Green Vault at Dresden's Royal Palace in an astonishing smash-and-grab raid early Monday morning.

Police called on witnesses to step forward and released images of the stolen items, which were taken from a collection of jewellery of 18th-century Saxony



Order of White Eagle breast star



Palmette-shaped trinket

ruler Augustus the Strong and which experts say may never be recovered. The images included a sword

whose hilt was encrusted with nine large and 770 smaller diamonds, and a diamond bow decorated with 662 brilliants. Yet

## Scientists record blue whale's heartbeat

Boston: Scientists have recorded the heart rate of the blue whale for the first time and revealed surprising operating extremes of the heart that may limit the size of the largest animal on the Earth.

The researchers from the Stanford University in the US used four suction cups that secured a sensor-packed tag near the whale's left flipper, where it recorded the animal's heart rate through electrodes embedded in the centre of two of the

suction feet. "We had no idea that this would work and we were skeptical even when we saw the initial data. There were a lot of high fives and victory laps around the lab," said Jeremy Goldbogen, an assistant professor at Stanford and lead author of the research paper published in the journal PNAS.

Analysis of the data suggests that a blue whale's heart is already working at its limit, which may explain, why blue whales have never

evolved to be bigger, the researchers said. The data also suggest that some unusual features of the whale's heart might help it perform at these extremes. Studies like this add to our fundamental knowledge of biology and can also inform conservation efforts, they said. "Animals that are operating at physiological extremes can help us understand biological limits to size," Goldbogen said in a statement. — PTI



Michael Thomas, a federal jail guard responsible for monitoring Jeffrey Epstein the night he killed himself, leaves federal court in New York on Monday. He faces charges for falsifying prison records in the hours surrounding Epstein's death. — AP





## SPORT | Cricket

England to rally around Archer after racial abuse

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## SPORT | Basketball

Oklahoma rally past Warriors for first away win

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### GUIDE TO FORTUNE

Tick the answer and check them below.

**1** In which century did science fiction become a major type of writing?

- 17th
- 19th
- 20th

**2** Which of these is not part of the Vedas?

- Aranyakas
- Dhammapada
- Brahmanas

**3** Which of these literary movements was concerned with clear, direct expression?

- Surrealism
- Dadaism
- Imagism

### SHORT TAKES

## Man found hanging from tree in Rohini

**New Delhi:** A man was on Tuesday found hanging from a tree in a park in sector 20 of Rohini, police said. Prima facie, it appears to be a case of suicide, they said. The man aged, around 30 years, who has not yet been identified yet was found hanging with a plastic wire. "Acting on the call ERV was dispatched for the spot. The man who has not yet been identified yet and he was found hanging with a plastic wire and no external injury marks were found on his body," said the senior police official. "Efforts are being made to identify him. Body has been kept at the mortuary. A case under relevant sections has been registered at Aman Vihar police station. The police teams are also scanning CCTV cameras and further investigation is going on."

## 20-yr-old man held for burning waste

**Noida:** A man was arrested here on Tuesday for allegedly causing air pollution by burning waste material, police said. The accused has been identified as Mohammad Qasim, they said. A resident of a JJ cluster, Qasim was burning waste, including plastic, in Sector 14 here. He was arrested by a police team from Sector 20 station, the police said. Qasim had collected the waste and set it on fire, leading to dense smoke rising in the atmosphere, contributing to air pollution, said station house officer, Sector 20 police station, Rajveer Singh Chauhan. He said the action was taken in compliance with various orders issued by the Supreme Court, the Uttar Pradesh government and the Central Pollution Control Board to curb pollution.

— PTI

## 82 boxes of illicit liquor seized

**New Delhi:** In two separate incidents, the Delhi police arrested three bootleggers in the national capital. In the first incident, a PCR unit arrested two bootleggers from Samaypur Badli area on the intervening night of Monday and Tuesday. "The accused was identified as Rahul (20), a resident of Samaypur, and Akash (22), a resident of Sanjay Colony," said DCP (PCR) Sharat Kumar Sinha. "A case under Sections 33, 38, and 58 of the Delhi Excise Act 2009 was registered at the Samaypur Badli police station," he added. In another incident, a bootlegger was arrested from North Delhi's Burari area. "The accused, identified as Praveen, was carrying 30 boxes containing 1,484 quarters of illicit liquor in his car," said a senior police official.

