



US serious

US asks the Chinese government to immediately release all those who are arbitrarily detained and to end its draconian policies that have terrorised its own citizens in Xinjiang

DECCAN CHRONICLE

THURSDAY | 28 NOVEMBER 2019 | HYDERABAD

World

PAGE
9



German role in Nato more vital now than during Cold War

— Angela Merkel
German Chancellor

IN BRIEF

Albania rescuers look for survivors

Durres: Stopping at intervals to listen for the sounds of survivors, local and international rescue crews searched through the rubble of collapsed buildings on Wednesday, a day after a deadly earthquake in Albania killed at least 25 people. Overnight, authorities said four more people had been confirmed dead, raising the death toll to 25, while more than 600 people were injured in the magnitude-6.4 quake that struck the country's coastal cities. In Durres, Albania's second largest city, on the Adriatic Sea, residents slept in tents and cars and at a soccer stadium as powerful aftershocks from the earthquake continued.

Stick to the facts, UK politicians told

London: Trade policy experts are warning UK politicians campaigning in next month's election that they are promising unattainable trade benefits and setting "arbitrary deadlines" for sealing a deal with the European Union after Brexit. A dozen signatories to a letter published in the *Daily Telegraph* on Wednesday urged leaders to supplant rhetoric with fact-based discussions about Britain's future outside the EU trading bloc, or risk deals the public won't support. The letter says, "Engines are being revved towards striking new (free trade agreements) by arbitrary deadlines with little sense of what we actually want to achieve."

Protests, a US conspiracy: Iran

Dubai: Iran's supreme leader on Wednesday claimed without evidence that recent protests across the Islamic Republic over government-set gasoline prices rising were part of a "conspiracy" involving the US, as authorities began to acknowledge the scale of the demonstrations. Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei made the comment while addressing members of the Revolutionary Guard's all-volunteer Basij force, which help put down the demonstrations. Meanwhile, one lawmaker said that authorities arrested more than 7,000 people over the protests while a security official claimed demonstrators attempted to take over Iranian state television. Iran's government still hasn't offered any statistics on injuries, arrests or deaths in the protests and security crackdown that followed government-set gasoline prices rising Nov. 15. Amnesty International says it believes the violence killed at least 143 people, something Iran disputes.

VICTIMS' BODIES SENT BACK TO VIETNAM

Dien Chau, Nov. 27: The bodies of 16 of the 39 Vietnamese who died when human traffickers carried them by truck to England last month were repatriated to their homeland on Wednesday and have been taken to their families. The bodies arrived on a flight that landed in Hanoi, Vietnam's capital. The photos of ambulances that transported the bodies to their home provinces south of Hanoi were published. The bodies were found on Oct. 23 in the English town of Grays, east of London. Police say the victims were aged between 15 and 44. The 31 men and eight women are believed to have paid human traffickers for their clandestine transit into England. Several suspects have been arrested in the UK and Vietnam. The victims' families expressed their sadness ahead of receiving the bodies of their loved one.

US panel invites Trump

House judiciary panel invites US Prez to Dec. 4 impeachment hearing

Trump lashes out against impeachment in rally

Florida, Nov. 27: Prompting a profane chant. Describing his own speeches as "ranting and raving." Advising the governor of Florida to not always wear a jacket so people know he's not fat. Now a Florida man, President Donald Trump held what his campaign dubbed a "homecoming rally" near Miami, continuing to lash out at the ongoing impeachment inquiry in a state that will be crucial to his 2020 reelection bid.

The rally was Trump's first in the state since he officially changed his residency last month from Trump Tower in New York to his Mar-a-Lago club in Palm Beach. He received a



Donald Trump

warm welcome from the roaring crowd at an arena in Sunrise.

"Welcome home to Florida," the state's Republican governor, Ron DeSantis, said. Trump spent much of his rally railing against Democrats, accusing them of "trying to rip our nation

apart" with investigations.

"First it was the Russia hoax," Trump said, "and now the same maniacs are pushing the deranged impeachment" narrative. He insisted yet again that he had done nothing wrong in his dealings with Ukraine and argued anew that Democrats are only trying to take him down because "they know that they cannot win the next election." He insisted that voters aren't being persuaded — despite polling to the contrary — and tried to assure his audience that "we won these last two weeks so solidly," despite damning public testimony and unflattering press reports. — AP

the hearing, and to indicate by then who would be his counsel. Representative Jerrold Nadler, the

Judiciary Committee's Democratic chairman, told Trump in a letter that he was reminding the

Colombians take to the streets



Students protest for Dilan Cruz, a young demonstrator who had been wounded by a member of the Mobile Anti-Disturbance Squadron during a protest against the Colombian government and died in Medellin, Colombia. — AFP

INDIAN-AMERICAN ANIL RAJ KILLED IN TERRORIST ATTACK

Washington, Nov. 27: Indian-American Anil Raj was killed in a terrorist attack in Kabul, US secretary of state Mike Pompeo said.

I want to confirm with a heavy heart that a United States citizen, Anil Raj of California, was killed in a terrorist attack on a UN vehicle in Kabul on November 24. There were five other civilians who were injured, including staff, Pompeo told reporters at a news conference here. We extend our condolences to the family and friends of the victim following this tragic incident and send our best wishes for a speedy recovery for those who were injured, he said.



Anil Raj

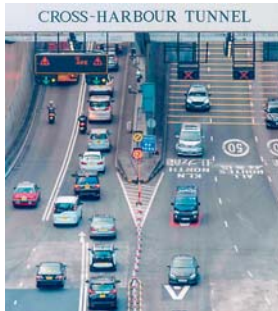
Attacks targeting UN personnel working to help the Afghan people are unconscionable, and we condemn this act in the strongest possible terms, Pompeo said. No organisation had taken responsibility for the attack. The Taliban and the Islamic State are active and have repeatedly targeted people. — PTI

Hong Kong reopens tunnel

Hong Kong, Nov. 27: A major tunnel in Hong Kong reopened on Wednesday morning and a weeklong police siege of a nearby university appeared to be winding down, closing one of the more violent chapters in the city's long-running anti-government protests.

The Cross-Harbour Tunnel, which links Hong Kong Island to the rest of the city, had been closed for two weeks after protesters blocked the approach with tons of debris and set the toll booths on fire.

A search of the Hong Kong Polytechnic campus the previous day found just one woman, in weak condition, and a senior university official said it's unlikely anyone else remains.



The Cross Harbour Tunnel in Hong Kong. — AFP

A few people might still be hiding in the warren of buildings on the urban campus, trying to avoid arrest. Police have cordoned off the area to try to prevent anyone from escaping.

Polytechnic University vice-president Alexander Wai, who led a search of

the campus by seven teams, said he couldn't rule out that some people remained, but "the possibility is not very high."

Attention in Hong Kong has shifted to city leader Carrie Lam's response to a major loss in local elections. The results were seen as a public rebuke of her tough line on the protests.

Lam offered no concessions to anti-government protesters, saying only that she would accelerate dialogue and identify ways to address societal grievances.

Her refusal to compromise could spark more unrest at a time when the semi-autonomous Chinese territory has plunged into its first recession in a decade. — AP



Police escort a member of a banned militant group after he was sentenced to death in Dhaka. — PTI

Dhaka blast: 7 awarded death

Dhaka, Nov. 27: A special Bangladeshi tribunal sentenced seven of the eight suspects to death on Wednesday for their involvement in the 2016 Islamist attack on a Dhaka cafe that killed 20 people, including an Indian girl, the worst terror attack in the country's history.

"They shall be hanged by neck until their death," Dhaka's Anti-Terrorism Special Tribunal judge Mojibur Rahman pronounced at the crowded court complex in Old Dhaka as the convicts appeared in the dock under heavy security.

The convicts were found to have financed, supplied weapons, or assisted those who directly took part in the attack on Holey Artisan Bakery in Dhaka's upmarket Gulshan area on July 1, 2016.

The judge acquitted the eighth suspect as the prosecution side could not prove his links to the attack by the outlawed Neo-Jamaatul Mujahideen Bangladesh.

Investigators earlier said that all the five neo-JMB operatives who directly took part in the attack were killed next morning in a counter

■ THE CONVICTS were found to have financed, supplied weapons, or assisted those who directly took part in the attack on Holey Artisan Bakery in Dhaka's upmarket Gulshan area on July 1, 2016

assault by the military commandos.

The counter attack, however, killed an employee of the bakery and fatally wounded another who succumbed to his wounds two days later.

The 17 foreigners killed in the attack included nine Italians, seven Japanese, one Indian girl. Two Bangladeshi police officers were also killed during the siege.

The Indian girl, Tarishi Jain, a student of the University of California in Berkeley, was among those killed in the attack. She was in Dhaka on vacation.

The judge in his verdict identified Bangladeshi Canadian Tamim Chowdhury as the mastermind of the attack, who later was killed during a nationwide anti-militancy security clampdown. — PTI

Court adjourns Bajwa hearing

SHAFQAT ALI | DC
ISLAMABAD, NOV. 27

Pakistan's Supreme Court on Wednesday adjourned the hearing of the case pertaining to the extension in service of army chief Qamar Javed Bajwa.

A three-member bench of the apex court headed by Chief Justice Asif Saeed Khan Khosa, comprising Justice Mazhar Alam and Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah heard the case.

As the hearing resumed, CJP Khosa remarked that media had misunderstood yesterday's proceedings and clarified that the court had not taken suo motu notice. "We are continuing your petition," the top judge told the petitioner who was in court.

Former law minister Farogh Naseem, who stepped down from his post, represented General Bajwa in the court, while Attorney General Anwar Mansoor Khan presented arguments on behalf of the government.

AG Anwar Mansoor took to the rostrum and said: "I referred to army rules yesterday. The court wrote 'law' in its order," the AG said, to which the chief justice said: "The court had given its order after looking at your documents."

Referring to the point questioned by the court yesterday that only 11

members of the cabinet had earlier approved the extension, Justice Shah observed: "Answers were not submitted in the time fixed for cabinet members." "But now the government has gone ahead with the matter. The court had made the judgement in the light of your documents," the CJP said. "According to Rule 19, silence can mean an agreement," the AG said.

The AG said that he had told the court that response from several ministers regarding a notification for giving an extension to the army chief was pending as the ministers were given time. The CJP inquired from the AG if no response from the ministers was considered "yes". To this, the AG said that it was true in accordance with the rules.

CJP Khosa said: "This is considered only if the response is sought within a specified time." The attorney general argued: "Nowhere the government has stated that it had committed a mistake, at first, the court should hear me (to know) the details. I will answer to the court's queries after completion of my arguments." "The appointment's tenure is written in the notification that is the prerogative (of the prime minister)," he added. The hearing on case was adjourned.

EXTREME | STEP

■ Extensive cyberbullying, sexual harassment take a toll on their mental health, say experts

Singer Goo Hara's death shines light on dark side of K-pop



Goo Hara

Seoul, Nov. 27: The death of South Korean singer and actress Goo Hara, whose body was found at her home in Seoul this week, has again shone a spotlight on pressures that stars, especially females, face in the cutthroat K-pop industry and in deeply conservative South Korean society.

Goo's death at age 28 came less than two months after the death of Choi Jin-

ri, or Sulli, another K-pop star and Goo's close friend. Experts say both Goo and Choi faced extensive cyberbullying and sexual harassment from the public and media throughout their careers, which took a toll on their mental health.

Police say they are still investigating Goo's death and found a "pessimistic note" at her home. K-pop has spread far

beyond South Korea, thanks to wildly popular groups such as "BTS" and "Blackpink."

Goo debuted in 2008 as part of the five-member girl group Kara, which shot almost immediately to fame and helped pioneer the K-pop global phenomenon.

She later launched a successful solo career in South Korea and Japan. Goo made headlines

when she took her former boyfriend, Choi Jong-bum, to court last year. Choi claimed to have been assaulted by her, while Goo accused him of threatening to release a sex video of her.

During the dispute, Goo's Korean agency didn't renew her contract. A court sentenced Choi to 1 ½ years in prison on charges of coercion and assaulting and blackmail-

ing Goo. The jail term was suspended, keeping him out of prison. K-pop is highly competitive, with dozens of groups debuting each year. Industry experts have long warned about the dark side of the scandal-ridden industry. Aspiring artists, as young as their early teens, train for years. Only a few debut and even fewer are commercially successful. The likelihood of their success

increases if they sign with a handful of top entertainment agencies.

