+ **≻ c m** y k

TABLOID IHE ASIAN AGE Supergirl Melissa reveals **NEW DELHI FRIDAY 29 NOVEMBER 2019** she's a domestic NATION Politics NEWSMAKERS | People violence survivor

JD-U plans to consult leaders across India over its NRC stand

www.asianage.com RNI No. 57290/94, Regd No: DL-SW-05/4189/15-17

MINDOWS

Cher performs during the 'Here We Go Again' tour at the United Center in Chicago on Wednesday. – AP

Bill to regularise illegal colonies in **Delhi gets LS nod**

New Delhi: The Lok Sabha on Thursday passed the National Capital Territory of Delhi (Recognition of Property Rights of Citizens in Unauthorised Colonies) Bill 2019 with voice vote. The bill seeks to grant ownership rights to residents of 1,731 unauthorised colonies in Delhi. Union minister Hardeep Singh Puri said that the process of digital mapping of the unauthorised colonies will be completed by December 31. Full report on Page 13

Onion prices still

high across India

New Delhi: Onion prices remain high across the major cities of the country as the average selling price ruled at ₹70 per kg on Thursday while the maximum rate of ₹110 per kg was recorded in Panaji, according to official data. Full report on Page 9

Will keep Hindutva close to my heart, vows Sena supremo Uddhav sworn in as CM of new 'secular govt' in Maha

BHAGWAN PARAB MUMBAI, NOV. 28

Shiv Sena supremo Uddhav Thackeray was on Friday sworn in as the chief minister of Maharashtra amid а galaxy of national political dignitaries and business tycoon Mukesh Ambani and his family as half a lakh people looked on at Mumbai's Shivaji Park. He took oath as chief minister of the Shiv Sena-Congress-NCP alliance "Maha Vikas Aghadi" (MVA), which also declared its common minimum programme stating the alliance will "uphold the secular val-ues enshrined in the

Constitution". Fireworks were set off as the proceedings began as Sena supporters raised slogans and clicked pictures, joyous at the sight of one of their partymen occupying the state's top



Shiv Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray greets his supporters after being sworn in as Maharashtra CM at Shivaji Park in Mumbai on Thursday. — RAJESH JADHAV

post after 20 years. Soon after his swearing-n, Mr Thackeray in, expressed his gratitude by bowing to the masses, a mannerism of his father, party founder Bal Thackeray, drawing a round of rapturous applause. Clad in a dark saffron

kurta, Mr Thackeray declared that even though

Ajit Pawar is left out of Cabinet for now

AGE CORRESPONDENT MUMBAL NOV. 28

Despite his supporters' insistence, the Natio-nal-NCP leaders at party supremo Sharad Pawar's ist Congress Party did not residence on Thursday. Ajit Pawar also dis-missed reports that he include former rebel Ajit Pawar in the council of ministers. Ajit Pawar himself made it clear he was disappointed at not being sworn in as deputy would not be a minister chief minister Thursday. for the time being. 'I will not take the oath.

"Do you see disappoint-ment on my face?" he Only Chhagan Bhujbal asked.

Shiv Sena leader Subhash Desai Shiv Sena leader Jayant Patil NCP leader Chhagan Bhujbal NCP leader Balasaheb Thorat Congress leader Nitin Raut

Congress leader PM's message

Uddhav Thackeray

Chief minister Eknath Shinde

Uddhav Thackeray Ji on taking oath as the CM of Maharashtra. I am confident he will work diligently for the bright future of Maharashtra

Sonia stays away to 'keep safe distance'

AGE CORRESPONDENT the oath as ministers from the NCP," Mr Pawar NEW DELHI, NOV. 28 said after a meeting of

In a bid to keep a "safe dis-tance" from the Shiv tance" Sena-led government, Congress chief Sonia Gandhi decided to skip the swearing-in-ceremony in Mumbai Thursday. While officially the Congress claimed Mrs Gandhi had to skip the ceremony due to health reasons, sources said the Congress

Chhagan Bhujbal and Congress' Balasaheb

Thorat and Nitin Raut

LIST OF MINISTERS WHO TOOK OATH

UD President Trump tweets photoshopped bare-chested

pic to look like Rocky Balboa

MUMBAI, NOV. 28

The Shiv Sena, Congress and NCP on Thursday unveiled their Common Minimum Programme (CMP), which highlights their alliance's "commitment to upholding the secular values enshrined in the Constitution".

The preamble of CMP reads: "On contentious issue of national importance as well as of state importance especially having repercussions/ consequences on the sec-ular fabric of the nation, the Shiv Sena, the NCP and the Congress will take a joint view after holding consultations and arriving at a consensus.

The CMP promises to introduce a law that will reserve 80 per cent jobs in the state for the Marathi manoos as well as the provision of meals to the poor and needy at ₹10 — both of which were promised in the Shiv Sena's election

which

Vol. 26 No. 283 32 PAGES ₹5.00

Pragya gets axed from LS panel, pulled up by BJP

MP barred from party LS meets

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, NOV. 28

Left red-faced after its Bhopal MP and Malegaon blasts accused Pragya Singh Thakur's praise for Mahatma Gandhi's assassin Nathuram Godse as a patriot, the BJP on Thursday barred her from attending its parliamentary party meetings for the Winter Session and removed her from the parliamentary con-sultative committee on

NEW DELHI, NOV. 28

remark led to a huge furore, with the BJP coming under fire, Bhopal MP and Malegaon blasts accused Pragya Singh Thakur on Thursday tried to clarify that her comments in the Lok Sabha was against the "insult" to revolutionary Udham Singh.

remarks about

"A storm of lies becomes so big at times that even day appears to be night, but the sun does not lose its light. Truth is that I did not tolerate insult to Udham Singh yesterday," the Bhopal MP tweeted

More on Page 2

Bhopal MP had called Godse a patriot and the Congress a "terrorist party" (a remark which was later expunged by the Speaker Om Birla). 'Thousands of members Congress Lok Sabha of the Congress leader Adhir Ranjan their lives whi Chowdhury said the **Turn to Page** of the Congress laid down their lives while serving

allied with the Nationalist Congress Party and the Congress, he would keep his Hindutva agenda "close to his heart". **Congratulations to** Mr Thackeray's fellow partymen Eknath Shinde and Subhash Desai, NCP leaders Jayant Patil and

the

chief at this juncture

wanted to "maintain a distance" as the party wasn't yet "certain" about

alliance", and the "agenda

of the Sena", despite the

common minimum pro-

gramme agreed upon. Mrs Gandhi, however,

sent a letter to Mr Udd-

hav congratulating him,

and regretting her inabil-

ity to attend the event.

"stability of the

MVA agenda: Jobs, meals for poor, farm loan waivers

AGE CORRESPONDENT

manifesto. Farmers' issues also feature prominently in the Maharashtra Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government's CMP, Turn to Page 4

Pragya claims

defence.

ing defence minister Rajnath Singh to con-

demn her remarks. In a

statement in the Lower

House, Mr Singh said his

party condemns any such

views and added Mahatma Gandhi's phi-

losophy was, is and will

always remain the party's guiding light.

Opposition MPs, led by the Congress, TMC, DMK and even AIMIM presi-

dent Asaduddin Owaisi,

dissatisfied with the

response, staged a walk-

As soon as the House met, the Opposition mem-bers stood up and strong-

ly protested against the

remarks made by Ms Thakur on Wednesday on

Godse in the debate on

the Special Protection

Group (Amendment) Bill.

minister's

defence

out.

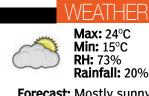
Udham Singh Ms Thakur's controver-sial statement on AGE CORRESPONDENT Wednesday even led to After her controversial vociferous protests by the Opposition in the Lok Sabha on Thursday, forc-

6-month extension to Bajwa by Pak SC

Islamabad: Pakistan's Supreme Court on Thursday granted six-month conditional extension to Army Chief Gen. Qamar Javed Bajwa, in a relief to Prime Minister Imran Khan's government. Full report on Page 11



Before my oath-taking, you should take an oath that you will support us for 5 years!



Forecast: Mostly sunny



Vikari: Dakshinayana Tithi: Margasira Shudda Tadiya till 5.44 pm Star: Moola till 7.34 am Varjyam: 5.58 am to 7.34 am and 5.27 pm to 7.06 pm Durmuhurtam: 8.45 am to 9.29 am and 12.26 pm to 1.10 pm Rahukalam: 10.30 am to 12 noon SUNSET TODAY 5.23 PM SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.54 AM MOONRISE TOMORROW 9.21 AM **MOONSET TODAY 7.55 PM**

and Jayant Patil will take

'Gota' in Delhi, talks with Modi today WEST BENGAL

TMC sweeps 3 byelections, **Didi** raps **BJP** for 'arrogance'

NRC, CAB fears helped Trinamul **RAJIB CHOWDHURI** KOLKATA, NOV. 28

Riding the mood against the National Register of Citizens and Citizen-ship (Amendment) Bill in West Bengal, the Trinamul Congress has weaked away the P IB's washed away the BJP's saffron surge after the Lok Sabha polls in the state, bagging all three constituencies in the Assembly bypolls with new faces comfortably. Of the three seats, it won two — Kharagpur Sadar in West Midnapore and Kaliaganj in North Dinajpur — for the first time, while retaining the Karimpur seat in Nadia. While chief minister

Mamata Banerjee's party reaped benefits out of the controversy over the NRC and the Citizenship Bill at Kaliaganj, earlier with Congress, and Karimpur seats due to its proximity to the India-Bangladesh border, it also successfully decimated the BJP at Kharagpur in a prestige fight as state BJP chief Dilip Ghosh, now Midnapore MP, was the MLA there in 2016. The winners are Tapandeb Singha at Kaliaganj, Bimalendu Singha Roy at Karimpur and Pradip Sarkar at Kharagpur. Trinamul's blow to the BJP, close on the heels



Sri Lankan President Gotabaya Rajapaksa arrives at the IGI Airport in New Delhi on Thursday. In his first overseas tour after taking the reins of Sri Lanka over a week ago, Mr Rajapaksa arrived in New Delhi on a three-day

visit. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Mr Rajapaksa will on Friday hold extensive talks to explore ways to further expand the already close ties between the two neighbouring nations. **Report on Page 2** -AP

China to retaliate over US HK law?

Hong Kong, Nov. 28: China threatened retaliattracted rare bipartisan support, and in a ation against Washington on Thursday after US President Donald Trump signed legisla-tion supporting Hong Kong pro-democracy protesters, just as the world's top two economies edge towards

a trade truce. Activists in the crisishit city hailed the move, saying it would help them pile pressure on Beijing-backed local authorities, and staged a "Thanksgiving" rally saluting Trump and US logiclators legislators.

legislators. Mr Trump signed the legislation under heavy pressure from Congress, where it



threatening unspecified "firm countermeaand warning sures" Washington not to implement the legislation. "The nature of this is

extremely abominable, and harbours absolutely sinister intentions," the Chinese foreign ministry said in a state--AFPment. More on Page 11

Survey shows **UK Tories set** to win easily

London, Nov. 28: British PM Boris Johnson's Conservatives are heading for a comfortable win in next month's election, according to a detailed new poll, amid reports on Thursday that the rival Labour Party is refocusing its strategy. The YouGov survey published late Wednesday said if the contest were held now, the Conservatives would snatch 44 seats from the main Opposition party to win a 68-seat majority in the House of Commons.

The poll uses a model that correctly forecast 93 per cent of seats in the last election in 2017. -AFP









+ **≻ c m** y k

TABLOID IHE ASIAN AGE Supergirl Melissa reveals **NEW DELHI FRIDAY 29 NOVEMBER 2019** she's a domestic NATION Politics NEWSMAKERS | People violence survivor

JD-U plans to consult leaders across India over its NRC stand

www.asianage.com RNI No. 57290/94, Regd No: DL-SW-05/4189/15-17

MINDOWS

Cher performs during the 'Here We Go Again' tour at the United Center in Chicago on Wednesday. – AP

Bill to regularise illegal colonies in **Delhi gets LS nod**

New Delhi: The Lok Sabha on Thursday passed the National Capital Territory of Delhi (Recognition of Property Rights of Citizens in Unauthorised Colonies) Bill 2019 with voice vote. The bill seeks to grant ownership rights to residents of 1,731 unauthorised colonies in Delhi. Union minister Hardeep Singh Puri said that the process of digital mapping of the unauthorised colonies will be completed by December 31. Full report on Page 13

Onion prices still

high across India

New Delhi: Onion prices remain high across the major cities of the country as the average selling price ruled at ₹70 per kg on Thursday while the maximum rate of ₹110 per kg was recorded in Panaji, according to official data. Full report on Page 9

Will keep Hindutva close to my heart, vows Sena supremo Uddhav sworn in as CM of new 'secular govt' in Maha

BHAGWAN PARAB MUMBAI, NOV. 28

Shiv Sena supremo Uddhav Thackeray was on Friday sworn in as the chief minister of Maharashtra amid а galaxy of national political dignitaries and business tycoon Mukesh Ambani and his family as half a lakh people looked on at Mumbai's Shivaji Park. He took oath as chief minister of the Shiv Sena-Congress-NCP alliance "Maha Vikas Aghadi" (MVA), which also declared its common minimum programme stating the alliance will "uphold the secular val-ues enshrined in the

Constitution". Fireworks were set off as the proceedings began as Sena supporters raised slogans and clicked pictures, joyous at the sight of one of their partymen occupying the state's top



Shiv Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray greets his supporters after being sworn in as Maharashtra CM at Shivaji Park in Mumbai on Thursday. — RAJESH JADHAV

post after 20 years. Soon after his swearing-n, Mr Thackeray in, expressed his gratitude by bowing to the masses, a mannerism of his father, party founder Bal Thackeray, drawing a round of rapturous applause. Clad in a dark saffron

kurta, Mr Thackeray declared that even though

Ajit Pawar is left out of Cabinet for now

AGE CORRESPONDENT MUMBAL NOV. 28

Despite his supporters' insistence, the Natio-nal-NCP leaders at party supremo Sharad Pawar's ist Congress Party did not residence on Thursday. Ajit Pawar also dis-missed reports that he include former rebel Ajit Pawar in the council of ministers. Ajit Pawar himself made it clear he was disappointed at not being sworn in as deputy would not be a minister chief minister Thursday. for the time being. 'I will not take the oath.