THE ANSWER TO TODAY'S GUIDE TO FORTUNE

- Imagism
- Dhammapada
- 20th



Divyangs block a road during a protest against the invalidation of railway examination results near Mandi House in New Delhi on Tuesday. —BUNNY SMITH

## JNU panel recommends 50% rollback of fees for students

AGE CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI, NOV. 26

A high-level committee (HLC) set up by the JNU administration has recommended that concession in utility and service charges be given to all university students and not only to those below poverty line. The committee submitted its report to the university administration on Monday, a JNU official statement said. The formation of the committee had been slammed by the JNU Teachers' Association and JNUSU. The panel recommendations have been approved by the executive council (EC) through circulation, the statement said. Three members of the EC, however, said they were never consulted on the panel's recommendations.

The committee scrutinised the estimated utility

► **The committee recommended 75% reduction in the utility and service charges for all eligible BPL students, who would be charged ₹500 in place of ₹2,000 per month**

and service charges in the hostels, which is ₹2,000 per month, including electricity and water charges of ₹300 a month. The panel has recommended that ₹1,000 may be charged per month in place of ₹2,000 towards utility and service charges for all the students, the varsity said. The committee has also recommended 75 per cent reduction in the utility and service charges for all eligible BPL students, who

would be charged ₹500 in place of ₹2,000 per month.

The HLC has recommended that the revised hostel manual, as approved by the EC in its 283rd meeting held on November 13, be implemented from January 2020.

The statement said that the committee has made significant recommendations that would benefit all the students in the university.

In a statement, Sachidanand Sinha, Moushumi Basu, and Baviskar Sharad Pralhad said: "As the three elected representatives of the executive council, we would like to put on record that none of us were ever approached either through mail or phone for approval of the HLC recommendations as claimed in the press release issued by the registrar."

## Ambience Mall's GM duped of ₹1.85 lakh in cyber fraud

**Gurgaon, Nov. 26:** Ambience Mall's general manager was duped of ₹1.85 lakh allegedly by a man who posed as a Paytm employee, police said on Tuesday. Arvind Kapoor was contacted by the accused a few days ago and informed him that his Paytm account will not work if its KYC was not updated soon, they said.

"I received a random call a few days ago from a person who posed himself as an employee of Paytm. He said the KYC of my Paytm account is not updated and hence I would not do any transaction," Mr Kapoor said. "After completing the procedures of updating KYC, the caller asked me to check whether KYC was updated. I made three transactions of ₹1, 10 and 1 to check my OBC saving account and two credit cards enclosed with Paytm. I received 3 OTPs

► **Arvind Kapoor was contacted by the accused a few days ago and informed him that his Paytm account will not work if its KYC was not updated soon**

on my phone and within a few seconds, there were of withdrawals to the tune of ₹1.85 lakh," he added.

"Our cyber cell has conducted a preliminary investigation and found that the claim of Mr Kapoor was true. Subsequently, an FIR has been registered against an unknown person under the IT act. Officials are trying to locate IP address of the accused to crack the case," said Preet Pal Singh, assistant commissioner of police crime, Gurgaon Police.

— PTI

## HC to check if cops still use Urdu and Persian

**New Delhi, Nov. 26:** The Delhi High Court has called for 100 FIR copies to ascertain whether a recent police circular to its stations to stop the use of 383 urdu or persian words while registering complaints was being complied with, saying FIR "should be in a simple language".

A bench of chief justice D.N. Patel and justice C. Hari Shankar said on Monday that the police ought to stop using urdu and persian words, which were being "mechanically" used, while registering FIRs public at large may not be able to understand such terms.

The court further said that FIRs are read out in court time and again and therefore "it should be in

► **The direction came after police told the bench that it had on Nov. 20 issued a circular to all of its stations to use simple words instead of urdu and persian terms while registering FIRs**

a simple language or in the language of the person who approached the police for lodging of FIR".

The direction and observations came after Delhi Police told the bench that it had on November 20 issued a circular to all of its stations to use simple

words instead of urdu and persian terms while registering FIRs.

It placed before the bench a list of 383 urdu/persian words which were not to be used any longer.

The list and circular was placed before the court in response to its direction to the police to explain why urdu or persian terms are used in a FIR when the same are not used by the complainant.