The industry is known to have strict rules for their stars — including dating bans, spartan training and diets, and sometimes slave-like and unfair contracts. The industry has additional requirements for its female artists, unspoken rules reflective of South Korea's patriarchal society. — AP

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An obsession with having
one's teeth whitenedTo haphazardly build an ugly
yet functional object

DECCAN CHRONICLE

THURSDAY | 28 NOVEMBER 2019 | HYDERABAD

Oped

PAGE
11

Some lessons to draw from Maharashtra drama



Rajeev Ahuja

So it's final now — the Shiv Sena-Congress-NCP coalition will form the next government in Maharashtra. This news has come more as a big relief than as excitement. A month-long uncertainty marked by intense political activity, full of twists and turns, has finally ended. Maharashtra getting its next government had assumed greater importance than what coalition or alliance formed it.

A standoff between the Shiv Sena and the BJP on the issue of chief ministership had plunged the state into a political crisis. A lot has happened between then and now, that is, between the Shiv Sena walking out of its alliance with the BJP and the former stitching an alliance with the Congress and the NCP. The brief intervening period was marked by utter

confusion created by an adamant Shiv Sena, a non-committal NCP, a dithering Congress, and a nonchalant BJP.

All that is behind us now. The state is all set to get its new government. How stable will be the new government is an issue but it's not of immediate concern. Even though the formation of the state government will take its own course, it's time to pause, reflect, and learn some lessons from the recent political stalemate in Maharashtra. Here are some lessons that can be distilled:

■ **No room for principles in politics:** Politics is not about principles as it is made out to be — it is all about being pragmatic. Pragmatism means being flexible to the core, whereas a principled stand imparts rigidity in a context that is essentially situational. After the election results, the Shiv Sena took a principled

stand in asking the BJP to honour its pre-poll promise of 50:50 sharing of power. It insisted on getting the post of chief ministership on a rotational basis which it said was the deal. It didn't hesitate in breaking its long-standing alliance with the BJP just because it claimed to have taken a principled stand. Any political party is only as principled as its elected members are. The fact that certain parties had to keep their flock together is a clear indication of how principled those parties can be! If any party is really principled, it shouldn't shy away from sitting in Opposition if honouring its principles so require.

As for politicians, any politician can follow any number of principles in personal life. But in professional life, even the most principled politicians respond and adjust to situations created by the reality of election results. If a political party they are affiliated to can behave opportunistically, why can't they? As in other professions, so in politics — most politicians are opportunistic, and therefore, pliable and poachable.

Politics is all about being pragmatic, and not about principles, or egoism for that matter. And if anybody plays poli-

Blame games are not only unhelpful but they can also put a person in a tight spot. Placing the entire blame of any adverse circumstance on somebody else may be convenient but it's dishonest if one has also contributed to it.

tics of principles or egoism, it's mostly the general public, wanting development problems to get attended to, who end up paying the price.

■ **Don't punch above your weight:** Strange as it may appear, some degree of fairness exists even in politics. The Shiv Sena's demand — a party with almost half the number of elected representatives than the BJP's — for rotational chief ministership was unreasonable to begin with, even if it was agreed upon during the pre-poll alliance. What if the Shiv Sena were to get only 25 seats and the BJP were to get 130 seats in the recent elections? Would the Shiv Sena still have held on to the pre-poll alliance promises? The fact is that in a pre-poll

alliance, parties can agree on virtually anything. And those agreements can take any form, oral or written. However, those agreements have to adjust to the reality of how many seats each party ends up winning. If any party tries to cling to the promises made during a pre-poll alliance, it is on a wrong footing. At the same time, the BJP's offer of deputy chief ministership to the Shiv Sena was a decent one by any yardstick. By punching above its weight, the Shiv Sena played a huge gamble. The gamble may have paid off this time, but not without some costs. Who knows, the Shiv Sena may have won the battle, but lost the war!

■ **Resist the temptation of going to the public:** It's probably not a smart strategy to announce your each and every move in public. The opponent can take advantage in devising its counter-moves. This lesson came out so clearly in Maharashtra politics this time around. The progress that non-BJP parties were making in stitching a coalition was being made public at every stage. There may be some merit in keeping the public (and the authorities!) informed about the progress. But then it gave some advantage to the BJP that resulted in its surprise

“overnight coup”. Politics is all behind-the-scene activity, whether stitching a coalition or reviving an alliance. Political leaders can go in to a huddle, can do intense parleys, but need to exercise restraint in making their plans public until those are fully firmed up.

■ **Continue reviewing your assumptions:** If certain things have been true in the past, it doesn't mean that they will hold true in the future too. Circumstances change and so do relationships. Political parties are known to abandon old relationships with the same alacrity as they forge new relationships. Constantly evolving circumstances need to be assessed continuously. The BJP probably assumed that the Shiv Sena and the Congress would never come together because of their ideological differences. But here they are, forming a coalition and willing to work together.

■ **Refrain from blame games:** Blame games are not only unhelpful but they can also put a person in a tight spot. Placing the entire blame of any adverse circumstance on somebody else may be convenient but it's dishonest if one has also contributed to it. For example, the Shiv Sena squarely blamed the BJP for breaking their alliance

when the Shiv Sena itself was in part responsible for it. Politics is unpredictable. One never knows when one may have to shake hands with one's adversaries.

It's true that politicians tend to forget and forgive sooner than others. But anything negative that is more recent tends to stick in their heads. People often take umbrage and may forego associating with you for saying something negative. Therefore, one needs to be careful of indulging in blame games, for one never knows when it can boomerang.

■ **Time is of the essence:** When the time is to act, don't talk. If one doesn't act fast enough to seize an opportunity, one loses it. First-mover advantage exists in politics too. In stitching a grand coalition, the non-BJP parties probably took too long and risked losing out.

These are then some of the key lessons to learn from a month-long power tussle in Maharashtra. One hopes that political leaders will pay heed to it as more states go to the polls in the coming months.

The writer is a development economist, formerly with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the World Bank

Electoral bonds are traceable: Govt lies on anonymity nailed



Nitin Sethi

This is Part 4 of the 6-part #PaisaPolitics investigative series by HuffPost. Reprinted with permission from the Huffington Post.

In February 2017, then finance minister Arun Jaitley stood before the Rajya Sabha to justify his government's decision to open the floodgates for anonymous corporate donations to political parties.

Under the freshly unveiled electoral bonds scheme, the government had offered complete anonymity to those making donations. A donor could now anonymously buy a bond, and deposit it with the political party of their choice.

“How much each donor has distributed to a political party would be known only to the donor,” Jaitley later claimed in a blog post.

In April 2018, when the *Quint* bought two bonds worth ₹1,000 each, and reported that they actually carried a secret alphanumeric code that was visible under UV light, the ministry of finance issued a press release.

“This number is not noted by the SBI in any record associated with the buyer or political party depositing a particular electoral bond,” the government claimed. “It is thus not linked to any party transaction when the Bank issues a bond to the buyer. As such the number is not being used nor can be used to track the donation or the buyer.” SBI, in this instance, refers to the State Bank of India — the only bank authorised to sell these bonds.

Now previously unpublished documents, obtained by transparency activist Commodore Lokesh Batra (Retd.) and reviewed by *HuffPost India*, conclusively prove that — contrary to the government's assertions — SBI does use the alphanumeric code to keep track of who bought how many bonds, and the political party to whom the bond was eventually donated.

This mechanism of tracking these bonds, the documents reveal, was approved by the finance ministry. The rules governing electoral bonds require SBI to share this data with law enforcement agencies if required.

Some of these enforcement agencies, such as the Central Bureau of Investigation and the Enforcement Directorate, have been in the eye of a storm recently, with

Opposition parties accusing them of working on the behest of their political masters.

This disclosure, supported by documents reviewed by *HuffPost India*, proves that electoral bonds don't really provide a donor with anonymity from the government of the day. In fact, the only people in dark about the source of these donations are the Indian public and Opposition parties.

Yet, in a debate in Parliament, Jaitley insisted that providing donors with anonymity would create a level playing field by allowing Opposition parties to collect political funding.

“If a government frames a law that helps even the Opposition, it shows how big a heart it has,” Jaitley said.

The official records, minutes, notes and correspondence from 2017-19 reviewed by *HuffPost India* expose the hollowness of these claims.

ANONYMITY FARCE

When the electoral bond scheme was first announced in finance minister Jaitley's Budget day speech on February 1, 2017, the government had no idea how these bonds would actually work.

It conducted perfunctory consultations with the Reserve Bank of India, the Election Commission of India and Opposition parties, but disregarded their suggestions.

A year later, in January 2018, internal file notings of the finance ministry show, it drew up a basic conceptual framework for the bonds and then held consultations with SBI to figure out how to run the scheme.

In a meeting with the finance ministry on January 16, 2018, SBI explained these bonds would necessarily need serial numbers to identify the buyers and recipients of these financial instruments. “Electoral bonds will not bear the name of the buyer or payee, but will necessarily need a serial number,” bank officials said at the finance ministry meeting, according to internal notes of the ministry.

Without the serial numbers, the bank explained, there would be no audit trail available for internal control and reconciliation of the bonds by the bank. If courts and law enforcement agencies asked SBI for details on the purchaser of the bonds, the bank would have no answer. Without

ELECTORAL BONDS-4

The State Bank of India maintains a secret number-based record of donors who buy electoral bonds, and the political parties they donate to. Law enforcement agencies can request access to this record.

unique identifiers, the bonds could be forged, and accounting for them would be impossible.

Yet, the serial numbers intended to ensure the integrity of electoral bonds would also mean that the SBI would have absolute clarity on the path taken by these bonds — from an individual or corporate account from which they were purchased, to the account in which they were eventually deposited.

The donor would be granted anonymity from the public, but not from the SBI. Records show the finance ministry agreed with the SBI.

“Bank (SBI) may be allowed to put a serial number on the bonds to avoid these complications for the banks and also for the scheme,” senior officials of the finance ministry said in their internal notings. “However, the bank may be advised to keep information highly confidential to prevent its leaking in any way.”

The rules governing electoral bonds require the SBI to divulge these details if the enforcement agencies ask for them.

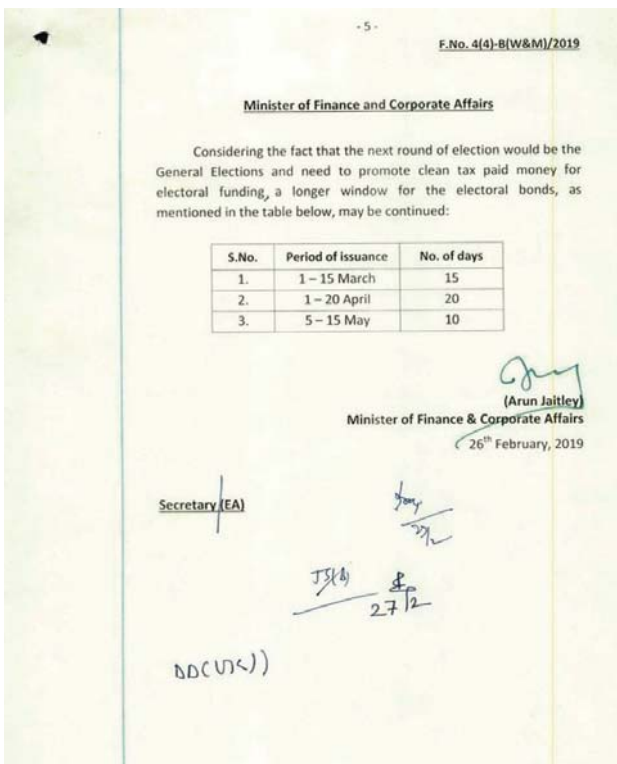
Section 6(4) of the January 2, 2018 notification read, “The information furnished by the buyer shall be treated confidentially by the authorised bank and shall not be disclosed to any authority for any purposes, except when demanded by a competent court or upon registration of criminal case by any law enforcement agency.”

The rules do not lay out more details about the criminal cases. This leaves a window of ambiguity open on how and when enforcement agencies can demand the data from SBI. The rules also do not require either the political parties or the donors to be intimidated by the government or the SBI that their promised secrecy has been breached by the government.

CAGED PARROTS

Could a government of the day gain access to SBI's transaction records on electoral bonds?

The fact is that the bonds are completely traceable and the rules to keep them out of the hands of enforcement agencies — who have a documented history of



The note from Arun Jaitley

deferring to the government of the day — are not watertight. The Central Bureau of Investigation, for instance, has been described as a “caged parrot” by none other than India's Supreme Court.

Further, the documents accessed by *HuffPost India*, suggest SBI, the steward of the electoral bond scheme, has continually deferred to the instructions and directives issued by the ministry of finance, to the extent of breaking the law as long as the ministry signs off on it.

The bank does not even respond to Right To Information queries without the approval of the finance ministry, despite being designated an independent public authority under the RTI Act.

In February 2019, when the Union government pushed the SBI to extend a special window for the sale of electoral bonds in the run-up to the 2019 general elections, the bank pushed back but soon quickly complied.