"Do you see disappoint-ment on my face?" he Only Chhagan Bhujbal asked.

Shiv Sena leader Subhash Desai Shiv Sena leader Jayant Patil NCP leader Chhagan Bhujbal NCP leader Balasaheb Thorat Congress leader Nitin Raut

Congress leader PM's message

Uddhav Thackeray

Chief minister Eknath Shinde

Uddhav Thackeray Ji on taking oath as the CM of Maharashtra. I am confident he will work diligently for the bright future of Maharashtra

Sonia stays away to 'keep safe distance'

AGE CORRESPONDENT the oath as ministers from the NCP," Mr Pawar NEW DELHI, NOV. 28 said after a meeting of

In a bid to keep a "safe dis-tance" from the Shiv tance" Sena-led government, Congress chief Sonia Gandhi decided to skip the swearing-in-ceremony in Mumbai Thursday. While officially the Congress claimed Mrs Gandhi had to skip the ceremony due to health reasons, sources said the Congress

Chhagan Bhujbal and Congress' Balasaheb

Thorat and Nitin Raut

LIST OF MINISTERS WHO TOOK OATH

UD President Trump tweets photoshopped bare-chested

pic to look like Rocky Balboa

MUMBAI, NOV. 28

The Shiv Sena, Congress and NCP on Thursday unveiled their Common Minimum Programme (CMP), which highlights their alliance's "commitment to upholding the secular values enshrined in the Constitution".

The preamble of CMP reads: "On contentious issue of national importance as well as of state importance especially having repercussions/ consequences on the sec-ular fabric of the nation, the Shiv Sena, the NCP and the Congress will take a joint view after holding consultations and arriving at a consensus.

The CMP promises to introduce a law that will reserve 80 per cent jobs in the state for the Marathi manoos as well as the provision of meals to the poor and needy at ₹10 — both of which were promised in the Shiv Sena's election

which

Vol. 26 No. 283 32 PAGES ₹5.00

Pragya gets axed from LS panel, pulled up by BJP

MP barred from party LS meets

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, NOV. 28

Left red-faced after its Bhopal MP and Malegaon blasts accused Pragya Singh Thakur's praise for Mahatma Gandhi's assassin Nathuram Godse as a patriot, the BJP on Thursday barred her from attending its parliamentary party meetings for the Winter Session and removed her from the parliamentary con-sultative committee on

NEW DELHI, NOV. 28

remark led to a huge furore, with the BJP coming under fire, Bhopal MP and Malegaon blasts accused Pragya Singh Thakur on Thursday tried to clarify that her comments in the Lok Sabha was against the "insult" to revolutionary Udham Singh.

remarks about

"A storm of lies becomes so big at times that even day appears to be night, but the sun does not lose its light. Truth is that I did not tolerate insult to Udham Singh yesterday," the Bhopal MP tweeted

More on Page 2

Bhopal MP had called Godse a patriot and the Congress a "terrorist party" (a remark which was later expunged by the Speaker Om Birla). 'Thousands of members Congress Lok Sabha of the Congress leader Adhir Ranjan their lives whi Chowdhury said the **Turn to Page** of the Congress laid down their lives while serving

allied with the Nationalist Congress Party and the Congress, he would keep his Hindutva agenda "close to his heart". **Congratulations to** Mr Thackeray's fellow partymen Eknath Shinde and Subhash Desai, NCP leaders Jayant Patil and

the

chief at this juncture

wanted to "maintain a distance" as the party wasn't yet "certain" about

alliance", and the "agenda

of the Sena", despite the

common minimum pro-

gramme agreed upon. Mrs Gandhi, however,

sent a letter to Mr Udd-

hav congratulating him,

and regretting her inabil-

ity to attend the event.

"stability of the

MVA agenda: Jobs, meals for poor, farm loan waivers

AGE CORRESPONDENT

manifesto. Farmers' issues also feature prominently in the Maharashtra Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government's CMP, Turn to Page 4

Pragya claims

defence.

ing defence minister Rajnath Singh to con-

demn her remarks. In a

statement in the Lower

House, Mr Singh said his

party condemns any such

views and added Mahatma Gandhi's phi-

losophy was, is and will

always remain the party's guiding light.

Opposition MPs, led by the Congress, TMC, DMK and even AIMIM presi-

dent Asaduddin Owaisi,

dissatisfied with the

response, staged a walk-

As soon as the House met, the Opposition mem-bers stood up and strong-

ly protested against the

remarks made by Ms Thakur on Wednesday on

Godse in the debate on

the Special Protection

Group (Amendment) Bill.

minister's

defence

out.

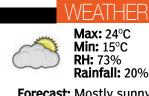
Udham Singh Ms Thakur's controver-sial statement on AGE CORRESPONDENT Wednesday even led to After her controversial vociferous protests by the Opposition in the Lok Sabha on Thursday, forc-

6-month extension to Bajwa by Pak SC

Islamabad: Pakistan's Supreme Court on Thursday granted six-month conditional extension to Army Chief Gen. Qamar Javed Bajwa, in a relief to Prime Minister Imran Khan's government. Full report on Page 11



Before my oath-taking, you should take an oath that you will support us for 5 years!



Forecast: Mostly sunny



Vikari: Dakshinayana Tithi: Margasira Shudda Tadiya till 5.44 pm Star: Moola till 7.34 am Varjyam: 5.58 am to 7.34 am and 5.27 pm to 7.06 pm Durmuhurtam: 8.45 am to 9.29 am and 12.26 pm to 1.10 pm Rahukalam: 10.30 am to 12 noon SUNSET TODAY 5.23 PM SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.54 AM MOONRISE TOMORROW 9.21 AM **MOONSET TODAY 7.55 PM**

and Jayant Patil will take

'Gota' in Delhi, talks with Modi today WEST BENGAL

TMC sweeps 3 byelections, **Didi** raps **BJP** for 'arrogance'

NRC, CAB fears helped Trinamul **RAJIB CHOWDHURI** KOLKATA, NOV. 28

Riding the mood against the National Register of Citizens and Citizen-ship (Amendment) Bill in West Bengal, the Trinamul Congress has weaked away the P IB's washed away the BJP's saffron surge after the Lok Sabha polls in the state, bagging all three constituencies in the Assembly bypolls with new faces comfortably. Of the three seats, it won two — Kharagpur Sadar in West Midnapore and Kaliaganj in North Dinajpur — for the first time, while retaining the Karimpur seat in Nadia. While chief minister

Mamata Banerjee's party reaped benefits out of the controversy over the NRC and the Citizenship Bill at Kaliaganj, earlier with Congress, and Karimpur seats due to its proximity to the India-Bangladesh border, it also successfully decimated the BJP at Kharagpur in a prestige fight as state BJP chief Dilip Ghosh, now Midnapore MP, was the MLA there in 2016. The winners are Tapandeb Singha at Kaliaganj, Bimalendu Singha Roy at Karimpur and Pradip Sarkar at Kharagpur. Trinamul's blow to the BJP, close on the heels



Sri Lankan President Gotabaya Rajapaksa arrives at the IGI Airport in New Delhi on Thursday. In his first overseas tour after taking the reins of Sri Lanka over a week ago, Mr Rajapaksa arrived in New Delhi on a three-day

visit. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Mr Rajapaksa will on Friday hold extensive talks to explore ways to further expand the already close ties between the two neighbouring nations. **Report on Page 2** -AP

China to retaliate over US HK law?

Hong Kong, Nov. 28: China threatened retaliattracted rare bipartisan support, and in a ation against Washington on Thursday after US President Donald Trump signed legisla-tion supporting Hong Kong pro-democracy protesters, just as the world's top two economies edge towards

a trade truce. Activists in the crisishit city hailed the move, saying it would help them pile pressure on Beijing-backed local authorities, and staged a "Thanksgiving" rally saluting Trump and US logiclators legislators.

legislators. Mr Trump signed the legislation under heavy pressure from Congress, where it



threatening unspecified "firm countermeaand warning sures" Washington not to implement the legislation. "The nature of this is

extremely abominable, and harbours absolutely sinister intentions," the Chinese foreign ministry said in a state--AFPment. More on Page 11

Survey shows **UK Tories set** to win easily

London, Nov. 28: British PM Boris Johnson's Conservatives are heading for a comfortable win in next month's election, according to a detailed new poll, amid reports on Thursday that the rival Labour Party is refocusing its strategy. The YouGov survey published late Wednesday said if the contest were held now, the Conservatives would snatch 44 seats from the main Opposition party to win a 68-seat majority in the House of Commons.

The poll uses a model that correctly forecast 93 per cent of seats in the last election in 2017. -AFP









Child marriage Over 1,500 cases of child marriage reported between 2013-17, says Union minister Smriti Irani



malignant activities has

pushed Europeans (too) to a corner. For decades. they

(Europe and the US) were

in a transatlantic alliance.

Even they (the Europeans)

have realised they cannot manage Cancer. You have to eradicate it," the Pales-

tinian envoy remarked. Lashing out at both the

United States and Israel,

the Palestinian envoy said, "Years of association (of the US) with Israel has

rubbed off on it (the US)".

There has been one right-

wing coup after another in

Latin America... Israel is

lurking from behind the curtains," the Palestinian

Blasting the Trump

administration in the US,

the Palestinian ambassa-dor said, "Palestine is not

yours to give (to Israel). It

is not Carolina or Virginia

that can be given away. ...

Palestinians know no

fatigue and will resist

(Israeli policies).

envoy said.



Nation



For India's sustained growth, tech and innovation have to become all pervasive

> Harsh Vardhan, Union minister BRIFF N

Govt extends ban

on Ulfa for 5 years New Delhi: The Centre has extended the ban on the Assam-based insurgent outfit Ulfa for five years for continuing subversive activities, including killings, kidnapping and extortions. In a notification, the MHA said the Ulfa has been indulging in various illegal and violent activities intended to disrupt the sov-ereignty and territorial integrity of India in furtherance of its objective of liberating Assam. A ministry official said the ban has been extended for five years. The home ministry said in its notification that the Ulfa has aligned itself with other unlawful associations of the north-eastern region. - PT

NC MPs protest **Faroog's detention**

New Delhi: Two National Conference MPs on Thursday protested in Lok Sabha against the detention of their party chief Farooq Abdullah, who is an MP from Srinagar The two MPs — Hasnain Masoodi and Mohammad Akbar Lone – came to the first row of Opposition benches to lodge their protest against the continuous detention of Abdullah. "Sir, Farooq Abdullah is a senior member of the House. He has been under detention for four months. Please do something," Masoodi told Speaker Om Birla. However, the Speaker ignored their protests and continued with the proceedings. - PTI

Nuclear plants in country safe: Govt

New Delhi: The government on Thursday assured the Raiva Sabha that nuclear plants in the country are absolutely safe and steps have been taken to ensure their safety after a "malware infection" was reported in the administrative network of the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant. "Let me assure the House that the nuclear plants in the country are completely safe," minister of state in the Prime Minister's Office Jitendra Singh said during Question Hour in Rajya Sabha. – PTI

Modi reiterates India's strong support for Palestinian cause

Palestinian envoy blasts US admin, accuses it of 'regional apartheid'

SRIDHAR KUMARASWAMI NEW DELHI, NOV. 28

A day after Indian consul general in New York Sandeep Chakravorty had made comments — in a personal capacity — that advocated the implementation of the "Israel model" in Jammu and Kashmir causing much embarrassment to the ministry of external affairs (MEA), Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday expressed "strong support' and "soli-darity" with the Palestinian cause and reit-erated the Indian Government's consistent stand that a "sovereign, independent, united and viable" Palestinian State be formed that would "co-exist peacefully with Israel". PM Modi's message was released at a

'India won't compromise on data sovereignty'

AGE CORRESPONDENT with agency inputs



country will Ravi S. not compro-mise on its Prasad data sovereignty and it is committed to ensure safety and security of messaging on platforms

like WhatsApp. Electronics and IT minister Ravi Shankar Prasad said that a WhatsApp CEO-led delegation had not men-tioned about any vulner-ability of their system during their meetings with the ministry, and that the government was yet to receive the names of people targeted by unnamed entities using



Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the Rajya Sabha during the ongoing Winter Session on Thursday.

International Solidarity Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People that is observed annually on November 29. PM Modi's message was read out by the MEA's joint secretary (West Asia

and North Africa) B. Bala Bhaskar in front of a gathering of Arab diplomats, in what is being seen as a function in the Capital on Thursday ahead of the reassurance to the Arab and Muslim world that

New Delhi, Nov. 28: In his

first overseas tour after

taking the reins of Sri

NEW DELHI, NOV 28



expand the already close ties between the two neighbouring countries.

> was looking forward to work closely with the new Sri Lankan government and hoped that it would be

Minister Mamallapuram Chennai

forward to strengthening bilateral relations with

"Leaving for my first state visit to India and looking forward to strengthening bilateral

with

eign and defence ministerial level this Saturday in New Delhi.

If the summit is indeed held in Guwahati, it will follow the pattern of Summits with world leaders that are held in various parts of the country. Just last month, the second informal summit between Chinese President Xi Jinping and PM Modi was held at near

Mr Rajapaksa, a former defence secretary who is credited with ending the country's long civil war, was sworn in as the new President on November 18, a day after he won the presiden

I defended **Udham Singh** not Godse, says Pragya

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, NOV. 28

After her controversial remark ended up creat-ing a major political furore, with BJP coming under fire from the Opposition camp, party's Bhopal MP Sadvi Pragya on Thursday tried to clarify that her comments in the Lok Sabha was not to "insult" revolutionary Udham Singh. Her remark on Wednesday — a repeat of what she had said during Lok Sabha polls campaigning after which Prime Minister Narendra Modi had said that he will never forgive Sadhvi Pragya for calling Nathuram Mahatma Godse, Gandhi's assassin, true patriot — had left

the party embarrassed. "Storm of lies becomes so big at times that even day appears to be night but the sun does not lose its light. People should not be swayed by this storm. The truth is, I did not tolerate the insult to Udham Singh yester-day," the Bhopal legislator tweeted after the BJP removed her from Union defence minister Rajnath Singh's parliamentary consultative committee and barred her from attending par-liamentary party meet-ings of the ongoing Parliament session. During the Lok Sabha polls campaign earlier this year, Sadhvi Pragya, during a roadshow, had said that Nathuram Godse was a "deshb-hakt" and will remain a "deshbhakt".