The direction had come on a PIL by advocate Vishalakshi Goel, seeking directions to police not to use urdu and persian words in the FIRs.

Taking note of the list and circular placed before it, the court said: FIR should be in the sim-

plest language possible. It should be in the words of the person lodging the FIR. There is no need for police to show their knowledge of urdu and persian words and these words should not be used by them mechanically without knowing their exact meaning," it added.

The court further said that since public at large may not be able to understand the urdu or persian words, "therefore, with every copy of the FIR, the list is required to be supplied to a person seeking a copy of the FIR so that he/she can himself/herself see the translated version of the urdu and persian words used in the FIR and understand the contents of the FIR".

— PTI

## CBI to probe alleged street lights scam involving AAP

AGE CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI, NOV. 26

The CBI is set to initiate a preliminary enquiry (PE) to probe the alleged irregularities in the procurement of 2.1 lakh LED street lights by the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government in Delhi.

Sources said, "A PE is likely to be registered by the CBI to probe the allegations in a day or two."

A delegation of Delhi BJP leaders led by the Leader of the Opposition in the Delhi Assembly, Vijender Gupta, recently met CBI director Rishi Kumar Shukla in this regard and demanded an investigation into the alleged scam that they claimed was led by chief minister Arvind Kejriwal and it was worth ₹100 crore.

The alleged scam is about procurement and distribution of LED lights for their installation in dark spots of the national capital.

The BJP claimed that the distribution work of the LED lights should have been done by local bodies but the Kejriwal government got private organisations, like the Delhi electricity distribution company BSES, involved in it.

The BJP also alleged that officers of the Delhi government were of the opinion that the work should be given to municipal corporations, but it was denied and the government opted for illegal means.

► **The government, led by PM Narendra Modi, however, excluded 69 affluent neighbourhoods and those built on forest land from its decision to regularise unauthorised colonies**

The bill will grant ownership rights to the unauthorised colonies spread over 175 sq. km of the national capital which is inhabited by people from lower income groups.

Among the affluent colonies excluded from the regularisation process in the bill are Sainik Farms, Freedom Fighters Enclave, Neb Sarai area, Chattarpur Enclave, Anant Ram Dairy, Shanti Kunj, Mahendru Enclave, and Sultan Apartment.

The decision to regu-

► **The bill will grant ownership rights to the unauthorised colonies spread over 175 sq. km of the national capital which is inhabited by people from lower income groups**

larise unauthorised colonies is politically significant as it will benefit millions of poor migrants who hold the key to the Assembly election due early next year and had backed AAP in large numbers in the 2015 Delhi polls.

Both the BJP and AAP have been working to woo voters and the authorisation of these colonies is a key poll promise.

The AAP had targeted the Central government over the delay in introduc-

ing the bill in the House.

AAP leaders observed 'Dhoka Diwas' across the national capital last week as they held protests against BJP's "false promise" of regularising unauthorised colonies.

Terming the promise of regularising unauthorised colonies an "election gimmick," the party leaders visited the unauthorised colonies in the national capital and spoke to the residents on the issue.

AAP has already instructed its legislators to put up boards and hoardings thanking chief minister Arvind Kejriwal for this public welfare measure. The move is likely to be a game changer and help AAP retain a majority of seats in the 70-member Delhi Assembly.



People participate in Fit India movement to mark Anti-Obesity Day in New Delhi on Tuesday. — BIPLAB BANERJEE

## BJP shortlists 28 municipal councillors for Assembly polls

SHASHI BHUSHAN  
NEW DELHI, NOV. 26

The BJP leadership has shortlisted the names of 28 sitting municipal councillors for consideration of party ticket to contest the upcoming Assembly elections in the national capital.

The names of the municipal councillors were shortlisted on the basis of the points they scored on several parameters set by the party leadership.

A party leader aware of the development told this newspaper that councilors would also be considered for the party tickets, which they were outrightly denied in the 2008 Assembly polls.

"Right now, based on different parameters, the leadership has identified 28 sitting councillors from the BJP-ruled three municipal corporations.

► **The names of the municipal councillors were shortlisted on the basis of the points they scored on several parameters set by the party leadership**

Along with other names, these shortlisted names of councilors will also be discussed while finalising the candidates," he added.