As per the rules, the SBI earmarks four 10-day windows a year for donors to buy electoral bonds and donate them to the political party of their choice. The rules permit an additional 30-day window in years when general elections are held.

Correspondence reviewed by *HuffPost India* reveals that in February 2019, the Union government insisted that the 30-day window be extended by an additional five days. This illegal extension was approved by the then finance minister Jaitley the same month, according to file notings within the finance ministry.

The SBI was told by the finance ministry through an email to follow the instruc-

tions, on February 28, 2019. SBI wrote back the same day saying the finance ministry's instructions were against the law and asked the finance ministry to clarify.

The finance ministry tried to put the onus for this illegal extension on the SBI. In an emailed reply to SBI on the same day, the finance ministry claimed the 35-day special window, instead of the 30-day period that the rules permitted, was done on the “SBI's recommendation”.

SBI refused to take the onus for this illegality.

In an email to the finance ministry, it said, “The dates of the electoral bond sales contained in the draft Press Communiqué were telephonically communicated to us on 27.02.2019 from your end and were not ‘recommended by SBI’ as cited in your email dated 28.02.2019.”

However, in the same email, the bank agreed to go ahead with the 35-day electoral bond window in violation of rules as long as it was not expected to take the blame for it.

But by then, the Supreme Court was hearing petitions challenging the validity of the electoral bond scheme and its implementation. While hearing these, the apex court gave an interim order on April 12, 2019. Besides other instructions, the apex court told the Union government to not violate the rules and restrict the special window period for bonds in 2019 to 30 days. The finance ministry mulled changing the rules to stick to the 35-day window it had desired, but eventually backtracked towards a 30-day window.

■ **To be continued**

First general election in Pak in 1970

50 YEARS AGO IN
DECCAN
Chronicle**Centre rapped for going to Rabat**

KARACHI, NOVEMBER. 27. PRESIDENT YAHYA KHAN announced tonight that Pakistan will have its first-ever general election on a one man-one vote basis on October 5 next year. The President, who heads an interim military regime, made his announcement in a nationwide broadcast. General Yahya said he would give the National Assembly chosen in the elections 120 days to decide on a new democratic constitution for this country of 120 million moslems.

In the meantime the armed forces would remain the ultimate authority in Pakistan. If the Assembly failed to produce a constitution within the time limit he said he would dissolve it and have a new one elected.—Reuter.

Gen. Yahya Khan, announced the dissolution of the one unit of West Pakistan, restoration of the original provinces. Though Martial Law would remain supreme till then, he said, full political activity would be allowed with effect from January next. All martial law regulations adversely affecting such political activity would stand cancelled.

General Yahya said “let us now all go forward together and achieve this transfer of power in a peaceful and civilised manner.”

He warned: “I am not prepared to tolerate any obstruction in the way of the restoration of democracy.”

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 27. STRONG disapproval of India's participation at the recent Rabat conference was voiced by a section of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha when the House inconclusively debated today a statement made by the Minister of External Affairs Mr. Dinesh Singh on November 19.

The debate will continue on Monday when Mr. Dinesh Singh will intervene.

The main attack came from the Congress Opposition Member, Mr. R.T. Parthasarathy, who described the participation of India as a “blunder” that had rocked the very basis of secularism and democracy. He directed his criticism mainly against the External Affairs Minister, Mr Dinesh Singh, who he said, had brought only “ignominy” to India by his acts of commission and omission. Mr. Parthasarathy demanded the resignation of Mr. Dinesh Singh and said “If he goes, India lives.”

The former External Affairs Minister, Mr. M. C. Chagla, maintained that Mr. Dinesh Singh was “trying to defend what was ‘absolutely indefensible.’” He appealed to the Government to conduct its foreign policy in such a manner that it would get the support from all sections of the House and the people.

India's participation at the conference was stoutly defended by Mr. Nurul Hasan (nominated) who said that if India has not gone to Rabat it would have meant surrender on her part to the intrigues of Pakistan.

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited
Regd. Office: PSEB, Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001
Phone No. - 0175-2207649, Email id:- se-it@pspcl.in
Corporate Identity No: U40109PB2010SGC033813 Website: www.pspcl.in
Tender Enquiry No. 221/DIT-937/Vol-1 dated 26.11.2019

Short Description: Procurement of Microsoft software licenses for PSPCL Data Centre, Patiala and Disaster Recovery Centre, Jalandhar under aegis of IPDS (IT Phase-II) project.

Start date for downloading of Specification/tender documents: Date of uploading of tender.

Last date for downloading of Specification/tender documents: 13.12.2019 (11:59 AM).

Last date for Bid Submission: 16.12.2019 (11:00 AM).

Bid Opening date: 16.12.2019 (11:30 AM)

Note:- The prospective bidders are requested to get clarification from this office and or M/s e-procurement Technologies Ltd. Contact No. +91-(79)-4001 6866/40/38/18/21 in case of any difficulty regarding uploading of the tender well in time. It is also requested to get their digital signature well in time so as to submit tenders through e-tendering only.

It is informed that in case tender process is not completed due to any reason, no corrigendum will be published in newspapers. Details regarding corrigendum may be seen on PSPCL website. (https://pspcl.abcpurchase.com)

C-476/19
RO - C-7859

Sr. XENIIT(NSP)
PSPCL, Patiala.

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
BUILDINGS (C&M) CIRCLE, COIMBATORE -1.

**TENDER NOTICE LUMP SUM CONTRACT (ITEM RATE TWO COVER SYSTEM)
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTICE No.NIT:19/BC/C&M/CBE/2019-20, Dt:27.11.2019**

For and on behalf of the Governor of Tamilnadu, Two cover system sealed Tenders viz., Pre-qualification Tender and Price Tender in separate covers both inserted in single cover will be received upto **3.00 pm on 17.12.2019** from the PWD Registered Contractors by the Superintending Engineer, PWD, Buildings (Construction & Maintenance) Circle, Coimbatore - 641 001 for Construction of Warehouse for Proper storage of EVMs and VVPATs in RDO Office Campus at Erode in Erode District, at his office and Prequalification Tender will be opened on the same day at 3.30 P.M.

All other details are available in the website www.tenders.tn.gov.in. If any changes / corrections etc., to the tender, it will be published on the above website only.

Superintending Engineer, P.W.D., Buildings (C&M) Circle, Coimbatore.

DIPR/4594/Tender/2019

Risk-taking binge is worrying central banks

Use telematics to price motor policies: Irdai



Overleaf

quick BITES

INDICATORS		%
Sensex	41,020.61	0.49
Nifty 50	12,100.70	0.52
S&P 500	3,148.83	+0.26
Dollar (₹)	71.35	-0.14
Pound Sterling (₹)	91.65	-0.29
Euro (₹)	78.56	-0.22
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	37,587▼131	-0.35
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	\$63.76	-0.51
IN 10-Yr bond yield	+6.467	-0.011
US 10-Yr T-bill yield	+1.762	+0.022

* As of 9:30 pm IST

Term of 15th Fin Commission extended

The Union Cabinet extended the term of 15th Finance Commission, by one-year to Oct. 30, 2020. The Cabinet “approved the 15th Finance Commission to submit first report for the first fiscal year viz. 2020-21 and to extend the tenure of 15th Finance Commission to provide for the presentation of the final report covering FYs 2021-22 to 2025-26 by October 30, 2020.”

Real-time power market likely by April 1: CERC



Real-time power market is expected to kick in from April 1 next year, after which consumers, including discoms or captive users, can buy power at exchanges just one hour before delivery, CERC Chairman P K Pujari said. At present, the consumers can buy power one day prior in Day Ahead Market at power exchanges where trading is done for two hours daily.

Court gives nod to sell jets, yacht of Wadhawans

A Mumbai court has allowed the RBI-appointed administrator for the PMC Bank to sell two airplanes and a yacht belonging to HDIL group firms owned by Rakesh Wadhawan and his son Sarang, the prime accused in the Rs 4,355-crore scam. Chief Metropolitan Magistrate R K Rajebhale on Monday allowed the sale of two aircraft and one yacht.

Telecom sees ₹41,000 cr dip in gross revenue

The telecom sector's gross revenue fell about Rs 41,000 crore in three years on account of a dip in mobile services rates, said Telecom Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad. Gross revenue of the sector in 2016-17 was Rs 2.65 lakh crore, which had reduced to Rs 2.46 lakh crore a year later and then to Rs 2.24 lakh crore in 2018-19, Prasad said in a written reply in the Lok Sabha.

Investors may be asked to take over ₹30K cr debt Govt mulls absorbing ₹50K cr Air India debt

SIDDHARTHA SINGH NOV. 27

India is considering a plan to exclude more than half of Air India Ltd's \$11 billion of debt in the government's latest attempt to lure investors to the struggling carrier, people with knowledge of the matter said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's administration plans to ask proposed investors to take over Rs 30,000 crore of the airline's debt, which are backed by the carrier's aircraft, the people said, asking not to be identified, citing private information. The government may call for the so-called expression of interest as early as December 15, the people said.

The government will absorb Rs 50,000 crore worth of obligations, the people said. Air India Assets Holding Ltd, a special purpose vehicle, holds about Rs 30,000 crore of the state-owned carrier's debt and some of its assets, they said.

The SPV expects to raise Rs 10,000 crore selling the

Airline would be closed if not privatised: Minister

New Delhi, Nov. 27: Loss-making Air India will have to be closed down if not privatised, Civil Aviation Minister Hardeep Singh Puri informed Rajya Sabha on Wednesday and said the government is committed to secure a favourable deal for all employees of the state-owned carrier.

The government is in the process of finalising invitation of bids, he said, adding interests of employees of the carrier would be protected and there would be no job loss till its privatisation.

“Your airlines would have to be closed down if not privatised,” Puri said while replying to a supple-



mentary question.

“... The process of disinvestment is underway. The issue of getting bids will arise only after we complete the processing. So far, the alternative mechanism, under the chairmanship of the Home Minister, has been made,” he said.

“We have taken some decisions. Other decisions are being processed. Once we invite bids, then, we will see how many bids have come in,” Puri added.

Talking about employees' concern, he said, “Issues being related to current employees, their health cover, how many would remain and what would happen, we are committed to secure a favourable deal for all employees.” —PTI

assets, the people said.

Modi's administration, which failed to attract any bidder for the carrier last year, is keen to sell the company to help bridge a widening fiscal deficit.

Unprofitable for a decade with taxpayers bailing it

out repeatedly, Air India's appeal to any investor is contingent on the government's ability to write off the debt not backed by assets. The government has pumped in Rs 56,000 crore in the last past decade in a bid to keep the

—Bloomberg

Bullet train project hits Maharashtra fault line

SHILPA JAMKHANDIKAR, RAJENDRA JADHAV MUMBAI, NOV. 27

India's richest state is set to be ruled by parties opposed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party, jeopardising a Japanese-backed bullet-train project opposed by farmers.

The BJP's inability to pull together voters in Maharashtra has meant that three parties, including a former BJP ally, will form the government. That is a major setback for Modi after his landslide victory in general elec-

tions this year.

It could also hinder the bullet train project, a \$17 billion investment largely financed by a long-term, low-cost loan from Japan. The BJP was in power in Maharashtra and Gujarat states when work began on project in 2017.

“We have always opposed the bullet train,” said Manisha Kayande, a spokesperson for the Shiv Sena, a former BJP ally whose leader is now set to

head Maharashtra. “Our state is giving a major chunk of money for the project, when most of the track is in another state. This will definitely be re-framed.”

The train will run from Mumbai to Ahmedabad, a distance of 508 kilometres. But it has run into obstacles acquiring land amid opposition from fruit farmers.

Any delay of the project is likely to undermine investor confidence, at a time when growth has

slowed to its weakest pace in years.

Critics say India does not need the high-speed train and investment should go instead to improve the existing network.

“We are not against development or infrastructure projects, but at the same time farmers' interests can't be ignored. We will rethink about projects that farmers are opposing,” said a senior leader of Nationalist Congress Party, which is a part of the coalition government.

National High Speed Rail Corporation (NHSR-CL), the government agency overseeing the

project, had no immediate comment.

The authorities have acquired 548 hectares land out of the total requirement 1,380 hectares and the project was targeted to be operational by 2023, the government told parliament in July.

Protests against land acquisitions are common in India, where tens of millions of farmers till small holdings. A planned \$44 billion refinery to be run by a consortium including Saudi Aramco, the world's biggest oil producer, is also struggling to secure land in Maharashtra.

 — Reuters

Offline apparel, accessory sales see marginal growth

SANGEETHA G CHENNAI, NOV. 27

Hit by the onslaught of online channel, offline sales of apparel and accessories during the festive season witnessed only marginal growth this year.

