

Vikari: Dakshinayana
Tithi: Margasira Shudda
 Vidiya till 6.03 pm
Star: Jyeshtha till 7.34 am
Variyam: 5.58 am
 to 7.34 am (Friday)
Durmuhurtam: 10.13 am
 to 10.57 am
 and 2.38 pm to 3.22 pm
Rahukalam: 1 pm to 3 pm
SUNSET TODAY 5.24 PM
SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.53 AM
MOONRISE TOMORROW 8.22 AM
MOONSET TODAY 7.01 PM

"A vindictive approach is not my party's culture but your party's culture that packs off people to jails. There is no political vendetta," Mr Shah said. Congress MPs, during the SPG (Amendment) Bill, accused the government of playing the "politics of vendetta" by removing the Gandhi's security cover provided by the elite SPG.

Mr Shah responded: "The impression is being created that the SPG Act is amended to withdraw security from the Gandhi family. (Their) security has not been withdrawn, but changed to 'Z-plus'."

■ More on Page 2

Washington, Nov. 27: The House Judiciary Committee on Tuesday invited U.S. President Donald Trump to its impeachment hearing on December 4.

Jerrold Nadler, the Democratic chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, said Mr. Trump could either attend or "stop complaining about the process."

If he does attend, Mr. Trump's lawyer would be able to question witnesses.

"The committee looks forward to your participation," Nadler said.

tion in the impeachment inquiry as the committee fulfills its constitutional duties," Mr Nadler said in a letter to Mr Trump.

The hearings will address "the historical and constitutional basis of impeachment," he added.

Under rules passed by

the consul general also purportedly sought to criticise India's multi-faith culture and outlook. "We in India think about everyone... all faiths and all peoples... We made the strategic blunder, we thought everyone is

Lucknow, Nov. 27: The All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB) said on Wednesday that it will file a review petition against the Supreme Court's verdict on Ayodhya title suit before December 9.

"The board is firm on its decision to file a review petition in the Supreme Court and we have time till December 9 for doing so," AIMPLB secretary Zafaryab Jilani told PTI.

The Sunni Central Waqf Board decided on Tuesday that it would not file a review petition against

Later, responding to the media outside Parliament House, Ms Thakur said she would respond to

Turn to Page 4

It was not entirely clear who he was referring to as “them”.

Mr Chakravorty is an Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer of the 1996 batch and has previously served as ambassador to Peru and deputy high commissioner to Bangladesh. His reckless remarks have the

Turn to Page 4

the Supreme Court verdict in the Ayodhya case, but was yet to take a call on whether to accept a five-acre alternative plot for a mosque.

"Exercising our constitutional right, we are going to file a review petition in the Babri Masjid case during the first week of December. Sunni Waqf Board's decision not to pursue the case won't legally affect us. All Muslim organisations are on the same page," Mr Jilani was quoted as saying in a tweet by the AIMPLB.

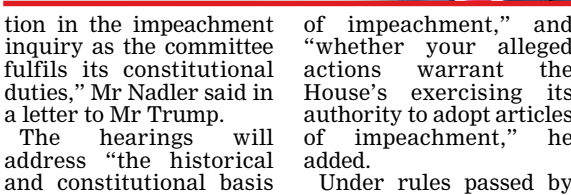
—PTI

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■ More on Page 4



the House last month, Mr. Trump is invited to attend the judiciary committee hearings, and “the President’s counsel may question any witnesses called.”

Mr Nadler in his letter reminded Mr Trump that if he continued to refuse to allow administration personnel to testify or turn over documents, the chair may “impose appropriate remedies,” including denying requests to question witnesses.

— *Agencies*

■ **More on Page 11**

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—PTI



Politics

Former Haryana CM Bhupinder Hooda slams the BJP-JJP govt for failing to provide a CMP even after a month



Government must bring White Paper on status of Indian economy
— Sitaram Yechury
CPI(M) gen secy

BRIEF

Cabinet okays deal with Saudi Arabia

New Delhi: The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday "approved Post Facto the Agreement signed by Prime Minister on October 29 for establishment of Strategic Partnership Council between India and Saudi Arabia". The government stated, "The Agreement will enable the leadership at the highest-level in both countries to meet regularly and monitor progress in the ongoing initiatives under the strategic partnership. It will help identify new areas for forging strategic engagement and will define the goals to be achieved and benefits to be derived."

LS passes bill to merge two UTs

New Delhi: A bill which seeks to merge the Union Territories of Daman and Diu, and Dadra and Nagar Haveli was passed by Lok Sabha on Wednesday. The bill was passed by voice vote with the government asserting that the merger will fast-track development of the two union territories. Responding to the brief debate on the Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu (Merger of Union Territories) Bill, 2019, Minister of State for Home G Kishan Reddy said that the measure will help in strengthening administrative services. —PTI

LS passes bill to ban e-cigarettes

New Delhi: Lok Sabha on Wednesday passed a bill which seeks to ban electronic cigarettes, with Union health minister Harsh Vardhan saying such a measure was necessary to protect the youth from a new "fashion". The Prohibition of Electronic Cigarettes (Production, Manufacture, Import, Export, Transport, Sale, Distribution, Storage and Advertisement) Bill, 2019, seeks to replace a presidential ordinance issued on September 18. —PTI

MP WALKS OUT AFTER V-P CUTS SHORT SPEECH

New Delhi: Congress MP B.K. Hariprasad on Wednesday staged a walkout from the Rajya Sabha after Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu cut short his speech as he raised the issue of floods in North Karnataka. Mr Naidu ordered that Hariprasad's remarks would not go on record the moment the Congress lawmaker began stating that Prime Minister Narendra Modi tweets on every issue but had ignored the floods in North Karnataka. Mr Naidu said Zero hour is to draw attention of the government to matters of urgent importance and not to make political comments. Mr Hariprasad, who had raised the issue through a Zero Hour mention, was upset on being "unfairly" prevented from speaking and walked out of the House in protest. "I am very very sorry you are casting aspersions on the Chair," Mr Naidu said. He went on to record that those defying the chair will not get an opportunity to speak again. "Whoever defies the Chair will not get an opportunity. Let this be recorded." In his Zero Hour mention, Mr Hariprasad said 91 people lost their lives and properties and crops destroyed in flash floods in North Karnataka caused by incessant rains. G C Chandrasekhar too joined in to say that the state government had estimated ₹38,000 crore of loss. —PTI

SPG Bill's intent to protect PM: Shah

LS passes SPG Bill after Congress walkout over Amit Shah's statement on Gandhis

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, NOV. 27

Union home minister Amit Shah on Wednesday began a debate on the controversial Special Protection Group (Amendment) Bill and said the law's original intent as it was enacted in 1988 was only to protect the Prime Minister.

"Special meant that it was only for the PM, but over a period of time, the original SPG protocol has changed. Through this bill, we are trying to bring it in its original shape," Mr Shah told Lok Sabha on Wednesday. Clarifying that the security cover of Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra has not been withdrawn or downgraded but merely changed, the home minister gave an elaborate account of how many times members of the Gandhi family did not use SPG cover in the past, and on many occasions travelled without informing security agencies.

"Vindictive approach is not my party's culture but your party's culture that packs off people to jails. There is no political vendetta but purely professional threat assessment," he said. He then went on to recount the number of occasions members of the Gandhi family travelled in and out of India without SPG cover.

"It has been more than 600 times three protectees have travelled without SPG or without informing them... Sonia Gandhi has travelled more than 50 times since 2015 without informing Delhi government or security agencies. She has on 13 occasions not used the SPG's bullet-proof cars. 2015 onwards she has not taken SPG on 24 occasions while travelling abroad... Priyanka Gandhi Vadra has travelled without informing SPG 339 times since

More than 600 times three protectees (Sonia, Rahul and Priyanka) travelled without SPG

Sonia travelled over 50 times since 2015 without informing agencies

She has, on 13 occasions, not used the SPG's bullet-proof cars

Priyanka travelled without informing SPG 339 times since 2015

Since 1991, she has undertaken 99 foreign trips out of which she took security cover on 21 occasions

Rahul travelled 1,892 times in Delhi and 247 times abroad without SPG cover since 2015

2015... Since 1991 she has undertaken 99 foreign trips out of which she took security cover on 21 occasions... Rahul Gandhi has travelled 1,892 times in Delhi and 247 times abroad without SPG cover since 2015... And then there are some protectees who ride expensive motorbikes at the speed of over 100 kmph in Lutyens' Zone even as our security cars try to catch up," Mr Shah said.

The Congress, during a discussion on the SPG (Amendment) Bill, accused the BJP government of playing "politics of vendetta" by removing the Gandhis' security cover provided by the elite SPG.

Responding to them, Mr Shah said the Gandhis' security will be handled by an equally competent CRPF and will include 10 commandos of NSG.



Union home minister Amit Shah, Congress MP Rahul Gandhi, defence minister Rajnath Singh and actor-turned-BJP MP Sunny Deol at the Parliament House in New Delhi on Wednesday.



— PRITAM BANDYOPADHYAY

Fully committed to take steps to protect border: Reddy

Pak terror camps reactivated: Govt

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, NOV. 27

The government on Wednesday said that Pakistan was making attempts to reactivate terror camps in Balakot, a major base of Jaish-e-Mohammed which was bombed by the Indian Air Force in February this year.

Minister of state for home G. Kishan Reddy, in a written reply, informed the Rajya Sabha that, "Inputs indicate that attempts are being made by Pakistan-based terror outfits to reactivate its camp at Balakot and restart their religious and Jihad indoctrination courses against India."

The minister added that

the government was totally committed to take all precautionary and necessary steps for protecting the country's borders along with territorial integrity and sovereignty.

Earlier, intelligence inputs had indicated that some of the terror camps at Balakot were already operational and that Jaish had started training cadre there.

Mr Reddy also informed the Upper House that Centre had a zero-tolerance policy on issues of national security and terrorism. The government, he further added, had initiated several measures in dealing with militancy in Jammu and Kashmir and the strategy was successful in eliminating a large

number of active militants in the Valley in the last few months.

Till November 17 this year as many as 594 incidents of militancy had taken place in the Valley in which 37 civilians and 79 security personnel were killed. During the same period last year while 614 terror-related incidents were reported leading to the death of 39 civilians and 91 security personnel. On the issue of infiltration from across the border till October this year a

total of 171 infiltration attempts were made while 114 were successful. Similarly, in 2018, there were 328 infiltration attempts of which 143 were successful.

Following an attack on a CRPF convoy in Pulwama on February 14 in which 40 security personnel were killed, the Indian Air Force carried out an aerial attack of Jaish's Balakot facility in which a large number of terrorists were killed and the camp was destroyed. The aerial strike was carried out on February 26 following which intelligence inputs indicated that Pakistan's intelligence agency ISI had helped Jaish to start the terror training camp again.

Pakistan's disruptive activities foiled: EAM

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, NOV. 27

External affairs minister S. Jaishankar informed the Lok Sabha on Wednesday, "Pakistan's attempts to interfere in the internal affairs of India; to present an alarmist situation of the region; and its abuse of international fora including the United Nations have been successfully and effectively thwarted."

He also said that Pakistan has repeatedly resorted to false and malicious propaganda against India, including on the issue of Jammu and Kashmir at international fora such as the United Nations, the United Nations Human Rights Council and the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation.

"The government has completely and unequivocally rejected in entirety all such actions and statements by Pakistan. Government has adopted a proactive approach and briefed members of the international community on the facts. They have been apprised of Pakistan's continued aid and abetment to cross-border terrorism, including in the Union territory of Jammu & Kashmir."

Mr Jaishankar stated, in a written reply.

"Countries have shown understanding that matters related to Jammu & Kashmir are internal to India. Countries have also called on Pakistan to not allow its territory to be used for terrorism in any manner. They have also acknowledged that issues, if any, between India and Pakistan should be addressed bilaterally and peacefully," the external affairs minister added.

Govt to review law, order in Northeast

TMC joins JD-U in opposing Citizenship Bill in Parliament

MANOJ ANAND
GUWAHATI, NOV. 27

After the Janata Dal (United), the Trinamul Congress (TMC) on Wednesday assured a delegation of Northeast students opposing the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill that it will firmly oppose the contentious legislation which proposes to grant citizenship to persecuted non-Muslims from Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan.

A delegation of the All Assam Students' Union (Aasu) and North East Students' Organization (Neso) met senior Trinamul leader and Lok Sabha MP Saugata Roy in New Delhi. Neso chairman Samuel Jyrwa, Aasu chief adviser Samujjal Bhattacharyya, president Dipanka Kumar Nath and general secretary Lurinjyoti Gogoi were part of the delegation that met Mr Roy. During the meeting, Mr Roy assured the delegation that the Mamata

Northeast on edge

A delegation of the All Assam Students' Union (Aasu) and North East Students' Organization met senior Trinamul Lok Sabha MP Saugata Roy in New Delhi.

Banerjee-led party will also oppose the Bill in Parliament.

"Trinamool Congress had earlier opposed the citizenship bill and this time too our party will firmly oppose the proposed legislation, both inside and outside Parliament," Mr Roy told the Aasu-Neso delegation, which has been camping in New Delhi since last week to garner support against the bill.

Aasu president Dipanka Kumar Nath said, "With support from the national and regional parties, we are hopeful that the Citizenship Bill will be blocked this time as well."

It's the duty of national and regional political parties to save the indigenous tribes and communities of Assam and the northeast from illegal influx of Bangladeshi migrants, which has threatened our culture, identity and existence."

Meanwhile, Centre also reviewed the security situation in the Northeastern states that have witnessed protests in the past few weeks over the move to amend the CAB.

Heads of state intelligence agencies of all Northeastern states, Assam Rifles and paramilitary forces attended the review meeting, which was chaired by National Security Advisor Ajit Doval.

The meeting, convened by the National Security Council Secretariat, which is headed by Mr Doval, analysed the intelligence inputs coming from the ground with regard to Opposition to the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill.

Defence minister claims normalcy returning fast to Valley

Terror in J&K almost nil: Rajnath

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, NOV. 27

Defence minister Rajnath Singh on Wednesday said that after the abrogation of provisions of Article 370, terror incidents in Jammu and Kashmir have come down to almost zero. Mr Singh informed the Lok Sabha that the Army, paramilitary forces and the Jammu and Kashmir police have been coordinating to fight terrorism in the state.

"Terror incidents have been taking place in Jammu and Kashmir for the last 30-35 years. But I must compliment the forces. Terror incidents

40-45% dip in stone-pelting: Shah

New Delhi, Nov. 27: Incidents of pelting stones at security forces in Jammu and Kashmir have reduced by 40-45 per cent since the abrogation of provisions under Article 370, Union home minister Amit Shah said on Wednesday.

Speaking at an event, Mr Shah said it took 70 years to abrogate the provisions and Prime Minister Narendra Modi resolved to do it. He said until provisions under Article 370 were abrogated, it was impossible to defeat terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir. —PTI

have now come down to almost nil (*lag bhag na ke barabar*)," he said. He was replying to a question during Zero Hour raised by Congress

MP K. Suresh. The defence minister also said that normalcy was fast returning to Kashmir. Mr Suresh had asked a question on the recent

killings of a few people in terror incidents.

He alleged that the government had misled the House that normalcy has been restored in the state.

Mr Singh said since the last five-and-half years, except Kashmir, there has been no major incident in the country. "In case of Jammu and Kashmir, it has been witnessing terror incidents since last 30-35 years."

Opposition members were, however, not satisfied with Mr Singh's reply. Two people were killed and seven injured in blasts in Jammu & Kashmir's Anantnag district on Tuesday.

'As if I am Ranga-Billa': PC tears into order denying bail

PARMOD KUMAR
NEW DELHI, NOV. 27

On his 99th day in Tihar Jail in connection with INX Media case involving alleged irregularities in the grant of FIPB clearance, the former finance minister P. Chidambaram on Wednesday told the Supreme Court that he was entitled to bail "forthwith" in the case relating to the allegation of money laundering as he was neither a flight risk, nor could he tamper with evidence or influence witnesses, as held by the Delhi high court.

Chidambaram was arrested on August 21, 2019, by the CBI and since then he has been in continuous custody. Currently, he is in judicial custody in the money laundering case being investigated by the ED.

Chidambaram told a bench headed by Justice R. Banumathi that he satisfied the triple test for granting bail. The court, however, declined bail pointing to the "gravity" of the case.

Pointing to the high court finding which said it would send a wrong



It has been said that a wrong message would go to country if I (P. Chidambaram) am released on bail

— Kapil Sibal, Chidambaram's lawyer

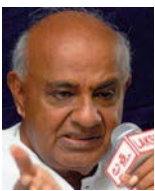
message to the people of the country, if relief were granted, senior counsel Kapil Sibal appearing for Chidambaram said that "it sounds as if I am some kind of criminal like 'Ranga' and 'Billa'".

Ranga and Billa were convicted of kidnapping and murder of two siblings — Geeta and Sanjay Chopra — in 1978 in Delhi that sparked nationwide outrage and were sentenced to death.

The two hardened criminals were hanged in 1982. "Far from the gravity of the offence, there is no offence at all," Mr Sibal told the court, urging that Chidambaram should be granted bail forthwith as there was "gravity of baseless offences".

The Delhi high court by its November 15, 2019, order had held that Chidambaram was neither a flight risk, nor could he tamper with the evidence which was in the custody of investigating agencies and influence the witnesses but refused to enlarge him on bail pointing to the gravity of the case.