The Delhi Assembly poll is scheduled early next year. The names of these 28 sitting councillors are shortlisted on the basis of their works on ground, transparency in their work, accessibilities, and popularity amidst voters among others.

"While assessing the performance of the councilors based on different

parameters, the leadership has shortlisted 28 names that scored maximum points and these will be forwarded to the party's central election committee for consideration of the state elections," said another party leader.

Interestingly, these 28 councilors represent 13 of the 70 Assembly seats in the city.

The leader said, "In some Assembly seats, there is one councillor and in others there are names of two or three councilors who were shortlisted based on different parameters."

In the 2008 Assembly election, BJP had made a policy not to field any of its sitting councilors.

In the 2013 Delhi Assembly polls, the party gave tickets to a handful of councilors and about half-a-dozen had won.

## Need Malvinder to confront witnesses: ED tells court

**New Delhi, Nov. 26:** The ED told the Delhi High Court Tuesday it required further custodial interrogation of former Fortis Healthcare promoter Malvinder Singh and another co-accused to confront them with voluminous documents and several witnesses in a money laundering case related to alleged misappropriation of funds at Religare Fivest Ltd (RFL).

Justice Chander Shekhar heard part arguments of counsel for the Enforcement Directorate (ED) and the accused and listed the case for further hearing on Wednesday.

The court asked the counsel for Malvinder and Sunil Godhwani, former

CMD of Religare Enterprises Ltd (REL), to file by Wednesday morning their responses to the ED's plea. RFL is a group firm of REL, which was earlier promoted by Malvinder and his brother Shivinder Singh brothers. The ED said it had secured their 9-day custody in two spells and can avail a maximum period of 15 days to keep the accused in its custody for interrogation.

"Two directors of some companies have been called for interrogation for next four days so that they can be confronted with these two accused," central government's standing counsel Amit Mahajan said.

— PTI





## 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

### WI coach in awe of India's pace attack

**Lucknow:** West Indies head coach Phil Simmons, who is impressed with India's pace attack said that the latter makes world cricket exciting. "I can't say how long ago, but when I first came here, you would have Madan Lal opening the bowling. Now you have guys bowling at 90 miles per hour opening and your premier fast bowler (Jasprit Bumrah) was injured for this Test, so you still have him to come back. It's exciting for world cricket." *ESPNCricinfo* quoted Simmons as saying. Indian fast bowlers were at their devastating best during their recent two-match Test series against Bangladesh. The pace attack, which consists of Ishant Sharma, Mohd. Shami and Umesh Yadav, picked 19 wickets in the second Test match, with one Bangladeshi batsman being retired hurt. To overpower Men in Blue, having proper fast bowlers and spinners is a must, according to Simmons. "Teams know now that you have to play properly on both sides — you have to have proper fast bowlers and proper spinners to beat India. Fast bowling from anybody is exciting, so it's great to see that happen." — Agencies

### Now, a stand in Gambhir's name

**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. — PTI

# 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 to PTI.

"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 wicketkeeper-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 wicketkeepers 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 batsman 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 paceman 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 hope 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 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.**

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.