Sedition case against Pragya

Indore, Nov. 28: Amid a raging row over BJP MP Pragya Singh Thakur's remarks on Mahatma Gandhi's assassin Nathuram Godse, Congress workers on Thursday lodged a complaint of

sedition against her. The BJP legislator triggered controversy on Wednesday with her remark in the Lok Sabha during DMK member A. Raja's narration of a

statement by Nathuram

by

the -PTI



PAGE

2

Trinamul Congress MP Nusrat Jahan with her husband Nikhil Jain at Parliament House in New Delhi on - PRITAM BANDYOPADHYAY Thursdav.

Labour bill tabled in LS amid opposition

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, NOV. 28

Amid vehement opposition by the Congress and other parties, Union labour minister Santosh Kumar Gangwar on Thursday introduced the Industrial Relations Code Bill, 2019, in the Lok Sabha. The proposed legislation aims to amalga-mate 44 legislations related to labourers into four codes.

While the Congress, Trinamul Congress legislators as well as RSP leg-islator N.K. Premachandran termed the legislation as "antilabour", and demanded that it be sent to the parliamentary standing com-mittee, Mr Gangwar tried to pacify the agitated Opposition members by saying that the proposed

legislation had been

brought after extensive parleys with various unions and once discussions would be held in both the Houses of Parliament as part of pas-sage of the bill, lots of aspects would be cleared. Congress' leader in the Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury said that the entire legislative document is riddled with various anomalies fraughtwith controversies, "and it is detrimental to the welfare of labour in our country. Here, the government is going to intro-duce 'hire and fire' syndrome by inducting a new incarnation called 'fixedterm employment"

Mr RSP Premachandran, RSP legislator from Kollam, said that the concerned state governments have not been consulted before arriving at the contents of the code.



Lanka over a week ago, President Gotabaya Rajapaksa arrived in New Delhi on a three-day visit, signalling his intent to deepen bilateral ties with NEW DELHI, NOV. 28 India. On Friday, Mr Rajapaksa and Prime Minister Narendra Modi There are indications that the annual summit between Japanese Prime will hold extensive talks Minister Shinzo Abe and to explore ways to further Prime Narendra Modi is likely to take place in the Northeast, probably in Guwahati, Assam, in mid-December. This will take place after the 2+2

A plethora of issues including fulfilling aspirations of Tamil commudialogue between the nity in Sri Lanka, situatwo nations at the fortion in the Indian Ocean region and steps to boost trade and investment ties are likely to figure in the

talks. Last week, India said it India.

Modi, Abe meet likely to be held in Guwahati in mid-Dec. AGE CORRESPONDENT

New Delhi would continue

to stand with the Palestinian cause. On the

ambassador Adnan Abu Alhaijaa expressed "grati-

tude to the government and people of India who stood by Palestine."

The Palestinian envoy

blasted the Trump admin-

istration and accusing it of

"regional apartheid". "The United States, with its

Gotabaya arrives in Delhi,

occasion,

Palestinian

talks with PM Modi today Meet to focus on ways to further expand ties

377 SITES WITH CHILD PORN TAKEN DOWN

New Delhi: As many as 377 websites hosting child pornography material have been taken down and 50 FIRs filed, women and child development minister Smriti Zubin Irani said on Thursday as she urged immediate reporting so that swift action can be taken. Intervening on a Zero Hour mention by Vijila Sathyananth (AIADMK) on rise in child abuse cases due to easy access to pornography on mobile phones and Internet, Irani said methodology of reporting such incidents is being shared with the district administration for prompt action. She said, '377 websites have been taken down and 50 FIRs filed." Ms Sathyananth cited recent incidents of sexual assault of minor girls to seek complete ban on Internet and social media carrying such content so as to "save our children." She said there are rising crimes against children due to easy access to pornography. Ms Irani said she would have the administration act immediately if details of incidents are provided. In a separate Zero Hour mention, G.V.L. Narasimha Rao (BJP) raised the issue of English being made a medium of education up to Class VIth in Andhra Pradesh saying the move undermines regional languages and should be reviewed. "It has to be reviewed because it has been criticised from all quarters,' he said. - PTI

Pegasus spyware. Mr Prasad made the assertion while replying to calling attention motion in the Rajya Sabha on alleged use of spyware Pegasus to compromise phone data of some persons through WhatsApp. He said the government had issued notice to Israeli technol-

ogy firm NSO Group, which created Pegasus, on November 26, seeking details about the mal-ware and its impact. Mr Prasad informed the House that not a single FIR has been lodged and so far, his ministry has received no complaint in this matter. He said, there are adequate provisions in IT act to ensure safety and secu-

rity of messaging on various platforms. "There are standard operating procedures which are rigorously followed by security agencies and authorities for protecting the sovereig-nty and integrity of the country," Mr Prasad said and stressed that these procedures must be followed in the interest of the nation and clarified that no unauthorized

interception was done.

ter next year'

membership

able to fulfil the aspirarelations tions of the Tamil commu-@narendramodi and Govt of India," he said. nity in that country. In a tweet, before leaving for New Delhi, Mr Rajapa-ksa said he was looking

Shri tought tial poll in island nation. Three days later, he The Sri Lankan leader will also meet President Ram Nath Kovind.

Godse before a court on why he killed Mahatma Gandhi. Her remark was expunged Speaker.

INX MEDIA CASE SC reserves verdict on Chidambaram's bail plea

'PC's crime as grave as Ranga-Billa'

PARMOD KUMAR NEW DELHI, NOV. 28

The Enforcement Directorate on Thursday told the Supreme Court that the allegation of money laundering against former finance minister P Chidambaram in the INX Media case were as grave as the crime of kidnap ping and murder commit-ted by "Ranga-Billa" in the national capital in 1978

Thursday was the 100th day of incarceration of Mr Chidambaram, who was arrested on August 21, 2019.

Describing the offence committed Mr Chidambaram falling in the "gravest of grave" category, solicitor-general Tushar Mehta told a

Former finance minister, who was arrested on August 21, has challenged Nov. 15 Delhi high court order rejecting his bail plea on the grounds of the P. Chidambaram gravity of the case

> gravity of the case and saying that it would send a wrong message to the people of the country, if the former finance minister was released on bail, Mr Chidambaram had on Wednesday lamented that it was being projected as if his offence was as heinous as that of "Ranga-Billa".

Placing the economic offences – attributed to Mr Chidambaram — as

grave as the kidnapping and murder, Mehta said that "murder a heinous crime could be committed in a heat of the moment, but an economic offence is "pre-mediated and calculated

As Mr Mehta made a strong plea against the grant of bail, the court reserved its order on Mr Chidambaram's plea for bail. The former finance minister has challenged November 15 Delhi high court order rejecting his bail plea on the grounds of

the gravity of the case. However, the high court by its November 15 order had said that Mr Chidambaram was not a had flight risk (could not flee from the country), tamper with evidence and influence the witnesses

working towards expand-

were among

-PTI

PARLIAMEN BY GAUTAM LAHIRI

MPs CURIOUS ABOUT CITIZENSHIP **AMENDMENT BILL**



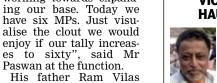
ome minister Amit Shah will start consultation meetings with all stakeholders of Northeastern states from today on the proposed Citizenship Amendment Bill. The meetings, the first of which will be held at Mr Shah's residence after 9 pm, will

continue for some days. Most chief ministers, unit presidents of all political parties and citizen groups of the Northeastern states have been invited. When the chairman of the Rajya Sabha, Venkaiah Naidu, had called a business advisory committee meeting, many leaders had asked about the controversial bill, but there was no answer from the government. Some leaders were told that the bill might come suddenly at the home minister's meeting. They leaders then advised the government that the legislation should not be brought like Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Bill. The only answer they received was that the Cabinet was yet to pass the bill.

BILL TO ENHANCE POWERS OF GOVERNORS IN AUTONOMOUS DISTRICTS TO BE DELAYED

s there was no consensus on the proposed 125th ${f A}$ Constitutional Amendment Bill, on the request of Anand Sharma, the chairman of the standing committee on home affairs, RS Chairman Venkaiah Naidu, has extended the deadline for presenting the report by a month. The report was supposed to be presented by December 12. Now, the committee will present it before January 12, 2020. The bill sought to empower governors to increase the financial and executive power of all autonomous districts created under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution. These districts are in Tripura, Assam, Meghlaya and Mizoram. This amendment was required to take the tribal population into confidence.

VICTORY GESTURE COMES BACK TO HAUNT ROY AMID BYPOLL DEBACLE



Former TMC MP Mukul Roy was captured on Wednesday assuring home minister Amit Shah of victory in the bypolls to the West Bengal Assembly. Mr Roy was photographed with three fingers up, indicat-

ing all the three seats that were going to the polls would be won by the BJP. When the results were declared, where the TMC trounced the saffron party by comfortable margins, the picture was regurgitated on social media.

An MP commented that Mr Roy was actually correct when he predicted a three-seat haul, but was wrong about which party was the victorious one.

Ties with BJP limited to Bihar: Chirag Paswan

bench of Justices R.

Banumathi, A.S. Bopanna

and Hrishikesh Roy that

the crime committed by

"Ranga-Billa" could not be

the test of the gravity of

the offence as economic offences were a separate

class in themselves and

have a wider repercussion

for the society and the

Taking exception to the

high court findings on the

nation's economy.

Patna, Nov. 28: Apparently taking a cue from fellow NDA ally JD(U), headed by Bihar CM Nitish Kumar, Lok Janshakti Party on Thursday asserted its ties with the BJP-led coalition was "limited" to the state and it was looking forward to expanding its national footprint by contesting Assembly polls in Delhi,

J&K and West Bengal. At a function organised here to celebrate the party's foundation day, Chirag Paswan the new LJP president and son of de facto leader Ram Vilas Paswan however insisted that the ambitions must

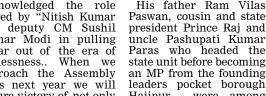


they find themselves in a position to fight Assembly polls", Chirag Paswan

"States like Delhi, J&K, West Bengal these are scheduled to witness Assembly polls. Our leaders in these states should explore the possibilities. "If they wish to take the

endeavour by the parlia-mentary board", the Jamui MP, whose decision to go it alone in the Jharkhand Assembly polls had raised many eyebrows, said. He, however, sought to make it clear that the LJP

acknowledged the role played by "Nitish Kumar and deputy CM Sushil Kumar Modi in pulling Bihar out of the era of lawlessness.. When we approach the Assembly polls next year we will ensure victory of not only our candidates in the seats



uncle Pashupati Kumar Paras who headed the state unit before becoming an MP from the founding leaders pocket borough Hajipur those present.



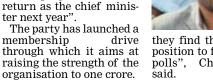








fully with them wherever



raising the strength of the organisation to one crore. "Bihar would of course be our main focus. But the leaders of our state units elsewhere have also come here and I tell them that the central leadership is electoral plunge, they would be backed in their LJP seeks to fight, but also help our alliance partners to win their seats". "However, we must keep

Congratulation



Former PM Manmohan Singh congratulates Uddhav Thackeray, hails his visionary leadership

NEW DELHI, NOV. 28

Minimum

CMP

THE ASIAN AGE

Sonia, Rahul maintain 'safe distance'

Nation PAGE 3 FRIDAY | 29 NOVEMBER 2019 | NEW DELHI



Is Rahul scared that hugging Uddhav Thackeray is equivalent to hanging himself? — G.V.L. Narsimha Rao CPI(M) gen secv

BRIFF Ν **6 former Maha CMs**

attend swearing-in Mumbai: Shiv Sena president Uddhav Thackeray's swearing-in ceremony as Maharashtra chief minister saw six of his predecessors from the state gracing the event held at the Shivaii Park here on Thursday evening. NCP patriarch Sharad Pawar, Shiv Sena leader Manohar Joshi, Congress leaders Sushilkumar Shinde, Ashok Chavan and Prithviraj Chavan and BJP's Devendra Fadnavis are the six former CMs who headed the state at different times. Thackeray succeeded Fadnavis (2014-2019). Pawar has headed the state four times, while Ashok Chavan and Fadnavis became chief ministers twice. - PTI

Alma mater of **Uddhav celebrates**

Mumbai: As the Shivaji Park ground in central Mumbai gears up for swearing-in of Uddhav Thackerav as Maharashtra's new chief minister, a mood of celebration also prevails at his school, the nearby Balmohan Vidyamandir. Not only Thackeray, who heads the Shiv Sena, but Jayant Patil of the NCP, who is likely to take oath as minister, is also a former student of this school. Thackeray, a 1976-batch stu-dent of Balmohan school, was announced as nominee for chief minister's post at a meeting of the Maharashtra Vikas Aghadi three days ago.

Didi congratulates

Thackeray & Pawar

Kolkata: West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday congratulated Shiv Sena president Uddhav Thackeray, NCP chief Sharad Pawar and Congress leader Balasaheb Thorat for coming together and forming the government in Maharashtra. Banerjee said she was looking forward to a "pro-people and stable government" that would work for the all round development of Maharashtra under their leadership. Congratulations to @OfficeofUT, @PawarSpeaks and @bb_thorat for forming the government in Maharashtra, she tweeted. - PTI

Cong yet not 'certain' of alliance's stability', agenda of Sena AGE CORRESPONDENT alliance and hoped that the In a bid to maintain a "safe distance" from the Shiv Sena led government, Congress president Sonia Gandhi on Thursday skipped the swearing-in ceremony in Maharashtra. While officially, the Congress claimed that Mrs Gandhi had to skip the ceremony due to health reasons, sources revealed that the Congress president at this juncture wanted to "maintain a distance" as the party was not yet "certain" of the "stability of the alliance",

and the "agenda of the Shiv the Winter Session in New Delhi on Thursday. Sena", despite the Common

Sena. But after consulta-Programme tions with the elected MLAs of the party it was The CMP states in its pre-amble that all the alliance decided to go ahead with partners will follow the the alliance.