Taking the court through the sequence of dates relating to the case, Mr Sibal said that the CBI, which had investigated the allegation of corruption in the INX Media case in its chargesheet, has alleged that Chidambaram and his son were paid ₹10 lakh for retrospective clearance of foreign investment in INX News.



'Sonia's call'

Congress prez Sonia Gandhi's decision on Dec. 5 bypolls should be watched out for, says JDS patriarch H.D. Deve Gowda



BJP's graph is shirking, its ideology would be rejected very soon

— Ashok Gehlot
Rajasthan CM

IN BRIEF

Nath meets 3-yr-old ambidextrous girl

Bhopal: Madhya Pradesh chief minister Kamal Nath on Wednesday met Shanjan Thamma, a three-year-old ambidextrous girl from Ujjain, and praised her "extraordinary" talent and "multi-faceted" personality. Shanjan met the chief minister at his office in the state secretariat here along with her mother. Patting Shanjan on the back, Kamal Nath said, "The state is blessed to have a girl like you with such an extraordinary talent and multi-faced personality. The continuous efforts made with dedication by your parents to nurture your talent are commendable. Such talents need to be groomed." — PTI

Sand miner held over threat to MLA

Raipur: A BJP MLA from Chhattisgarh was allegedly threatened over phone by a sand miner on Tuesday night, following which he was arrested, state home minister Tamradhwaj Sahu told the Legislative Assembly on Wednesday which witnessed an uproar over the issue. BJP legislators led by Leader of Opposition Dharamlal Kaushik raised the issue on floor of the House. "How the accused dared to threaten a legislator (Ajay Chandrakar) and it seems he enjoys protection (from highly-placed people)," Kaushik said. He said the sand miner was arrested under section 151 of the CrPC. — PTI

HDK breaks down during campaign

Bengaluru: Former Karnataka chief minister H.D. Kumaraswamy turned emotional on Wednesday ruing that the people of Mandya deserted him by defeating his son Nikhil Kumaraswamy in the Lok Sabha election this year. He was campaigning for the JD(S) candidate B.L. Devaraju who is contesting the December 5 assembly bypolls from the KR Pet constituency. The people of Mandya have deserted me. I never wanted my son to contest the election but because of your insistence I fielded him, he said. — PTI

ROW ERUPTS OVER ODISHA MANTRI'S 'TRIP WITH WOMEN'

AKSHAYA KUMAR SAHOO
BHUBANESWAR, NOV. 27

Odisha tourism and culture minister Jyoti Prakash Panigrahi has courted controversy for his official trip to Hyderabad where two women had allegedly accompanied him at the cost of public money. Opposition Congress said the minister misutilised his position and public exchequer to entertain his "lady friends." Congress' Media Cell chairman Satya Prakash Nayak in a press conference here said the minister, during his recent trip to Hyderabad to attend a road show, was accompanied by two friends. "The minister had taken two of his female friends with him. The minister had written to the director of Odisha tourism and development corporation (OTDC) asking it to book the tickets and accommodation with the minister. The minister and his female friends had put up at Hotel Taj Krishna," Mr Nayak claimed. He added that the minister was not entitled to stay in a five-star accommodation as per the TA Rules of the state government. "Why the government will bear the expenses of minister's friends when he is on an official visit? Chief minister Naveen Patnaik should investigate into the matter and take actions against the minister to prove that 'Mo Sarkar' and '5 T' initiatives are being properly implemented in the state," Mr Nayak demanded.

Sule leads from front in greeting all MLAs

AGE CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI, NOV. 27

After her father outwitted his opponents in forming the new government, Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) MP Supriya Sule on Wednesday was seen welcoming all MLAs, including those from the BJP, at the Vidhan Bhavan as they were arriving for the oath-taking ceremony.

A smiling Ms Sule arrived at the Vidhan Bhavan at around 7.30 am. After arriving, she enthusiastically waited for the arrival of the newly elected legislators from all parties and was in constant touch with the people who were accompanying them.

She warmly greeted almost all MLAs from the Maha Vikas Aghadi, which comprise of the Shiv Sena, Congress and the NCP.

Her nephew, Rohit Pawar, elected from the Karjat-Jamkhed constituency, touched Ms Sule's feet when he entered the Vidhan Bhavan gate. Ms Sule, who is his paternal aunt, hugged him.

One of the most interesting moments of the day was captured when Ms Sule met her cousin Ajit Pawar. When Ajit Pawar entered the Vidhan Bhavan, Ms Sule gave him a warm hug, indicating that the recent bitterness had washed away. In fact, it also appeared as if there was never any bitterness at the first place. On November 23, when Ajit Pawar was sworn-in as the deputy chief minister alongside BJP leader Devendra Fadnavis, who was sworn-in as the chief minister, the Pawar family had expressed its unhappiness.

Nearly 50K to attend, including families of 700 farmers

Shivaji Park braces for big day

HARSHADA PARAB
MUMBAI, NOV. 27

The iconic Shivaji Park saw buzzing with activity ahead of the swearing-in ceremony of chief minister-designate Uddhav Thackeray on Thursday.

According to Public Works Department sources, nearly 50,000 people are expected to attend the event, while special seating arrangements will also be made for the families of 700-odd farmers. While the Sena sought chairs to accommodate 50,000 people, the governor office has approved setting up of 30,000 chairs.

Over 300 workers, officers and supervisors were on their toes to prepare for Thursday's swearing-in

Sonia, Rahul may skip Uddhav swearing-in

Move may be attempt to maintain distance from Shiv Sena

AGE CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI, NOV. 27

While the Shiv Sena has invited Congress president Sonia Gandhi for the swearing-in ceremony of party chief Uddhav Thackeray as the chief minister of Maharashtra, her son Rahul Gandhi is likely to skip the event on Thursday. The move is seen as an attempt to maintain distance from the Shiv Sena.

Uddhav's son Aaditya Thackeray visited Sonia Gandhi at her 10, Janpath home and later also met former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh. Sources said both Mrs Gandhi and Dr Singh conveyed their good wishes but said they won't be able to travel for the swearing-in ceremony.

Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Raut said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union home minister Amit Shah would be invited for the ceremony, which



Shiv Sena leader Aaditya Thackeray invites Congress chief Sonia Gandhi to attend the oath ceremony of his father and Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray as Maharashtra CM in New Delhi on Wednesday.

will be held at 6.40 pm at Shivaji Park in Dadar.

"We have invited Sonia Gandhi for the swearing-in ceremony of Uddhav Thackeray tomorrow," said senior Sena leader Eknath Shinde. The invitation is seen as a thanksgiving gesture on the Sena's part for the support the Congress has given the state government.

After being elected as the nominee for the top post,

Mr Thackeray had special words of thanks for the Congress president.

All Congress chief ministers, DMK president M.K. Stalin, Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee and her Delhi counterpart, Arvind Kejriwal, have been invited for the swearing-in ceremony, said senior Congress leader Vijay Wadettiwar.

The decision to invite all top Opposition leaders is

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► All Congress CMs, DMK president M.K. Stalin, Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee and her Delhi counterpart, Arvind Kejriwal, have been invited for the ceremony

being seen as an attempt to bring all anti-Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) parties under one umbrella.

The Maharashtra Vikas Aghadi — comprising the Shiv Sena, NCP and Congress — also wants to send the signal that their government will be 'pro-farmer' by inviting ploughmen to the swearing-in ceremony.

Hitendra Thakur's BVA backs alliance

AGE CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI, NOV. 27

Hitendra Thakur-led Bahujan Vikas Aghadi (BVA), which has three MLAs, on Wednesday pledged support to the Maharashtra Vikas Aghadi (MVA) alliance formed by the Shiv Sena, NCP and Congress.

MVA leaders had presented a list of 166 MLAs to the Governor when they staked claim to form government. With three members of BVA, the alliance will have 169 MLAs in the Assembly.

"BVA has given support to the MVA government," senior Congress leader Ashok Chavan said. NCP sources said that Mr Thakur met party chief Sharad Pawar to extend support.

The BVA is dominant in



Hitendra Thakur

Vasai-Virar belt of neighbouring Palghar district. While Mr Thakur is MLA from Vasai, other two legislators of his party are son Kshitij Thakur (Nalasopara) and Rajesh Patil (Boisar).

Earlier, the BVA had extended support to the BJP. However, with the MVA set to form the government, it is expected that other smaller parties and Independents may also switch their allegiance. Recently, Mr Pawar had claimed that the number of supporters of MVA would cross the 170 mark soon.

Anti-Fadnavis camp takes aim at ex-EM

Fiasco of forming govt with Ajit Pawar is said to have dented Fadnavis' image

AGE CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI, NOV. 27

Following the BJP's failed bid to form the government in the state, the anti-Devendra Fadnavis camp within the party has become active.

Senior leader Eknath Khadse on Wednesday slammed the decision to form the government with the help of NCP leader Ajit Pawar. "My personal opinion is that BJP should not have taken the support of Ajit Pawar."

He is an accused in the massive irrigation scam and faces many allegations, so we should not have allied with him," said Mr Khadse.

When pointed out to Mr Khadse that the BJP had earlier claimed to have proof of the corruption charges against Ajit Pawar, he said, "There was a cartful of evidence but it seems we dumped it in scrap."

The former revenue minister, who resigned in 2016 over allegations of corruption, said that leaders like him, Chandrashekhar Bawankule, Vinod Tawde and others were "deliberately" not given tickets and were also kept out of the state election campaign.

"I worked very hard for the party, but I was deliberately kept aside by denying a ticket. I accept-



Eknath Khadse, D. Fadnavis

► Senior leader Eknath Khadse on Wednesday slammed the decision to form the government with the help of NCP leader Ajit Pawar. ► According to sources, the fiasco has dented the image of Mr Fadnavis, who had positioned himself as the BJP's tallest leader in the state and future contender for role in national leadership

ed the decision, but we were even denied a role in the party campaign. This decision cost the party dearly. Had we been involved in a better way, the BJP could have won at least 20 to 25 seats more," Mr Khadse claimed.

According to sources, the fiasco has dented the image of Mr Fadnavis, who had positioned himself as the BJP's tallest leader in the state and future contender for a national leadership role. The anti-Fadnavis camp is also expected to raise the issue with the BJP high command.



Shiv Sena supporters celebrate ahead of the party chief Uddhav Thackeray's swearing-in as Maharashtra CM in Navi Mumbai on Wednesday.

ceremony. Sena MP Vinayak Raut, who is also leader of the party in the Lok Sabha, was supervising the preparations. He

said, "We are expecting 50,000 people for the ceremony. Family members of farmers who committed suicide are specially invited for the ceremony and there will be a separate seating arrangements for them."

According to a PWD officer who was present at the spot, "The stage will be 140 feet-long and 50 feet-wide. Nearly 300 invitees will be seated on the stage. These invitees will be divided into three groups. In the middle block, the chief minister and the governor will sit. VIPs will be seated in one block while newly elected MLAs will be accommodated in the remaining block."

"It will be a huge eye-catching stage and nearly 150 workers are working to build the stage," said art director Nitin Desai who is in-charge of designing the stage.

Capt, others acquitted in ₹1,140cr City Centre case

Ludhiana, Nov. 27: A court here on Wednesday discharged Punjab chief minister Amarinder Singh and all other accused in the alleged ₹1,140 crore Ludhiana City Centre scam that goes back to his first term as CM.

Sessions judge Gurbir Singh accepted the closure report presented by the state's vigilance bureau and discharged all the 31 accused, district attorney Ravinder Abrol said.

The charges against us have been rejected, Amarinder Singh told reporters after the court order on the case that dates back to his 2002-2007 term as chief minister.

His son Raninder Singh and son-in-law Raninder Singh were also among the accused in the corruption case. Singh had faced allegations that he favoured a Delhi-based builder for executing the mega project.

We have faced this case for 13 years and the matter today has been



Amarinder Singh

finally decided in our favour, and the charges levied against us have been rejected, he said outside the court.

Truth has prevailed, with the court dismissing blatantly false & politically motivated charges against me & others accused in Ludhiana City Centre case, the CM later tweeted.

We had full faith in the law, and our stand has been vindicated. I thank Wahe Guru ji for this victory against victimisation, he added.

The project was announced by Amarinder Singh in 2003. The Ludhiana City Centre plan was rolled out in 2006.

Spread over 25 acres, the project was supposed to include shopping malls, residential apartments, 12 multiplexes and a helipad.

It was alleged that Delhi-based private company Today Homes was favoured, violating norms.

The Amarinder Singh-led Congress government marked the probe to the state's vigilance bureau in September 2006.

In 2007, after Akali Dal's Parkash Singh Badal took over as chief minister, the bureau registered an FIR against 36 people, including Amarinder Singh, under the Indian Penal Code and the Prevention of Corruption Act.

On August 19, 2017, during Amarinder Singh's current term as CM, the vigilance bureau filed a closure report after conducting a reinvestigation. There is no proof or fact to substantiate any scam in the project," it said.

— PTI

NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE	
Dy General Manager/G, Northern Railway, Headquarters Office, Baroda House, New Delhi for & On behalf of President of India invites sealed Tender on the prescribed form for the under noted work.	
1. Tender No	96-G/17/Pt.XXV/2019-20/1
2. Name of work	Sale of Accumulated Waste Paper Sweepings Consisting of Torn Bits Carbon Gatta, Old record etc. of Northern Railway, Headquarters Office, Baroda House, New Delhi
3. Approximate Cost	₹ 5,70,240/-
4. Earnest money	₹ 11,400/-
5. Period of Completion	12 Months
6. Last Date & time of Submission of Tender	27.12.2019 at 14:30 hrs
7. Validity of offer	90 days
8. Date from which tender documents will be sold and available on website: www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in	28.11.2019 to 27.12.2019 Between 10:30 hours to 13:30 hours on any working day
9. Date, time & place of opening	27.12.2019 at 15:00 hrs. in the Office of Dy. GM/G Northern Railway, Headquarters Office, Baroda House, New Delhi.
Tender without Earnest Money will be summarily rejected. Earnest Money in the form of Bank Guarantee will not be accepted. The tender form can be had from the office of Dy. General Manager/G, Headquarters Office, Baroda House, New Delhi on any working day on dates as mentioned above on Cash payment/Demand Draft of Rs. 2000/- (Rupees Two thousand only) per set. If required by post request for tender by post must accompany with Demand Draft of Rs. 2500/- (Rupees Two Thousand five hundred only) in favour of FA&CAO, Headquarters Office, Baroda House, New Delhi. Cost of the Tender documents are non-refundable and tender documents are non-transferable. If the tenderers deliberately give wrong information whose credentials/documents in his/her tender and thereby creates circumstances for acceptance of his/her tender. Railways reserve the right to reject such tender at any stage, besides shall suspend the business for one year. The tenders received after the stipulated date and time shall not be entertained. If the tenderer wants to visit the site may contact Sr. Section Engineer G, Northern Railway, Headquarters Office, Baroda House, New Delhi on any working day upto 27.12.2019 between 11:00 hrs to 13:30 hrs. Tender Forms complete in all respect with all Credentials duly sealed in an envelope and super scribbling the name of work should be deposited in the tender box allotted for the purpose in the office of Dy. General Manager G, Northern Railway, Headquarters Office, Baroda House, New Delhi-110001. If the Office is closed on the stipulated date and time due to some unforeseen holiday, tender will be received and opened on the next working day at the same place and time. Tender duly sealed in the prescribed manner can also be sent through registered post so as to reach this office not later than date and time specified above. Any tender received after the specified date & time is liable to be rejected. Tender Notice & Tender Documents also available on www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in. For downloaded document the cost of tender document is to be paid as detailed in para 1 S. No. 7 & 7a of page eight of tender documents. Tenderers are requested to read these clauses. No. 96-G/17/Pt.XXV/2019-20/1 Dated: 26.11.2019 3805/2019	
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CORRIGENDUM-II

The last date of uploading, downloading and opening of e-tender No. PCD- 2578 for the work "Hiring of one (01) No. fully built-up Ambulance of any reputed manufacturer for NJHPS duties" is hereby extended as under:-
Last Date & Time of Downloading : 05.12.2019 upto 12:00 hrs. (IST) of Document
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Date and Time of Opening of Bids : on 06.12.2019 at 14:00 hrs. (IST)
All other terms and conditions shall remain unchanged. DGM (P&C)
NJHPS, SJVN Ltd., Jhakri - 172201

SAVE ENERGY FOR BENEFIT OF SELF & NATION

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General public is hereby informed that a lady namely **Nidhi** with her child namely **Sanchit**, W/o Randheer Kumar R/o H.No. 234, Shadi Nagar, Azadpur, Delhi has been missing/kidnapped since 31.10.2019. In this regard, DD No. 28-A dated 10.11.2019 has been registered at P.S. Adarsh Nagar, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the missing/kidnapped lady and her child but no clue has come to light so far. The description of the missing/kidnapped lady is as under:
Name: Nidhi, **Gender:** Female, **Age:** 22 years, **Height:** 5'2", **Complexion:** Shallow, **Face:** Long, **Built:** Thin, **Wearing:** Unknown.
If anyone has any information regarding this missing Lady and the girl, kindly inform SHO/Adarsh Nagar, Delhi.