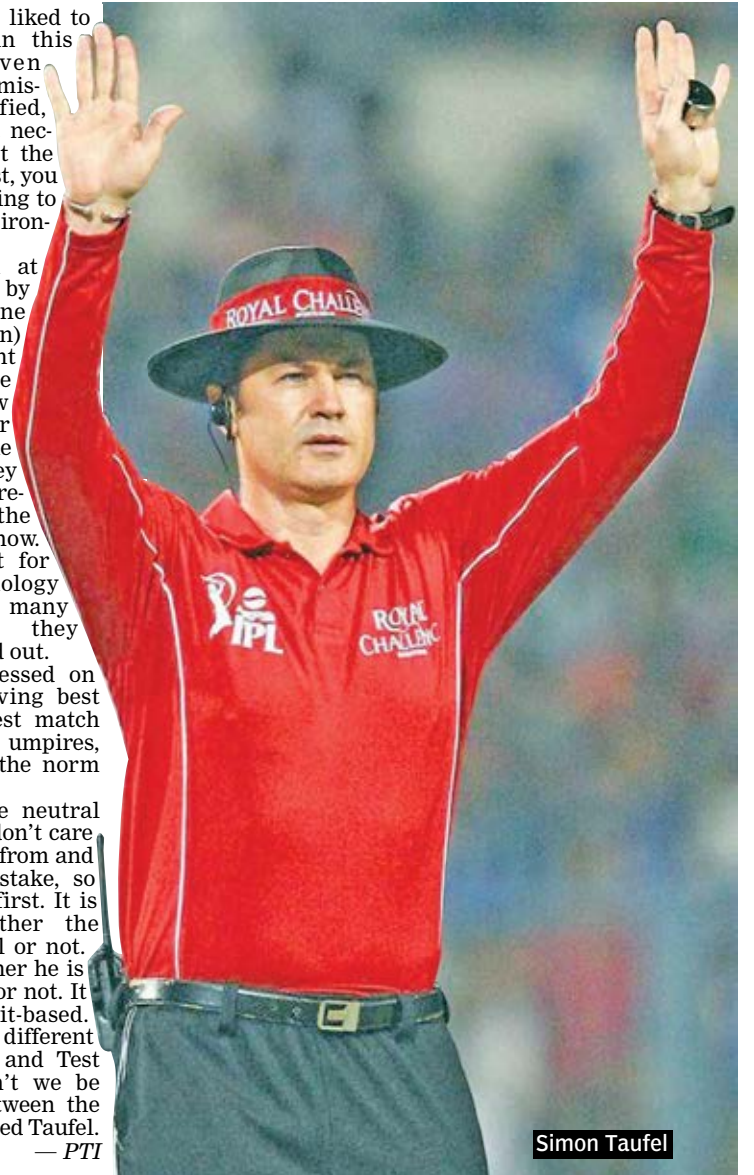
In the past, Taufel has spoken about the extreme challenges of umpiring, maintaining that the art cannot be perfected. Asked

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





## 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

THE ASIAN AGE

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# Games

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

— Yuri Ganos, Russia's anti-doping chief, on WADA's proposal

## SHORT TAKES



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 "Sieg 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.

The country's Eredivisie and second-tier First Division also displayed the message "Racism? Then we won't play" on all screens and boards in stadiums after Excelsior forward Ahmad Mendes Moreira was abused by fans on Nov. 17.

Van Basten was a striker for Ajax and AC Milan and was one of the stars of the Netherlands team that won the European Championship in 1988.

After his playing career, he coached the Netherlands and other teams and was a senior official at FIFA. — Agencies

## TAEKWONDO TEAM MAY PLAY IN SAG

**New Delhi:** India's taekwondo team may be able to compete in the South Asian Games (SAG) in Kathmandu next month after the International Olympic Committee on Tuesday asked the organisers to allow its participation in the regional multi-sporting event.

The Nepal Olympic Committee on November 23 had rejected India's entry in archery, taekwondo and karate as the national governing bodies of these sports were either suspended by the world body or not recognised by their National Olympic Committee.

But the World Taekwondo (WT), the international body of the sport, had asked the organisers to allow the Indian team to take part in the South Asian Games under a special consideration. "It is true that Taekwondo Federation of India (TFI) was suspended by WT due to governance issue.

However, the Interim Board formed by IOA and WT is managing daily operations and takes care of selection of athletes to participate in all WT promoted or recognised competitions." WT's Senior Director Jeongkang Seo had said in a letter to the organisers.

"In particular, WT has been fully supporting the selection process of the Interim Board for participation in SAG, as athletes have never been suspended from participation in international sport event," Seo said in a letter. — PTI

# 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

## MODI | BADMINTON

## Rituparna, Tanvi make main draw

**Lucknow, Nov. 26:** Indian shuttlers Tanvi Lad and Rituparna Das qualified for the women's singles main draw of the Syed Modi International Badminton tournament here on Tuesday.

While Tanvi defeated compatriot Prashi Joshi 19-21, 21-18, 21-8 in the qualifiers, Rituparna got the better of Shikha Gautam 21-10, 21-12.

Tanvi will face Russia's Natalia Perminova in the opening round, while Rituparna will be up against Yip Pui Yin of Hong Kong.

Other women Indian shuttlers to progress to the main draw of the women's singles event are young Assamese girl Ashmita Chaliha and Shruti Mundada.

Ashmita defeated Aakarshi Kashyap 21-13 21-18, while Shruti beat Ritika Thaker 21-19, 21-13.