Jewellery brands in the metro cities experienced about three per cent decrease in the number of shoppers in the festive quarter of 2019 against the year ago quarter; found a study done by Capillary Technologies.

The overall sales of jewellery in value terms saw a growth of 12 per cent and the average transaction value went up by 15 per cent. However, there has been a 20 per cent rise in gold prices this festive season against last year. Hence the volumes should have been down compared to last year.

Footwear sales witnessed a rise of 4 per cent in 2019 compared to 2018 and fashion and apparel saw enhanced spending of 7 per cent compared to last year.

In fashion and apparel, shoppers have shown a preference for ethnic brands over western brands. The study found that a premium ethnic fashion brand saw a surge of 77 per cent in footfalls. However, the number of



consumers who actually made a purchase came down by 12 per cent compared to 2018, indicating low conversions.

A popular French fashion brand saw a 35 per cent dip in footfalls two weeks prior to Diwali and it did not witness any significant number of purchases being made either during this time. While jewellery stores witnessed a dip in consumer loyalty by 28 per cent, both fashion and footwear industry saw a marginal 3 per cent rise in loyalty.

“The study highlights the preference of customers to shop offline during the festive season, particularly in categories such as jewellery and ethnic wear. However, the key take away from this study for retail brands is to strengthen their consumer loyalty programmes and prioritise consumer retention,” said Aneesh Reddy, CEO and Co-Founder, Capillary Technologies.

GIC Re, AIC remain headless

MADHUSUDAN SAHOO NEW DELHI, NOV. 27

Despite the Banks Board Bureau (BBB) clearing the names for the top jobs at the General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC Re) and the Agriculture Insurance Company of India (AIC) in late August, the crucial appointments are still hanging fire.

Surprisingly, two other names cleared for the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) have got the government's approval and the two have taken charge as managing directors of the life insurer soon after the BBB clearance.

The recommendations for GIC Re and AIC are believed to have been stuck at the Appointment Committee of the Cabinet (ACC), headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The two state-owned non-life insurance companies have remained headless

for a long time now. The BBB had cleared the names of Devesh Srivastava and Malay Kumar Poddar for the post of chairman and managing director (CMD) at GIC Re and AIC, respectively. It had also recommended names of Mukesh Kumar Gupta and Raj Kumar for the post of managing director for LIC.

“Despite having nods from several authorities, the delay in their appointments has raised eyebrows. It has been learnt that there were certain vigilance-related issues in Srivastava's case and GIC Re is tackling it internally. However, there is no such case pending against Poddar. But neither has received any appointment letter so far,” a top source told this newspaper.

Srivastava, an old AIC hand, is currently working as general manager (GM) in GIC Re. However,

Poddar, a New India Assurance hand and a former official of AIC, is currently director at the National Insurance Company (NIC).

“We have no clue when will we get the appointment letter to assume new office. First ACC will clear the names, then it will have to be brought out in the gazette. But it seems that it may take few more days as the Prime Minister could be busy,” one of the selected candidates said.

Currently, Reena Bhatnagar, GM, is running the show at GIC Re as CMD-in-charge until the new incumbent takes over. Shashi Kala is jointly heading the GIC Re operations with Bhatnagar. But Kala will be demitting her office on superannuation on November 29. Then Deepak Prasad, general manager, is likely to be given the joint charge of GIC Re.

IEX gas exchange by March

RAJESH KUMAR SINGH & DEBJIT CHAKRABORTY NEW DELHI, NOV. 27

India's largest electricity trading platform plans to unveil the nation's first natural gas exchange by March as it seeks to tap increasing demand for the cleanest fossil fuel.

Indian Energy Exchange started putting together the infrastructure and a team of about 20 officials to run the bourse, Rajesh

Mediratta, Director-Strategies at the company, said in an interview in New Delhi. India has been mulling a gas exchange for several years but the move has been reinvigorated by increasing use of the fuel as a global glut damps prices.

Worsening air quality and the nation's dependence on imported crude oil has also spurred a transition in India's energy planning. The country seeks to

increase the share of natural gas in its energy mix to 15 per cent by 2030 from the current 6 per cent, drawing interest from global majors including Total SA and Exxon Mobil Corp.

The exchange will help bring down the price of natural gas through competitive trade, boosting usage in a country that relies heavily on cheaper coal for its energy needs, Mediratta said.

 — Reuters

CreditAccess to acquire Madura MFI for ₹876 cr



SANGEETHA G CHENNAI, NOV. 27

City-based Madura Micro Finance (MMFL) will be fully acquired by another micro-finance institution CreditAccess Grameen (CAGL) for a total consideration of Rs 876 crore.

Bengaluru-headquartered CAGL will first acquire up to 76.2 per cent stake for Rs 666.4 crore in MMFL from its existing shareholders for cash and in the second stage, MMFL shall be merged into CAGL through a scheme of arrangement, the company said.

CAGL will acquire shares of MMFL Chairman and Managing Director Tara Thiagarajan, AVT Group, Elevar Equity Mauritius and other minority shareholders.

As part of the merger, the residual shareholders of MMFL will receive shares of CAGL at the share swap ratio proposed in the scheme of arrangement.

MMFL is the 11th largest NBFC-MFI in the country with gross loan portfolio (GLP) of Rs 2,053 crore in September quarter, which grew from Rs 1,860 crore in March quarter. MMFL's revenue for FY 2019 was Rs 375 crore and its profit after tax was Rs 81 crore. It has 11.1 lakh borrowers and 430 branches as on September 30, 2019.

CreditAccess had a GLP of Rs 7,905 crore in September quarter, which grew 36 per cent YoY. It's quarterly disbursements grew 39 per cent and PAT by 37 per

cent to Rs 101 crore. It has 26.4 lakh active borrowers and is present in 13 states.

“The acquisition strengthens our microfinance franchise which can be leveraged to provide innovative financial services and products matching the evolving needs of under-served and unbanked households,” CAGL Chairman, Paolo Brichetti said in a statement.

The business acquired from MMFL will continue to operate as a separate division until the integration of business and processes are complete. All employees of MMFL will become employees of CAGL upon merger.

“The acquisition represents an immense opportunity to build an even stronger operating platform and leverage innovations in technology, data and analytics for the benefit of low-income rural households,” MMFL's Thiagarajan said. Thiagarajan will act as an advisor to the board of CAGL after the merger.

Industry experts find that the market would see more such consolidations happening in the future, given the difficulties in raising capital by small and medium MFIs.

“Given the financial and liquidity concerns, more small MFIs could be acquired by larger firms. Smaller firms have to be unique to be able to raise capital and scale up. Else, they are likely to stagnate,” said Manoj Nambiar, Chairperson, Micro Finance Institutions' Network.

FCI authorised capital raised to ₹10,000 cr

FC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, NOV. 27

The government on Wednesday hiked the authorised capital of Food Corporation of India (FCI) to Rs 10,000 crore from Rs 3,500 crore.

The government move aims at paving the way for additional equity infusion in the state-owned firm, helping procure and distribute foodgrains and reduce its debt and interest cost.

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved increasing the authorised capital of the FCI.

“With the increase of authorised capital, additional equity capital can be infused in the FCI through Union Budget, to fund the foodgrains stock, perpetually held by the FCI,” an official statement said, adding that it will reduce the borrowings of the FCI, save its interest cost and reduce food subsidy.

The Centre is providing equity to the FCI for maintaining stocks.

Investors put ₹24,000 cr in equity MFs

New Delhi, Nov 27: Investors pumped nearly Rs 24,000 crore in equity mutual funds during July-September quarter this year, a surge of 35 per cent from the preceding quarter, mainly due to the rollback of FPI surcharge, corporate tax cut and anticipation of more reforms, according to a report.

The inflow pushed the asset base of equity mutual funds (MFs) to Rs 7.24 lakh crore by September-end from Rs 7.23 lakh crore at the end of June.

According to a Morningstar report, equity category witnessed flows to the tune of Rs 23,874 crore in September quarter as compared to an inflow of Rs 17,680 crore in June quarter.

Over 25 per cent (more than Rs 6,000 crore) of the net flows have been directed toward the large-cap category as investors preferred to put money in the top 100 stocks by market capitalisation because the segment has been the most resilient over the past year.

—PTI

Govt chalks out ₹100-L cr infra investment plan

New Delhi, Nov 27: The Centre has chalked out a plan envisaging an investment of Rs 100 lakh crore in the infrastructure sector over the next five years, Union Minister Piyush Goyal said on Wednesday.

“The investment will transform availability and quality of infrastructure at airports, roads, highways, railways, ports... All infrastructure-related sectors (aviation, shipping, electricity, and oil & gas) are going to see a huge thrust in the next five years,” Goyal said.

The railways and commerce & industry minister said that “Rs 100 lakh crore in the next five years is not a small amount”.

He said the railways has drawn up a 12-year plan entailing an investment of Rs 50 lakh crore. “Rs 50 lakh crore in 12 years is an unheard of investment spree that the railways is planning. Obviously, the government cannot put in this kind of money so we will have to engage the private sector,” Goyal said at the India International Trade Fair here.

—PTI

Premium may be linked to driving, social behaviour Use telematics to price motor policies: Irdai

SANGEETHA G
CHENNAI, NOV. 27

The insurance regulator has recommended to adoption of telematics for underwriting own-damage motor insurance. This will help insurers provide customised policies based on driver and vehicle insights. Irdai has also recommended developing pricing models on assumptions based on such data and piloting a few products.

The Irdai found that in Europe, the UK, the USA and other developed markets, driver details such as age, occupation, marital status, credit history, and driving history are commonly used for underwriting purposes. Evolved insurers now consider factors such as the driver's colour of the eye, driving behaviour and social behaviour for a comprehensive assessment of the motor risk to be underwritten.

The insurance industry would need to have free access to the data generated by multiple sources including telematics, on-board diagnostic (OBD) devices, and adaptive cruise control (ACC) fill this void by moni-



toring vehicles in real-time through the use of sensors.

These sensors send signals about drivers and their surroundings, which can help car insurance companies assess risks better. For example, insurers can analyze real-time driving data to determine fair insurance rates, develop tailored products, and even provide driving assistance to prevent accidents.

With the availability of technology based driver and vehicle insights, there is an ability to provide customized solutions to the consumers like PAYD (Pay as you drive), UBI (Usage Based Insurance) and PHYD (Pay how you drive).

This will help auto owners

only pay the premium aligned to their driving profile and can avoid paying for coverage based on one-size-fits-all system. Besides having the potential to reward good behaviour, this also enables prevention of accidents and enables collection of data to identify risk zones for traffic policy related changes.

Given the usage of commercial vehicles and the high third party risk they carry, it would be worthwhile to examine the possibility of mandating telematics for these class of vehicles. While this not only provides better risk control, it also allows the fleet owner to manage their fleet and its performance better, found

the Irdai.

“The draft opens up the possibility for innovation by allowing usage of telematics, pay as you drive, new coverages addition in liability only policy which doesn't exist as on date,” said Sajja Praveen Chowdary, Head-Motor Insurance, Policy-bazaar.com.

Key challenges linked to telematics data are ownership, data sharing and portability and privacy protection. The storage of such huge data size will incur substantial cost and, therefore, the entity managing such data needs to be duly compensated. Insurance Information Bureau of India (IIBI) which acts as data repository for insurance companies can manage this data and its protection.

While generation of telematics data will take time, insurers are encouraged to develop pricing models on some assumptions and underwriting estimates to pilot a few products. The performance of these products should be closely monitored so that potential losses could be minimized and timely corrective action can be taken, IRDAI suggested.

Sebi to review related party transactions

ASHWIN J PUNNEN
MUMBAI, NOV. 27

The capital markets regulator Sebi is looking at improving rules governing related-party transactions for companies.

Sebi Chairman Ajay Tyagi said compliance to the corporate governance should be on a principled basis and not merely from a “tick-mark” perspective where a company only looks at mandated requirements.

In the light of the probe into the latest Infosys whistleblower case that came to light early this month, and without mentioning naming any company, he said it is impossible to decide what is material information and therefore, it is better to leave to companies to decide on the same.

“Sebi is looking at improving the existing norms on related-party transactions,” Tyagi said at an event here.

However, he said lack of disclosures is a “very serious issue” and overlooking any aspect can erode investor wealth.

He also cited the inde-



pendence of independent directors, especially in companies that are promoter-driven as a regulatory concern.

He also said further growth of capital markets is essential given the country's growth needs and exhorted the industry to do all it can.

Some listed companies, especially due to their family-driven nature, have been found to be wanting on the related-party transactions.

“Use of complicated group structures and complex related-party transactions increase the concern on siphoning of funds, money laundering, round tripping etc, while such structures and transactions happen at a cross-country level, the lack of free information flow hinders monitoring and enforcement as well,” he said.