E-mail : cbc@cbi.gov.in
Ph. : 011-24368638, 24368641
Fax : 011-24368639

SHO
P.S. Adarsh Nagar, Delhi
Ph. No. 011-27672254, 27672452

DP/9554/NW/19



Nidhi & Sanchit



Maya charge

BSP chief Mayawati accuses BJP of discriminating against dalits, tribals, Backward classes & Muslims



CM Raghubar Das gave stability and development to Jharkhand in the last five years

— Ravi Shankar Prasad
Union minister

SHORT TAKES

CBI team to visit Deoria shelter home

New Delhi: The CBI, probing the alleged sexual exploitation of minor girls at a shelter home in Deoria in Uttar Pradesh, is likely to send a team of medical experts to the shelter home for analysing medical records of all victims prepared by the local doctors. Sources said, "After analysing medical records of the minor girls, experts will also meet all victims personally. The CBI may slap fresh charges against the accused on the basis of analysing medical records of all victims". The CBI recently registered two FIRs against Girija Tripathi and Superintendent Kanchan Lata Tripathi of the Maa Vindhyavasini Mahila Evam Balika Sanrakshan Griha, Deoria (UP), in connection with the case.

Former Navy Chief Sushil Kumar dies

New Delhi: Former Navy Chief Admiral Sushil Kumar (Retd) died at a military hospital on Wednesday morning following a brief illness, his family said. He was 79. Kumar was Navy Chief from 1998-2001. He died around 3:30 AM at the Army Research and Referral hospital, the family said. Prime Minister Narendra Modi condoled his demise, saying Kumar contributed towards strengthening the country's maritime security. "Admiral Sushil Kumar will be remembered for his great service to the nation. He contributed to the strengthening of our maritime security," the Prime Minister's Office tweeted. — PTI

Girl throws acid on boyfriend after tiff

Cuttack: In an unusual incident, a girl allegedly threw acid on a youth at Barik Sahi in Sikaripur area of Odisha's Cuttack city on Tuesday night. The victim, identified as Alekha Barik (25), sustained burn injuries in the face and neck and immediately rushed to SCB Medical College and Hospital here. According to reports, a verbal duel had ensued between Barik and the girl, who were in an "intimate" relationship.

ROW OVER BID TO GLORIFY GODSE

■ **Continued from Page 1** this on Thursday, while the government defended her saying that she was not referring to Godse. Cabinet ministers too jumped in to save her. "Her mic was not on. She made the objection when the name of Udhav Singh was being taken. She has even explained this and told it to me personally... She did not take the name of Godse or anyone else. There is nothing on record like that. It is not right to simply spread news like that," parliamentary affairs minister Prahlad Joshi said, while defending Ms Thakur. This is not the first time Ms Thakur has made such a statement. At the peak of the election campaign in May this year, Ms Thakur ignited a political storm by claiming that Godse was a patriot and would remain one, a statement she later had to retract and apologise for as the BJP distanced itself from her comments. "Repeatedly referring to Nathuram Godse as a patriot is perfect representation of the BJP's deplorable hate politics. Will PM Modi condemn Pragya Thakur's remarks or remain silent?" the Congress asked. "India celebrates 150th yr of Gandhi Jayanti, but terrorist accused BJP MP Pragya Thakur celebrates Godse as 'martyr' on the floor of Parliament. Modiji, inaction against Pragya proves your latent support to Godse's sinister thought" said Congress spokesman Randeep Surjewala.

Govt to forces: Prepare fund requirement plan

Armed forces forced to go slow on modernisation

PAWAN BALI
NEW DELHI, NOV. 27

To meet funds crunch of Armed Forces and its better utilisation, the defence ministry has asked them to prepare annual fund requirement for the next five years, said sources.

The Indian Army, Air Force and Navy have been asking defence ministry more funds in the forthcoming Union budget to meet their modernisation requirement.

"We have asked more money for modernisation in the next year's budget. Defence minister Rajnath Singh has asked us to prepare a road map for year wise fund requirement for the next five years. So we are working on it," said a senior official from the armed forces.

He said that armed forces don't want funds to be allocated in terms of percentage of the GDP. "The funds for armed forces should not be kept

Defence budget

■ The Army, Air Force and Navy have been asking defence ministry for more funds in the forthcoming Union Budget to meet modernisation requirement
■ Armed forces don't want funds to be allocated in terms of percentage of the GDP, says top officer

in terms of percentage of GDP. It should be in fixed term basis. This year the GDP growth is expected to slowdown so if it is kept in terms of GDP percentage the funds for armed forces will dip," he said.

Due to funds crunch, armed forces have been forced to go slow on their modernisation projects at a time when there is growing tension with Pakistan after removal of Article

370 from Jammu and Kashmir. As per the Union Budget estimates, Navy has kept ₹22,106 crore for modernisation in 2019-20. Indian Air Force has kept the highest at ₹36,365 crore and Indian Army has around ₹22,951 crore. All the three services are already demanding increase in funds in this year's revised budget estimates itself as allocated funds are not enough to meet their modernisation plans. A senior Army official said that thrashing out funds requirement per annum will also help in its better utilisation for purchasing arms and ammunition. "If suddenly today government gives us ₹10,000 crore to buy ammunition we will not be able to utilise it this year itself as there is globally shortage of ammunition. The factories only start making ammunition after getting order as they have a shelf life," he said.

KASHMIR CURBS

Azad: Govt can't paralyse lives of 7 million people

New Delhi, Nov. 27: Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad told the Supreme Court on Wednesday that he accepts the country is facing the problem of terrorism but it does not mean that the government can paralyse the lives of 7 million people of Jammu and Kashmir by imposing restrictions post the abrogation of Article 370.

He said the government claims that prohibitory orders under Section 144 of CrPC have been withdrawn from all police stations in Jammu and Kashmir but there are no such withdrawal orders in public domain.

A bench of Justices N.V. Ramana, R. Subhash Reddy and B.R. Gavai reserved its verdict on pleas filed by Azad and *Kashmir Times* editor Anuradha Bhasin challenging the curbs imposed in the erstwhile state.

The top court observed that it needs to create a balance between the rights of citizens and the national security of the state.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for Azad



Ghulam Nabi Azad

said that the statistics submitted by the state administration to claim return of normalcy was far from the ground reality and the top court has to decide the validity of the restrictions on the basis of legal principles.

"This country is facing the problem of terrorism. No one can deny this fact. We have to deal with this situation together. But, this does not mean that you can paralyse entire seven million people of the state," he said.

Referring to prohibitory orders, Mr Sibal said that nowhere it has been stated in the orders of magistrate that restrictions have been imposed on the ground of national security.

— PTI

ISRO launches 13 nano satellites

INDIA'S POLAR SATELLITE LAUNCH VEHICLE, PSLV-C47, HAS LAUNCHED CARTOSAT-3 AND 13 COMMERCIAL NANOSATELLITES INTO SUN SYNCHRONOUS ORBIT FROM SATISH DHAWAN SPACE CENTRE (SDSC), SRIHARIKOTA.

CARTOSAT-3 MISSION DETAILS

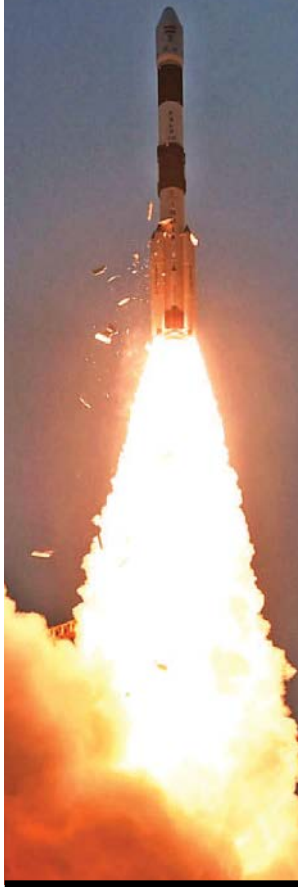
■ Cartosat-3 is a third-generation agile satellite with high-resolution imaging capabilities.

■ The satellite will replace the IRS series, according to Isro. The CARTOSAT-3 has a panchromatic resolution of 0.25 metres, which helps it conduct satellite imaging with the highest resolution. The space research organisation said this mission is a huge leap from the previous payloads in the CARTOSAT series.

■ The CARTOSAT-3, with an overall mass of over 1,600 kilograms, will address the increased user demand for large-scale urban planning, rural resource and infrastructure development, coastal land use and land cover.

■ The mission life of CARTOSAT-3 would be for five years, said the space research organisation.

■ The launch of CARTOSAT-3 and 13 other commercial nano-satellites follows Isro's moon mission Chandrayaan-2 on July 22, which failed to manage a soft landing on the moon, and would have been the country's first had it been successful.



13 patients sleep on floor post surgery

MP HOSPITAL

► At least 13 women were allegedly made to lie on the floor of a primary health centre in Vidisha district after they underwent sterilisation surgery

Vidisha, Nov. 27: At least 13 women were allegedly made to lie on the floor of a primary health centre in Madhya Pradesh's Vidisha district after they underwent sterilisation surgery, prompting the authorities to launch a probe into it, an official said on Wednesday.

The incident took place on Monday when the women underwent the procedure at a health camp organised at the Gyaraspur primary health centre.

"After I came to know that some women after the surgery had to sleep on the

hospital in Katni district. At that time, the doctor contended that the hospital wards were being repaired.

Meanwhile, Madhya Pradesh health minister Tulsi Silawat said steps were being taken for improvement in the health care sector in the state.

"Health care in the state was in a mess for last 15 years under the BJP government. After the Congress-led government coming to power last year, we are working hard to improve it," he added.

— PTI

Dr Ahirwar, however, denied reports in a section of media that 41 women were not provided beds after the surgery.

"After my visit to the health centre, I can clarify that out of 41 women who underwent the procedure, 28 were provided beds. The remaining 13 women were given floor beds," he said.

All the 41 women were discharged on Tuesday and they are fit and healthy, the official said.

In February, a similar treatment was meted out to women during a medical camp at a government

floor of the health centre, I ordered an inquiry," district chief medical and health officer Dr K.S. Ahirwar told PTI.

Notices have been issued to all staff members of the health centre, he said.

Haryana IAS officer Khemka transferred again

Chandigarh, Nov. 27: Ashok Khemka, an IAS officer who has been transferred about 50 times in his career, on Wednesday reacted strongly to his latest posting, saying the "reward for honesty is humiliation".

Haryana government on Wednesday issued transfer order to 14 IAS officers, including Mr Khemka.

"*Phir tabadla* (transferred again)," the 1991-batch officer tweeted.

"Same thing again. Constitution Day was celebrated yesterday. Today, the orders and rules of the Supreme Court were

violated yet again. Some will be pleased," the tweet in Hindi added.

"The reward for honesty is humiliation," it said.

The official was posted as principal secretary in Haryana's Science and Technology Department only in March. His next assignment is principal secretary, Archives, Archaeology and Museums Department, according to an official statement.

This was the first major administrative reshuffle ordered by the Bharatiya Janata Party-Jannayak Janta Party government after it came to power about a month ago.



Ashok Khemka

The transfers are with immediate effect.

Mr Khemka shot into limelight in 2012 when he cancelled the mutation of a land deal between Skylight Hospitality, which is linked to Congress leader Sonia Gandhi's son-in-law

Robert Vadra, and major real estate developer DLF. Over four years ago, Mr Khemka had termed another transfer "painful".

He had then been moved from the state's transport department. "Tried hard to address

corruption and bring reforms in Transport despite severe limitations and entrenched interests. Moment is truly painful," he had then tweeted.

Seven of the 14 Indian Administrative Service officers reshuffled on Wednesday are of the rank of additional chief secretary.

Their departments included Excise and Taxation, Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Mines and Geology, Public Works, Civil Aviation, Industries and Commerce, Food and Finance and Planning.

— PTI

India's NY consul triggers row

■ **Continued from Page 1**

potential of damaging India's position on the Kashmir issue despite the fact that the return of Kashmiri Pandits to their own homeland cannot be compared to the settling of Israeli Jews on Palestinian land.

On Wednesday evening, Mr Chakravorty claimed his remarks had been taken out of context. "I have seen some social media comments on my recent remarks. My remarks are being taken out of context," he tweeted.

The ministry of external affairs (MEA) maintained silence over the remarks but the incident seems to have caused unease in official circles, especially since the government and the MEA that had advanced a secular argument to the world on why India had revoked Article 370 — which granted J&K special status — in August this year.

The controversy was swiftly seized upon by Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan who accused the Indian government of "fascism".

"Shows the fascist mindset of the Indian govt's RSS ideology that has continued the siege of... J&K for over 100 days, subjecting Kashmiris to the worst violation of their human rights while the powerful countries remain silent because of their trading interests," he tweeted.

The remarks by the senior Indian diplomat could not have come at a worse time for New Delhi in view of Pakistan's propaganda offensive on the Kashmir issue and considering

that a function to mark the International Day of Solidarity with Palestine is scheduled to be held in New Delhi on Thursday in which several Arab envoys are expected to participate.

Israel has built about 140 settlements since its occupation of the West Bank and East Jerusalem in 1960s. The settlements are widely considered illegal under international law.

A person familiar with the developments claimed that Mr Chakravorty was merely referring to Israelis keeping their culture alive, but no one is buying this argument.

Mr Chakravorty was reportedly addressing a group of Kashmiri Pandits in his living room.

In the leaked video grabs, the consul general can be heard saying, "I believe the security conditions in J&K will improve, it will allow the refugees to go back. In your lifetime, you will be able to go back. You will be able to visit your villages. You will be able to go back to your homes. Because we already have a model in the world. I don't know why we don't follow it. It has happened in the Middle East. If the Israeli people can do it, we can also do it. We have to push our leadership to do that. Otherwise what is the use?"

Mr Chakravorty adds, "You have to go beyond the reasoning and understand why it was done. Someone spoke about the Jewish issue and the Israel issue. They kept the culture alive for 2000 years outside

their land. We all have to keep Kashmiri culture alive. The Kashmiri culture is Indian culture, it is Hindu culture. I feel as much Kashmiri as anybody else. None of us can imagine an India without Kashmir. (names a person)... said that in India, we think about all faiths... unfortunately, not everyone thinks that way... We should start thinking like others. And then only we will be able to beat them at their game. That thinking is now coming."

Mr Chakravorty also said, "The Kashmir issue is being dragged into the UN Human Rights Council, US Congress.

Why don't (these agencies) go to other places? Go to Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan. Why do you want to come to India? They are not liking that we are asserting ourselves and I believe that, in my lifetime, we will have our land back, our people have to go back. Because not everyone can live in the United States. Our Kashmiri brothers are living in refugee camps, in Jammu and Delhi. They are living on the streets. Let them go back to their houses and you (Pandits) will not go back because of fear of your lives. But that (fear) will go away. Give us some time. The government has done what it has done. Such a big international risk is not taken by any government just to do an amendment. Today we ran the risk of international appropriation. It was an international diplomatic struggle. We have successfully stalled it... Give some time, you will see what is going to happen."

Uddhav is set to be Maha CM for 5 yrs

■ **Continued from Page 1**

44 legislators respectively. NCP leader Praful Patel said, "We have sent two names from our party for the swearing-in ceremony. One or two leaders each from three parties will take oath on Thursday."

The governor has given the MVA till December 3 to prove its majority. The expansion of the ministry will be carried out after that, he added.

Interim Speaker Kalidas Kolambkar, who was appointed by the governor after swift developments on Tuesday propelled the NCP-Congress-Shiv Sena combine to form government, will oversee the oath ceremony at Shivaji Park in Dadar, a traditional venue for Shiv Sena events, including founder Bal Thackeray's Dussehra rallies.

Mr Thackeray will have to become a member of the Maharashtra Assembly or the Legislative Council within six months of taking oath as chief minister. Sources say the Sena chief, who has never contested an election, is likely to take the council route.

Some of the Sena ministers who are likely to be inducted into the Cabinet after expansion are Subhash Desai, Ravindra Waikar, Deepak Kesarkar, Uday Samant, Dada Bhuse, Gulabrao Patil, Sanjay Raimulkar and Sunil Prabhu. The NCP is likely to

name leaders such as Dilip Walse-Patil, Nawab Malik Hasan Mushrif, Rajendra Shingane and Dhananjay Munde. And Congress leaders likely to join Mr Thackeray's Council of Ministers are Ashok Chavan, Vijay Wadetiwar, Varsha Gaikwad, Amin Patel, Vishwajeet Kadam, K.C. Padvi, Yashomati Thakur and Nitin Raut.

Smaller allies are also likely to be given ministries, but their share has not been finalised yet.

According to public works department sources, nearly 50,000 people are expected to attend Mr Thackeray's swearing in, and special seating arrangements will also be made for the families of 700-odd farmers. While the Sena sought chairs to accommodate 50,000 people, the governor's office has approved the setting up of 30,000 chairs.

Over 300 workers, officers and supervisors were on their toes preparing for the ceremony. Sena MP Vinayak Raut, who is also the leader of the party in Lok Sabha, was supervising the preparations.

"We are expecting 50,000 people for the ceremony. Family members of farmers who committed suicide are specially invited for the ceremony and there will be a separate seating arrangements for them," he said.

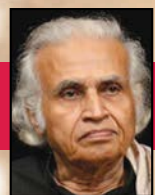
No recession yet: Nirmala

■ **Continued from Page 1**

members highlighted issues like PSU's disinvestment, demonetisation, unemployment and the decreasing purchasing power of consumers to counter the treasury benches' claim that economies worldwide were facing a slowdown.