"secular" principles as enshrined in the sent a letter to the enshrined in the Constitution. Before the Maharashtra chief minister, Mr Thackery congratualliance was cemented several senior Congress leadlating him. In the letter she ers had reservations about said, " Aaditya met me yesterday and extended your aligning with the Shiv



Congress MP Rahul Gandhi at Parliament House during – PTI

kind invitation to attend the swearing-in ceremony. I regret that I am unable to be present at the function.' She further added, " the However, Mrs Gandhi has three parties have come

together under quite extraordinary circumextraordinary circum-stances at a time when the country is facing unprecedented threats from the BJP." She also wished the new government will fulfil the hopes and aspirations the people of

Maharashtra. Congress leader Mr. Rahul Gandhi and former Minister Prime Dr. Manmohan Singh also wrote to the Maharashtra chief minister expressing regret for not attending the function. Mr Thackery had sent his son Aaditya to perinvite sonally Manmohan Singh and Mrs. Sonia Gandhi for the

sona Gandin for the swearing-in ceremony. Earlier in the day addressing the CPP, Mrs Gandhi flayed the BJP for "shameless attempts to subvert democracy" in Maharashtra and blatant-

ly sabotage the threeparty alliance from coming to power in the state. Addressing the Congress Parliamentary Party meeting in Parliament House, she also attacked the governor of the state, Bhagat Singh Koshyari.

COMMON MINIMUM PROGRAMME The common mini-Maharashtra Vikas Aghadi, the Senamum programme of the Maha Vikas NCP-Congress alliance, has come Aghadi promises 80 out with its much-awaited per cent reservation in jobs for local/domicile common miniyouth. The new mum programme. And government against all speculations and

promises to bring a law to ensure the reservawith stress on "secution. The programme con-sists of complete loan larism". Sena initially had reservation about

said.

the state as well as

which will provide basic health screening

of people across the

state, alliance leaders

one rupee clinics,

Key focus areas in the CMP are farmers issues, unemploy-ment, health, industry, social justice, women, education, urban development, tourism art and culture.

reports, it begins

Shiv Sena's most discussed poll promise of offering a full meal at ₹10 also figures in the CMP.

Cong, NCP pay tribute to Balasaheb Thackeray AGE CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI, NOV. 28 Congress and NCP

the

leaders paid rich tribute to waiver to farmers in Shiv Sena

supremo, late Balasaheb Balasaheb Thackeray Thackeray,

as both parties prepared to form an alliance government with the Sena on Thursday.

NCP MP and party chief Sharad Pawar's daughter Supriya Sule remem-bered how "Balasaheb and Maasaheb (the late Meenatai Thackeray)" treated her like a daugh-"Maasaheb and ter. Balasaheb —missing you so much today. Both of you should have been here today. They treated me with so much love and affection — more than a daughter! Their role in my life will always be spe-cial and memorable!" she tweeted. Sharad Pawar also hailed the Shiv Sena founder, describing him as a man who kindled pride in the Marathi manoos and gave direction to society and politics through his courageous personality.

Congress's Balasaheb Thorat said that former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and Balasaheb Thackeray had a cordial relationship and Thackeray Balasaheb supported her. "Whenever needed, they stood by each other," he said. The Sena founder supported had Emergency.

The alliance of the Sena with the Congress as part of the Maharashtra Vikas Aghadi was seen as an unlikely combine as the two parties share oppo-

site ideologies. Both the Congress and NCP had paid respect to Balasaheb Thackeray on seventh death anniversary and also through social media platforms

Bid Security Period Cost of Bic Document

75

days

29-11-2019 to 26-12-2019

02-01-2020 (up to 3:00 P.M)

30

days

29-11-2019 to 18-12-2019

23-12-2019 (up to 3:00 P.M

23-12-2019 (at 3:30 P.M)

02-01-2020 (at 3:30 P.M)

Rs.

1180/-

Rs.

1180/-

2.5% of

total

quoted

Amoun

2.5% of

total

auoted

Amount

rom the office of Sr. Executive Engineer

Ajit will stay away from govt for time being

dence. deputy chief minister on Thursday. "I am not at all disappointed. Do you see disappointment on my tace ' ne asked. minister also refuted reports about his 'revolt." Saturday, but quit it earli-

BHAGWAN PARAB

MUMBAI, NOV. 28

promises

According to sources, including Ajit Pawar in the council of ministers straightway after revolting in the party would have sent a wrong signal in the organisation. Hence it was decided to keep him out of the ministry for a while.

Fadnavis-led govern ment.

"It was not a revolt. I was in the NCP, I am in the NCP and will remain in the NCP," he said, adding that he would attend the swearing-in ceremony in the evening with his cousin and Lok Sabha MP Supriya Sule. There were speculations over the next move by Ajit Pawar atter ne nad returned to the NCP by resigning from the BJP government. Despite his rebellion, several of his supporter MLAs had demanded that he should be given the deputy CM's post in the Uddhav Thackeray-led government.



(From left) MNS chief Raj Thackeray, former Maharashtra CM Manohar Joshi, MP chief minister Kamal Nath, NCP chief Sharad Pawar, former CM of Maharashtra Ashok Chavan and Congress leader Ahmed Patel during the oathtaking ceremony of Shiv Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray as Maharashtra chief minister and other ministers of his Cabinet at Shivaji Park in Mumbai on Thursday. – RAJESH JADHAV

No fresh Adarsh scam probe: ED

AGE CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI, NOV. 28

sources, Mr Chavan was not sworn in Friday because of the Adarsh case.

Thursday clarified that it had not initiated any fresh probe into the Adarsh Society scam. It issued a



AGE CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI, NOV. 28

Despite the insistence of his supporters, the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) did not include former rebel leader Ajit Pawar in the state council of ministers. Ajit Pawar himself made it clear that he would not be a minis-

ter. will not take oath. Only Chhagan Bhujbal and Jayant Patil will take oath as ministers from the NCP," Mr Pawar said after a meeting of NCP leaders at party chief Sharad Pawar's resi-

Ajit Pawar also dis-missed reports that he was disappointed over not being sworn-in as the The former deputy chief Ajit Pawar joined had hands with the BJP to form a government last er this week, citing 'personal reasons,' leading to collapse of the Devendra

BJP TAKES DIG AT RAHUL ABSENCE, TIEUP WITH SENA

New Delhi: The BJP sought to corner the Congress on Thursday over the Shiv Sena praising Mahatma Gandhi's assassin Nathuram Godse in the past and wondered if this was why Rahul Gandhi was "ashamed" to attend the swearing-in ceremony of the Maharashtra overnment. The Congress-NCP alliance in Maharashtra has joined hands with the Sena, a long-time Hindutva ally of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) before they split, and Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray was sworn-in as the chief minister on Thursday, "Stop being a hypocrite Rahul Gandhi. You are making someone with identical views chief minister of Maharashtra, Udhav Thackeray, Editor-In-Chief of Saamana, wrote that Godse was a patriot. Is that why you are ashamed to attend swearing-in," BJP spokesperson G.V.L. Narasimha Rao said in a tweet. Mr Gandhi had earlier attacked the BJP over its MP Pragya Thakur's praise for Godse, saying her remarks represented the "heart and soul" of the saffron party. Hitting back, Rao said, "Is Rahul scared that hugging Uddhav Thackeray is equivalent to hanging himself? Sena is wanted for grabbing power but is an untouchable. This is how Sultanates treat slaves. not partners. This is the ultimate insult to the legacy of Balasaheb Thackeray, the pride of Maharashtra (sic)

The Shiv Sena Friday said that the Enforcement Directorate (ED) investigation against Congress leader Ashok Chavan in connection with the Adarsh scam was yet another example of misgovernment use of machinery by the BJP government. According to

Sena's Sanjay Raut asked why the case had suddenly been opened. "As soon as they came to know that we are forming the government, they started using the CBI (Central Bureau of Investigation) and ED against us. Let them do it," he said. ED However. the

press note after media reports surfaced, showing its officers visiting the society premises Thursday for some measurements and related activities.

'This is to clarify that no fresh investigation has been taken up by the ED in the Adarsh Society scam it said.

> LOST & FOUND NOTIFICATION

E-TENDER NOTICE

Sr. DME acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders again: nder No. MC-9-Vehicle-DRM-MB-19 Closing Date/Time 20.12.2019, 15:00 Hrs Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids upto closing date and time onl Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer receive shall be ignored. Information regarding this tender is available on websit www.ireps.gov.in on internet & can be seen/downloaded. The tenderers/bidders wi nave to make payment towards Tender document cost and Eamest Money against this ender through online payment modes like Net Banking, debit / Credit cards etc available on IREPS portal. Manual / offline mode of payment through Demand Draft

Name of work		AC MUV/SUV road driver for DRM Morada	
Tender Type	Open	Bidding System	Single Packet System
Tender closing Date & Time	20.12.2019 15:00 hrs.	Date of Uploading Tender	Upto 27.11.2019
Pre-Bid Required	No	Pre-Bid Query Date Time	Not Applicable
Advertised Value	Rs. 8,17,992/-	Tendering Section	C AND W
Bidding Style	Single Rate for Tender	Bidding Unit	%age Above/ Below/Atpar
Earnest Money (Rs.)	Rs. 16,400/-	Validity of Offer (Days)	45 Days
Tender Doc. Cost (Rs.)	2000/~	Period of Completion	12 Months
Bidding start date	06.12.2019	Are Joint Venture (JV) firms allowed to bid	No
No:-MC-9-Vehicle-DR	M-MB-19 Date	: 27.11.2019	3823/2019

vagary Uddhav quits Saamana editor post nature. CBSE Delhi has been Actually I According to sources, if

Uddhav Thackeray, as chief minister of Maharashtra faces the massive task of delivering on the promises made by his party earlier. Among the major hurdles before him is the severe debt of ₹four lakh crore under which the state is reeling. A complete loan waiver to farmers and a full meal for a measly ₹10 for 30 years. were two of the important promises made by the Sena in its manifesto before the Vidhan Sabha poll. Now minister that Mr Thackeray is at the

rainfall last month, crops helm of affairs, he will have to make good on these covering an area of 94.02 lakh hectares suffered Due to the unseasonal extensive damage result-

Maharashtra

flags of their respective

toric ascent of the three-

implement good policies and decisions that will

stated. Donning a saffron

Qureshi greeted people

and posed for selfies with

the common folk and par-

Shakil

Mohammad

Crowd cheers 'Sena's Tiger'

Mumbai: Shivaji Park corner thronged the city's iconic saw the surreal coming together of hordes of ground armed with the Shiv jubilant Sena, Congress and Nationalist parties to witness the his-Congress Party (NCP) supporters and activists party alliance govern-ment. Dadar resident and on Thursday as the curtains descended on a a roadside shop owner political month-long Rohini Panvelkar said drama with the swearingshe was beside herself at in ceremony chief ministhe prospect of a Shiv ter Uddhav Thackeray on Sena chief minister. "I am confident that he will

Thursday. Slogans such as "Kon Ala re Kon Aala Shiv Senecha Wagh aala (Who help single women," she has come forth? Shiv Sena's tiger!)" and "Hi takat konachi, Shiv Sene muffler, cap and badge, chya vaghachi (Who is the strongest? The Shiv Sena's tiger!)" rent the air as partymen from every tymen alike.

ing the head of the state, Uddhav Thackeray has quit as the editor-inchief of Shiv Sena state. mouthpiece, Saamana. The responsibility will Hereon, now be held by party leader Sanjay Raut, who

has been the executive editor of the newspaper The move came after Uddhav was slated to take oath as the chief of Rane, in 1999.

ing in losses to the tune of

Mumbai: After becom- Maharashtra, being the first member of the Thackeray family ever to become CM of the

Uddhav's name will not be mentioned in the credit line as editor-in-chief of the Sena daily. Uddhav began his political journey as the editor of Saamana when he used to take potshots at the then Sena CM, Narayan

₹8,000 crore. More than one crore farmers have been affected by this

the government decides to provide a minimum aid of ₹10,000 per hectare to the farmers, it will have to make a provision of ₹9,400 crore per year. If the aid is increased to ₹25,000 per hectare, the provision will have to increase to a whopping ₹23,500 crore per year. Even when the Devendra Fadnavis government was in power, the BJP-led government at the Centre had offered aid of only ₹6,000 crore. With the Sena in the Opposition camp now, it will be interesting to see how much the Union government will respond to the state government's pleas in future.

Uddhav faces uphill task as CM IT is Notified for the information my original Marksheet and Pas certificate of main Senior seco ary exam. (12th class) year 1 Roll No 6207426 pass out f Vikramjeet Singl L8/051, Spring Fi Society, Sector -2 1st, Greater Noida Uttar Pradesh Mobile: 958255516



Sealed bids are hereby invited on behalf of Managing Director, BVPCL, Joginder Nagar, H.P. for the under mentioned works from the dealers/registered supplier/registered contractors, who are registered with Excise & Taxation Department for taxation obligations. The bids shall be opened on the scheduled date and time mentioned below in the presence of intending bidders or their authorized representatives, who may wish to be present at the time of opening of bids. Bid documents (Hard/Soft copy) can be had from the office o Sr. Executive Engineer, P&M, Electrical Division, Uhl-III, BVPCL, Chullah, Tehsil-Lad-Bharol, District Mandi (HP)-175015 on any working day by hand/ registered post/email during normal working hours on submission of a written application accompanying with the proof of Bid document cost paid, which can be made through crossed demand draft (non-refundable) in favour of the Chief Financial Officer O/o Managing Director, BVPCL, Joginder Nagar (HP) payable at any Nationalized/Scheduled Bank, Joginder Nagar (HP)-175015 or by depositing Bid Document cost in the bank account of the Managing Director, BVPCL, Joginder Nagar (HP)-175015 A/C No: 11449942145, IFSC code : SBIN0005163, SBI, Jogindernagar (HP)

I		173	NUISAUCI	10: 11449942145, IFSC code : SBIN0005163, SBI, Jogindemagar (HP	7).
	UNIDENTIFIED DEAD BODY	Sr No		Name of Work	ļ
	General public is hereby informed that an unknown male person was found dead at on footpath infront of petrol pump, Khyber pass between Pathan Wali Masjid to Kamla Nagar Ridge, Maurice Nagar, Delhi on dated 15.11.2019. In this regard a DD No. 12-A	1.	02/2019	Supply, Testing Calibration and Certification before Supply, Shop Inspection, Transportation, Insurance, Delivery at Consignee's Store and trouble-free warranty of 12 months for, Mechanical T&P Items, Welding Sets and Personal protection equipment along with associated accessories, Test/Calibration Certificates etc. at 3 x 33.33 MW Uhl Stage-III HEP.	
on Dated 15.11.2019 has been lodged at PS. Maurice Nagar, Delhi			Date of Sale of Bid Document	Ļ	
			Date of Receiving of Bid Document Date of Opening of Bid Document	ť	
	The description of the dead person is given as under Name: Unknown, S/o Unknown, R/o Unknown, Age: 35 Yrs., Height: 5'6", Complexion: Sallow, Wearing: Red with Green Colour Check Shirt &	2.	03/2019		
I	Bare Footed.			Date of Sale of Bid Document	E
	Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out			Date of Receiving of Bid Document	Ŀ
	the dead person but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having			Date of Opening of Bid Document	Ŀ
	any information about this dead person please inform undersigned.			terms and conditions & clarification can be obtained from the office sion, Uhl Stage-III, BVPCL, Chullah, Distt. Mandi, (H.P).	
1				Del	а.