Secondary realty deals still have 30% cash component

FC BUREAU
CHENNAI, NOV. 27

Demonetisation could not eliminate black money in real estate deals. Up to 30 per cent of the value of secondary sale in residential market can be still paid in cash. Both primary and secondary sale in tier-II and III market still have cash component.

“Demonetisation in November 2016 sent Indian residential real estate – till then a preferred laundromat for unaccounted wealth – into an almost terminal tailspin,” said Anuj Puri, Chairman, Anarock Property Consultants.

“Even three years after DeMo, the battle is only half-won. The secondary or resale residential real estate market still accommodates black money; at least 30 per cent of the total cost of resale property can still

be paid in cash. While more and more buyers and sellers prefer official payment routes as a matter of principle, many still use the resale property market to launder untaxed cash,” he said.

While the trend in Mumbai and NCR—cities historically notorious for black money in real estate—has tamed considerably in primary sales, their resale property markets still see cash components. As much as 20-25 per cent of the total resale property cost can still be adjusted with black money. In cities like Bangalore, Pune and Hyderabad, the prevalence of transparent payment routes, even on the resale market, is much higher.

Unlike the primary sales market, the resale market still lacks strict regulations, making it easier for buyers and sellers to use cash com-



ponents. Also, a resale property transaction involves two individuals and the pricing lacks transparency.

However, the primary sales market in tier-1 cities offers the least scope for unaccounted wealth in property

deals, finds Anarock. The reduced gap between market value and circle rate, which is the minimum value set by a state government, in tier 1 cities has significantly reduced the scope for cash components in primary housing sales.

Decline of speculative buying and selling of residential properties too has led to lesser cash in transactions. Genuine buyers purchasing homes for self-use invariably use home loans to ease the financial impact and avail of various tax benefits. Banks and HFCs do a fairly close due diligence of every proposal.

Nevertheless, both the primary sale and resale property markets of many tier-2 and 3 cities still offer leeway for cash components. The incidence is higher in cities and areas where market rates have overtaken circle rates.

42 defence equipment FDI proposals approved

FC BUREAU
CHENNAI, NOV. 27

The government has approved 42 FDI proposals or joint ventures to manufacture various defence equipments. The current order book of defence PSUs stand at Rs 2.3 lakh crore, the government said.

The 42 FDI proposals have been made both in public and private sector and this includes three joint ventures with Russia: Multirole Transport Aircraft, Indo-Russian Helicopters and Indo Russian Rifles, the government said in a release.

The recent Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA) on joint manufacturing of spares, components, aggregates and other material related to Russian or Soviet origin Arms and Defence Equipment stipulates assurance of orders for minimum five years to manufacturing facilities. It is subject to reduction in cost, reduction in time frame of supplies and ensuring progressive indigenisation of products in India.

The government also said that the Defence PSUs currently have order books aggregating to Rs 2.3 lakh crore. This includes Rs 59,832 crore order book of Hindustan Aeronautics, Rs 56,300 crore of Bharat Electronics and BEMIL's Rs 9568 crore.

The orders are primarily meant for the Armed Forces and for export opportunities in the international market. The government has taken steps to improve the order book by including modernization of production capacity and infrastructure, emphasis on import substitution and indigenisation, promotion of exports, introduction of new technologies, product diversification, setting up of JVs with foreign companies.

Further, the public and private industries had announced an investment of Rs 3700 crore for UP Defence Industrial Corridor in August last year and Rs 3100 crore investment was announced for the Tamil Nadu Defence Industrial Corridor in January this year.

RITWIK MUKHERJEE
KOLKATA, NOV. 27

Thanks to the general elections, economic slowdown, labour shortage and the advent of monsoon—the domestic cement demand hardly got a chance to bounce back this year. Cement prices also dropped during June-October in most markets. The combined effect of all this is that cement demand growth would taper to around 4 per cent in FY20 from 13.3 per cent in the previous fiscal.

“While the demand growth in Q1 FY20 was adversely impacted owing to a slowdown in project execution due to the general elections and labour unavailability, in Q2 FY20, the cement consumption stood on the lower side owing to the monsoon season. However, on a YoY basis, as the cement prices have remained on a higher side which coupled with the easing of cost side pressures is likely to support the cement companies' profitability in the near-term,” said a recent Icria study.



In six months FY20, the cement production was higher by a modest 0.7 per cent at 163.7 million MT, compared to 162.5 million MT in the same period of the previous year. Demand across various regions has been impacted in H1FY20.

In the northern and central regions, demand remained tepid due to slowdown in execution of government projects and labour scarcity. In the western region, while demand in Gujarat was negatively impacted by labour and water scarcity, in Maharashtra, it was positively driven by infrastructure and affordable housing. In the eastern region, demand was sluggish across

segments, due to weak project execution, unavailability of sand and shortage of funds. In the southern region, while demand momentum sustained in Kerala, driven by post-flood rehabilitation work and low-cost housing; and construction activity in Karnataka, it remained weak in Andhra Pradesh, due to sand unavailability and cancellation of old orders by the new state government.

“Overall, in H1 FY20, the cement production was higher by a mere 0.7 per cent YoY. Given, the current situation of delays in project execution arising due to liquidity issues, the revival in demand in the near-term remains critical, to even achieve a growth rate of 4 per cent in FY20. At this growth rate and with the expectation of around 20-22 million MTPA capacity addition in FY20, the capacity utilisation at 71 per cent in FY20 is likely to remain largely similar to that in previous year,” said Sabyasachi Majumdar, Senior Vice President & Group Head, Icria Ratings.



some more easing.” Kevin Thozet, an investment strategist at Carmignac Gestion, said on Wednesday. That's contributed to “a bull market of everything in 2019.”

The result is lower sovereign borrowing costs even in some of Europe's riskier

nations as investors seek out the few remaining places that offer a positive return. Ten-year yields in crisis-ridden Italy are barely above 1 per cent.

In Switzerland, home of the world's lowest interest rate, lenders have toughened standards on borrowing for residential investment. A number of other countries are similarly concerning, with Bloomberg Economics estimating this year that Canada and New Zealand are the most vulnerable to a correction given price-income and price-rent ratios are well above long-run averages.

The spate of recent financial stability assessments began Nov. 15 with the Fed, which warned that low

rates could encourage riskier behavior such as eroding lending standards.

A prolonged period of low rates could also “spur reach-for-yield behavior, thereby increasing the vulnerability of the financial sector to subsequent shocks,” it said.

The Fed though appeared to take a more relaxed view of rising stock prices than in its last report in May. While equity prices remain high relative to corporate earnings, they are consistent with the low level of interest rates, it said.

The ECB—whose own benchmark rate is below zero—highlighted threats to investment funds, insurers and in some real-estate markets. It also had a warning

OPENING
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PROJECTION FOR TODAY

Expect volatility over F&O expiry

The market closed at yet another record levels ahead of the monthly F&O expiry on Thursday.

The Sensex rose by 199.31 points or 0.49 per cent to end at a new life-time high of 41,020.61, while the Nifty gained 63 points or 0.52 per cent to settle at a new peak of 12,100.70.

Banking, FMCG, Pharma, Auto and Cement stocks were major gainers while media and Realty stocks were laggards.

Market Sentiments remain positive on the global front with the likely settlement of first phase of deal between US and China. On the domestic side, Strong FII inflows have provided the much needed support to the market in the absence of any major triggers.

While the current momentum is likely to continue for a while, analysts expect some volatility during the monthly F&O expiry on Thursday and Q2 GDP data to be released on Friday

Technical View

“Technically, Nifty formed a small green body candle on daily chart and is above the breakout of Bullish Pennant pattern. Till the time Nifty sustains above 12000 zone, we maintain our bullish stance on the market for an upward move towards 12200-12300 levels; while on the downside support remains intact at 11920-11850 levels,” said Siddhartha Khemka, Head - Retail Research, Motilal Oswal Financial Services Private Ltd.

According to analysts, sustained foreign fund inflow also buoyed the market sentiment. Foreign investors purchased shares worth Rs 4,677.75 crore on a net basis on Tuesday, provisional exchange data showed.

Banking stocks advanced on rising expectations of a rate cut by the RBI. SBI rose by 2.43 per cent, Maruti by 2.38 per cent, Sun Pharma by 1.87 per cent, HUL by 1.78 per cent and ONGC by 1.72 per cent. Tata Motors, Bajaj Auto and Hero MotoCorp rose more than 1 per cent. Infosys, HCL Tech, Reliance Industries and Vedanta Ltd also gained.

Market View

“Market was cheerful with the hope that the government will consider new scrappage policy while metals were positive about developments of the first phase US-China trade deal. Rate sensitive stocks like banks did well in expectation of rate cut in RBI policy,” Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services said.

Paras Bothra, President of Equity Research, Ashika Stock Broking said, “Domestic markets were volatile but eventually ended with gains led by positive global cues over US-China trade deal while F&O expiry and upcoming GDP data kept scepticism alive.”

— Ashwin J Punnen

Global risk-taking binge is worrying central banks

CRAIG STIRLING &
JOHN AINGER
NOV. 27

Global central banks are approaching the end of the year with a collective shudder at the risky behavior that their low interest-rate policies are encouraging.

Policy makers from European Central Bank and the Federal Reserve are among those raising cautionary flags at potentially unsafe investing stoked by their efforts to flood economies with ultra-cheap money. Stock indexes from the US to India are at records, and low sovereign bond yields have pushed funds into property seeking better returns.

The warnings are couched

in measured language that doesn't signal panic, but the combined message is one of growing anxiety, laced with the discomfort that central bankers can't easily tighten policy either. The danger is that such risk-taking recreates a backdrop similar to that preceding the global financial crisis a decade ago.

“Markets have been complacent, but this is probably the outcome of low rates or negative rates,” Sergio Ermotti, chief executive officer of UBS Group AG, told Bloomberg TV last week at the New Economy Forum in Beijing. “The chances that one day or the other things are going to be out of sync is increasing.” Historically low interest rates are warping markets.

In August, some \$17 trillion of global investment-grade debt, around a third of the total, had negative yields. That means investors holding a bond to maturity may receive less at the end than they paid out at the beginning—upturning financial wisdom that you should get compensated for lending money.

Despite central banks' qualms about side effects, there's little sign that they'll do any more than issue warnings. In fact, their desperate efforts to boost inflation saw them unleash another round of monetary loosening this year.

“The Fed since September, the ECB as well, the BOJ, even the central bank of China is starting to provide



Zlatan invests

Zlatan Ibrahimovic buys nearly 25 per cent stakes of Swedish football team Hammarby



I also understand that he is disloyal. I do not want someone like that in my staff.

— Luis Enrique, Brazil coach, on his predecessor Robert Moreno

SHORT TAKES

Mairaj, Smit on target in Nationals

New Delhi: Olympian Mairaj Ahmad Khan of Uttar Pradesh, India international Smit Singh of ONGC and Gurjot Singh of Punjab shot three perfect rounds on day one of skeet shooting qualifiers of the National Shotgun Championships here on Wednesday.

Mairaj, Smit and Gurjot shot 25 out of 25 targets across the first two rounds of qualifying in the men's skeet category to lead the field of 110 shooters.

Gurnihal Singh Garcha of Punjab led the junior men's category after his two rounds fetched him a score of 49. Ganemath Shekhon, also of Punjab, led both the senior women and junior women categories with a score of 48, missing two targets in her second round after a perfect 25 in the first.

Thursday will see two more rounds of qualifying while the fifth and final qualifying round is scheduled for Friday, followed by the finals, where the top six go through.

— PTI

FIFA happy with Kolkata stadium

Kolkata: An eight-member FIFA inspection team on Wednesday expressed happiness at the state of infrastructure at the Salt Lake Stadium, one of the venues for the 2020 U-17 Women's World Cup. "The stadium has already hosted a FIFA World Cup (U-17) so the core infrastructure is in place. It is great to see that the legacy from 2017 — the infrastructure is in good shape, and that the same operational plan is being used," Local Organising Committee of U-17 Women's World Cup said in a statement.

"With new technology and new innovation in sport, it is also important to keep improving. We want to ensure that we provide the best possible facilities and environment for FIFA U17WWC India 2020," the Local Organising Committee of U-17 Women's World Cup's statement added. The FIFA and LOC delegation, led by project head Oliver Vogt, will next inspect the venue in Guwahati on Thursday. The FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup India 2020 will be held in India from November 2 to 21.

— PTI

CHIREC SIDES BEGIN WELL AT SCF EVENT

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, NOV. 27

Chirec Public School Blue and Reds won their matches in the 25th Col. C. K. Nayudu Day/Night Under 12 T10 Cricket Tournament at the Sports Coaching Foundation at Masab Tank here.