Replying to the discussion, Ms Sitharaman said direct tax and GST collections had seen an increase in the first seven months of the current fiscal year, compared to the same period last year. Comparing GDP growth during the Narendra Modi government since 2014 and that seen in the previous five years under UPA-2, the minister said inflation was below target range, economic growth was much better, as were other macroeconomic indicators. "Looking at the economy in a discerning view, you see growth may have come down, but it is not a recession yet, it won't be recession ever," the finance minister said. Blaming the fall in GDP in the past two financial years to the stress on banks due to non-performing assets (NPAs) or bad and heavily indebted corporates, due to UPA lending, the minister rejected criticism that her July 5 Budget had failed to address the concerns of a slowing economy and so had to announce measures within a month of the Budget being passed by Parliament. On GST, she said of ₹6.63 lakh crores net collections targeted in the year through March 31, 2020, ₹3.26 lakh crores was collected in April-October. Month-wise GST collections had grown year-on-year, she said, adding that direct tax collections at ₹6.86 lakh crores in April-October too had seen growth of 4.8 per cent.

Shirin Vajifdar: She had courage to study dance at a difficult time



Sunil Kothari

focus

Jeroo Chavda, niece of Shirin Vajifdar, said: 'In those years, it was very difficult to learn dance for young girls from the Parsi community whose parents were from the small town of Valsad. In the early 1930s it was inconceivable for them to take to classical dancing. There was no parental support. The girls were given free lodging and boarding and school education from a Parsi orphanage.'

In my last column, I shared with readers the history of Madame Menaka, the pioneer who placed classical Kathak dance on the world map in the year 1933 and onwards. In this column, I would like to share with you the story of three young dancers from the Parsi community who dared to learn dancing. Jeroo Chavda, niece of Shirin Vajifdar, said: "In those years, it was very difficult to learn dance for young girls from the Parsi community whose parents were from the small town of Valsad. In the early 1930s it was inconceivable for a young girl from the Parsi community to take to classical dancing. There was no parental support. The girls were given free lodging and boarding and school education from a Parsi orphanage. It was inconceivable that with that background they dared to learn dance. Today's young generation of dancers can never understand that there was stigma to learn dance, which is not the case today".

Shirin Vajifdar displayed great courage to study dance from Jaipur gharana doyen Sunderprasadji, who had moved to Mumbai, and started teaching Kathak to the Poovai Sisters from Coorg, who had settled in Mumbai. Shirin studied under the great maestro and went for further training in dance to Madame Menaka's Nrityalayam dance institution at Khandala.

Her contemporaries at Nrityalayam were Damayanti Joshi, Shevanti Bhonsale and Vimla. Shevanti later on joined Ram Gopal's troupe. During those years, from Kolkata, young Manipuri guru Bipinsingh had joined Nrityalayam to teach Manipuri. There was another Kathakali teacher and dancer, Krishnan Kutty, who taught Kathakali. Shirin studied all the three forms and with excellent memory mastered the complicated *bols*, mnemonics of Manipuri. Shirin used to tell me as an aside that at that time, "The young gurus who had joined Madame Menaka's Nrityalayam at Khandala wanted to impress her over that they knew a lot of difficult mnemonic syllables



Shirin Vajifdar displayed great courage to study dance from Jaipur gharana doyen Sunderprasadji



— JEROO CHAVDA

and taught us to memorise them. I was the beneficiary and would show off Manipuri *bols*, which pleased Guru Bipinsingh a lot!"

Madame Menaka had started choreographing dance dramas with the help of Kathak gurus Gauri Shankar and Ramnarayan and Pandit Ramdutta Mishra. She included young dancers in those dance dramas like Menaka Lasyam and Kalidasa's Malavikagnimitram. Madame Menka used Manipuri and Kathakali dance forms for a court dance in celebration of King Agnimitra's victory over enemies. Shirin was thus exposed to early attempts at creating group works.

She taught dance to her two sisters Khurshid and Roshan and they started performing together as the Vajifdar Sisters. They were often threatened by the Parsi community to disrupt their shows throwing eggs and stones, but Shirin was not afraid and carried on receiving support from the elite section of the Parsi community.

Shirin and her sisters were contemporaries of the Poovai Sisters, Sitara Devi, Tara Choudhary, Mrinalini Sarabhai, Shanta Rao, Vyjayanthimala and Ritha Devi and were quite well known. They were often invited to give performances for charitable causes. They gave private tuitions to young girls from their community when dance became acceptable as an art form. As a teacher, Shirin was a strict disciplinarian, recall her students, and among them was the bright dancer Sunita Golwala who later on moved to London. Another student was Jeroo Mulla who also studied under her.

Shirin was married to Dr Mulk Raj Anand, the celebrated author, founder and editor of *Marg* quarterly magazine. Khurshid was married to renowned painter Shyavav Chavda and Roshan married Dr Hiranmay Ghosh, a chiropractor and later on settled at Kodaikanal. She won a Government of India scholarship and went to study



Bharatanatyam under Chokkalingam Pillai in Chennai and won fame as a brilliant Bharatanatyam dancer.

In 1954, Shirin was invited by film director Kishore Sahu to choreograph a dance sequence for his film *Mayurpankha*, for which Khurshid and Roshan danced for a duet sung by Lata Mangeshkar and Asha Bhonsle. The music was composed by Shankar and Jaikishan. The film was sent to the Cannes Film Festival and was awarded the Grand Prize.

In 1955, a big delegation of dancers and musicians was sent to China in which Shirin and Guru Krishnan Kutty along with Indrani Rahaman and several other dancers were sent. Shirin used to perform with Krishnan Kutty, the mythological story of Mohini and Bhramasura, which was quite popular, and for which Mulk Raj Anand had written the script.

In those years, video or YouTube were not known. Therefore, there are no recordings of Shirin and her sisters dancing. Films Division had made one small documentary of Shirin's Bharatanatyam dance which is now lost. Only rare photographs are with Jeroo Chavada,

who has kindly lent us for publication. She has studied dance from Shirin and has kept the memories of her alive.

I came to know Shirin by 1957, by that time she had retired from performing. I met Dr Mulk Raj Anand during the same year. Mulk often invited artists and writers at his 25, Cuff Parade residence. I used to attend the soirees, meeting painters and writers. Mulk encouraged me to write on dance on and suggested me to attend the All India Dance Seminar at Vigyan Bhavan in New Delhi in April 1958. It was a historic dance conference where Mulk also introduced me to Roshan Vajifdar, who was to present a paper on *navikas* and Gita Govinda. Shirin had joined us and we met Devika Rani and Russian painter Nicholas Roerich's son Svetoslav Roerich, whose "muse" was Roshan. He had also done a few portraits of Roshan. Shirin and Mulk were very close to Devika Rani and Svetoslav Roerich.

In Mumbai, I often visited Mulk's residence when I was assigned to write a book on Bharatanatyam for *Marg*. Shirin was a gentle person and always kept a low profile. She was writing her autobiography and would sometimes read a few paragraphs which were quite moving in terms of how the sisters suffered humiliation when they took to dancing. She would sometimes tell interesting stories about Ram Gopal, who used to stay at Oceana building on Marine Drive. She would recall about him as a most charismatic and handsome dancer with the gift of gab. He would invite the sisters to learn Bharatanatyam from him.

Shirin was invited by the editor Shamlat to write reviews on dance for the *Times of India*. By then I was writing reviews for the *Evening News of India*. Shirin and I used to attend many dance performances together. She had a vast range of references, having seen many dancers and dance forms. She kept all her reviews carefully in a scrapbook and advised me to keep a copy

of my reviews. She was very meticulous. Her approach was to encourage young dancers and wrote encouragingly about Yamini Krishnamurthy, Sonal Mansingh (nee Pakvasa), Kanak Rele (nee Divecha), Protima Bedi, Sanjukta Panigrahi, Kum Kum Mohanty, Shobha Naidu and also other dancers from the South. Her approach was of constructive criticism. Dancers still remember her kindness and have in their collection those reviews written by her.

We used to visit Lonavala on weekends, where Mulk had a bungalow. I spent many weekends with them. Shirin would often speak of dancers like Indrani Rahaman who was her favourite and a close friend. She was fond of the Jhaveri Sisters and traditional gurus Mahalingam Pillai, Govind Raj Pillai and Kalyandaram Pillai. By temperament she was a happy dancer, having performed and seen the best of times. As a partner of Mulk, she was a gracious hostess. She never asserted her status as his wife or as a dancer.

I used to call upon her after leaving Mumbai for Kolkata as a Professor of dance at Rabindra Bharati University and later in Delhi at the School of Arts and Aesthetics, JNU. After Mulk's passing away, she had moved to a small apartment where Jeroo looked after her. During the past few years, she was not keeping well. I used to tell her to complete her autobiography as it is a valuable document of dance history of her pioneering work. Hopefully Jeroo Chavda would get it published. Shirin will be much missed by her large group of admirers and dancers.

Shirin passed away at the ripe age of 92 in Mumbai. Whenever someone would write on the state of dance criticism in the 1970s and 1980s, the reviews by Shirin would be the most important source of material for such a project.

The writer is an eminent dance historian



Four masters and two jugalbandis in New Delhi



Shailaja Khanna

meanwhile

The capital saw two duet concerts, both of mixed genres last week. The first was of Vidushi Bombay Jayashri from the Carnatic tradition and Pandit Ronu Mazumdar, representing the North Indian classical form, organised by Uttar Dakshin, a Mumbai-based organiser. The two internationally acclaimed artists have shared their youth growing up in Mumbai, and have collaborated many times before, though this was their first concert together in Delhi. As such, audience expectations were high, and the hall was full even before the concert started.

The artists started with Raga Kapi Narayani, in the Carnatic system — Jhinjhoti in the North has similar notes. The composition "saras sama dana" by Tyagaraja is beautiful, and Jayashri was able to bring in the required emotion. In this piece, Ronu followed the spirit of Raga Kapi Narayani rather than Jhinjhoti, with his usual ease and fluidity. His extremely talented 18-year-old flautist son Hrishikesh also accompanied the duo, which was surprising as a *jugalbandi* concert ideally should not have accompaniment of any sort as it detracts from the main artists shar-



Jayanthi Kumaresh (left) and Anil Srinivasan (right)

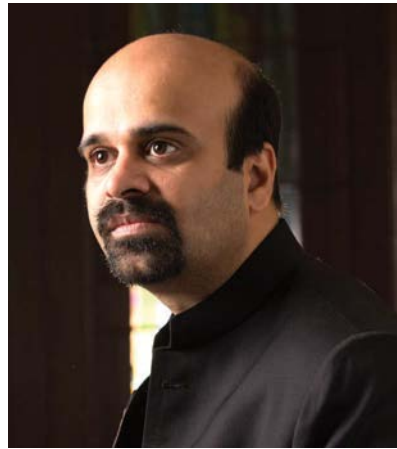
ing their musical thoughts. The interruption of a third, that too a disciple, was somewhat unfortunate. It became almost a *trigulbandi* of sorts at times with the flute dominating the music; added to which the magnification of the flute was disproportionately high.

The next short piece was a "stuti" to Devi in Raga Saraswati, a raga adopted into North Indian music from the South, and thus common to both systems; the third piece was in a Carnatic Raga Bahudari, in which Jayashri's music soared, with Ronu echoing her thoughts musically. Musically, this piece was truly uplifting.

The main piece with "aalap" and

"thanam" was again in a raga common to both systems — Jajaiwanti, adopted in Carnatic music as Dwijawanti. Interpretation of the raga by both artists as usual followed the same line, creating a pleasant, harmonious ambience. The lyrics of the composition "More Mandir" were written by Ustad Faiyaz Khan, who used the tune of an older *bandish*, but changed the lyrics as they were considered too risqué to sing in mixed company. Jayashri, with her innate flair for North Indian music, sang this *khayal* wonderfully.

The concluding "Krishna Nee Begane" in Raga Yamuna Kalyani,



again a raga shared in both systems, was sung most expressively by Jayashri, with superb embellishments. Ronu's flute, especially in this piece, was as always expressive and truly emotive. Rapturous music was being created, but somewhat tritely. Ronu insisted on switching midstream to his favourite *Meera* bhajan "Ram Ratan dhan payo". Ronu's explanation that we have entreated Lord Krishna to come (*Krishna nee Begane*), now let's laud Lord Rama, was not fully convincing. Amazingly, he also sang himself. In the presence of Jayashri with her golden voice, his attempt to sing did the piece no justice — one wondered why he felt the need to try and express himself through his voice when it is the flute of which he is an acknowledged master.

During the entire concert, which had a predominantly North Indian flavour,

Jayashri was masterly in maintaining the synergetic flow of the music, letting the expressions become seamless, and not letting her Carnatic training bring in a different "feel" to the music they were mutually creating. Ronu, master as he is of *jugalbandis*, as always created music that was cohesive and pulled at the heart's strings; as he said, "We are two bodies, creating one sound". *Jugalbandis* should indeed create music that is one, and this concert without doubt did that. Despite the domination by the flute, the *jugalbandi* was most melodious, and lyrical as could be expected from two of India's finest musicians. Accompaniment on the tabla was by V. Narhari (incidentally also the organiser) and Sumesh Narayanan was on the mridangam; both percussionists keeping their engagements respectfully and appropriately to the minimum so as to let the two maestros remain the focus. Such is good true "sangati".

The next *jugalbandi* was of two South Indian musicians on the piano and the saraswati veena; but one, Anil Srinivasan, has trained in Western classical music, and the other, Dr Jayanthi represents an ancient tradition descended from Saint Tyagaraja. The music was in the Carnatic idiom; the format was each expressing the same notes in their different ways. Anil was very skilfully able to usually follow Jayanthi's way; in a few instances, Jayanthi followed Anil.

Anil kept his musical training and the piano's distinct identity intact, while still managing to seamlessly join Jayanthi in the expression of her awesome musical lineage. This was again a musical collaboration in the true

sense of the word, with the mutual respect for each other clearly visible.

Starting with Raga Pantuvavali, the duo played Tyagaraja's "Shiva Shiva". This was followed by Raga Khamas, Tyagaraja's truly sublime composition "sujan jeevana". The main piece was Raga Kapi, in which the duo also essayed the "thanam". They ended with *Raghupati Raghav*. As with any good *jugalbandi*, the music created by the two artists should be an enhancement of each one's individual music; both Jayanthi and Anil effortlessly created a new expression together that was not just beautiful but also, strangely, given the coherent genres they were trained in, cohesive. Anil's humorous and deprecating announcements preceding each piece added to the special feel this concert brought in; an informal light engagement of music, with some special moments of great lyricity and beauty.

The tabla accompaniment of Pratham Kiran was apt; he followed the notes of the compositions with tabla "bols", in the style of the mridangam; even though by training he follows the Banaras gharana of tabla. Trichy Krishnaswamy on the ghatam was as always a delight. Their "tani avartanam" with Pratham on the "morsing" was lovely.

This *jugalbandi* was organised by Alap, a Chennai-based organisation. Both Uttar Dakshin and Alap, despite not being based in New Delhi, laudably managed to have full halls, despite the profusion of classical music concerts in New Delhi.

Shailaja Khanna writes on music, musicians and matters of music

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

THE ASIAN AGE

THURSDAY | 28 NOVEMBER 2019 | NEW DELHI

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 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.