Energy Saved is Energy Gener

	erranan, ereta martai, (titt).	Sr. Executive Engineer,
	Pá	M (E) Divn. UHL Stage-III HEP,
	BVPCL, CHULLAH, Tehsil-Lad Bha	rol, Distt. Mandi (H.P)-175015.
ed	E-mail : xenpnm@gmail.co	m Contact No. 01908-270750.

DP/685/N/19

> P.S. Maurice Nagar, Delhi Ph.:011-27667178, 8750870128



Peace in Valley

Kashmir Valley peaceful like never before, says BJP leader Subramanian Swamy

THE ASIAN AGE

ing allegations, she said: "Because the NRC project

implemented by the BJP

government in Assam, monitored by the Supreme Court, has not fulfilled the

RSS-BJP expectations and

propaganda, there is now

clamour in the ruling

party for a fresh NRC in

that state. The home min-

ister is also speaking of unleashing an NRC in the entire country - a step that

will only lead to more fear

Mrs Gandhi said that the





Number of Hindu Bengalis excluded from final NRC to be made public — Himanta Biswa Sarma **BJP** leader

> BRIEF IN

Sikh pilot asked

to remove turban New Delhi: A Sikh pilot of Air India was allegedly asked to remove his turban during a manual security check at the Madrid airport, the Delhi Sikh Gurudwara Management Committee (DSGMC) has told external affairs minister S Jaishankar. DSGMC president Manjinder Singh Sirsa requested Mr Jaishankar to raise the matter with the Spanish government that happened with Air India's Captain Simranjeet Singh Gujral recently. "The Madrid airport officials demanded him to remove his turban and asked for a manual check of his turban which is an offence in the eyes of Sikhs," Mr Sirsa. – PTI

Muzaffarpur case: CBI to book cops

New Delhi: The CBI, probing

the Muzaffarpur shelter home sexual abuse case, is set to register cases against certain district police officials for their alleged role in the crime. Sources said that the investigations by the CBI have revealed that certain district level police officials failed to perform their duties while probing the cases. "One can not deny the fact that district police officials botched up the probe, following which the investigation was handed over to the CBI," sources said adding that the role of senior police officials is also being probed by the investigators The agency have identified junior-level officials, who did not investigate the case properly, sources added.

Army successfully

test-fires Spike New Delhi: The Indian Army has successfully test fired two Spike long-range anti-

tank missiles at Mhow in Madhva Pradesh which are

Economy in deep trouble: Sonia

number of locals who had

joined terrorist groups in

2018. In 2018, 214 local had

joined terrorist groups. In

fact, local recruitment was a bit higher in June

before abrogation of Article 370 on 5th August. In June 2019, local

recruitment was 20 against 44 in the same

last year.

said.

'Distress among farmers, traders, small and medium businesses'

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, NOV. 28

Claiming that the Modi-Shah-led BJP government was "bankrupt" of decency, Congress president Sonia Gandhi on Thursday said the economic crisis in the country was deepening and unemployment was grow-

ing. "There is worsening distress among farmers, traders and small and businesses. medium Consumption, especially in rural areas, is falling. Exports are declining. And prices of essential food commodities are rising, causing hardship to households. Instead of tackling the problem, the Modi-Shah government is busy fudging statistics or, indeed, not publishing them at all," Mrs Gandhi said addressing the

Congress parliamentary party meeting here. She said that the BJP government at the Centre was clueless on how to manage the grave prob-

Class 12 girl student shot dead in MP town

three

Morena (MP), Nov. 28: A 19-year-old female stu-dent of Class 12 was allegedly shot dead by unidentified motorcycle-borne assailants when she was returning home from her coaching classes in Porsa town, about 50 kms from the district headquarters, the police

said on Thursday. The incident occurred on Wednesday evening, following which the relatives of the victim and local residents staged a protest and allegedly hurled stones at police vehicles. "Three unidentified persons shot Anjali Rathore, a Class 12 student, multiple times. The incident took place on Jotai Road when she was returning home," police said. She was taken to a hospital,

where doctors declared her brought dead. The police has identi-fied the accused trio and

15 locals join terror group after revoking of Article 370 agencies.

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHL NOV. 28 This is nearly half the

After the abrogation of provisions under Article 370, 15 locals in Kashmir have joined terrorist groups, according to secuhave rity agencies.

There was a fear of an upsurge in local recruitment to militant groups after article 370 was removed from J&K and the state was bifurcated Union into two territories. For the whole year, 110 locals have joined the mil-

itant groups, said security

lems facing the country. "The public sector has been put on the block, in all probability, to be sold off to a few favoured business people. What will he the fate of the thousands of workers at those enterprises? Lakhs upon lakhs of salaried and ordinary

BRIEF Meghalaya may

said on Thursday.

enrolment of students. "The education department will soon place a proposal before the state Cabinet for either clos-ing down or withdrawing grant-in-aid to these schools," he said.

The minister said that the state government incurs ₹20 crore annual expenditure on these schools, which could be used for the development of other educational institutes.

He, however, said the decision regarding the

ground realities were completely different from month last year, as per the "fictitious images" conjured up by the Modisecurity forces. In May 2019, the number of locals joining militant groups Shah government. "The agony, anguish and was just 8 against 34 in the humiliation of the people corresponding month continue. Former chief ministers, who in the past families are worried about were political allies of the BJP, MLAs, political worktheir deposits in banks,'

and panic"

the Congress president ers and ordinary people who believed in the idea of India and abided by the Attacking the govern-ment on plans to begin a nation-wide registry of Constitution of India have been under house arrest citizens or the NRC, the for months. Even children are not being spared in the crackdown," she said. abrogation of Article 370, electoral bonds and snoop-

shut schools with less than 10 kids

Shillong, Nov. 28: The Meghalaya government is planning to either shut schools or withdraw funds to those having enrolments below 10 and use that sum for development of other educational institutes, a senior state minister State education minister Lakmen Rymbui said

that 221 lower and upper primary schools in the state have a single-digit

closure of schools or

and

Mr

Wednesday, sources said.

ment

On verification, it

was found that nearly

70% of the candidates

have completed SSLC,

them were engineers, evening.

Vehicles move slowly on a snow-covered road following heavy snowfall in Manali on Thursday.

7K engineers, graduates apply for 549 sanitary worker posts

Coimbatore, Nov. 28: A post-graduates, gradutotal of 7,000 engiates and diploma-holdneers, graduates and ers, they said. diploma-holders have applied for 549 posts of sanitary workers in

the minimum qualifi-cation, and most of and three hours in the

In some cases, it was found that the appli-cants were already the city corporation. employed in private The corporation had firms, but the government job attracted them as the starting called for applications for the posts of 549 grade-1 sanitary posts and 7,000 applicants appeared for the threesalary is ₹15,700.

Those already working as the contract sanday interview and veriitary workers for the fication of certificates, last 10 years have also which began on Wednesday, official applied for these permanent jobs. On the other hand,

sanitary workers job fetches a salary of

nearly ₹20,000 with the

work timings of three

JD-U to consult leaders across India over NRC

NAYEAR AZAD PATNA, NOV. 28

While BJP has been demanding implementation of National Register of Citizenship (NRC) across India, it's alliance partner JD(Ú) is in dilem-

ma over the issue. JD(U) leaders in Patna said that the party would clear its stand on NRC after consulting leaders all across the country. Chief minister Nitish Kumar, who has been maintaining silence on the issue, also gave simi-lar hints while talking to reporters on the issue.

Several JD(U) leaders including the party's national vice president Prashant Kishor had earlier reacted strongly to the exclusion of around 19 lakh people from the final list of NRC in Assam.

He had termed the exercise as "botched up" and said that NRC has left Lakhs of people as for-eigners in their own coun-

try. Recently after Home minister Amit Shah gave a statement in the Rajya Sabha and claimed that the NRC process will be carried out across the country, Prashant Kishor had raised his opposition and said, "15 plus states with more than 55 per cent of India's population have non- BJP ministers. Wonder how many of them are consulted and are on- board for NRC in their respective states. His statement was earli-

Odisha woman has 19 toes, 12 extra fingers in hand

AKSHAYA KUMAR SAOO

75-year-old woman in Odisha's Ganjam district has 19 toes in her feet and extra 12 fingers on both hands. This rare polydactyl.

also born-dumb.

Ex-coordinator Hajela lands in fresh trouble

MANOJ ANAND GUWAHATI, NOV. 28

An FIR was filed on Thursday against former NRC coordinator Prateek Hajela by the Assam Public Works (APW), an NGO, with CBI, alleging huge misappropriation of government funds in updating the NRC in the state.

Though, CBI is yet to take the cognisance and conduct any preliminary investigation, the APW in its FIR has demanded a high-level probe into the alleged misappropriation of funds by the former state-coordinator NRC

and his close aides. The FIR, a copy of which was made available to the media, claimed that Mr Hajela had appointed several retired government officials as his advisors and they were pro-vided with new vehicles and a handsome salary package.

er taken as JD(U)'s official line on NRC. However, political analysts now feel that JD(U) is talking about consulting its leaders after Home minister Amit Shah gave a statement in the Parliament.

MHA invites N-E CMs, groups for meet on CAB

New Delhi, Nov. 28: The home ministry has invit-ed chief ministers of northeastern states besides leaders of sociocultural bodies, students' organisations and political parties from the region for discussions over the next two days on the plans to amend the Citizenship Act, officials said on

Thursday. Those who have been

BHUBANESWAR, NOV. 28

Strange as it may appear, but it's true! A disorder, according to doctors, is termed as

What's worse, and even shocking, is the elderly woman identified as Kumari Naik is

home. "Things age turned worse after her sister-in-law suffered a paralytic attack which left her physically unfit to do any work. After that, she was shifted to Hatiota old-age home,'

informed Kumari's rela tive. Sources said it was only after the intervention of local MLA Srikant Sahu that Kumari was shifted to the old-age home on August 4. Kumari also receives ₹500 as a pen-

later shifted to an old-

Analysts are of the opinion that JD(U) has to be careful in order to keep its secular vote bank intact



There

The FIR further claimed that no remuneration has been paid to the teachers who were engaged in the process of updating the NRC where as huge amount of money was said to have been spent on paying reenumeration to

teachers. The APW FIR has also alleged huge financial irregularities in purchasing of laptops, different electronic gadgets and

electric generators. In process of updating the NRC, the ministry of home affairs had released about ₹1,600 crore to the NRC authorities.

in Bihar. Sources claim that chief minister Nitish Kumar has been worried after BJP leaders recently adopted an aggressive approach and demanded NRC to be implemented in Bihar especially in the Seemanchal region. which accounts for more than 40 per cent Muslim

population.

expected to further boost its combat prowess, officials said on Thursday. Army Chief Gen Bipin Rawat and several commanders witnessed the firing of the newly acquired missiles on Wednesday. Spike is a fourth generation missile which can engage any target with precision at ranges up to 4 km, the offi-cials said. – PTI

BJP RETAINS PITHORAGARH SEAT IN U'KHAND

Dehradun: BJP's Chandra Pant on Thursday beat her Congress rival Anju Lunthi by over 3,000 votes to win the Pithorogarh Assembly bypoll and retain the seat for the party. The bypoll was necessitated by the death of sitting BJP MLA Prakash Pant in June, following which the party fielded his wife Chandra Pant. Chandra Pant polled 26,086 votes against Ms Lunthi's 22,819, defeating her by a margin of 3,267 votes, Pithorogarh district magistrate cum returning officer V.K. Jogdande said. Voting was held on November 25. with over 47 per cent of the electorate exercising their franchise. Chief minister Trivendra Singh Rawat said the victory was expected. "The seat was ours and we are happy to retain it. The margin is big. We thank people of the constituency for reposing their faith in us once again," he said. Reacting to the win, an emotional Chandra Pant said, "It is the result of developmental works done by my late husband in the constituency, besides the relentless hard work of party workers. I would try to meet the expectations of the voters who showered their love and affection on me," she added. Chandra Pant's candidature from Pithorogarh in Kumaon region of Uttarakhand was seen by political experts here as the BJP's bid to garner sympathy votes in the wake of the sitting MLA's untimely demise. - PTI

hunt on to arrest them. The victim's relative and citizens staged a protest. The windscreen of a police vehicle was damaged due to the stone-pelting by the protesters.

artist Nitin Desai.

Chhattisgarh

nephew,

there as well.

withdrawal of aid to them will be taken as per the guidelines of the Right to Education Act and no student will be deprived. -PTI

Uddhav sworn in as CM of Maha

■ Continued from Page 1 Fadnavis, who resigned also took the oath as minon Tuesday, three days after being sworn in again as chief minister, isters. Mr Thackeray, 59, took the oath as the state's 18th chief miniswas present at the event ter, paying tribute to 17th as were three other former chief ministers century Maratha emperor Chhatrapati Shivaji Mr Joshi and Congress Maharaj and remember-Ashok Chavan ing his parents. His wife Prithviraj Chavan. Interestingly, the biggest round of applause Rashmi and sons Aaditya, who is an MLA, and Tejas were also present. Mr Thackeray became the from the spectators was reserved for Thackeray's estranged third Sena leader after Manohar Joshi and cousin, Maharashtra Narayan Rane to occupy Navnirman Sena chief Raj Thackeray, and Ajit Pawar, who had rebelled the CM's post in the state. It was a show of strength for all three parties which from his party to form a comprise the MVA govshortlived government with the BJP. ernment, with hordes of their supporters flocking

After the ceremony, Mr Thackeray headed to the Shivaii Park since the famous Siddhivinayak afternoon. The set for the temple where he, along event was a fort-like struc-Rashmi ture of 6,000 sq ft, with and designed by renowned Aaditya, offered prayers.