Replying to GRCA's 36 for 2, Chirec Blue made 39 without loss. In another match Adithya of Chirec Red took five wickets while conceding just 8 runs to lead his side to a 29 run victory over Black Eagles CC. In reply to Chirec's 46 for 1, Blacks were all out for 17.

Nihal turned in an all round performance for Sports Coaching Foundation Tigers. Nihal hit 28 as the team posted 66 for 1. He later took four wickets to consign Khaja Cricket Academy to defeat.

BRIEF SCORES Under 12 T-10 ■ GRCA 36/2 lost to Chirec Public School Blue 39 for no loss (Anirudh 30). Man of the Match: Anirudh.

■ Chirec Public School Red 46/1 bt Black Eagles CC 17 (Adithya 5/8). Man of the Match: Adithya.

■ Sports Coaching Foundation Tigers 66/1 (Nihal 28, Anil 20) bt Khaja Cricket Academy 28 (Nihal 4/18). Man of the Match: Nihal. ■ BNCC 46/2 bt First Lancer CC 26 (Ali 4/16). Man of the Match: Ali.

Nuggets bite Wizards

Jokic, Grant lead Denver to win over Washington

Washington, Nov. 27: Kawhi Leonard and Paul George, playing together for only the fourth NBA game this season, powered the Los Angeles Clippers over the Dallas Mavericks 114-99 on Tuesday.

Leonard had 28 points and eight rebounds while George had 26 points and six steals as the Clippers improved to 13-5, 2 1/2 games behind the Western Conference leaders, the Los Angeles Lakers.

The Clippers stretched their win streak to six games and so did the Denver Nuggets, who defeated visiting Washington 117-104 in the night's only other league game.

Leonard, last season's NBA Finals Most Valuable Player after leading Toronto to the league title, jumped to the Clippers in part because he wanted to play alongside George —and the dynamic duo showed what they could do after only a week together and healthy.

George had been sidelined by shoulder surgery until mid-November, his return coming after Leonard was out with a knee bruise.

The Clippers, only 2-4 on the road, shut down the NBA's top-scoring offense, holding Mavericks star guard Luka Doncic to 22 points, eight rebounds and six assists.

The Slovenian star was only 4-of-14 from the floor, 0-of-8 from 3-point range, and made seven turnovers under defensive pressure from Leonard and George much of the night.

Dallas, 11-6, saw the end of a five-game win streak in which the Mavs had averaged nearly 130 points a game.

Lou Williams came off the Clippers bench to score 21 points, hitting 4-of-7 shots from beyond the arc, as the NBA's top-scoring bench outscored the Dallas reserves 44-37.

George scored 17 points in the first quarter, hitting four 3-pointers, and the Clippers jumped ahead 34-27 after the opening period.

Leonard was 1-of-6 for two points in the first quarter, but made 5-of-7 in the second for 13 first-half points as the Clippers

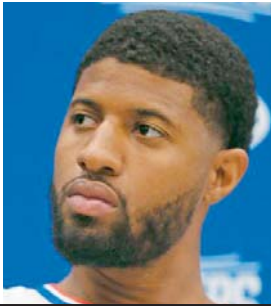


Kawhi Leonard (right) of the Los Angeles Clippers takes a shot during their NBA match against the Dallas Mavericks at the American Airlines Centre in Dallas, Texas, on Wednesday. The Clippers won 114-99.

— AFP

Adding myself and Kawhi Leonard to the group worked. We've got 50 (points) coming off the bench. We've got waves. It's fun playing. We have the team to win. That's what we hang our hat on.

— PAUL GEORGE
Los Angeles player



surged ahead 62-46 at half-time.

Doncic scored 15 first-half points thanks to an 11-for-11 performance at the free throw line, connecting on only 2-of-9

from the floor and going 0-for-5 from beyond the arc. The Clippers led 93-78 entering the fourth quarter and stayed in command to the finish.

At Denver, the Nuggets

improved to 13-3 by thumping the Wizards.

Jermani Grant came off the bench to lead Denver with 20 points while Will Barton added 17, Jamal Murray added 16 and Nikola Jokic pulled down 20 rebounds.

Reserve guard Jordan McRae led Washington with 21 points.

Nikola Jokic had a season-high 20 rebounds and Jerami Grant added a season-best 20 points to lead the Denver Nuggets to a 117-104 win over the Washington Wizards.

Jokic finished one rebound shy of his career

best and scored eight points in Denver's sixth straight win.

Will Barton had 17 points, eight rebounds and eight assists, Jamal Murray added 16 points and Mason Plumlee scored 15 for the Nuggets, who are 10-1 in November and ended a three-game home losing streak against the Wizards.

Denver held one of the NBA's prolific offenses to its second-fewest point total of the season. Washington entered the game averaging 119.1 points.

— Agencies

Raju defeats former national champion

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, NOV. 27

Kundeti Raju emerged winner as he defeated former youth national champion to take the title at the first season of the Club Fights Deccan Conquest Professional Boxing which was held over eight Saturdays and concluded here on Wednesday.

The championship was organised under the aegis of Sports Authority of Telangana State, in six weight categories with eight fighters in each category throwing up some potential talent who can represent Telangana and India at the International

Professional Boxing Circuit. As many as 48 fighters from different states including Haryana, Assam, Mizoram, Meghalaya, Telangana, Goa and Kerala took part in the championship.

Telangana boxers who made their presence felt were Raju, A. Shiva Yadav, Kuthadi Aravind and Suresh Pasham.

The winners of the Deccan Champion title included Raju in bantamweight, Romajit Singh in featherweight, Johnson in the lightweight category, Md Suhaib in the superweight category and Vishwajeet in the heavy-weight categories.

Return of the native



Former Test cricketer from Hyderabad M. V. Narasimha Rao (right) receives a memento from VVS Laxman's son V. Sarvajit (centre) and Sports Coaching Foundation secretary K. Saibaba (left) during the Col C. K. Nayudu Day/Night Under 12 T10 tournament organised by the SCF at Masab Tank in Hyderabad. Narasimha Rao led Hyderabad to the Ranji Trophy title in 1987 before moving to Ireland, where he served as Chairman for the Indian Ethnic Community. In 2011, he became the first Indian cricketer to be conferred with the MBE by Queen Elizabeth II for his contribution in setting up cricketing structure in Ireland and also for community service through cricket.

MALLIKARJUNA BOWLS ANDHRA INTO QUARTERS

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, NOV. 27

Andhra defeated Sikkim by 285 runs in the pre-quarter-final of the Men's U-16 Vijay Merchant Trophy cricket tournament being held at Una in Himachal Pradesh on Wednesday. They will now face Mumbai in the quarterfinals to be played in Mumbai on Friday.

G. Mallikarjuna was the star performer for Andhra as he scalped eight wickets while conceding 22 runs to consign Sikkim to defeat. He ended with a match haul of 12 wickets for 44 runs. Andhra made 408 for 7 and 21 for 3 in their two innings and bowled out Sikkim for 81 and 63.

■ **Brief scores:** Andhra 408/7 and 21/3 bt Sikkim 81 and 63 in 25.5 overs (G Mallikarjuna 8/22).



Winners of the Rev. Fr. Devasia Inter School Chess tournament are all smiles as they pose with their trophies.

Andrews are chess champions

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, NOV. 27

Hosts St Andrews School secured titles in the boys and girls categories at the 16th Edition of Rev. Fr. Devasia Inter School Chess tournament.

Team 'A' of Andrews defeated Andrews Team 'B' by a four-point margin. Earlier in the fourth round St Andrews team 'A' defeated Chirec International School to take a two-point lead in the boys category.

In the girls event,

Andrews beat Little Flower in the fifth round. Earlier in the fourth round, Andrews defeated Hindu Public School.

Sashank, Surya, Ajitesh and Vishwa of St Andrews School among boys and Praneethi (St Andrews School), R. Sreesha Reddy (Bhavans School), Manushri (Meridian School) and Eshanvi (Samaritan Public School) among girls were awarded the Board winners prizes.

THE RESULTS

■ **Boys fifth round:** St Andrews

School (Team A) (10) beat St Andrews School (Team B) (6); Little Flower School (7) beat

Delhi Public School (7); Johnson Grammar School (4) lost to Pallavi Model School (7). **Fourth round:** Delhi Public School (6) beat St Andrews School (Team B) (4); Chirec International School (4) lost to St Andrews School (Team A) (6); Johnson Grammar School (4) lost to Little Flower School (6).

■ **Girls fifth round:** St Andrews School (Team A) (9) beat Little Flower School (8); Meridian School (6) Bhavans School (Sainikpuri) (5); St Andrews School (Team B) (6) beat Hindu Public School (4). **Fourth round:** Hindu Public School (4) lost to St Andrews School (Team A) (8); St Andrew's School (Team B) (5)

lost to Little Flower School (7); Chirec International School (3) lost to Meridian School (5).

FINAL PLACINGS

■ **Boys:** 1. St Andrews School (Bowenpally) (10 points), 2. Pallavi Model School, 3. Delhi Public School, 4. Little Flower School (7 each).

■ **Girls:** 1. St Andrews School (Bowenpally) (9 points), 2. Little Flower School (8).

BOARD PRIZE WINNERS

■ **Boys:** Sashank (St Andrews School), Surya (St Andrews School), Ajitesh (St Andrews School), Vishwa (St Andrews School).

■ **Girls:** Praneethi (St Andrews School), R. Sreesha Reddy (Bhavans School), Manushri (Meridian School), Eshanvi (Samaritan Public School).

KARTEEK SAILS INTO SEMIS AT RANKING EVENT

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, NOV. 27

Hyderabad tennis player G. Sai Karteek Reddy defeated Lohith Aksha Bathrinath of Tamil Nadu to storm into the semifinals in the All India Ranking Tournament being held at the Lake View Tennis Academy here on Wednesday.

Karteek got off the blocks early in the quarterfinals to wrap the first set without breaking much sweat at 6-0. However, Lohith rallied back into the match by upping his game and taking the second set at 6-4. Karteek then hit back in the decider to seal the deal with a 6-2 victory.



M.P. MATSYA MAHASANGH (SAHKARI) MARYADIT
H.O. Bhadbhada Road, Bhopal, Email : mpfishfed@gmail.com
Phone : 0755-2774456

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

NIT No./3198/MMS/Engg./2019-20 Bhopal, Date : 27.11.2019
Online percentage rate bids for the following works are invited from registered contractors and firms of repute fulfilling registration criteria :

S. Work No.	District(s)	Probable Amount (Rs. in lakh)	Completion Period (months)
1. Supply of 12 Nos 1 hp 2 paddle wheel areator/blower at different farm of Matsya Mahasangh.	Bhopal	2.88	01 Month from the date of issue of supply order.

1. Interested bidders can view the NIT on website <https://mptenders.gov.in/nicgep/app>
2. The Bid Document can be purchased only online from 28.11.2019 (time) 10:30 AM. to 19.12.2019 (time) 05:30 PM.
3. Amendments to NIT, if any, would be published on website only, and not in newspaper.
Public work Department Govt. Of Madhya Pradesh-in force from 01.08.2014 And SOR - WRD w.e.f. Dt. 01.09.2017 with up to date amendments up to date of N.I.T.
M.P. Madhyam/95957/2019 **EXECUTIVE ENGINEER**



Bereaved

England coach Chris Silverwood will leave his team's tour of New Zealand early because of a family bereavement



I'm confident I can add value to the selection process.

— George Bailey, former Australia captain after being appointed as one of the country's three national selectors

SHORT TAKES

When Yasir took cabbie for dinner

New Delhi: Pakistan cricketer Yasir Shah who shared a meal with an Indian cab driver in Australia on Tuesday said he had done so because the latter was refusing to accept the journey's fare. Shah, who is currently touring Australia for the T20I and Test series said he had stepped out in Brisbane for a meal along with his four of his teammates he was recognised by the cab driver. "We were not aware of any Indian or Pakistani restaurants in Brisbane. So when we five teammates stepped out — Imran Khan, Naseem Shah, Mohammad Musa, Shaheen Shah Afridi and I — we hailed called a taxi," Shah said in a video shared by Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) on Twitter. "The driver was a *Paaji* from India. We told him to take us to a nice restaurant. He recognised us and we chit-chatted in Urdu about cricket. He refused to take the fare from us when we reached the restaurant. I told him, 'You either have to take the fare or have dinner with us.' So he agreed for the dinner," he added. — Agencies

Archer 'moved on', focus on 2nd Test

Hamilton: England paceman Jofra Archer said Wednesday he had "moved on" after being racially abused by a spectator in New Zealand and was ready to help the tourists bounce back from a heavy first Test defeat. Archer said his focus was on the second Test in Hamilton beginning on Friday, not the racial taunts thrown at him late in the opening match in Mount Maunganui on Monday as England were drubbed by an innings and 65 runs. "I've left what happened at the ground and I've moved on," he said. New Zealand, who will be without bowler Trent Boult and all-rounder de Grandhomme for the second Test, expressed shock at Archer's treatment, with Kane offering an apology on behalf of all Kiwis. "I should also say it was just one person who was shouting stuff. But I found the incident a real shame," said Archer who added he was disappointed other spectators did not intervene. "I thought members of the crowd around the guy might have pulled him up because I could hear him from the pitch as I was walking off. I guess they didn't," the 24-year-old said. New Zealand Cricket said a life ban and a referral to police awaits the perpetrator. — AFP

Australia & Pakistan ready to conquer 'different beast'

Adelaide, Nov. 27: Australia will not be complacent in the second Test against Pakistan this week despite the odds being stacked heavily in their favour, they said, insisting day-night cricket is a "completely different beast".