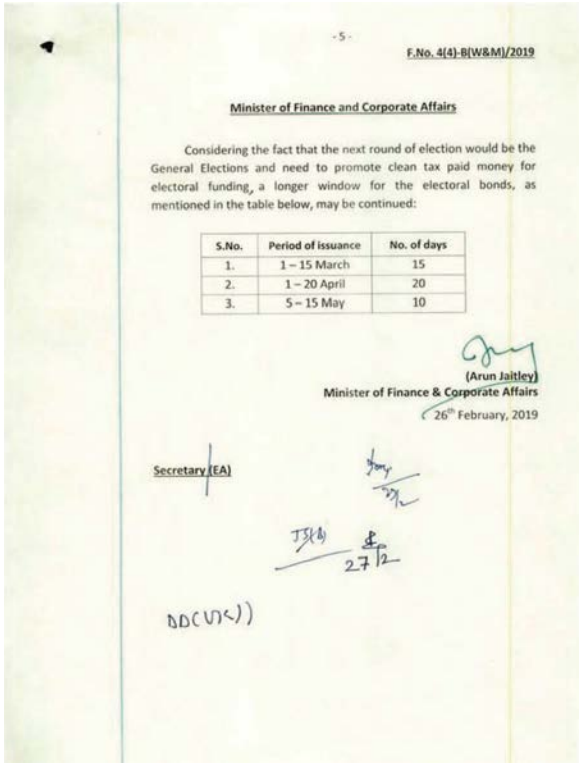
ANONYMITY FARCE

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 confidential 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 Communique 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**

Citizenship Bill will create more problems than it might solve

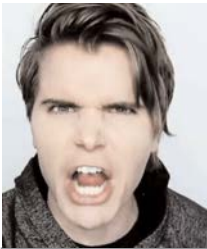


M. Mohibul Haque

The proposed “Citizenship (Amendment) Bill” is yet another blatant anti-Muslim legislation by the BJP government in India. The bill proposes to amend the Citizenship Act 1955 so as to enable Hindu, Sikh, Christian, Buddhist, Jain, and Parsi illegal migrants from three neighbouring countries (Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Afghanistan) to become eligible for citizenship of India. In other words, the bill intends to provide citizenship of India to all illegal migrants from the three mentioned countries except Muslims. The lacunae in the proposed bill is evident: The first major lacuna in the proposed bill is that it makes religion the ground for providing or denying citizenship, which is a violation of the Constitution. Second, it suggests that only six mentioned communities faced persecution in three neighbouring countries, a claim which cannot be established empirically. The question arises as to what will happen to Ahmadiyyas in India who have certainly faced persecution in Pakistan and other Muslim countries and many of them might be settled here in India. Thirdly, it assumes that many people did not face persecution in three neighbouring countries because they were Muslims. It suggests as if the ground for discrimination and persecution is only religion. It ignores the empirically established fact that besides religion — caste, race, language, culture, etc can also be grounds for persecution. The persecution of Bengali-speaking Muslims and the subsequent creation of Bangladesh with the active support of India is a pointer to the fact. Moreover, the sexual minorities (LGBTQs) can also face persecution due to their sexual inclinations and there may be people (migrants) belonging to these inclinations who felt/feel suffocated under the religious traditions they were brought up with. Eventually, they refuse/refused to identify themselves with any religion whatsoever and thus they may prefer not to be affiliated to any religion or faith. Besides, for instance, there may be agnostics, atheists, and people from tribal cultures and not professing any mentioned religion. As the proposed bill does not address these problematic issues satisfactorily, it is bound to fall flat, if not in Parliament where the ruling side has a huge majority, then of course in the Supreme Court of India. Will lead to social tensions and increased inter-communal violence: The Bill, if passed, will create spaces for “citizenship vigilantism” like “cow vigilantism” and will certainly lead to the mushrooming of “citizenship vigilante groups”. It will increase the incidence of lynching as many potential suspects (read: Muslims) will face the wrath of organised gangs

of citizenship vigilante groups. India is a country of continental size, with 1.37 billion people. In a country like India, this kind of exercise is very difficult. The bill, if it becomes law, will be followed by the preparation of a National Register of Citizens (NRC), which is quite a cumbersome process. The experience of Assam should be an eye-opener for policymakers. Under the proposed bill, citizenship is reduced to pieces of paper. Millions of landless people in India might not have any document required for the registration of names in the NRC. Marginalised people who are under tremendous stress and anxiety due to loss of jobs and problems related to marginalisation may go for extreme actions like suicide (as is happening in Assam), making India a country of mass suicides. ■ **International Implications:** The three mentioned countries, first of all, will deny the charge that people of the six mentioned religions were persecuted and it will be difficult to prove otherwise. It will definitely make the lives of 1.7 million Hindus in Bangladesh difficult as there may be a Muslim backlash over there. Moreover, people from the six religious communities who are living in Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan will face problems. It can also create problems for a robust Indian diaspora living in several other Muslim majority countries. The matter of the “politically created non-citizens” will become an international issue. If the number of such non-citizens or infiltrators or illegal migrants reaches 20 million or more, as the government claims, it will become a major international issue. The countries of their perceived origin shall be asked to take them back, which will not be accepted by those countries at all. From the OIC to the UN to the EU and at all international fora, the matter of these so-called non-citizens will be discussed. It is a fact that India cannot send them back and the countries of their perceived origin will not take them back. Under such circumstances, what will be the fate of those people? Either they will be kept in detention centres, which will be impossible, or they will be stripped of their citizenship and thereby also of their voting rights, which is perhaps the main objective of this otherwise futile exercise. In any case, the bill has the potential to create more problems than it aims to resolve. The proposed bill is not in the national interest of India. Besides creating a fertile breeding ground for terrorism and extremism, it will tarnish the reputation of India as a secular and democratic republic.

The writer is a professor at the department of political science, Aligarh Muslim University



Banned
Controversial YouTuber
banned from Patreon
after alleged doxxing

SHORT TAKES



TWITTER TO
REMOVE
INACTIVE A/Cs

AGE CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI, NOV. 27

Social media network Twitter has confirmed to *Deccan Chronicle* that it is working on removing old, inactive accounts from its platform in efforts to 'present more accurate, credible information' to its users.

According to a written statement from the platform, it has been emailing multiple users who hold accounts inactive for over six months to 'inform them that their accounts may be permanently removed due to prolonged inactivity'.

Twitter's inactive account policies states that 'To keep your account active, be sure to log in and Tweet at least every 6 months. Accounts may be permanently removed due to prolonged inactivity.'

In the United States, Twitter has confirmed to the news portal TechCrunch that users are being given until the 11th of December to log in and basically, save their accounts following some instructions by the platform. In India, the exact conditions of the revival, if different, are not known to us yet.

While the account removals are happening, more usernames will now also be available to users if they had previously been used by such accounts. However, Twitter India has confirmed that one couldn't expect this to happen anytime soon.

"The account deletions will happen over time, so little by little people will see usernames become available," said a spokesperson for the company adding that usernames availability isn't their goal.

Meanwhile there is no known timeline for the conclusion of the cleanse yet.



FB'S OCULUS
BUYS HIT VR
GAME MAKER

San Francisco, Nov. 27: Facebook-owned Oculus on Tuesday said it is buying the studio behind hit virtual reality game "Beat Saber" as it looks to expand VR technology to wider audiences.

Oculus, which makes Rift and Quest VR headgear, did not disclose financial terms of the deal to acquire Prague-based Beat Games.

"Beat Games is joining us in our quest to bring VR to more people around the world," Oculus director of augmented and virtual reality content Mike Verdu said in a blog post.

"Beat Games' accomplishments are already impressive, but Facebook and the Beat Games team know that there is so much more that can be done across VR, games, and music," Verdu assured players that the studio would continue to ship content and updates for "Beat Saber" on platforms where it is already available. In the virtual game, players use light sabers to slash oncoming, large cubes to the beat of music, sometimes twisting or ducking to avoid oncoming walls.

"VR reimagines old genres and invents new ones," Verdu said.

Oculus is exploring ways, including acquisitions, to accelerate the adoption of virtual reality technology, which Facebook chief Mark Zuckerberg has heralded as the next major computing platform.

"With the resources and know-how that we can offer, Beat Games will be able to accelerate, adding more music and more exciting features to 'Beat Saber' as well as bringing the game to more people," Verdu said. — AFP

POLITICAL MICROTARGETING: THE GOOD, BAD AND UGLY

■ Online services have upended the world of advertising by enabling marketers, including political campaigns, to refine their pitches to specific groups of people or geographic areas.

■ Google and Facebook notably have fine-tuned their networks to allow "microtargeting," giving advertisers the ability to reach small segments of the online population at a much lower cost than for all users of a platform.

■ For political campaigns, strategists say microtargeting is useful for finding supporters, raising funds and reaching voters likely to be persuaded by specific messages. However, critics say these narrowly focused campaigns often operate in the dark, enabling the spread of misinformation, including from foreign actors.

How does microtargeting work?

■ Self-serve platforms operated by Facebook and Google allow advertisers to target messages based on users' declared interests, detailed demographics and browsing history, including pages and services they "like."

■ Political campaigns may be able to select, for example, suburban moms in Michigan or Arizonans who like Donald Trump, which can be far less expensive than a message to millions of people, the majority of whom may not be interested.

What's the problem?

■ Targeted ads are not unique to the internet. Marketers who use direct mail have long gathered data to find receptive customers, as do telemarketers.

■ But critics of online microtargeting argue that targeting is often based on highly personal data such as search queries, Facebook "likes" and browsing histories, often with little disclosure to users.

■ Additionally, platforms "facilitate and incentivize the most extreme content because they allow political actors to speak only to the people likely to be the most sympathetic and responsive," said Daniel Kreiss, a researcher at the Center for Information, Technology and Public Life at the University of North Carolina.

Why not ban political microtargeting?

■ Google has barred the use of microtargeting, allowing candidates only to select general categories such as age, gender or postal code location.

■ Twitter has banned all political ads on its platform, except for non-electoral "cause-based" messages, arguing that microtargeting is bad for democracy.

■ The moves put pressure on Facebook, which is considering revising its targeting policy and last year removed the ability to use categories including race, ethnicity, sexual orientation and religion.

What else can be done?

■ Some analysts call for more transparency around microtargeting instead of banning the practice.

■ Kreiss said platforms should be required to allow "counterspeech" to any targeted messages, giving political opponents the opportunity to respond to the same audiences.

■ By offering more transparency -- not just for the ads, but the groups targeted -- "that would mitigate some of the harm that comes with microtargeting," Kreiss said.



China's ByteDance moves
to ringfence its TikTok app

TikTok is hiring US engineers to reduce reliance on Chinese staff

New York/Washington/Beijing, Nov. 27: ByteDance has stepped up efforts to separate its social media app TikTok from much of its Chinese operations, amid a U.S. national security panel's inquiry into the safety of the personal data it handles, people familiar with the matter said.

The Chinese technology company is seeking to provide assurances to the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States that personal data held by TikTok, which is widely popular with US teenagers, is stored securely in the US and will not be compromised by Chinese authorities, the sources said.

CFIUS, which reviews deals by foreign acquirers

for potential national security risks, is looking into ByteDance's \$1 billion acquisition of social media app Musical.ly in 2017, which laid the foundations for TikTok's rapid growth, Reuters reported earlier this month.

ByteDance's response represents a key test of corporate China's ability to operate businesses in the US that handle personal data, as US President Donald Trump's trade war with China fans suspicion between the world's two largest economies.

ByteDance is hoping to avoid the fate of Chinese gaming company Beijing Kunlun Tech, which said in May it would agree to a CFIUS request to divest popular gay dating app Grindr following concerns

about the security of personal data. It is also exploring exiting its investment in Grindr through an IPO.

ByteDance started to separate TikTok operationally before CFIUS approached it in October, because it wanted some of its staff to focus on TikTok, according to the sources.

It completed the separation of TikTok's product and business development, marketing and legal teams from those of its Chinese social media app Douyin in the third quarter of this year, according to the sources, who requested anonymity to discuss the company's internal arrangements. During the summer, it also hired an external consultant to carry out audits on the integrity of the personal data it stores, the sources added. The company has said US user data is stored entirely in the US, with a backup in Singapore. It has also said that the Chinese government does not have any jurisdiction over TikTok content.

Following the approach by CFIUS, TikTok is making a new push to set up a team in Mountain View, California, that will oversee data management, according to the sources. This team will determine whether Chinese-based engineers should have access to TikTok's database, and monitor their activity, the sources said. TikTok is also hiring more US engineers to

reduce its reliance on staff in China, according to the sources. It is not clear how effective these changes will be in appeasing CFIUS. A spokeswoman for the US Treasury Department, which chairs CFIUS, said it does not comment on information relating to specific CFIUS cases.

"Shifting a company's operations away from China, geographically and technically, can give CFIUS more comfort that the company is really independent of its Chinese owner and the Chinese government," said Nevena Simidjijyska, a partner at law firm Fox Rothschild LLP who advises companies on CFIUS reviews and is not involved in the TikTok case. — Reuters

NSO Group staff
sues FB over ban

Jerusalem, Nov. 27: A group of employees from Israeli surveillance firm NSO Group filed a lawsuit against Facebook on Tuesday, saying the social media giant had unfairly blocked their private accounts when it sued NSO last month.

Messaging service WhatsApp, which is owned by Facebook, had accused NSO in its own legal action filed in California last month of helping government spies break into the phones of roughly 1,400 users across four continents in a hacking spree whose targets included diplomats, political dissidents, journalists and senior government officials.

The NSO employees said their Facebook and Instagram accounts, and also those of former workers and family members, had been blocked. They petitioned the Tel Aviv District Court to order Facebook to unblock the accounts, which they claim was done abruptly and without notice.

Facebook said in a statement that it had disabled "relevant accounts" after attributing a "sophisticated cyber attack" to NSO Group and its employees. Those actions "continue to be necessary for security reasons, including preventing additional attacks," the company said.

It added that it had re-enabled some accounts through an appeals process. In their statement, the NSO employees said Facebook had imposed a "collective punishment" by choosing to block their private accounts due to the legal process Facebook is conducting against NSO. They also said their lawsuit

Facebook said that it had disabled "relevant accounts" after attributing a "sophisticated cyber attack" to NSO Group and its staff

came only after they made repeated requests to Facebook that went unanswered. "Blocking our private accounts is a hurtful and unjust move by Facebook," the statement said. "The idea that personal data was searched for and used is very disturbing to us."

The employees said they would continue to "help governments around the world prevent crime and terrorism through the technology we are developing."

WhatsApp accused NSO of facilitating government hacking sprees in 20 countries. Mexico, the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain were the only countries identified. NSO, founded in 2009, denies the allegations.

Speaking at a technology conference in Tel Aviv on Monday, its president, Shiri Dolev, defended her company, saying NSO technologies made the world safer. Dolev also said she wished NSO could talk openly about the role it plays in helping law enforcement agencies catch terrorists.

"Terrorists and criminals use the social platforms and apps we all use every day..." she said. Dolev added that NSO does not operate the technology nor hack phones. "We develop the technology which we sell exclusively to government intelligence agencies," she said. — Reuters

WOMEN AND GEN X
MOST COMPLACENT
ABOUT SECURITY

83% think financial fraud and data theft are the biggest threat to online banking.

88% are aware of the threats, but 86% still believe online payments made on apps and websites are always safe.

68% of Indian respondents are willing to save their personal bank details on websites they trust

85% of the Gen X consumers are even willing to save personal bank details on the websites they trust, despite knowing their personal information collected from cookies and apps can be sold to data brokers.

75% of women respondents are not hesitant about saving personal information on websites despite knowing that information collected from cookies and apps can be sold to data brokers

What are the benefits of online transactions?



55% say its cost-effective



90% say its a time saver



75% say its safe and assured



83% say its convenient

Apple shows Crimea as Russia

Moscow, Nov. 27: US tech giant Apple has complied with Moscow's demands to show Crimea, annexed from Ukraine in 2014, as Russian territory on its apps, lawmakers said Wednesday.

The Black Sea peninsula and its largest cities of Sevastopol and Simferopol are now displayed as Russian territory on Apple's maps and weather apps when used in Russia.

Crimea does not appear to be part of any country when these apps are used in France. "Crimea and Sevastopol now appear on

Apple devices as Russian territory," parliament's lower house, the State Duma, said in a statement. Russia treats the naval port city of Sevastopol as a separate region.

Russia and Apple had been in talks over the last few months, with the US giant initially trying to show Crimea as undefined territory and removing any mention of Ukraine.

The State Duma released a statement following a meeting between Vasily Piskaryov, chairman of State Duma security and anti-corruption commit-



tee, and Apple's Russia representative, Darya Yermolina.

In the statement, Piskaryov praised the US company, saying it had complied with the Russian Constitution. He said Russia was open

for "dialogue and constructive cooperation with foreign companies," stressing however that Russian authorities would remain vigilant.

Russian lawmakers will monitor "issues concerning the protection of the Russian constitution and our country's sovereignty from outside interference," Piskaryov added. Apple did not immediately release a comment on Wednesday.

Another global tech giant, Google, does not identify Crimea as belonging to either Russia or

Ukraine on its maps.

It however uses the Russian, rather than Ukrainian, spelling of Crimean place names on its maps in Russia, as well as drawing a line to show the de facto border dividing Crimea from the rest of Ukraine.

Russia annexed Crimea from Ukraine in 2014 in a move condemned by most of the global community. The seizure of the peninsula helped spark a separatist uprising in eastern Ukraine that has claimed more than 13,000 lives so far. — AFP



Risk-taking binge is worrying central banks

Use telematics to price motor policies: Irdai



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 Rajebhosale 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.

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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 supplementary 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

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 (NHSCR-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 festival 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

Karvy got into ‘never allowed’ activities: Sebi

ASHWIN J PUNNEN MUMBAI, NOV. 27

The Sebi Chairman Ajay Tyagi on Wednesday said the Karvy Stock Broking was indulging in activities that were ‘never allowed’.

“Separation of accounts was in the June circular, which is now five months past. It cannot be anyone’s guess even if these instructions were not that explicit that they can use clients’ securities for doing something of their own,” Tyagi said on the sidelines of an OECD-Asian roundtable on corporate governance here.

The comments from Tyagi come days after the Securities and Exchange Board of India banned Karvy for selling client stocks pledged with it through associated entities.

Tyagi added that, in June, Sebi had made its stance “explicit” through a circular and hinted that there was no case for entities to indulge in such practices before that as well. “It cannot be anyone’s case even if these instructions were not so explicit that they can use clients’ securities for doing something (of) their own,” said added.



He mentioned proprietary trades or investments in other businesses while elaborating on the possible activities that a brokerage may carry out. “This is a very basic thing which can’t be allowed,” he reiterated.

Last Friday, Sebi barred Karvy from taking new clients for stock broking activities over alleged misuse of clients’ securities.

The action followed leading bourse NSE forwarding a preliminary report to Sebi on the non-compliances observed with respect to the pledging/misuse of client securities by Karvy Stock Broking Ltd (KSBL).

The exchange’s preliminary report is the result of the limited purpose inspection of KSBL conducted by it on August 19, covering a period from

January 1 onwards, Sebi had said in an order.

In a 12-page ex-parte interim order, Sebi Whole Time Member Ananta Barua said there was a “need for urgent regulatory intervention to prevent further misuse of clients’ securities”.

Apart from prohibiting the entity from taking new clients in respect of its stock broking activities, the watchdog directed depositories NSDL and CDSL not to act upon any instruction given by KSBL in pursuance of power of attorney given by its clients.

“The depositories shall monitor the movement of securities into and from the DP (depository participant) account of clients of KSBL as DP to ensure that clients’ operations are not affected,” the order said.