Prime Minister Among dignitaries, Madhya Pradesh chief Narendra Modi took to Twitter to congratulate minister Kamal Nath, Mr Thackeray on taking the oath as chief minister, CM saying he was confident that the Shiv Sena chief would work diligently for Bhupesh Baghel and DMK president M.K. Stalin were the most prominent. NCP chief the bright future of the Sharad Pawar — who was state. "Congratulations to instrumental in bringing Uddhav Thackeray Ji on together the Sena, NCP taking oath as the CM of and Congress to form the Maharashtra. I am confi government — was also dent he will work dilipresent, along with his gently for the bright future of Maharashtra,' former Maharashtra deputy chief he tweeted. minister Ajit Pawar, and

Congress president Sonia Gandhi, who did not make it to the event, daughter MP Supriya Sule. Congress leaders Ahmed Patel and said in a congratulatory Mallikarjun Kharge were letter to Mr Thackeray that the country was fac-Former chief minister "unprecedented ing threats" from the BJP.

TMC sweeps 3 byelections

of its failure in governformation in Maharashtra and also within six months of its winning 18 Lok Sabha seats out of the state's 42, was such havoc that its state headquarters in heart of Kolkata wore a deserted look since Thursday morning, with the announcement of the results, similar to the scene at Ms Banerjee's residence at Harish Chatterjee Street in Kalighat soon after the Lok Sabha results. Winning few seats the BJP Attributing the BJP's "arrogance" and "audaci-ty" for its defeat, the however started displaying arrogance and audacity. They are setting Central agencies after Trinamul chief under-

■ Continued from Page 1 that BJP's Kaliaganj candidate, Kamal Chandra Sarkar, also acknowledged had "damaged" the party. Ms Banerjee said: "The people are seeing how the BJP is playing politics in the NRC's name. If someis a sweetness one declares you are not a citizen of the country after 72 years of Independence, no one would accept it." She elaborated: have got the votes of Hindus, the minority community, Rajbanshis, tribals, non-Bengalis (in case of Kharagpur) and others.

People from here were killed in Jammu and Kashmir, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh. In democracy, one party comes to power while another cannot. But there

She added: "The people's mandate is the biggest verdict. We never won Kaliaganj and Kharagpur since our party's foundation. We lagged at Kaliaganj and Kharagpur by around 57,000 and 47,000 votes respectively earlier. So we had to over come a huge margin in the bypolls. This is the first time the people from there reposed their faith in us. We are indebted to them. We dedicate this victory to them.³

Pragya gets axed from LS

anyone they want and

sending whosoever to jail.

■ Continued from Page 1 asking them to take their the nation. How can she seats. TMC leader the nation. How can she dare to say such things, that too inside the House? We demand action," he said.

lined the impact of the

NRC and Citizenship Bill,

The Congress leader accused the BJP of doing politics in the name of Gandhi and appropriating his and Nehru's legacy. Mr Chowdhury said it was because of the BJP's ideology that Ms Thakur could make such comments.

The Congress leader was backed by MPs belonging to the Congress, Trinamul DMK, Left parties, NCP and AIMIM.

Speaker Om tried to pacify the agitating Opposition MPs and said he would give his ruling,

Saugata Roy and AIMIM leader Asaduddin Owaisi told the Speaker that they should also be given an opportunity to speak. The Speaker, however, said the remarks of Ms Thakur were already expunged from the record

and there was no scope for any debate. the Notwithstanding Prime Minister's warning that he "will never forgive" her for insulting Mahatma Gandhi after the Bhopal MP made a similar remark cam-paigning during the Lok Sabha elections earlier

this year, she repeated the comments in Parliament on Wednesday. Her remarks left the

party embarrassed and gave rise to speculation on whether she would be suspended from the party this time, or some other action will be taken against her, as her candidature in Bhopal was apparently backed by the RSS.

After facing flak from across the political spectrum over Ms Thakur's controversial remarks, the BJP tried to distance itself from the controversy. "The BJP never supports such statements and we do not support this ideology. We have decided Ms Thakur will not attend meetings of the BJP parliamentary party during the session," said BJP working president J.P. Nadda.

with such an abnorsion from the governmalities, Kumari, who ment. "Kumari is very hails from Kadapada vilpoor. We request the gov lage in Buguda block of ernment to increase her pension quota amount which will be helpful for Ganjam district, used to stay with her sister-inlaw. However, she was her," said a local.

> MVA agenda: Jobs, farm loan waivers

■ Continued from Page 1

states that an immediate loan waiver will be provided to farmers and that the crop insurance scheme will be revised to ensure immediate compensation.

"In Maharashtra, farmers are facing problems. This government will do its best for them," Sena minister Eknath Shinde said while releasing the CMP.

The CMP also focuses on unemployment, women's issues, educa-tion, urban development, health, industry, social justice, tourism, arts and cultural issues. The document states that a process should be initiated on an immediate basis to fill up all vacant posts in various state government departments.

It also proposes free education for girls from weaker section, an increase in the honorarium of anganwadi sevikas and the strengthening of women's self-help groups. The CMP also seeks to improve the standard of education in the state as well as the quality of education for the children of weaker sections of society.

It also emphasises on the construction of new roads and maintaining the quality of existing ones while a mention has been made of providing 500 square-feet homes under the slum rehabilitation scheme instead of 300 squarefoot ones.

invited for discussions on Friday and Saturday include Northeast Students' Organisation, All Bodo Students Union and students bodies from Meghalaya, Nagaland and

Arunachal Pradesh. The meetings with the chief ministers will be held on Saturday, an offi-

cial said. Leaders of several political parties — both

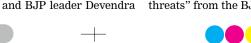
regional and state chiefs of national political par-ties — and heads of socio-cultural organisations have also been invited for the discussions, the official said.

The home ministry has convened the meetings in the wake of strong protests registered by many organisations against the bill in the Northeast.

Union home minister Amit Shah is expected to be present in the meetings, another official said. The bill seeks to amend the Citizenship Act, 1955, in order to grant Indian nationality Hindus, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians who come to India after facing religious persecution in Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan even if they don't possess proper documents. This was an election promise of the BJP in the 2014 and the

2019 Lok Sabha polls. A large section of people and organisations in the Northeast have opposed the bill, saying it will nullify the provisions of the Assam Accord of 1985, which fixed March 24, 1971, as the cut-off date for deportation of all illegal immigrants irrespective of religion.

Congress, TMC CPI(M) and a few other political parties have been steadfastly opposing the bill, claiming that citizenship can't be given on the basis of religion. -PTI

















FRIDAY | 29 NOVEMBER 2019 | NEW DELHI

Special

RAFALE DELIVERY ON TARGET, ON SCHEDULE: FRENCH AMBASSADOR

The India-**France relation**ship, which Emmanuel describes as the 'strongest partnership possible,' growing even more in the backdrop of an understanding between the leadership in Paris and Delhi, with France throwing its weight behind India getting a seat at the **UNSC**



The French envoy sees the India-France relationship, which he describes as the "strongest partnership possible," growing even more so in the backdrop of a far firmer understanding between the leader ship in Paris and **Delhi, with France** throwing its weight behind India getting a seat at the UNSC high table and working on squeezing Pakistan on its export of ter **Prime Minister** Narendra Modi has repeatedly cited Pakistan's use of terrorist groups against Jammu and Kashmir as one of the reasons for the more stringent security in that state.

NEENA GOPAL BENGALURU

he first Rafale will be handed over to India "on time, right on schedule, on Indian soil in May 2020. We are on target", the new French envoy to India, Emmanuel Lenain, said in an interview, where the long-time China hand, who served in the U.N., backed India's stand on getting a seat on the United Nations Security Council and its abrogation of Article 370, while calling for a relook at the original deal to acquire not 36 but 126 nuclear-capable fighter aircraft.

Mr Lenain sees the India-France relationship, which he describes as the "strongest partnership possible," growing even more so in the backdrop of a far firmer understanding between the leadership in Paris and Delhi, with France throwing its weight behind India getting a seat at the UNSC high table and working on squeezing Pakistan on its export of terror. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has repeatedly cited Pakistan's use of terrorist groups against Jammu and Kashmir as one of the reasons for the more stringent security in that state.

"We support India's right to decide on its path forward," the French envoy said on the Modi government's move to alter the status of Jammu and Kashmir to an Union Territory, adding that "as anywhere else, we want human rights to be respected and we think the sooner the situation comes back to normalcy, the better.

France and Germany are on the same page on this, he said, echoing comments by German Chancellor Angela Merkel, during her recent visit to India on the need to return the state of Jammu and Kashmir to a semblance of normalcy. Interestingly, in a clear rejection of U.S. President Donald Trump's repeated proffer of third party mediation, Mr Lenain said the issue is a bilateral one with Pakistan, and that both countries should find a resolution through a peaceful discussion following that up with his India-leaning coup de grace — "There is no ben-

efit in internationalising the issue." But it was on the issue of the longstanding relationship on defence, that was not predicated only on the Rafale fighter jet, that the French envoy made a telling point. Saying it was not the first defence deal between the two countries, the French envoy pointed to the sale to India of the Mirage 2000 fighter jet in 1984, in response to Pakistan's acquisition of the F-16 from the U.S. "We have been in India since the 1950s. We are one of the oldest suppliers to India and we have been always there when you needed any sort of equipment because we have the strongest partnership possible," Mr Lenain said, speaking to this newspaper, in India's defence manufacturing hub, adding that France remains committed to ₹30,000 crore offset deal to provide 36 Rafale fighters to the Indian

Air Force. These 36 Rafale jets (include two trainer variants) would be fitted with 'Meteor' BVRAAM (beyond visual range air to air missiles), the active electronically scanned (AESA) radar for supremacy in the air, and most important, its ability to carry out nuclear strikes

Induction of Rafale jets to the IAF's fleet would serve as a deterrent to

We already signed a contract for 36 (Rafales); but at one point of time the number was 126. It's up to the Indian government to decide. The discussions for this contract have been going on since early 2001 and then the Indian government decided what its needs are, and how it shall be procured. The French company offered, as they always do, the maximum part of the procurement under 'Make in India'. But eventually given the technological aspects, it was decided that the planes would be produced in France but with offsets in India.

- Emmanuel Lenain, Ambassador of France to India

hostile neighbours, because of its capability to deliver nuclear weapons the event of war. France, which was the point of attack by the Opposition Congress on the \$4.5 billion Rafale deal in a bruising 2018 election campaign, has remained committed to the delivery and training of IAF fighter pilots on Rafale.

"We share analysis, intelligence, technologies with your country as much as with any other country," he said. "At various moments we have been very supportive; Like with your nuclear tests in 1998. We were there. A few years later, when you had the oper-ations against Pakistan in Kargil, we were there with French aircraft, Mirage. We made sure that we worked together during the operation. It was another example of this great partnership with India. But Rafale, obvitechnology and this collaboration is a big signal." On taking the Rafale deal forward, the

envoy said: "We already signed a con-tract for 36 (Rafales); but at one point of time the number was 126. It's up to the Indian government to decide. The discussions for this con-

tract have been going on since early 2001 to be precise and then the Indian government decided what its

needs are, and how it shall be procured. The be procured. French com company offered, as they always

do, the maximum part of the procurement under "Make in India". But eventually given the technological aspects, it was decided that the planes would be produced in France but with offsets in India.

The first Rafale was handed over to the Indian Air Force in Bordeaux Merignac, on October 8, when Defence Minister Mr Rajnath Singh travelled to Merignac. "We could have done it earlier, but that was his decision — he wanted to have it on the Air Force Day," he explained. The first Rafale will fly into Indian ter-ritory in May 2020. Why the delay? "Only because between now and May, the Indian pilots and Indian technicians are getting trained on site in Bordeaux. But after that the delivery to India will be very regular – 1 or 2 planes per month and it will be done on time.

And in terms of schedule, we couldn't do any better," he said. Originally, the two governments agreed on an offset requirement of 30 per cent of the deal value to be invested by France in Indian aerospace and defence companies and creation of infrastructure for operating the fleet. The Indian government, however,

increased this figure to 50 per cent while evincing interest in

procurement We share analysis, 50-plus of intelligence, Naval varitechnologies with your ant

Rafale country as much as with any fightother country," he said. "At variers in ous moments we have been very supportive; Like with your nuclear tests in 1998. We were there. A few years later, when you had the operations against Pakistan in Kargil, we were there with French aircraft, Mirage. We made sure that we

worked together during the operation. future.

France and India share concerns over the rising terror graph, reflected in France's tough line on freezing the assets of Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammed chief Masood Azhar, and pushing the Financial Action Task Force on putting Pakistan on the grey list, the ambassador said the asset freeze is decided by the sanction committee of the UN, created by the Security Council of the U.N. Resolution 1267, which he knew all too well, given that he had personally worked on the resolution for three vears

PAGE 5

"We faced and we are still facing terrorism. We stand side by side with India on this," he said, adding that on keeping Pakistan on the FATF grey list, when faced with "some countries opposing the move", France alongside several other countries kept up the pressure on Pakistan, giving it until February next year to clean up its act. Between India and France, "there is a strategic dialogue going on since 1997. The idea is to take up the most strategic issues, which means that your Prime Minister and my President decided to work jointly last summer and adopted a roadmap on two impor-tant matters – digital and cyber terrorism.

France's invitation to the Indian premier to attend the G8 summit in Biarritz was at one level, a reaffirmation of the personal chemistry between the French President Emmanuel Macron and Prime Minister Modi, but equally, it demonstrated how far the South Asian power had come on climate change and biodiversity, issues that affect the first world as much as developing countries, in tackling urbanisation, water sanitation, smart grids, clean transportation.

Economic and business ties are also on the upswing, Mr Lenain said, with more than 500 French companies employing close to 350,000 people in India. "One of the largest employers in this city is Capgemini - that's close to 1,50,000 employees in India. Trade is lagging slightly behind; it is true that there are some barriers (tariffs) but we are working with the Indian authorities and we can make progress with that, in everybody's interest. With the French language taught in a slew of international schools in the city, and across the country, the French envoy said his priority nained people-to-people exchanges. "This year, 10,000 remained Indian students will be coming to France as they have every year. We have a very ambitious target - to reach the fig-

ure 20,000, by 2025.



achieve this we are going to help universities, colleges, schools find partners in France. Most importantly, students who do enroll in schools and uni-versities will be allowed to stav on in France for two years and work in that country, which makes it easier for young people to find employment in French companies once they are back in India, he said. In a further bid to up tourists' numbers from India, Mr Lenain says "all visas will be delivered in 48 hours soon.