The home team went one up in the two-Test series with a crushing innings-and-five-run victory inside four days at the Gabba in Brisbane last weekend.

But the match starting Friday at Adelaide Oval is a pink-ball affair, which Australian captain Tim Paine said would produce different conditions with generous grass on the pitch and outfield.

"Certainly there's going to be times during the game where tactics might be slightly different — day-night," he said.

"We'll wait and see on the wicket and how the ball handles it, whether it goes soft or if it'll nip around for the whole game."

"Everyone's looking forward to it but we do know it's a completely different beast," he added.

Australia are overwhelming favourites. They have won all five pink-ball Tests



Australia's Steve Smith (left) and Pakistan's head coach Misbah-ul-Haq.

they have played since the concept was launched four years ago, with three of them coming in Adelaide and quick bowlers Mitchell Starc, Josh Hazlewood and Pat Cummins all excelling under lights.

Cummins said the Adelaide Oval at night was "a fast bowler's dream".

"Our record there is really good, we know the conditions well, it'll be a bit of a different game (to Brisbane), I think," Cummins told cricket.com.au.

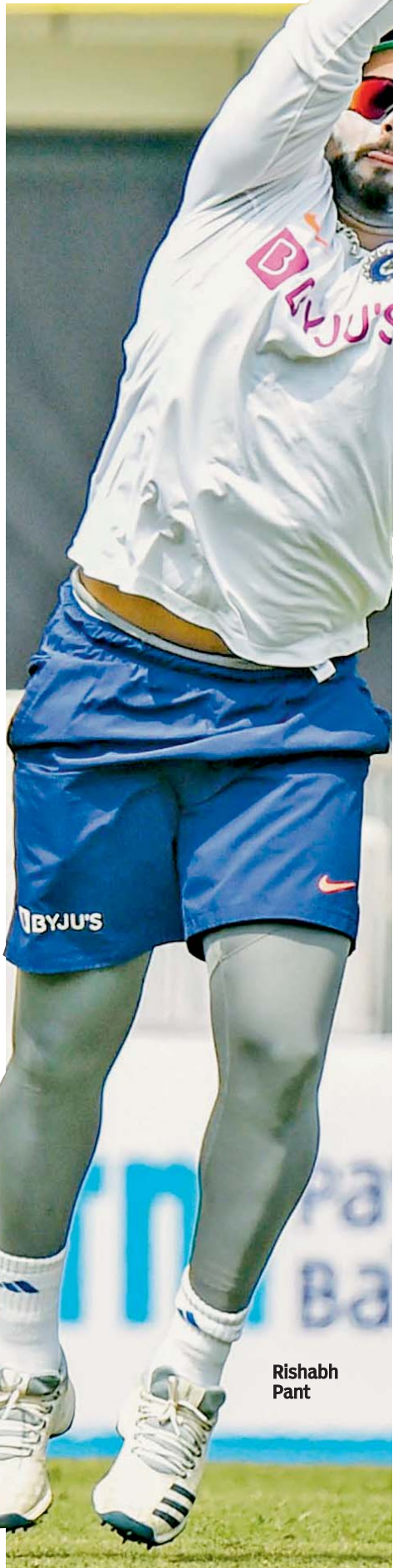
"We've all spent quite a few long days in the dirt on flat MCG or SCG wickets, so a bit of grass on the wicket, the pink ball zipping around at night — it's a fast-bowler's dream."

Add into the mix that Pakistan have now lost 13 consecutive Tests in Australia and Paine's men will be disappointed if they do not wrap up the series 2-0.

They are expected to stick with the same XI from Brisbane, although fast bowler James Pattinson is in the squad and available again after being suspended from the Gabba for player abuse in a domestic match.

Pakistan took some positives from a gutsy second-innings 335 in Brisbane, where Babar Azam scored a century and wicketkeeper Muhammad Rizwan 95.

They were let down by a poor first innings batting effort and the inability of their young bowling attack to threaten an Australian top order that put on 222 for the first wicket and added another 129 for the second. — AFP



Rishabh Pant

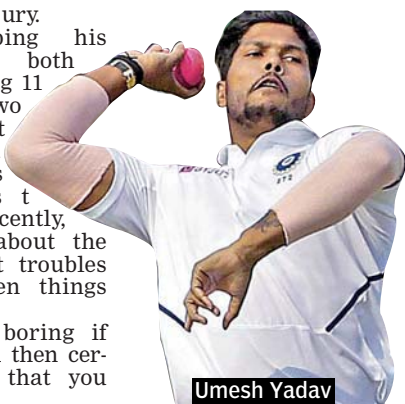
It's difficult to deal with negativity, says Umesh

New Delhi, Nov. 27: Umesh Yadav knows that chances are not easy to come by given the abundance of India's pace riches right now but even with this understanding, he says it is difficult to deal with the negativity and boredom that follows an axing.

Yadav was dropped from India's Test squad ahead of the home series against South Africa but got a lucky break back into the side after Jasprit Bumrah

picked up an injury. After grabbing his chance with both hands, including 11 scalps in two Tests against South Africa and 12 wickets against Bangladesh recently, Yadav spoke about the insecurity that troubles the mind when things don't go well.

"It becomes boring if you sit out and then certain thoughts that you



Umesh Yadav

Dhoni ducks question on future, tells not to ask again till January

Mumbai, Nov. 27: "Don't ask me till January," said Mahendra Singh Dhoni on Wednesday as he sought to steer clear of queries on his ongoing break from cricket, which has fuelled intense speculation about his future in the game.

"January tak mat poocho (don't ask me till January)," said Dhoni at an event here before questions on his sabbatical, which started with India's semifinal ouster from the World Cup in July, could even be thrown at him.

On Tuesday, a source close to the former India captain said he will take a call on his future after next year's IPL.

Memories of 2007 World T20 triumph Dhoni picked the rousing reception his team received after its triumph in the 2007 World T20 and 2011 World



M.S. Dhoni

Cup as the moments close to his heart.

"There are two incidents I would like to mention over here. So after the 2007 (T20) World Cup, we came back to India and had an open bus ride and we were standing at the Marine Drive (in Mumbai). It was jam-packed all around and people had come out of their cars," said Dhoni.

"So, I felt good after seeing the smile on everyone's

face. Because, there could have been so many people in the crowd, who might have missed their flights, perhaps they were going for important work. The kind of reception, we got, the entire Marine Drive was full from one end to other."

The other moment which he listed was the chants of "Vande Mataram" when India was close to victory in the 2011 World Cup. — PTI

don't want creep in to your system. Why I am not playing? What's happening? It becomes difficult to keep yourself positive, train hard and keep yourself ready," he explained.

"I knew my chance will come if I am fit since there are so many matches in the calendar. You need to wait since pace unit was doing well."

In a pace attack which features a lethal trio in Bumrah, Ishant and Shami, Yadav said he fits

in quite effortlessly and workload management plans ensure that each one of them gets a fair amount of opportunities.

"All four of us are now at a level where you can't predict which three will play at one point in time. It's because of healthy competition. It's a great thing that we are being rotated and played, because of which we are producing more match-winning performances," he said. — PTI

Stumped!

MSK says Pant comparing himself with MSD



Rishabh is going through a bit of rough period. He needs a couple of good knocks that can bring him back to his best.

— MSK PRASAD, chief selector

even urged his critics to leave him alone and let him play with freedom while the legendary Sunil Gavaskar says pressure is bound to be there when one is playing for India.

"I agree with the both the versions of Rohit and Sunny sir. Pant is going through a bit of rough period. He needs a couple of good knocks that can bring him back to his best. I had a discussion with the team management on this and they said that they are seriously working on

him to bring him back to his best," Prasad said.

"With regard to the point raised regarding pressure, Rishabh should definitely realise that pressure is part of this game at this level and the one who comes out of this pressure is a true champion. He has live examples in front of him in Virat and Rohit."

Prasad, who was appointed as the selection committee chief in 2016, said Pant should never try to fill Dhoni's big boots. "Rishabh

should also realise that he has his own identity and he should never compare himself with MSD which I feel is working on his mind. MSD has built his career and image playing for over a decade and half. His confidence stems from his stellar performances both at domestic and International levels. "Suddenly when one starts comparing himself with that legend, then subconsciously you are putting enormous pressure on yourself. Personally I feel Rishabh is an unbelievable talent and he should believe and back his abilities and instincts rather than stepping into someone else's shoes."

In the past as well, Prasad has spoken about Pant's rare talent and the southpaw was seen as the heir apparent to Dhoni whose future remains an intense subject of speculation as he has not played since the World Cup. — PTI



Shikhar Dhawan

Samson replaces injured Dhawan in India's T20 squad

New Delhi, Nov. 27: Opener Shikhar Dhawan was on Wednesday ruled out of the T20 International series against the West Indies due to a knee injury, making way for Sanju Samson, who was dropped without getting a chance in the recent series against Bangladesh.

Dhawan suffered a deep cut on his left knee during a Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy game against Maharashtra in Surat, the BCCI said in a statement. "The BCCI Medical Team assessed him on Tuesday to review the healing of his wound. The BCCI Medical Team has suggested that Dhawan needs some more time for his stitches to come off and his wound to heal completely," the BCCI revealed.

"The All-India Senior Selection Committee has named Sanju Samson as Dhawan's replacement for the T20I series," it added.

The T20 series against the West Indies gets underway on Dec. 6 in Hyderabad. The other two matches will be played in Thiruvananthapuram (Dec. 8) and Mumbai (Dec. 11).

Samson was dropped from the side without getting a single game in the home series against Bangladesh. — PTI



Sanju Samson

Saha plays down injury

Kolkata, Nov. 27: Laid low by yet another injury, Indian wicketkeeper-batsman Wriddhiman Saha on Wednesday sought to play down the latest setback and said he expects to recover in a month's time.

After undergoing a surgery in Mumbai to fix a fracture on the ring finger of his right hand, Saha said, "It's like a normal fracture. It should not take more than five weeks to recover. I will take some rest at home and then the rehab process (at the National Cricket Academy) will follow."

Saha has enough time to be fit for India's next Test assignment — two Tests in New Zealand beginning February 21 and has flown to his hometown Siliguri. — PTI

SYED MUSHTAQ ALI T20

Sundar, Siddharth spin TN to eight-wicket win

Surat, Nov. 27: Washington Sundar and M. Siddharth spun a web around Jharkhand as Tamil Nadu registered an eight-wicket win in their last Super League match of the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy T20 tournament here on Wednesday.

However, despite Tamil Nadu's big win, the semi-final lineup will only be clear after the conclusion of the Punjab-Mumbai game, which is currently underway.

Left-arm spinner Siddharth (4/18) and off-spinner Sundar (3/10) ran through the Jharkhand batting lineup, as they bundled out the opposition for a paltry 85, which Tamil Nadu later chased down in 13.5 overs.

Jharkhand skipper Saurabh Tiwary's decision to bat first was proven wrong by Sundar and Siddharth's magic with the ball. Tiwary and wicket-keeper Sumit Kumar were the only ones to show some fight, as the rest of the Jharkhand batsmen fal-

Jharkhand 85 all out (Saurabh Tiwary 24; M Siddharth 4/18) lost to Tamil Nadu 86/2 (Washington Sundar 38 not out, Shahrukh Khan 24; Utkarsh Singh 1/21); Rajasthan 133/7 (Deepak Chahar 55 not out, Rajesh Bishnoi 36; Subodh Bhati 2-20) bt Delhi 131/9 (Rishabh Pant 30; Arjit Gupta 3/12, Khaleel Ahmed 2-20); Maharashtra 167/5 (Rahul Tripathi 61; Vijay Zol 38; Sumit Kumar 3/32) bt Haryana 165/7 (Shivam Chauhan 33; Azim Kazi 2/21).

tered in the crucial game. Jharkhand were reeling at 29/3 and their innings never quite gathered steam, as Tamil Nadu picked up wickets at regular intervals.