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, Eleva 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 micro-finance 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 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 PHVD (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 BEML'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 Icrs 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 Sabvasachi Majumdar, Senior Vice President & Group Head, Icrs 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 concerned, 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
BELL
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



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

World

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THE ASIAN AGE

THURSDAY | 28 NOVEMBER 2019 | NEW DELHI



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: 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 residence 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

mid-December. It gave Trump until 6 pm to advise the committee on whether he would attend

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 Medellín, 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

'Boris plotting NHS sale'

London, Nov. 27: Britain's main opposition Labour party on Wednesday accused Prime Minister Boris Johnson of plotting a "toxic" deal with President Donald Trump to allow US pharmaceutical companies access to the state health service. Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn held up what he claimed were 451 pages of previously secret documents that proved Johnson was seeking to put the National Health Service (NHS) on the table in a post-Brexit trade deal.

Britain goes to the polls on December 12, with Johnson hoping to secure a majority to be able to push through his divorce deal to take the country out of the



Jeremy Corbyn

European Union.

However, the funding and running of the NHS is a recurring election topic.

Mr Johnson's Conservatives accused a "desperate" Corbyn of "out-and-out lying" by peddling "conspiracy theory-fuelled nonsense".

Corbyn had previously obtained a redacted version of the documents.

But the Labour leader said the unredacted version catalogued six meetings between US and UK officials since 2017, detailing "what they (the Conservatives) don't want you to know".

"The US is demanding that our NHS is on the table in negotiations for a toxic deal," Corbyn told reporters in central London. The sale of the NHS was the government's "secret agenda", he added, warning that the coming election was "a fight for the survival of the National Health Service as a public service". — AFP



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
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."

SEARCH FOR MISSING



Sanjana

General public is hereby informed that a female namely Sanjana along with her child, W/o: Nizamuddin, R/o: H. No. A-28, Priyadarshani Vihar, Tahirpur, Delhi has been missing since 22.10.2019 from her house. In this regard DD No. 16-A, dated 26.10.2019 has been registered at P.S. Nand Nagari, Delhi. The description of missing female is as under:

Name: Sanjana, Age: About 22 Years, Height: 5'5", Face: Long, Complexion: Fair, Built: Thin, Wearing: Saree and ladies chappal in feet.

If anyone have any information about this missing female or her child please inform P.S. Nand Nagari, Delhi.

Web: <http://cbi.nic.in>, Email: cic@cbi.gov.in
Ph.: 011-24368638/24368641, Fax: 011-24368639
SHO
Police Station, Nand Nagari, Delhi.
Ph: 011-22137761, 8750870730
DP/7460/NE/19

SEARCH OF MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General public is hereby informed that one girl (depicted in the photo), Namely: Gulshan, D/o: Ramesh Chander, R/o: H.No. 51, Gali No. 14, Amar Colony, Nangloi, Delhi, Aged: 18 years 9 months, has been missing/ kidnapped from the area of P.S. Nangloi, Delhi since 30.10.2019 at vide DD No. 51-A Dated 31.10.2019, has been lodged at P.S. Nangloi, Delhi. Her physical description is as under:



Gulshan

Height: 5 Feet, Complexion: Fair, Face: Round, Clothing: Multi Colour T-Shirt, Blue Colour Lower and chappal in feet.

Any person is having any information/clue about this missing girl, may inform SHO, Nangloi, Delhi at E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.nic.in or website : <http://cbi.nic.in> in Tele No. : 011-24368638 or 24368641

S.H.O.
P.S. Nangloi, Delhi
Ph. 011-25947225, 25949470
DP/2877/OD/19.



Plea denied

Australia turns down plea from *Baywatch* star Pamela Anderson to bring Julian Assange home



I 'mishandled' trans casting controversy during Rupert Sanders' *Rub & Tug* — **Scarlett Johansson**
Actress

IN BRIEF

Bob Iger pledges help to dying *Star Wars* fan

California: Disney boss, Bob Iger, has pledged to help a dying man see the new *Star Wars* film early with his son. Rowans Hospice in Waterlooville, Hampshire, sent out a plea on Twitter asking for an early screening of the film, which is due out on 20 December. The hospice said: "This is our most desperate hour. Sadly, time is not on his side for 20th Dec." Mr Iger, who is the chairman and CEO of The Walt Disney Company, said in response "we will certainly try". The hospice said: "We have replied to Mr Iger on Twitter and are waiting for a response from him." — *Agencies*

Beckham fashion label makes another loss

London: Victoria Beckham's fashion business has posted another annual loss as demand for the former Spice Girl's high-end clothes "plateaued". Victoria Beckham Limited, which has not made a profit since it launched in 2008, reported a loss of £12.3m for 2018. Sales slipped 16% to £35m, amid weaker wholesale demand. Chairman Ralph Toledano said sales of clothing and accessories had levelled off after years of growth. "The performance was in line with expectations, so we were not surprised." — *Agencies*

Lopez to produce *Thanks a Million*

Los Angeles: Actor Jennifer Lopez is set to executive produce Quibi's upcoming show *Thanks a Million*, which will see participation by celebrities like Kristen Bell, Zac Efron, Joe Jonas and others. Described as "emotional and inspiring", each episode of the show follows one of the stars kickstarting a chain of kindness when they gift USD 100,000 to an unsuspecting individual, who has made a positive impact on their life. The recipient is then tasked to pay it forward and gift half of the sum to someone else who has done the same. — *PTI*

RAPPER JAY-Z SUES AUSTRALIAN ONLINE RETAILER

Sydney: Hip hop superstar Jay-Z is suing a small online Australian retailer for profiting from the use of his name and hit song "99 Problems" in books that teach children the alphabet. Shawn Carter, best known by his stage name Jay-Z, filed a lawsuit with the federal court of Australia on November 22 claiming Australian brand "The Little Homie" had infringed on his intellectual property. This newspaper reported on Tuesday that according to the American rapper's lawyers, the company traded on his likeness and infringed on the copyright of the lyrics to "99 Problems". The Little Homie advertises on its website a "hip-hop inspired" children's book called "A B to Jay-Z" for Au\$34.95, as well as a colouring book of the same name for Au\$19.95. The back pages of the books riff off the lyrics to "99 Problems" — "If you're having alphabet problems I feel bad for you son, I got 99 problems but my ABC's ain't one!" — a photo posted on its website showed. The lawsuit said Jay-Z asked the company to stop selling the books in March 2018 but it continued to "deliberately and knowingly" use his likeness and lyrics in a "flagrant, glaring" manner, according to The Age. The use of the rapper's name, image and lyrics was "calculated to injure, has injured and is continuing to injure the reputation and goodwill of Mr Carter," it said. — *AFP*



Jay-Z

Oz PM to return 3 artefacts during Jan. 2020 India visit

Proceedings underway in US against art dealer Subhash Kapoor

SRIDHAR KUMARASWAMI
NEW DELHI

Australia on Wednesday announced it would return three smuggled artefacts to India next month during the visit of Australian PM Scott Morrison to India in January, 2020. The artefacts being returned are — "pair of door guardians (dvarapala) from 15th century, Tamil Nadu, India - (two works); and the serpent king (Nagaraja) 6th to 8th century, Rajasthan or Madhya Pradesh, India."

In a statement, Australia said, "the artefacts, which were held by the National Gallery of Australia, were purchased in good faith, but extensive research undertaken by the Gallery has led to its decision to voluntarily return these artefacts to India." In a statement, Australia said, "Criminal law proceed-

▶ In a statement, Australia said, 'the artefacts', which were held by the National Gallery of Australia, were purchased in good faith.
▶ However, extensive research undertaken by the Gallery has led to its decision to voluntarily return these artefacts to India



Subhash Kapoor

▶ Artefacts were purchased from former New York art dealer Mr Subhash Kapoor
▶ The return of artefacts is an act of deep relationship between Australia & India, PM Morrison said.

ings are currently underway in India and the United States against former New York art dealer Mr Subhash Kapoor, from whom these artefacts were purchased. The Australian government does not have any role in these proceedings." Australia also said, "The Australian government will return three culturally significant artefacts during the Prime

Minister's visit to India in January 2020." Australian PM Morrison said, "Like India, we understand the value of our ancient cultures and artefacts. The return of these artefacts is the right thing to do. This is another demonstration of deep relationship between Australia and India." "Both India and Australia are party to the UNESCO 1970 convention on the means of pro-

hibiting and preventing the illicit import, export and transport of ownership of cultural property," the Australian government said.

"The strong ties between Australian and Indian institutions, made in recent years, have helped develop important professional relationships and share culture. The return of these artefacts also underscores the world's debt to India's magnificent culture, history and legacy," Australian foreign minister Marise Payne said. "The National Gallery of Australia recognises this and is strongly committed to the ethical collecting of cultural material and best practice collection management. I commend the Gallery for resolving these legacy issues," Australian minister for communications, cyber safety and the arts Paul Fletcher said.

— *Agencies*



Women catch fish with traditional nets in a water body filled with lotus flowers, at Budha Mayong village in Morigaon on Wednesday. — *PTI*



Amitabh Bachchan poses for a photo with a child in Mandi district of Himachal Pradesh on Wednesday. — *PTI*



Kartik Aaryan with Bhumi Pednekar during a promotional event of film *Pati Patni Aur Woh* in Mumbai on Wednesday. — *PTI*



Naomi Campbell and Singer Boy George at the opening of Fashion for Relief pop-up store in London on Tuesday. — *AP*



Ava DuVernay

Manchester City's owner worth nearly \$5 billion

London: US private equity giant Silver Lake is investing \$500 million in the owner of Manchester City, a deal that values the soccer group at nearly \$5 billion and signals a concerted move by the veteran tech investors into sports, *CNN* reported.

Under the agreement announced Wednesday, Silver Lake will buy just over 10% of City Football Group, which is controlled by United Arab Emirates royal Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan. In addition to the English Premier League champions Manchester City, the soccer group owns teams in the United States, Australia, China, Japan, Spain and Uruguay.

"Silver Lake is a global leader in technology investing and we are delighted by both the validation that their investment in CFG represents, and the opportunities for further growth that their partnership brings," Khaldoon Al Mubarak, the chairman of City Football Group, said in a statement. CFG said it was worth \$4.8 billion as a consequence of the deal, a record valuation for a soccer franchise, according to the consultancy Brand Finance.

"Within world football, this is almost certainly the largest ever sports enterprise valuation," said Bryn Anderson, director of sports services at Brand Finance. "When we look at major



Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan

▶ Silver Lake is investing \$500 million in the owner of Manchester City, a deal that values the soccer group at nearly \$5 billion

league baseball and the eye watering deals in the NFL and even e-sports now, this news will no doubt cause ripples across the sporting and private equity worlds."

Alibaba co-founder Joe Tsai took sole ownership of Brooklyn Nets earlier this year, a deal that reportedly valued the basketball team at \$2.35 billion, a US record. Manchester City's cross town rival, Manchester United (MANU), has a stock market value of \$2.75 billion. Silver Lake has over \$43 billion in assets under management and is best known for its investments in tech companies, including Alibaba, Tesla and Dell. But the firm has turned its attention to entertainment and live events in recent years. — *Agencies*

I'm mistaken as *Harriet's* director: DuVernay

Los Angeles: Filmmaker Ava DuVernay has said that some "non black folks" have assumed that she directed critically-acclaimed features *Harriet* and *Queen and Slim* and are now congratulating her.

Taking to Twitter, the *When They See Us* helmer made it clear that she did not direct or was involved in any capacity in the making of these films.

"I've now been congratulated by non-black folks in Hollywood 11 different times about my direction of *Harriet* and *Queen And Slim*."

"When I share that I didn't direct those films, that



Ava DuVernay

they are made by black women directors who are not me? Nervous chuckles. Apologies. This place..." DuVernay wrote. *Harriet*, a biographical drama on African-American abolitionist and activist Harriet Tubman featuring Cynthia Erivo in the lead, was directed

by Kasi Lemmons, who has films such as *Eve's Bayou*, *Talk to Me* and *Black Nativity* to her credits.

DuVernay, the first black woman to direct a \$100 million film with Disney's *A Wrinkle In Time*, was inundated with sympathetic responses to her tweet.

Queen and Slim, helmed by Melina Matsoukas, starred Daniel Kaluuya and Jodie Turner-Smith in the lead. The film was about two African-Americans who must go on the run after killing a police officer during a traffic stop gone wrong. — *PTI*

NEWS NUGGETS

'HOW BRAIN SYNCED WITH MUSICAL RHYTHM DECODED'

London: Musical training is linked to better synchronisation of brain activity with rhythmic sounds, according to a study which reveals how the process varies between musicians and non-musicians. The researchers studied the brain activity of professional musicians, and compared it to those of untrained listeners while both groups listened to a waltz. The brain activities of the participants were recorded using an electroencephalogram, the researchers noted in a statement. The results revealed that regardless of the participant's musical training, the brains of all listeners synchronised with the rhythm. — *PTI*

SPACE TRAVEL HITS SPEED BUMP, STUDY FINDS MICROGRAVITY GIVES LEAKY GUT

Washington: Space travel can disrupt the functioning of the robust cell barrier that lines our intestines to prevent bacteria, fungi, and viruses from invading the rest of our bodies, according to a study. Researchers from the University of California noted that microgravity environment encountered in space has profound effects on human physiology, leading to clinical symptoms and illnesses including gas-

U.S. TEEN'S TIKTOK ON CHINA'S MUSLIM CAMP GOES VIRAL

Beijing: A TikTok post by a young woman, pretending to give eyelash curling advice while actually condemning China's crackdown on Muslims, has gone viral on the Chinese-owned app that has been accused of censoring anti-Beijing content. The clip by US teen Feroza Aziz, who describes herself as "17 Just a Muslim", had millions of views across several social media platforms by Wednesday. But Aziz said she has been blocked from posting on the hugely popular video platform TikTok for a month after uploading Sunday's clip slamming China, a claim disputed by the app. — *AFP*



Feroza Aziz

Singapore shows off loaned endangered Philippines eagles

Singapore: Singapore showed off two critically-endangered eagles on Wednesday that were loaned from the Philippines as part of a breeding programme to reverse the dwindling numbers of the feathered giants.

Destruction of tropical rainforest and relentless hunting have decimated the population of the Philippine Eagle — one of the world's biggest and most powerful birds, whose wingspan can reach 2 metres (7 feet) — with only around 800 believed left in the wild, conservationists say. The birds, Geothermica



and Sambisig, are the first breeding pair ever to be sent outside the Philippines and arrived in Singapore in June on a 10-year loan from Manila. The creatures are being cared for at the city-state's main aviary and were shown to the media on Wednesday, as part of events marking 50 years of diplomatic relations between the countries.

"Any future offspring of the eagles will be returned to the Philippines to contribute to the sustainability of the species' population," said Wildlife Reserves Singapore, which runs the aviary. The scheme has echoes of China's "panda diplomacy", which sees the Asian giant send the black and white bears to countries as gifts. A breeding programme is also being carried out in the Philippines by a small band of conservationists at a sanctuary outside the southern city of Davao, close to the eagles' main forest habitat. — *AFP*

Russian cows get VR headsets 'to reduce anxiety'

Moscow: A Russian farm has given its dairy cows virtual reality headsets in a bid to reduce their anxiety.

The herd donned VR systems adapted for the "structural features of cow heads" and were shown a "unique summer field simulation program".

Moscow's ministry of agriculture and food cited research, which they say, has shown a link between a cow's emotional experience and its milk yield.

Initial tests reportedly boosted "the overall emotional mood of the herd". According to a statement from the ministry, the experiments took place at the RusMoloko farm in Moscow's Ramensky district. "Examples of dairy



farms from different countries show that in a calm atmosphere, the quantity and sometimes the quality of milk increases markedly," it read. Researchers will examine the effects of the pro-

gramme in a long-term study. The developers reportedly hope to expand the project, if positive results continue.

Farmers couldn't just grab a few Oculus headsets off the shelf and head

to the barn, though. Veterinarians and consultants adapted human VR glasses to take into consideration the "structural features" of cows' heads, the ministry said. After the first trial, experts

▶ The herd donned VR systems adapted for the 'structural features of cow heads' and were shown a 'unique summer field simulation program'
▶ Moscow's ministry of agriculture and food cited research, has shown a link between a cow's emotional experience and its milk yield

Stole pencil from Kensington Palace: Singer Camila Cabello

London: Camila Cabello had a dark secret — until yesterday. In an interview with BBC Radio 1 host Greg James, she finally spilled the beans; she stole a pencil from Kensington Palace.

The singer posed for a picture with the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge last month, along with this year's BBC Radio 1's Teen Heroes — selected for their "inspirational work and their dedication to helping others," the radio station said.

But, in her recent interview, she admitted she did more than smile for the camera. "I'm sorry William, I'm sorry Kate," she said

— *Agencies*

apparently recorded a decrease in anxiety and a better emotional mood in the herd overall — although the full impact of virtual reality on cattle will have to wait for a more comprehensive, upcoming study. This is not the only instance where humans have tried to influence cows' emotional state in order to try to produce more milk: local farmers in Russia and Turkey broadcast classical music to increase yield and reportedly reduce health problems. In a more depressing use case, an Iowa State University professor suggested in 2014 that farmers place chickens in virtual reality before they're slaughtered, *Vox* reported. — *Agencies*



SPORT | Cricket

Samson replaces injured Dhawan in India's T20 squad

14



SPORT | Football

Kane nets brace as Tottenham beat Olympiakos 4-2

15

GUIDE TO FORTUNE

Tick the answer and check them below.