'Baby boys born to older mothers likely to develop heart problems later'

Changes occur in the placenta in older preg-nant mothers which leads to a greater likeli-hood of poor health in their male offspring



New Delhi: Women who get preg-nant in old age generally suffer changes in the placenta, which in turn, means that baby boy being born to such mothers are more likely to develop heart problems later in life, a new study has found.

Changes occur in the placenta in older pregnant mothers which leads to a greater likelihood of poor health in their male offsprings, pointed out the study published in the journal Scientific Reports.

Both male and female fetuses do not grow as large in older mothers, but there are sex-specific dif-ferences in changes to placental development and function. These are likely to play a central role in the increased likelihood of laterlife heart problems and high blood pressure in males.

Women over 35 are considered to be of advanced maternal age and in this study, researchers looked at pregnant rats of a comparable age wherein, the placenta of female fetuses showed beneficial changes in structure and function that would maximise the support of fetal growth.

In some instances, the placenta even supported the female fetus better than the placenta of a younger mother. In the case of male fetuses however, the placenta showed changes that would limit fetal growth in the aged preg-



nant rats. Pregnancy in older mothers is associated with a heightened risk of complications for both the mother and her baby with conditions like preeclampraised sia blood pressure in the mother during pregnancy, gestation-al diabetes, stillbirth and fetal growth restriction

pregnancy in women becoming higher and **Pregnancy in** higher, and espeolder mothers is associated with a heightened risk of **complications like** blood pressure for both the mother pregnancy and later-life health of the child," said study's and baby

Fellow

cially so in developed countries, it

is very impor-

tant to under-stand how the

age of the moth-

er and the sex of

the baby interact

determine

to

Sferruzzi-Perri, a Royal Society

lead author Dr Amanda

in the Centre for

"With the average age of first



Trophoblast Research the University Department of Logy Development the University of Cambridge's Physi-Neuroscience.

The placenta transports nutri-ents and oxygen from mother to fetus, secretes signalling factors into the mother so she supports fetal development, and is the main protective barrier for the fetus against toxins, bacteria, and hormones - such as stress hormones — in the mother's blood.

It is highly dynamic in nature, and its function can change to help protect the growing fetus when conditions become less favourable for its development, for example through a lack of nutrients or oxygen or when the mother is stressed

The study found that advanced maternal age reduced the efficiency of the placenta of both male and female fetuses. It affected the structure and function of the placenta more markedly for male fetuses, reducing its ability to support the growth of the fetus.

'We now know that growth, as well as gene expression in the placenta, is affected in older mothers in a manner that partially depends on sex: changes in the placentas of male fetuses are generally detrimental," said first author Dr Tina Napso, postdoctoral fellow at the University of Cambridge. -ANI

MIND POWER

RITA MAE BROWN JIMI HENDRIX

THE ASIAN AGE

29 NOVEMBER 2019

Act, don't debate on brink of recession

ne of the prerequisites of delivering a good public talk is the confi-dence of the speaker. If the speaker is confident, one half of her aims re achieved. A majority of people tend to believe the speaker even if she was reeling off lies or half-truths. Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman's reply to the short discussion on the economic slowdown in the Rajya Sabha is no less than the bravado exhibited by the sailor of

a ship caught in a massive storm. Ms Sitharaman's contention that economic growth has slowed but the economy is not in recession is valid to an extent, but not wholly correct — because there is no universally accepted definition for recession. The United Kingdom believes negative economic growth in two successive quarters along with higher unemployment would be called recession, while the United States uses different metrics such as decline in industrial production, employment, real income and wholesale-retail trade to declare the onset of the recession.

If we use the British definition, India isn't in recession yet. Going by the US method of general decline in activity of key indicators, India is staring at a recession. But when there is no official definition of recession, the entire discussion on the subject is academic only. All that one should look at is the suffering of people in wake of higher unemployment and stunted wage growth. Though Ms Sitharaman claims fiscal disci-

Ms Sitharaman's contention that economic growth has slowed but the recession is valid to an extent, but not wholly correct — because

pline to be one of the stellar achievements of the BJP-led government, she skipped the issue of general trust deficit in the economy. People have slashed their spending and companies are not committing fresh capital to expand their businesses. The production of economy is not in capital goods — which indicates the capital expenditure of companies — had shrunk 21 per cent in August and September 2019. The fact that consumer durables production also **correct** — **because** shrunk by nearly 10 per cent in September and August and that automobile sales accepted definition slumped for several months proves people for recession are postponing their purchases. In fact, five straight quarters of slowing economic

growth mark the longest slump since 2012. Another credit that Ms Sitharaman sought to give to NDA rule was for low inflation compared to higher inflation during UPA government. During UPA rule, the government had increased minimum support prices to farmers, despite the Reserve Bank of India cautioning about its spillover effect on other prices. This led to higher food inflation, which resulted into higher factory wages. Higher crude oil prices added fuel to the fire which brunt pockets of most Indians. The BJP's solution to this is simple: Suppress the food prices. This along with lower global crude oil prices brought inflation under control. But on the flip side, it resulted in lower income growth in rural areas, which led to farmer indebtedness and general economic slowdown in rural areas. And this cannot be a solution. India needs a solution wherein the farmer, man-

ufacturer and consumer — can all be happy. It cannot be a zero-sum game. The BJP may be the master in the art of perception management. But as Abraham Lincoln famously said, "You can fool all people some of the time and some people all of the time, but you cannot fool all people all the time." It is time to accept reality and work towards resolving all outstanding issues

Transcend identity barriers

where is not much to write home about the new transgender bill. Passed by Parliament on Tuesday, it is set to become a law soon but L is a dud in terms of securing the rights of the citizens it proposes to protect. There have been two important improvements in its content, nonetheless, over the original 2016 format: (a) it no longer requires indi-viduals to pass through a "screening committee" in order to self-identify as transgenders; it is now up to the district magistrate only to give or withhold that nod, and (b) it does not criminalise badhai (soliciting of gifts) and the guru-chela communes of the traditional hijra/kinnar/aravani/jogti groups. The last is a relief, not least because loss of that lifestyle would have meant a significant cultural loss — most often it represents the only means of livelihood available to these disenfranchised people.

What is the chief bone of contention, however, between transgenders and the government — the bill was not referred to a standing committee as requested by some Opposition members — is that this requirement for magistrate also exposes the perso validation from a distr in anestior to societal coercion to conform and the threat of humiliation, besides being in complete breach of the Supreme Court's 2014 Nalsa vs Union of India judgment which gives them the right to self-identification. Then there is the clause stipulating a two-year sentence only as punishment for transgender rape, and also no education or job quotas. Interestingly, it was a transpender association in Delhi which recently petitioned the Arvind Kejriwal government to outlaw surgery and hormone therapy for intersex children at the behest of their parents. If acted upon, it will reserve for the kids their right to sexual self-determination. Now, even the worst critics of queer theory — classical feminists who complain that it follows patriarchal stereotypes and modern conservatives who view it as an escape from society's pressure to perform, as well as doctors in the West who have been calling out the fad for gratuitous, irreversible medical interventions — won't deny these two-spirits their rightful psychic completion.

You can't be truly rude until you understand When the power of love overcomes the love of good manners power, the world will know peace





First Mumbai, then Delhi: Will history repeat itself?

THE ASIAN AGE



h u r s d a y e v e n i n g ' s swearing-in of the three-party "Maha Vikas Aghadi" government confirms the impression that Maharashtra's politics has turned topsyturvy. The BJP, supported at the time by the Shiv Sena, went into the elections widely expected to sweep. It's come out of them shrunken, embarrassed and relegated to the Opposition. In con-trast, the Congress and the NCP were anticipating marginalisation but themselves in find power. The question now is how long will this surprise government last? And how badly damaged is the BJP?

The answer to the first depends on how the Aghadi alliance handles the tricky challenges it faces. To start with, it was antipathy to the BJP that brought the three together. How long will that glue bind like anata Party in 1977, which started to fracture as soon as it defeated Mrs Indira Gandhi's Congress, because they no longer considered her a threat, these allies will face a strong and determined Opposition in the BJP, both in Mumbai and New Delhi. So the need to stay together is likely to grow, not diminish. However, other chal-lenges could be more formidable. First, the three follow divergent ideolo-gies. Not only does the Shiv Sena's commitment to Hindutva and that of the other two to secularism create a dangerous Faultline, but its spin-offs, such as the Sena's veneration of Savarkar, could prove more divisive. A lot could depend on how Congress responds. If it follows Indira Gandhi's example, the differences will be small. If it sticks to Sonia's and Rahul Gandhi's contempt, a dangerous gap could

emerge. The second challenge is Ajit Pawar. Even when he was accused of "betraying" the NCP, his uncle Sharad did not expel him. No doubt he was replaced as legislature party leader, but now, on return, could he be get the job back or another important one? Congress chief Randeep spokesman Surjewala has demanded that Ajit "apologise to the people of Maharashtra". If he doesn't and is instead given high office, won't that rankle with the Congress

and the Sena? The third challenge arises out of the attitude of the Shiv Sena and the lack of administrative experience of its leader, Uddhav Thackeray, now chief minister. During its five-year government with the BJP, it often behaved like an internal Opposition. While in Mumbai it would publicly oppose its own government's nolicies in New Delhi it used Saamana to taunt and criticise Narendra Modi and Amit Shah. No longer can the Sena play both sides of the political net, but will its old habits change so easily? lot depends on Uddhav Thackeray. He can easily rein in *Saamana* and restrain its editor Sanjay Raut. But what of his own inexperience of administration? How adept will he prove at running a three-party coalition government? Has he the tactical skills to make compromises rather than cross his allies' red lines? Sharad Pawar's dominating presence will no doubt

help and guide him but,

ultimately, Mr Thack-

eray is the chief minister

and his government's

longevity could be deter-

mined by his so-far

alliance has a common

minimum programme,

with farmers' welfare at

its core, but where do

untried skills.

Now, the

they stand on projects worth thousands of crores either initiated by the previous government, of which the Shiv Sena was a part, or by the Congress-NCP earlier?

For instance, will the Congress and NCP back the Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train? Or wish to Maharashtra's divert ₹5,000-crore commitment to finance farm loan waivers? What about the ₹46,000-crore Mumbai-Nagpur highway? In Opposition, the Congress and NCP had raised allegations of corruption. Will they now overlook

them? There's also the Jaitapur nuclear reactor complex on the Konkan coast. Initiated by the Congress, the land acquisition was opposed by the Sena. But with France said to have second thoughts, could the reactors be ditched? And then there are Mumbai's six outstanding metro projects. The Aarey one was stoutly opposed by Aaditya Thackeray. Even though the Bombay high court per-mitted it to continue, with some conditions, what will his father's attitude be? And will the Congress and NCP accept any rethinking? Congress and

out to be a foolish gambit. It should never have been tried. Failure after knowing you could never succeed is worse.

The second is the dam-age to the Prime Minister's moral standing. He's fond of speak-ing of "the spirit of the Constitution", but that's precisely breached what he in Maharashtra. For a start, the decision to form a government with Ajit Pawar had his blessings. He tweeted his congratulations within minutes of the swearing-in. But his involvement went fur-ther and deeper. And that's the real concern. The decision to revoke President's Rule at 5.47 am on Saturday, November 23, by using Rule 12, meant only for "extreme urgency and unforeseen continunforeseen gency", to circumvent Cabinet approval, was utter disrespect for constitutional conventions and morality. It wasn't illegal but it was definitely improper. It dimin-ished Mr Modi. How soon he recovers is hard to say.

However, the Modi-Shah duo are fighters and now, bruised and defeated, they will try even harder to get back on top. And they're not without MLAs or power.

LETTERS DON'T FOLLOW ISRAEL

+ **≻ c m v** k

The consul-general of India in New York, Sandeep Chakravorty, has said India should follow the Israeli model of building settlements to facilitate the return of Kashmiri Pandits to their homeland. There is no doubt that the government should allow Kashmiri Pandits to go back and give them full security to settle there. But it must also take immediate steps to initiate massive relief measures for the people already living in the Valley under extreme repression. Israel is no model for India since its government has been oppressing people who are the country's earlier inhabitants and discriminating against them on the basis of religious belief. That is in itself deplorable, more so in an enlightened universe.

Mahmudul Hasan Gorakhpur, UP **RIGHT TO PROTEST**

THE 29 AAREY PROTESTERS who were arrested on October 4 and 5, 2019 and slapped with criminal charges by the Mumbai police are not crimin ls or ri only doing their duty to protect the environment. Most were college students. The criminal charges slapped against them should be withdrawn immediately as they will not be able to apply for a job nor renew their passports or apply for a new one.

THE ASIAN AGE

T. VENKATRAM REDDY nter & Publisher: T. VENKATESWARLU THE ASIAN AGE offices are located at: New Delhi: Jawaharla Nehru National Youth Centre, 219 Deen Dayal Upadhyay Marg, New Delhi-110002. Phone: (011) 23211124. Mumbai: Sigma House, # 43, Ground Floor, R. A. Kidwai Marg, Near Wadala Rly Station, Wadala (West), Mumbai Multioni, Organization, and a constraint of the first Registered as a newspaper at the Post Office in the United Kingdom Air surcharge for Kathmandu and J&K ₹1 Published and Printed on behalf of and for Deccan Chronicle Holdings Limited, Jawaharlal Nehru National Youth Centre Decan Chronic Problem Provide Antibiotic Control of Antibiotic Potential Control, Science Till, Noida -201301.
 Mumbai: Dangat Media Pvt Ltd, Plot No 22, Digha MIDC, TTC Industrial Estate Area, Vishnu Nagar, Digha Navi Mumbai-400708. John Manual 400/002.
 RNI Registration number: 57290/94 Postal registration numbers: DL(S)-05/4189/15-17

The flip side to all of this is the damage done to the BJP's image and how difficult that could prove for Mr Modi and Mr Shah to tackle. It could be a source of strength for the new government.