Kumar Deobrat, Virat Singh, Supriyo Chakraborty and Utkarsh Singh fell cheaply, as Jharkhand's wickets collapsed like a pack of cards. — PTI

BRIEF SCORES

Burly Cornwall bulldozes Afghanistan on Day One

Lucknow, Nov. 27: Burly off-spinner Rahkeem Cornwall picked up a career-best seven-wicket haul to help West Indies bowl out Afghanistan for a paltry 187 and give his side the upper hand on the opening day of the lone Test here on Wednesday.

Cornwall (7/75) spun a web around the Afghanistan batsmen on a turning track to shoot them out in 68.3 overs after West Indies won the toss and opted to field.

At stumps, West Indies were 68 for two in 22 overs, still trailing Afghanistan by 119 runs. Sent into bat, Afghanistan started cautiously with the pair of Ibrahim Zadran and Javed Ahmadi stitching 28 runs off 12.2 overs.

Cornwall gave West Indies the breakthrough by removing Zadran. Afghanistan lost two more wickets before lunch to be placed at 90 for three in 30.4 overs.

Thereafter, it was all a

Cornwall show as the off-spinner wreaked havoc by picking up the wickets of Rahmat Shah, Asghar Afghan, Nasir Jamal and Afsar Zazai to reduce Afghanistan to 165 for eight at tea.

West Indies skipper Jason Holder also contributed two wickets with his medium pace by removing his counterpart Rashid Khan and Amit Hamza before Cornwall put an end to the Afghanistan innings by dismissing Yamin Ahmadzai.

In reply, West Indies lost opener Kraigg Braithwaite (11)

and Shai Hope (7) early before John Campbell (30 not out) and Shamarh Brooks (19 not out) steadied the ship. — PTI



Rahkeem Cornwall

BRIEF SCORES Afghanistan 187 in 68.3 overs (Javed Ahmadi 39, Amir Hamza 34; Rakheem Cornwall 7/75) vs West Indies 68/2 in 22 overs (John Campbell 30 (batting); Rashid Khan 1/24).



Under the knife

Inter Milan's Italy international
Nicolo Barella has undergone suc-
cessful surgery on his right knee

Games

PAGE
16

DECCAN CHRONICLE

THURSDAY | 28 NOVEMBER 2019 | HYDERABAD



Most difficult
moment of the
game for me was
when I made the
the first half change.

— Jose Mourinho, Tottenham
manager, on replacing Eric Dier

SHORT TAKES

Hazard doubtful for El Clasico

Madrid: Zinedine Zidane con-
firmed Eden Hazard twisted his
ankle during Real Madrid's draw
against Paris Saint-Germain on
Tuesday, with the Clasicos
against Barcelona only three
weeks away.

Hazard limped off in the sec-
ond half of Madrid's 2-2 draw at
the Santiago Bernabeu, where
PSG scored twice in two min-
utes late on to secure first place
in Group 'A'. But an impressive
performance overall from
Madrid, and Hazard, was tar-
nished by the Belgian's injury,
which threatens to prevent him
from playing in his first Clasicos
at the Camp Nou on December
18. "His performance was spec-
tacular. But he had to come off.
It's more than just a knock but I
hope the twist is a minor one.
For now, I can't say anything
more," Zidane said.

Madrid are guaranteed to go
through to the last 16 as run-
ners-up in the group.
— AFP



Hyderabad's Vanshika Kapila
(foreground) and Poorvi Singh
during their women's doubles
first round match at the Syed
Modi International badminton
tournament in Lucknow.

SRIKANTH, KASHYAP IN 2ND ROUND

Lucknow: Top Indian shuttlers
Kidambi Srikanth, B. Sai
Praneeth and H. S. Prannoy
advanced to the second round
of the men's singles event in
the Syed Modi International
Badminton tournament here on
Wednesday.

Third seed Srikanth beat
Russia's Vladimir Malkov in
straight games to set up a sec-
ond-round clash with fellow
Indian Parupalli Kashyap.
Srikanth won 21-12, 21-11 in his
36-minute opening round clash,
while Kashyap got a walkover
from Frenchman Lucas Corvee.

Later in the day, fourth seed
Sai Praneeth defeated
Malaysia's Iskandar Zulkarnain
21-16, 22-20 in a 47-minute con-
test to set up a clash against
Kunlavut Vitidsarn of Thailand.
Prannoy, unseeded here, got
the better of Chinese shuttler Li
Shi Feng in a tough three-game
contest 18-21, 22-20, 21-13. He
will face eight seed Wang Tzu
Wei of Chinese Taipei next.
Among other Indians, 18-year-
old Lakshya Sen, who won the
Scottish Open last week, also
got a walkover after another
French shuttler Thomas Rouxel
withdrew from the competition.

Meanwhile, Hyderabad's
Vanshika Kapila and Poorvi
Singh beat Daksha Cautam and
Parssa Naqvi 21-18, 21-14 to
make it to the second round at
the event.
— Agencies

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Harry Kane of Tottenham Hotspur celebrates after scoring a goal during their UEFA Champions League Group 'B' match against Olympiakos at the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium in north London on Tuesday. Tottenham won 4-2.

Kane spurs Tottenham

Harry nets brace as Mourinho's men rally for a win

Paris, Nov. 27: Tottenham
Hotspur came from two goals
down to beat Olympiakos 4-2 and
qualify for the Champions
League Last 16 on Jose
Mourinho's home debut on
Tuesday, while Robert
Lewandowski continued his
incredible season by scoring
four times for Bayern Munich.

Spurs were one of three teams
to secure their place in the
knockout phase with one game
to spare as Manchester City and
Real Madrid also made it to the
last 16.

A thumping Serge Aurier
strike completed the turnaround
on 73 minutes before Kane head-
ed in Christian Eriksen's free-
kick to become, on his 24th
appearance, the quickest player
to 20 goals in Champions League
history.

Meanwhile, Lewandowski
scored four goals in the space of
16 second-half minutes, the first
of them a penalty, in between
goals by Leon Goretzka and
Corentin Tolisso.

Lewandowski has scored four
times in a Champions League
game once before, for Borussia
Dortmund against Real Madrid
in 2013. He now has 27 goals for
Bayern this season.

In Manchester, Pep Guardiola's
Manchester City got the point
they needed to progress from
Group 'C', drawing 1-1 with
Shakhtar Donetsk. On a sub-
dued occasion, Ilkay Gundogan
got a 56th-minute opener, but
Manor Solomon levelled for the
Ukrainians.

The Italians are still in con-
tention to qualify after beating
Dinamo Zagreb 2-0 thanks to
Luis Muriel's penalty and a
cracking Alejandro 'Papu'
Gomez goal.

At Santiago Bernabeu, a 1-1
draw in the early game between
Galatasaray and Club Brugge
meant Real Madrid had joined
Paris Saint-Germain in securing
qualification from Group 'A'
before kicking off against the
French side.

Karim Benzema scored twice
for the hosts in an impressive
performance. With Neymar on
as a substitute, PSG scored twice
in the last nine minutes to earn
a draw, a Kylian Mbappe tap-in
being followed by a Pablo
Sarabia strike.

Meanwhile, Paulo Dybala over-
shadowed Cristiano Ronaldo by
scoring a superb free-kick to
give Juventus a 1-0 home win
over Atletico Madrid.
— AFP

ROURKELA TO HOST MEN'S HOCKEY WC

AKSHAYA KUMAR SAHOO |
DC
BHUBANESWAR, NOV. 27

Good news for hockey lovers
in India as the 2023 Men's FIH
hockey World Cup will be held
in Odisha's Bhubaneswar and
Rourkela.

During an event at Kalinga
Stadium in Bhubaneswar,
Odisha Chief Minister Naveen
Patnaik announced that
Bhubaneswar and Rourkela
will be hosting the tourna-
ment. The CM also laid foun-
dation stone for a state-of-the-
art high performance hockey
centre at Kalinga Stadium.

This will be the second con-
secutive time that India will
be hosting the tournament
and the fourth time overall.
India had hosted the World
Cup in 1982 and 2010 before
2018.



Bayern Munich's Robert Lewandowski clicks a selfie after their 6-0 win over Red Star Belgrade in their UEFA Champions League Group 'B' match at the "Rajko Mitic" stadium in Belgrade on Tuesday.

Lot at stake for Emery against Eintracht

Paris, Nov. 27: Unai Emery has
the chance to relieve some of the
pressure surrounding his posi-
tion at Arsenal on Thursday by
securing qualification for the
knockout rounds of the Europa
League with a match to spare.

Speculation over Emery's job
has ramped up after his
Gunners side were booed off at
the end of their 2-2 draw with
lowly Southampton at the
Emirates Stadium on Saturday,
gained only thanks to a 96th-
minute leveller from Alexandre
Lacazette.

However he can remove some
of the gloom hovering over
North London by booking their
place in the last 32 with a win
over Eintracht Frankfurt.

Group 'F' leaders Arsenal are
four points ahead of both third-
placed Eintracht and Standard
Liege with two matches remain-
ing, and will also qualify if
Standard don't win at bottom
side Vitoria Guimaraes.

Emery was publicly backed by
the Arsenal hierarchy at the
start of the international break
but the pressure has continued

to grow following a run of just
two wins in their last 11 Premier
League games, with bookmakers
in the United Kingdom placing
him among the favourites to be
the next manager ousted.

They face an Eintracht side
that have lost their last three in
all competitions and come into
Thursday's clash in London hav-
ing lost at home to Wolfsburg
despite their opponents having
to play the entire second half
with 10 men. However they will
have their captain David
Abraham available.
— AFP

THE RESULTS

Tottenham Hotspur 4
(Dele Alli 45+1, Harry Kane
50, 77, Serge Aurier 73)
Olympiakos 2
(Youssef El-Arab 6, Ruben
Semedo 90)

Red Star Belgrade 0
Bayern Munich 6
(Leon Goretzka 14, Robert
Lewandowski 53 (P), 60,
64, 67, Corentin Tolisso
89)

Juventus 1
(Paulo Dybala 45+2)
Atletico Madrid 0

Manchester City 1
(Ilkay Gundogan 56)
Shakhtar Donetsk 1
(Manor Solomon 69)

Real Madrid 2
(Karim Benzema 17, 19)
Paris Saint-Germain 2
(Kylian Mbappe 81, Pablo
Sarabia 83)

Galatasaray 1
(Adem Buyuk 11)
Club Brugge 1
(Krepin Diatta 90+2)

Atalanta 2
(Luis Fernando Muriel
Fruto 27 (P), Alejandro
Dario Gomez)
Dinamo Zagreb 0

Lokomotiv Moscow 0
Bayer Leverkusen 2
(Rifat Zhemaltdinov 11
(OG), Sven Bender 54).

Live on TV

EUROPA LEAGUE

Astana vs Man United
from 9.20pm on Sony TEN 2, HD

Krasnodar vs Basel
from 9.20pm on Sony ESPN, HD

Arsenal vs Eintracht
from 1:30am (Friday) on
Sony TEN 2, HD

Jyothi, Abhishek claim gold at Asian archery

DC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, NOV. 27

Vijayawada based archer
Jyothi Surekha Vennam
representing India through
Bharat Petroleum
Corporation Limited won
one gold and one silver in
21st Asian Archery
Championship in Bangkok
on Wednesday.

The Arjuna Awardee
bagged gold medal with
Abhishek Varma in mixed
doubles and silver in the
team event along with her
teammates Muskan Kirar
and Priya Gurjar.

Jyothi and Abhishek won
the mixed pair gold by over-
whelming their Chinese

Taipei opponents Yi-Hsuan
Chen and Chieh-Luh Chen
158-151 points.

Jyothi and Abhishek
made a solid start, shooting
39, including two Xs (close-
est to the centre), from a
possible 40 to lead by two
points in the first end. The
second end turned out to be
a perfect 40 for the Indians
as they extended their lead
by four points midway into
the gold medal clash.

The duo maintained their
consistency in the third
end to shoot 39 together. It
gave them a six-point cush-
ion going into the final end
where they once again shot
a perfect 40 to seal the
medal.

Meanwhile, earlier in the
day, in the compound
Archery women's team
event, Jyothi, Muskan
Kirar and Priya Gurjar
lost the battle to Korea in
finals, going down 215-231
in a one-sided affair.

Whereas, in compound
archery, the men's team lost
the gold by just one point to
Korea, settling with 232-233
for silver medal. But
Abhishek and Jyothi
returned strongly in the
compound mixed pair final.

This is the fifth time that
Jyothi has taken part at an
Asian Archery
Championship, winning
three golds, as many silvers
and two bronze medals.