1 Which historical event does Charles Dickens's novel *A Tale of Two Cities* concern?

- ☐ The Russian Revolution
- ☐ The French Revolution
- ☐ The American Revolution

2 What does the Internet prefix WWW stand for?

- ☐ World Web Wide
- ☐ World Wide Web
- ☐ Web Wide World

3 How many computer languages are in use?

- ☐ 2000
- ☐ 5000
- ☐ 1500

SHORT TAKES

Gangster arrested, AK-47 recovered

Noida: A shooter of the notorious Randeep Bhati gang, who carried a reward of ₹50,000 on his head, was arrested after an encounter with a team of police and Special Task Force personnel in Greater Noida on Wednesday, officials said. Umesh Pandit was injured in the exchange of fire that took place in Bisrakh area, they said. "The operation was based on information from the Special Task Force and the district police provided local support in catching the gangster," said senior superintendent of police, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Vaibhav Krishna. Pandit, a notorious criminal, was involved in multiple cases, including gang wars in western Uttar Pradesh around 2011, he said. An AK-47 was recovered from him, the police said. Krishna said it was "alarming" that a regional gangster had a sophisticated weapon. — PTI

Juvenile nabbed for theft in Metro

New Delhi: A 16-year-old boy, involved in theft inside the Delhi Metro for last two years, was nabbed by the Delhi Police, DCP (Metro) Vikram K. Porwal said that on Wednesday the boy was roaming at Chandni Chowk Metro station platform. On enquiry, the boy continuously changed his name and address. Two mobile phones were recovered from his possession. At the same time, one commuter approached the police and reported that his mobile phone was stolen. On presentation of recovered mobile phones to the commuter, he immediately identified his mobile phone. On further enquiry, it was found that the other mobile phone belonged to one person from Moradabad in UP, who was also present in the police station to lodge an FIR. The juvenile used to operate in Metro and railway stations.

Man arrested for snatching mobile

New Delhi: A 21-year-old man has been arrested for snatching a mobile phone from his co-passenger inside an auto in Tajpur Pahadi area. The accused was identified as Mohd. Javed Khan. DCP (PCR) Sharat Kumar Sinha said that on late Tuesday night, MPV staff comprising of ASI Shyambir, Ct Sudama and Ct. Raju saw that a person boarded from an auto and started running. In the meantime, another person also got down from the auto and chased him shouting that his phone was snatched by the former. The staff chased and nabbed the accused and recovered the phone. He was later handed over to the local police of PS Badarpur.

THE ANSWER TO TODAY'S GUIDE TO FORTUNE

- ☐ 2000
- ☐ World Wide Web
- ☐ The French Revolution



Students of Jawaharlal Nehru University and other educational institutions raise slogans during a protest at Connaught Place in New Delhi on Wednesday.

— PTI

'Fee must fall' movement for entire country: JNUSU

Students form human chain to support call for National Protest Day

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, NOV. 27

Hundreds of students from across Delhi formed a human chain in Connaught Place on Wednesday in solidarity with the Jawaharlal Nehru University's Students' Union (JNUSU), which is protesting against the hostel fee hike. The JNUSU had urged universities and students across India to observe November 27 as the National Protest Day in support of affordable and accessible education. Carrying banners with messages like "oppose new education policy 2019", "extremists have shown what frightens them most—a girl with a book", "fee must fall", the students formed a human chain around Central Park in the inner circle area of Connaught Place. They were beating tambourine and raising slogans of "halla bol".

► The JNU Teachers' Association (JNUTA) also observed the "National Protest Day in Defence of Public Education" in JNU with a two-hour dharna

"We want complete rollback of the fee hike. The JNU movement has led to positive changes in IIT and AIIMS and we are happy. The 'fee must fall' movement was not for the JNU but for the entire country and today, JNU alumni in West Bengal walked for us in support," JNUSU president Aishe Ghosh said. She said the JNU is not an island and whatever is happening in the university is also happening in other educational institutions. "There was a similar movement in South Africa in 2015 and our movement has now become a nation-

al movement," Ghosh said. "We appeal that the recommendations of the HRD high-powered committee be made public. We are thinking to writing to the ministry to make them public," the JNUSU president added.

The three-member committee, comprising former UGC chairman V.S. Chauhan, AICTE chairman Anil Sahasrabudhe and UGC secretary Rajnish Jain, was set up on November 18 to recommend ways to end the impasse between university administration and students over a hostel fee hike. It has already submitted its report to the ministry.

Karthik Ray, an IP University student, said it is time to raise voice against the fee hike. "Our university has also raised the fee this August. We have also been fighting against the fee hike at our level," he said.

The JNU Teachers' Association on Wednes-

day also observed the "National Protest Day in Defence of Public Education" in JNU with a two-hour dharna at Ganga Dhaba.

The agitation over the hike in hostel fee escalated on November 11 when thousands of students clashed with police outside the All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE) premises, where the JNU's convocation was being held. Union HRD minister Ramesh Pokhriyal "Nishank" was stranded for over six hours at the venue. The JNU's executive council had then announced a partial rollback of the hike for students belonging to the BPL category and not availing any scholarships. However, the protesters dubbed it as an "eyewash".

A week later, students undertook a march from the JNU campus to Parliament but were stopped at multiple locations by police.

City air quality improves to 'moderate' category

New Delhi, Nov. 27: Delhi's air quality improved to the "moderate" category on Wednesday morning, after being in the "poor" band for two days.

The national capital's air quality index (AQI) was recorded at 158 at 9.45 am, according to the Central Pollution Control Board. It was 175 at 7.45 am.

An AQI between 0-50 is considered "good", 51-100 "satisfactory", 101-200 "moderate", 201-300 "poor", 301-400 "very poor", and 401-500 "severe". An AQI above 500 falls in the "severe plus" category.

The city's air quality index was 254 at 9.42 am, according to the System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting and Research (SAFAR) on Tuesday.

Delhi recorded a minimum temperature of 14.5 degrees Celsius, five notches above the season's average on Wednesday morning. The relative humidity at 8.30 am was 88 per cent.

The weatherman has forecast generally cloudy sky with the possibility of light rain or drizzle on Wednesday with the maximum temperature likely to settle around 27 degrees Celsius. On Tuesday, Delhi recorded a low of 16.2 degrees Celsius and a high

ALCOHOL MOLECULES REDUCE TOXIC POLLUTANTS IN AIR: STUDY

■ Alcohol molecules, abundant in the atmosphere, can reduce the formation of hazardous polluting particles that make up haze, according to a study.

■ Methanol consumes sulphur trioxide, one of the ingredients of haze, and reduces the formation of toxic pollutant particles PM2.5 and PM10 that are nearly 10 to 30 times smaller than the width of a single human hair.

■ According to a study published in the *Lancet* journal, exposure to particulate matter (PM2.5) caused about 5,25,000 premature deaths in India

■ The results of the current study, published in the journal *PNAS*, revealed that in dry and polluted conditions with abundant alcohol and sulphur trioxide in the atmosphere, a chemical reaction drove down the formation of the toxic particles.

■ Sulphur trioxide and methanol together form methyl hydrogen sulphate (MHS). While it may play a significant role in driving down the rate of PM2.5 and PM10 formation, MHS formed thereby has also negative health impacts.

of 27.9 degrees Celsius.

Pollution levels in Delhi-National Capital Region increased marginally on Tuesday, mainly due to

slow wind speed, while the situation in the next 48 hours depends on the intensity of rains, officials said.

— PTI



SDMC signs MoU to install EV charging points at 18 parking lots

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, NOV. 27

Keeping with the Center's ambitious plan to switch to electric public vehicles by 2030, the South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) on Wednesday entered into an MoU with Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) to install electric public vehicle charging points at 18 parking lots.

The MoU was signed in the office of Union minister of power, R.K. Singh, Lieutenant-governor

► Before signing of MoU, a survey of 113 parking sites was done and 75 parking sites were found suitable for electric public vehicle charging stations

Anil Baijal, SDMC commissioner, Gyanesh Bhatti, EESL MD Saurabh Kumar and other senior officers of the concerned organisations were also present.

Before signing of MoU, a detailed survey of 113 parking sites was done by EESL in association with the SDMC and found 75 parking sites feasible for installation of electric public vehicle charging stations.

However, in the first phase, SDMC has given approval for installation of charging stations at 18 locations.

There will be direct current (DC) chargers for four-wheelers and alternating current (AC) chargers for two-wheelers and three-wheelers.

Lekhi fumes as social media men leave in a huff

SHASHI BHUSHAN
NEW DELHI, NOV. 27

BJP MP from New Delhi Lok Sabha seat, Meenakshi Lekhi recently lost her cool after the party's social media wing left mid way without recording her speech while she was addressing her workers in her constituency.

The team, entrusted with the job of video-recording the event, left the venue soon after Union minister Prakash Javadekar, who is also party's in-charge for the coming state elections, was through with his address.



Meenakshi Lekhi

It was on November 24 that the BJP city unit organised a meet of its "Sahri Kender Pramuk", heads of clusters of three to four polling booths, to discuss the coming state

elections. The meeting held in each Lok Sabha constituency was attended by their respective Parliamentarians. The meeting of the New Delhi Lok Sabha was held at the party's headquarters at Pundit Pant Marg.

The Pundit Pant Marg meeting was attended among others by Mr Javadekar, Ms Lekhi and state unit general secretary Rajesh Bhatia.

A party leader present in the meeting told this newspaper that the state unit social media team entrusted for recording and live-streaming of the event left the meeting soon

after Mr Javadekar's address, which got Ms Lekhi angry who was scheduled to speak after the minister.

Visibly angry, Ms Lekhi did not take this lightly. She made it clear that this was not acceptable to her and asked party workers to call Delhi BJP social media and IT head Punit Agarwal to record her address.

"We did not expect this from our social media team. They are not working for any individual. They are there for all party leaders," a party worker present in the meeting said.

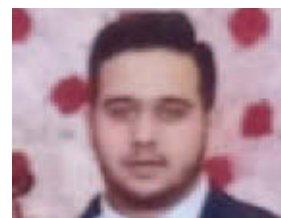
Man, 2 aides held for shooting wife to death, dumping body

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, NOV. 27

In a suspected case of dowry death, a 21-year-old man, along with his two associates, was arrested for allegedly shooting his wife to death and later dumping her body near Panipat in Haryana.

The accused husband was identified as Sahil Chopra (21), a second-hand car dealer. Sahil and Subham (24), employee of Sahil, were arrested from Delhi while third accused Badal (26), cousin of Shubham, was arrested from his native village Karnal in Haryana.

The deceased used to work in event management field. Sahil disclosed that he was fed up with the daily fight in married life.



Sahil Chopra

According to the police, the father of the 20-year-old deceased on Tuesday reported that his daughter married Sahil on 27 March 2019 and right from the beginning her daughter's in-laws were torturing her for dowry.

He further reported that his daughter's mobile was switched off since November 11 this year. He alleged that something had happened to her

daughter.

Subsequently a case was registered at PS Janakpuri and a probe was initiated on Tuesday. During the probe, call data records (CDR) were analysed and the accused were grilled following which they were arrested.

Trio accused took the police to a village near Panipat refinery from where the body of the victim was recovered from roadside bushes.

It was further revealed that she was killed by gunshot head injury which the post-mortem report also confirmed.

The accused trio was produced in Dwarka court which gave them two-day police remand. Further investigation is underway.

35-year-old arrested for 16 cases of auto-theft

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, NOV. 27

A 35-year-old man, involved in more than 16 cases of auto-theft and Arms Act registered across the national capital, was arrested along with a 55-year-old receiver of stolen items by Delhi Police on Wednesday. Police said that they have also recovered five high-end stolen luxury cars from the possession of the accused.

The accused has been identified as Ovesh while the receiver of stolen items has been identified as Mohammad Affaq, both residents of Uttar Pradesh's Firozabad.

Acting on a tip-off, the anti-auto theft squad (AATS) of South district police conducted a raid in Firozabad and arrested Ovesh. During interrogation, the accused disclosed that he had stolen the cars from Delhi and sold these cars to Affaq," said the police.

1 arrested for killing 4-yr-old step-daughter

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, NOV. 27

A four-year-old girl was killed after she was beaten up allegedly by her step-father while he was accompanying her to a tuition centre in outer Delhi's Sultanpuri area, police said on Wednesday.

The accused, identified as Danish, has been arrested in connection with the incident, they said.

According to police, the incident took place on Tuesday when Danish had taken the girl to a tuition centre. The victim's mother told the police that her husband did not like her child and used to beat her up.

However, during interrogation, Danish told police that he had taken the minor girl to a tuition centre. She made some mistake while crossing the road therefore, he had beat her. She became unconscious and was brought to her house, a senior police officer said. But the reason why Danish beat her is part of investigation, he said.

She was brought to her house after which her

► According to police, the incident took place on Tuesday. The victim's mother told the police that her husband did not like her child and used to beat her up.

mother rushed her to Sanjay Gandhi Memorial Hospital where she was declared brought dead, he said. Danish managed to escape but was caught by the police. A case of murder has been registered and further investigation is under progress, the officer said.

According to police, the victim's mother was married to one Rahul in 2014 and the girl was born from their wedlock. But after her husband passed away in 2017, she married again but separated from her second husband because he used to beat her.

In 2019, she married to Danish, who worked in a cloth factory in Nangloi and the couple were residing in Sultanpuri.

Traffic moves at snail's pace for 2nd day

New Delhi: Traffic movement was hit in central Delhi for the second consecutive day on Wednesday as differently-abled people who had applied for group D jobs with the railways protested at Mandi House.

Obstruction in traffic in the carriage way from Delhi Gate towards ITO and Laxmi Nagar towards Vikas Marg due to demonstration. Kindly avoid the stretch, the Delhi Traffic Police tweeted.

— PTI



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 off 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*



Rishabh Pant

Stumped!

MSK says Pant comparing himself with MSD

New Delhi, Nov. 27: Chief selector MSK Prasad feels the struggling Rishabh Pant is putting himself under undue pressure by trying to prove himself as the rightful heir to the great MS Dhoni and he should rather back his "unbelievable talent" to bounce back.

Not so long ago, Pant was India's number one wicket-keeper batsman in all three formats but has endured an erratic run of form for some time now. With Wriddhiman Saha back in the team, he has now lost his place in the Test eleven and his place in the limited-overs format has also been questioned for lack of runs and his poor work with the gloves.

However, the team management and selectors continue to back him. Rohit Sharma 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

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

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*

Saha plays down injury

Kolkata, Nov. 27: Laid low by yet another injury, Indian wicket-keeper 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*



Sanju Samson

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*

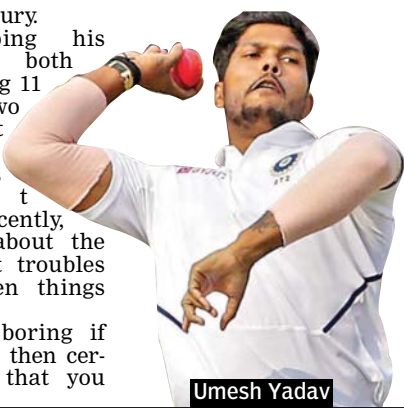
It's difficult to deal with negativity, says Umesh

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

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*

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*

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-

BRIEF SCORES Jharkhand 85 all out (Saurabh Tiwary 24; M Siddharth 4/18) lost to Tamil Nadu 86/2 (Washington Sundar 38 not out, Shahrulkh 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; Arijit 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*

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 Y a m i n Ahmaddai.

In reply, West Indies lost opener

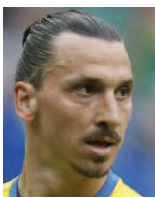
Kraigg Braithwaite (11) and Shai Hope (7) early before John Campbell (30 not out) and Shamarr Brooks (19 not out) steadied the ship.