Among the men's singles shuttlers to make the main draw are Rahul Yadav Chittaboina, Alap Mishra, Ansal Yadav and Huang Ping-Hsien of Chinese Taipei. — PTI

● **Tanvi Lad defeated compatriot Prashi Joshi 19-21, 21-18, 21-8 in the qualifiers, while Rituparna Das got the better of Shikha Gautam 21-10, 21-12 to make the main event.**

## RUSSIAN | DOPING

# WADA wants four-year ban

**Montreal, Nov. 26:** A key World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) panel has recommended Russia be barred from all sporting competition for four years after accusing Moscow of falsifying laboratory data handed over to investigators, the global anti-doping watchdog said on Monday.

In a bombshell statement, WADA's Compliance Review Committee (CRC) 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 WADA committee has also recommended Russia be barred from staging or bidding for major international sporting events for a four-year period — potentially placing Saint Petersburg's status as one of the venues for the Euro 2020 football tournament in jeopardy.

If the sanctions are approved by WADA's Executive Committee, Russia can appeal the decision to the Court of Arbitration for Sport.

The proposed punishments followed what WADA investigators described as "an extremely serious" case of non-compliance "with several aggravating features."

The recommended four-year ban comes after WADA investigators examined data from Russia's doping-tainted Moscow laboratory, which was handed over to WADA in January.

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

● **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 dripped false entries into the system as part of an extortion plot. — 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 Yuri Ganos said: "That's the reality."

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

doping crisis," Ganos 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. — AFP

# Russia to compete under neutral flag

**Montreal, Nov. 26:** Russian athletes will have a chance to compete at next year's Olympics, but their flag would not fly in Tokyo if the World Anti-Doping Agency approves a recommendation it received Monday.

The WADA compliance review committee proposed a four-year ban on Russia hosting major events but stopped short of asking for the blanket ban on Russian athletes that is among the possible sanctions for the most egregious violations.

The WADA executive committee will rule on the recommendations December 9.

The proposal follows a lengthy investigation into lab data handed over by Russia in January. Giving the data to WADA was part of a deal to lift a suspension of the Russian anti-doping agency, and the data was supposed to be used to expose past cover-ups of drug use by Russian athletes.

But in a damning admission, WADA said the Russians were tampering with the data as late as January 2019 — days before they handed over the data that had originally been due on Dec. 31, 2018.

Among the alterations, 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.

● **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."**

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

## Andy recalls Dunblane 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.

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. — AFP

# 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

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

Punjab," her coach and 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," Patil said.

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," she 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

## INDIA'S VOLLEYBALL TEAM SET TO LEAVE FOR SOUTH ASIAN GAMES

**Chennai, Nov. 26:** The Indian volleyball teams will leave on Wednesday for Kathmandu to participate in the South Asian Games amid reports of a delay due to various issues, sources in the federation said.

The volleyball competition in the SAG (formerly South Asian Federation Games) gets underway on November 27, while the opening ceremony is scheduled for December 1.

Both the men's and women's teams open their campaign on November 28, against Bangladesh and Nepal

respectively.

Meanwhile, there were reports of the team's departure being delayed owing to various reasons.

However, a source denied the reports and the federation is making all efforts to ensure the teams leave for the Nepal capital on Wednesday.

He alleged there were some delays with regard to procurement of tickets and kits, but said the federation has taken steps to sort them out and taken it up with the Indian Olympic Association. — PTI





## Ill health

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

# Games

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THE ASIAN AGE

WEDNESDAY | 27 NOVEMBER 2019 | NEW DELHI

## CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

# Eyes on Ancelotti in Liverpool clash

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 came 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

# Sindhu, Tai Tzu soar with top price

## Satwik top 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

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

Benagluru 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 Sugianto, 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, Krishna Garaga, Tanongsak.

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

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

## 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 big, Anand runs out of steam and 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

## 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 BRONZE 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 Ankita 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. Top seeds Abhishek Verma, Rajat Chauhan and Mohan Bharadwaj prevailed over Iran 229-221 to set up a gold medal clash against second seed Korea in the compound men's team event. Jyothi Surekha Vennam, Muskan Kirar and Priya Gurjar matched their male counterparts and beat Iran 227-221 to storm into compound women's team final, where they will be up against top seed Korea. — PTI