— *PTI*

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



Rahkeem Cornwall



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. Ganemat 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

4-YEAR-BAN ON 17-YR-OLD RUNNER

Nairobi: Teenager Angela Ndungwa Munguti became the 43rd Kenyan runner suspended for doping this year when she was handed a four-year ban, announced by the Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU) on Wednesday. Munguti, a 17-year-old former African Youth Games 800m silver medalist tested positive for Norandrosterone, a metabolite of anabolic steroid Nandrolone, the AIU, the independent anti-doping watchdog for track and field, said in its decision. The drug showed up in a sample taken on 7 October 2018 in an out-of-competition doping control programme at the Summer Youth Olympics in Buenos Aires. Her ban is from the date of the test. Munguti, the first Kenyan teenager to be banned for doping, joins a growing list of runners from the running powerhouse to fail drug tests. Forty-three Kenyan athletes, including the women's 2016 Olympic marathon champion Jemima Sumgong and three-time World 1,500m winner Asbel Kiprop have been banned this year. Earlier in November, two top long distances athletes, Abraham Kiptum and Cyrus Rutto, were suspended for four years each by the AIU or using prohibited substances. — AFP

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 surged ahead 62-46 at half-time. Doncic scored 15 first-



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



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. Jerami 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

INDIAN | LEAGUE

Champions are out to defend title

New Delhi, Nov. 27: Chennai City FC's I-League last edition top scorer Pedro Manzi says he will not be satisfied with nothing less than defending the title in the new season which begins on Saturday. The Uruguayan-Spanish forward, who scored 21 goals for Chennai City in what was his first season in Indian football, also hopes to continue his prolific form this time also. "I am looking forward to starting the season. After a vacation and a long pre-season, we all are back for the business. I enjoy competing and fighting it out on the pitch. There is no better motivating factor than defending the title and fighting to win the title two years in a row," Manzi said. The Orange outfit made an impressive start to their campaign last season but they looked unsettled towards the end before clinching the title on the final day of the competition. The team has gone through an overhaul and it is a new-look outfit that will vie for the trophy this season when they kick-off their campaign against TRAU FC in Coimbatore on December 1. "It is a different team than last year, a young and inexperienced team where there are many players who have never played in the I-League before," he said. — PTI

Gill set to race for Delhi in league

New Delhi, Nov. 27: The inaugural XI Racing League begins at the Buddh International Circuit this weekend with a hope that it will revive the stagnant motorsport scene in India. The league, a franchise-based motorsports competition founded by racers Armaan Ebrahim and Aditya Patel, will see six teams fighting it out for the title. A total of 30 international and domestic racers have been drafted in six teams for the first edition of the competition. The second and final round will be held in Chennai on December 7 and 8. Mathias Lauda, who is son of Formula 1 legend Niki Lauda, will be racing for the AD Racing Delhi Team. "I think the franchise-based format is a great format for motorsports. It works for all the other big sports like football and so on. Hopefully, the XI Racing League will grow over the years. A new format where international and domestic drivers race together will make the competition very interesting," said Lauda. India's top rally driver Gaurav Gill will also be racing for the Delhi team, marking his return to the race track after a long gap. "This league will be unique because all the drivers in the competition will come from different disciplines of the sport such as Formula Racing ground, GT background or sports car racing. It will be interesting to see how all of us compete against each other," said Gill. **This league will be unique because all the drivers in the competition will come from different disciplines of the sport such as Formula Racing ground, GT background or sports car racing. It will be interesting to see how all of us compete against each other.** — GAURAV GILL
Indian racer

Former Formula 1 driver Alex Yoong is excited to compete in a team-based motorsports tournament. "In motorsports, we hardly get to compete as a team, so I am looking forward to it. I think the XI Racing League is a great idea. We have seen the franchise-based tournament has worked for cricket. We'll have to see how it works for motorsports in India," said Yoong. The XI Racing League will have five teams comprising of five drivers and two cars in each team. Of the five drivers in each team, there will be one international male, one international female, one India international and two domestic racers. One of the domestic racers will represent the team in the race. Each round will take place over two days, with each day starting off with a practice session, followed by qualifying and three back-to-back races. Every round will have six different races and each race will last for 30 minutes and will have three unique team-based race formats per day. — PTI

SIX-TIME RALLY CHAMP OGIER CHANGES TEAM

Paris, Nov. 27: Six-time world rally champion Sebastien Ogier has joined Toyota on a two-year deal, the Japanese team announced on Wednesday. Experienced Welshman Elfyn Evans and 19-year-old Kalle Rovanpera from Finland have also joined Toyota for 2020. "I'm really pleased with the driver line-up we have been able to put together for next season," said team principal Tommi Makinen. "I believe it provides us with a great balance in our team as we target more championship trophies next year and in the future." It marks a new challenge for the 35-year-old Ogier whose run of championship success was ended this year by the Estonian Ott Tanak who has left Toyota to drive for Hyundai in 2020. "Very excited to take up a new challenge with @TGR_WRC! Our target is clear: we want to adapt quickly, perform as soon as possible and try to win back the #WRC title," the Frenchman tweeted. Ogier returned to Citroen at the start of last season but the French team struggled for reliability. Last week, after Ogier said he would leave the French constructor announced it was withdrawing from the World Rally Championship "due to the absence of a first-class driver available for 2020 season." Ogier will again be partnered by his regular co-driver Julien Ingrassia. "We know how strong Sebastien is and we're all looking forward to working with him and Julien. I think that being able to attract a driver with his record says a lot," said Makinen. — AFP

Marc undergoes shoulder surgery

Jerez De La Frontera (Spain), Nov. 27: Marc Marquez will have shoulder surgery on Wednesday after the MotoGP world champion was second-quickest in season-ending testing at Jerez de la Frontera. The Honda rider suffered a serious injury to his left shoulder last year and wants to prevent the current problem with his right shoulder from escalating. "Tomorrow (Wednesday) I have a surgery to fix the problem (luxation) in the right shoulder, the same problem as last year in the left shoulder," said Spaniard Marquez, who suffered numerous crashes on the way to a sixth top-class world title in 2019. "As everyone knows, last winter was very tough for me with the operation on the left shoulder, which was very, very damaged. "I want to avoid the situation where my right shoulder is in this condition in the future," he added. The 26-year-old was second to Yamaha's Maverick Vinales in the Jerez testing, while Marquez's younger brother and new teammate Alex could only finish 17th fastest. **This winter I would have liked to have a nice holiday and enjoy a bit of quiet time after a great 2019 but it is time to have surgery.** — MARC MARQUEZ
six-time Moto GP champion

"This winter I would have liked to have a nice holiday and enjoy a bit of quiet time after a great 2019 but it is time to have surgery," added Marc Marquez, who won this year's world championship by 151 points from Italian Andrea Dovizioso. The 2020 campaign gets underway on March 8 with the opening Grand Prix of the season in Qatar. — AFP



Deportivo Delight



Players of Deportivo Saprissa (Costa Rica) pose with their medals and trophy after winning the Concacaf League at the National stadium in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, on Tuesday. Saprissa won the league on the basis of their first leg 1-0 win against Motagua of Honduras after their second leg ended in a goalless draw. — AFP

Enrique back, Moreno out

Madrid, Nov. 27: Spain's returning coach Luis Enrique described his predecessor Robert Moreno as "disloyal" on Wednesday and confirmed he will not be part of his coaching team for Euro 2020. Moreno was removed as coach last week to make way for Luis Enrique's return, despite Moreno leading Spain through an unbeaten qualifying campaign that ended with a 5-0 thrashing of Romania. After the game, Moreno did not appear for his post-match press conference and reportedly left the players' dressing room in tears. He had been promoted from assistant to head coach after Luis Enrique resigned in June to take care of his daughter, Xana, who died in August of cancer. Luis Enrique and Moreno had been close friends after previously working together at

Barcelona, Celta Vigo and Roma. "The only one responsible for Moreno not being part of my staff is me," said Luis Enrique at his unveiling on Wednesday. "The disagreement came on September 12, it is the only day I had contact with him. He called me and we met at my house and it seemed he wanted to continue for the European Championships and then if I wanted to, he would

be my assistant again. "I understand that he is excited to be a coach and I understand that it is a dream of a lifetime and that he has worked hard for it. But I also understand that he is disloyal — I would never do that and I do not want someone like that in my staff," he added. Luis Enrique confirmed that he has signed a three-year contract until the World Cup in Qatar in 2022. — AFP



Under the knife

Inter Milan's Italy international Nicolò Barella has undergone successful surgery on his right knee



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

— Jose Mourinho, Tottenham manager, on replacing Eric Dier

SHORT TAKES

Hazard doubtful for El Clasico

Madrid: Zinedine Zidane confirmed Eden Hazard twisted his ankle during Real Madrid's draw against Paris Saint-Germain on Tuesday, with the Clasico against Barcelona only three weeks away. Hazard limped off in the second half of Madrid's 2-2 draw at the Santiago Bernabeu, where PSG scored twice in two minutes late on to secure first place in Group 'A'. But an impressive performance overall from Madrid, and Hazard, was tarnished by the Belgian's injury, which threatens to prevent him from playing in his first Clasico at the Camp Nou on December 18. "His performance was spectacular. 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 runners-up in the group. — AFP

Rourkela to host men's hockey WC

Bhubaneswar: The 2023 Men's Hockey World Cup will be held in Bhubaneswar and Rourkela, Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik announced here on Wednesday. India will host the Men's Hockey World Cup for the second consecutive time after the country was picked to stage the game's showpiece event in 2023 by the International Hockey Federation (FIH) earlier this month. The tournament will be held from January 13 to 29. "We hosted the 2018 World Cup and I would like to announce that the 2023 Hockey World Cup will again be held in Bhubaneswar and Rourkela. Are you happy. I am happy," Patnaik said. The ceremony was also attended by International Hockey Federation and Indian Olympic Association president Narinder Batra. — PTI

Chennaiyin eye Goa scalp at home

Chennai: Buoyed by the first win of the season a couple of nights ago, Chennaiyin FC takes on Odisha FC in an Indian Super League match here on Thursday, aiming for two more points. John Gregory's men pulled off a thrilling win on Monday against Hyderabad FC with the two goals coming in injury time from the team's overseas strikers. The team had not scored in nearly 720 minutes including from last season and the goals pleased Gregory no end and he will be looking for more. He was all praise for Andre Schembri and Nerijus Valskis after the 2-1 win that is expected to catalyse Chennaiyin's campaign, which till the other night had been listless. There is a likelihood of Schembri getting a start ahead of Rafael Crivellaro while a Dhanpal Ganesh may get relegated to the bench. — PTI

Srikanth, Kashyap in second round

Lucknow, Nov. 27: Third seed K. Srikanth sailed past Russia's Vladimir Malkov in straight games to set up a second-round clash with fellow Indian P. Kashyap in the Syed Modi International Badminton Tournament here on Wednesday. Srikanth prevailed 21-12, 21-11 in his 36-minute opening round clash, while Kashyap got a walkover from Frenchman Lucas Corvee. 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 with-

MODI | BADMINTON

- **Kidambi Srikanth beat Russia's Vladimir Malkov 21-12, 21-11 in 36 minutes.**
- **Parupalli Kashyap, Lakshya Sen got walkovers.**

drew from the competition. In the women's competition, Ashmita Chaliha advanced after beating compatriot Vrushali Gummadi 21-16 21-16 in a 32-minute contest. — PTI



Jyothi Surekha (left) and Abhishek Verma are all smiles after winning gold in the mixed pair event at the 21st Asian Archery Championships held in Bangkok on Wednesday. The Indians beat their Chinese Taipei opponents Yi-Hsuan Chen and Chieh-Luh Chen 158-151 in the title match.

Games

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THE ASIAN AGE

THURSDAY | 28 NOVEMBER 2019 | NEW DELHI

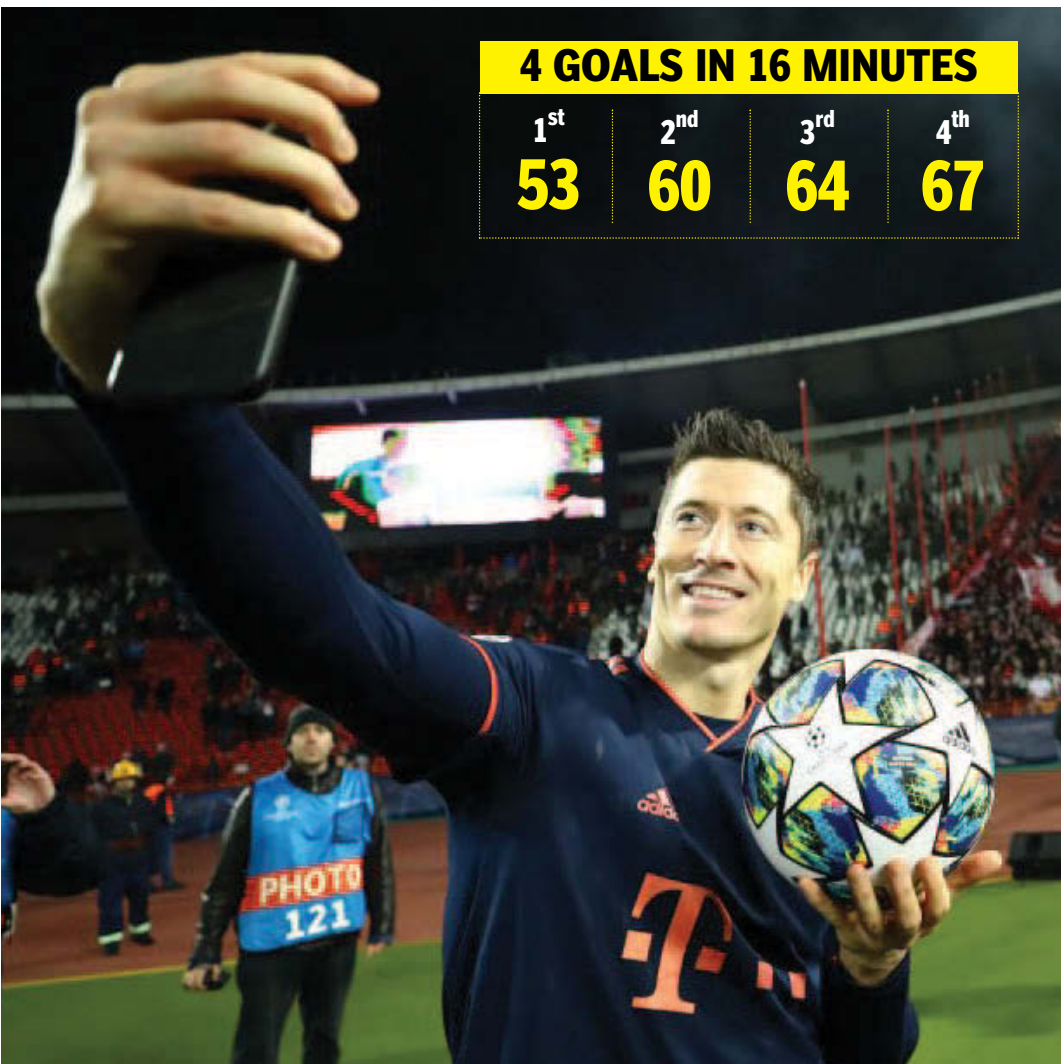


Harry Kane of Tottenham Hotspur celebrates after scoring a goal during their UEFA Champions League Group 'B' match against Olympiakos at the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium in north London on Tuesday. Tottenham won 4-2. — TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR

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 headed 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 subdued occasion, Ilkay Gundogan got a 56th-minute opener, but Manor Solomon levelled for the Ukrainians. The Italians are still in contention 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 overshadowed Cristiano Ronaldo by scoring a superb free-kick to give Juventus a 1-0 home win over Atletico Madrid. — AFP



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. — BM

Lot at stake for Emery against Eintracht

Paris, Nov. 27: Unai Emery has the chance to relieve some of the pressure surrounding his position at Arsenal on Thursday by securing qualification for 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 remaining, 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 having 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 TEN2, HD
Krasnodar vs Basel from 9.20pm on Sony ESPN, HD
Arsenal vs Eintracht from 1:30am (Friday) on Sony TEN2, HD

RUSSIA | DOPING

Ban will not impact CL and Euro

Moscow, Nov. 27: The Kremlin on Wednesday said Russia regrets a proposed four-year blanket ban for the country's athletes over doping but will remain open to cooperation. "This is definitely concerning information. We regret this," President Vladimir Putin's spokesman Dmitry Peskov told journalists. In the Kremlin's first reaction to anti-doping watchdog WADA's compliance review committee's recommendations issued Monday, he stressed that Moscow was open to cooperation with international authorities.

"You know the Russian sporting authorities have been, are and will remain as open as possible to cooperation and collaboration with the international sporting community and also with WADA," he said.

If WADA chiefs adopt the review committee's recommendations, Russia faces exclusion from key sporting events including the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

The doping scandal has tainted Russia's sporting reputation for the last five years, after revelations of large-scale state-sponsored doping aimed at improving Russia's medal performance at the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi.

Monday's call from the World Anti-Doping Agency's review panel came after Russian authorities were accused of falsifying laboratory data related to the country's doping scandal, which were handed over to investigators in January. — AFP

Klinsmann takes over at Hertha

Berlin, Nov. 27: Former Germany and United States boss Jurgen Klinsmann has taken over as head coach of Bundesliga side Hertha Berlin until the end of the season, the club announced Wednesday. Former Hertha boss Ante Covic, who only took charge in July after six years coaching the reserves, has been dismissed after Sunday's 4-0 thrashing at mid-table Augsburg, the club's fourth straight league defeat. The 55-year-old Klinsmann, a former European and world champion with Germany, was appointed to Hertha's supervisory board at the start of November and takes over with the club just above the relegation zone.

Klinsmann, a former Tottenham, Bayern Munich and Inter Milan striker, won the 1990 World Cup and 1996 European championships with Germany, making 108 appearances and scoring 47 goals for die Mannschaft.

He was head coach of Germany from 2004 until the 2006 World Cup, when the hosts reached the semifinals. — AFP

Jyothi, Abhishek claim gold at Asian archery

Bangkok, Nov. 27: Abhishek Verma and Jyothi Surekha Vennam claimed the top honours in compound mixed pair event to fetch India's lone gold at the 21st Asian Archery Championships, which ended here on Wednesday with the country picking up seven medals in all. Verma and Vennam won the mixed pair gold by overwhelming their Chinese Taipei opponents Yi-Hsuan Chen and Chieh-Luh Chen 158-151. India ended with one gold, two silver and four bronze medals. Earlier in the day, Verma endured some disappoint-

ment, missing the compound team gold medal by just one point when the side lost to Korea 232-233 to settle for a silver. The top-seeded trio of Verma, Rajat Chauhan and Mohan Bhardwaj were 58-58 in the first end but the Korean team of Jaewon yang, Yonghee Choi and Eun-Kyu Choi slowly seized the momentum by taking a one-point after the second end. Three 9s in the penultimate end proved costly for the Indians as the Koreans took a crucial three-point lead. In the final end, the Indians shot 59 compared

to the Korea's 57 but it was not enough. But Verma and Jyothi returned strongly in the compound mixed pair final. They made a solid start, shooting 39, including two Xs (closest 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. Verma and Jyothi maintained their consistency in the third end to shoot 39 together. It gave them a six-point cushion going into the final end. — PTI