There are two critical respects in which the BJP is seriously damaged. First, the aura of invincibility and Chanakya-like strategic brilliance that created a halo around Mr Shah and Mr Modi has suffered badly. It's not just that their political strate-gy failed, it also turned

> After all, a Congress-NCP alliance in Maharashtra in 1999 started a series of developments that ultimately led to Atal Behari Vajpayee's defeat in 2004

With 105 MLAs in the Assembly, the BJP will be a powerful Opposition in Maharashtra, while from New Delhi Mr Modi and Mr Shah won't hesitate to use the Centre's authority to check and confront the government. The way that Mamata Baneriee is

handled could suggest what's likely in Maharashtra.

However, if the Maha Vikas Aghadi remains in control of India's commercial capital and richest state for five years, it could encourage the development of forces that culminate in the decline and fall of the BJP. After all, a Congress-NCP alliance in Maharashtra in 1999 started a series of developments that ultimately led to Atal Behari Vajpayee's defeat in 2004. There's no law that says history cannot repeat itself. The writer is a

television commentator and anchor

Jubel D'Cruz Mumbai STRONGARM TACTICS

THE CHILLI SPRAY attack on activist Bindu Ammini in Kochi by a Hindu activist is deplorable. The protesters also did not allow Bhumata Brigade leader Trupti Desai to proceed to the Lord Ayyappa temple in Sabarimala. Though the Supreme Court has not stayed its earlier order scrapping the ban on the entry of women in the 10-50 years age group, the Kerala police and Hindu activists have resorted to strong-arm tactics to stop women heading to the hill shrine.

N.J. Ravi Chander Bengaluru

Every Monday the best letter of the week wins ₹500. Email: letters@asianage.com



Heirs & spares: Time to retire lèse-majesté, other privileges

any decades ago, as a pre-teen with a budding inter-est in Western popular Lunusic, one of the oddities I came across in my mother's eclectic collection of LPs was the soundtrack of the Broadway version of The King and I. A number of songs from the Rodgers and Hammerstein musical piqued my interest, but the most amusing highlight for me was a halfsung, half-spoken soliloquy titled A Puzzlement, delivered by Yul Brynner in a cod-oriental accent as the King of Siam. It was amusing, in part, because of its hopeless - and hopefully anachronistic - misogyny. "What to tell a growing son?" he wonders, before elaborating: "What, for instance, shall I say to him of women?/ Shall I educate him on the ancient lines?/ Shall I tell the boy as far as he is able/ To respect his wives and love his concubines ...?"

These potentially offending verses were edited out of the Hollywood version of the musical, but they sprang to mind recently when the latter-day

-

king of Siam, nowadays exclusively known as Thailand, sacked his "noble consort", Sineenat Wongvajirapakdi, not long after she had officially been brought into public view, on account of her "ingratitude".

She had, it is alleged, been caught scheming against the 67-year-old king's fourth wife, Queen Suthida Vajiralongkorn na Ayudhya — who herself had been introduced to the Thai public only after Maha Vajiralongkorn Bodindradebaya-varangkun had been sworn in as the successor to Bhumibol Adulyadej, the rather more restrained king whose reign stretched across seven decades. Consorts went out of fashion when royal polygamy was abolished in Thailand in the early 20th century, but Vajiralongkorn, long known as a wayward prince who spent most of his time in Germany (and possibly still does), appears to have no qualms about reviving discredited traditions. Notwithstanding his excesses and extravagances, though, Thai royalty is considered

above reproach, and even the mildest criticism can fall foul of lese-majesté laws that entail imprisonment even for foreign critics.

Aghadi

Japan, the only developed country in the world that still boasts an emperor, is not much better. The emperor is still deified, and some of the enthronement ceremonies remain secret, as evidenced lately by the ascension of Naruhito to the throne vacated by his father, Akihito.

Commendably, lese-majesté is not a crime in Britain. Not only is arguably the most prominent monarchy in the world open to criticism, but every now and then it is subject to an open season, as witnessed in the past couple of weeks following Prince Andrew's public admission of his association with a known paedophile. The Duke of York never had 10,000 men he could march to the top of the hill and down again, but until his BBC interview, in which he declared that his decision to spend four days staying with a convicted sex offender was "the honourable

thing to do", his status as a royal scion, and a patron of numerous charities, was largely unquestioned, even though his association with Jeffrey Epstein was hardly a secret. He has now been obliged to step back from his patronage and most other roval 'duties'.

The several other monarchies in Europe — including where one would least expect them, in Norway and Sweden and the Netherlands, for example — are comparatively sedate and constitutionally constrained. That hardly justifies the retention, however, of throwbacks to a predemocratic era, even if they mainly serve a ceremonial purpose today.

The Windsors serve to some extent as repositories of the nation's soft power, given that the more idiotic elements of the bourgeoisie in countries from the US to Pakistan go gaga over royal visitations, burnishing their elitism by briefly consorting with the blue bloods.

We're supposed to be living in the 21st century, for heaven's sake. Sure,

-

the hereditary 'right' to power finds other manifestations — generally in the context of the feudal mentality but in the case, for instance, of Sri Lanka's deplorable Rajapaksa family, there is always the prospect that they can be voted out.

There are today 28 monarchies in the world, and in some cases across the Gulf, for example - some kind of revolution will be required to dislodge the absolutism. Across Europe, more peaceful ways are eventually likely to be found of ations acquiring maturity by rele-gating the absurdity of such entrenched privilege to the past.

King Farouk of Egypt once declared that there would eventually be only five monarchies left — the houses of Spades, Hearts, Clubs, Diamonds... and Windsor. As things stand, he may have been right. But there's no harm in hoping he will be proved wrong within the coming decade or so.

By arrangement with Dawn













A knowledgeable and A decorative image created by skillfully experienced Internet user pouring steamed milk into an espresso

THE ASIAN AGE



Govt made SBI accept expired bonds sold in 'illegal' window

ELECTORAL BONDS-5



This is Part 5 of the 6-part #PaisaPolitics investigative series by HuffPost. Reprinted with permission from the Huffington Post.

he finance min-istry violated a vital anti-money laundering rule by allowing

anonymous donors to donate expired electoral bonds worth ₹10 crore to an unidentified political party. or parties, soon after the May 2018 Karnataka state elections resulted in a hung Assembly.

The ministry took this decision after the "holders" of these bonds — i.e. politi-cal parties — asked the State Bank of India (SBI), the bank tasked with stewhe electora hond scheme, to accept the expired bonds, documents reviewed by HuffPost India establish. That these bonds were purchased at all was because Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Office had - illegally — directed the finance ministry to break its own rules around the sale of these secretive electoral bonds by opening a "special" 10-day window for them days before Karnataka went to polls. The documents, obtained by transparency activist Commodore (Retd.) Lokesh Batra under RTI and reviewed by HuffPost India, do not name the donors or the political parties that were allowed to accept this set of expired bonds. In the politically tumultuous days immediately after the inconclusive election in Karnataka's results,

PM Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and **Opposition leaders accused** each other of trying to bribe MLAs to cross party lines. The acceptance of these expired bonds at such a

politically sensitive time, in clear violation of the rules governing electoral bonds, sold in a window illegally opened at the direction of the PMO, on the basis of an arbitrary exception signed off by the finance ministry, vividly illustrates why the Reserve Bank of India, the Election Commission of India, Opposition parties, transparency activists, and election watchdogs such as Association the for Democratic Reforms have

opposed these bonds. It is worth noting that the LIP has ga cent of the money donated through the first tranche of electoral bonds. The Supreme Court of India is currently hearing a petition on the legality of electoral bonds. Opposition lawmakers interrupted Parliament to demand a debate on electoral bonds as Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who was also present in the House, looked stonily into the middle distance.

When then finance minister Arun Jaitley first introduced the concept of electoral bonds in his February 2017 Budget-day speech, the Reserve Bank of India warned that the

bonds could be used

to launder funds

physical pieces of paper, or "bearer bonds" — that could be purchased by any individual, corporation, trust or NGO wishing to donate money to a political party. The donor would then hand over the physical bond to the political party of their choice, who would then deposit the money in a specially designated account.

As HuffPost India has previously reported, the RBI opposed this system till the very end before it finally recommended two critical precautions to limit the otential for mone ann

anonymous donors could buy bonds to donate funds. On May 23, 2018, according to a report sent by SBI to the finance ministry, "some EB holders" with bonds worth ₹20 crores went to SBI's main branch in New Delhi. EB, or Electoral Bond, holders refers to representatives of political parties — i.e. those holding the physical bond that must be deposited in a political party's account.

Half the bonds had been bought on May 3, 2018 and the other half on May 5, 2018, and both, SBI noted, had expired as their 15 cal-endar-day period of redemption had lapsed.

But, said SBI in its report, the bond holders requested that the 15 calendar-day rule be bent, and the bonds be redeemed anyway, as they were being deposited within 15 working days.

SBI's New Delhi branch informed its corporate headquarters on the same day, documents show. The very next day, on May 24, 2018, Mrutyunjay Mahapatra, then the bank's aging

days, including non-working days in between.'

Hence, the bonds had lapsed and as per the rules, the money was to be donat-ed to the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund, an official, non-partisan fund used for charitable works, and to provide immediate relief to those affected by natural disasters. But Kumar, the deputy

director, wasn't done.

He then wrote, "As some amount of lack of complete clarity may have been wit-nessed in the bonds issue in last windows, SBI may grant credit to such bond holders of bond purchased before May 10, 2018 if the bonds were deposited in 15 working days." He added, "No such accommodation will be available in future. This letter was approved by the secretary of the department of economic affairs, S.C. Garg, the highest-ranking official in the department. The response was sent back to the SBI

chairman the same day. The SBI headquarters informed its New Delhi main branch and before the

India must reject plea for asylum by MQM's Altaf



Bhopinder Singh

he one-upmanship ritual in the hyphenated Indo-Pak drama has seen an unending series of distractions, posturing and embarrassments afforded on each other — which do not move the needle on the fundamental concerns besetting Indo-Pak dissonance at all. However, the competitive spirit underlying these attempts to outsmart each other certainly galvanises the "mood" of the domestic constituents and cadres in "echo chambers" — that is invaluable to the politicians on both sides of the border. The symbolic "tripping" of each other ranges from debarring engagement of artistes, sportspersons, businesses and to the other end of the more dangerous and provocative practice of patronising practice of patronising insurgents/terrorists under the garb of providing "moral and political support"! In this melee of domes tic pressures, to be seen to have "sorted out the other" points to yel-low journalism pertaining to frivolilike which-leader-lookedties through-the-other-in-a-meeting, and can assume prime space and time on national reportage across both sides of the Line of Control So while Pakistan needles India on Kashmir, the Indian side retaliates by pointing out the warts in the Pakistani situation in Balochistan, minority and sectarian issues, terror "nurs eries", etc. Post an action or accusation, the subsequent reaction from the international community is tallied and presented in the public space against each other, with the larger count of "supporting countries" bolstering the claims of a said country towards its moves or countermoves. As a larger and more heterogeneous society with an unambiguous constitutional commitment towards secularism. liberalism and democratic rule, India has maintained decidedly more "high-ground" vis-a-vis the more assertively homogenous reality of Pakistan that has had multiple interruptions to its democracy and is acknowledged even by itself to be dangerously perched on the sliding slope of societal extremism. This divide between the two nations is genealogical and the logical outcome of two extremely divergent paths chosen on the vivisection of the land in 1947, where one chose the suffocating airlessness of the "twonation theory", while the other chose the openness of "unity in diversity". After seven decades of fundamental irreconcilability between the two nations, the interim period of Cold War leanings and manoeuvres followed by the global emergence of religio-nationalistic intolerance has only widened the chasm. In such times and resultant games, the ultimate sovereign goal happens when one of "theirs" joins , and in that lies the ultimate vindication of "our" position — ver-sus "them"! These "trophies" are then paraded, spouting venom on the land of their forefathers, whilst simultaneously quenching the meaningless bloodlust of the people in the recipient country. While Pakistan has recklessly courted, supported and showcased terrorists from Indian insurgencies — the Indian response has been less belligerent and more nuanced by only "trophying" intellectuals or artistes who disagree with their Pakistani narrative. One such aspirant who wants to jump ships is the fugitive Pakistani politician, Altaf Hussain, founder of the Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM), and in exile in London. The quest to ingratiate himself to India has led the famously theatrical politician to sing "Saare Jahan Se

Acha, Hindustan Humara" on television to buttress his clownish request for asylum in India or at least secure some financial assistance from the Indian government. Knowing fully well the power of an audio-visual spectacle of a prominent Pakistani supporting the recent Supreme Court adjudication on Babri Masjid-Ram Janmabhoomi case and asking those who disagree with the same to be banished to Pakistan endears him to those who believe that his "switch" will somehow be to India's benefit. Realistically, the man who once ruled the mean streets of Karachi and had emerged as the head of the third-largest political party is well past his prime, relevance and impact, as his own party has also disowned its colourful founder. The childish antics of the one-time leader of MQM were tolerated because it was a powerful reactionary ethnic force of Muhajirs (those who had migrated from India to Pakistan), who had their own settling down woes amidst the turf wars between them - Sindhis, Pathans and Baluch who shared Karachi, in substantial numbers. Altaf Hı had transactional tical and opportunistic alliances with two of the most damaging and anti-India dictators and fellow-Muhajirs i.e. Gen. Zia ul-Haq and Gen. Pervez Musharraf. But his restrictive politics that veered exclusively around the Muhajir domain allowed him to avoid other political afflictions like anti-India rhetoric, religious "Talibanisation" or Kashmir-centricity, like the adoption of the same by the pan-Pakistan parties like the PTI, PML-N and PPP. Temptation to co-opt such a recognisable and irascible politician towards the Indian cause, notwithstanding — his known past of street violence, crudity and ignobility that defines Altaf Hussain's politics should be enough to keep him at a distance. His affixation to our sovereign position and name can only diminish, devalue and degrade the "morality" of the historical Indian position. His Johnny-come-lately act of recognising Pakistan as a "cancer for the entire world" or the "epicentre of terrorism" is driven by his own compulsions and situational circumstances — he is not a credible or a mass leader in Pakistan anymore, and his ostensible "catch" by India will transform none in the tinderbox of Pakistan. On the contrary, his incorrigible antics can only trivialise and distract from the more meaningful bilateral engagement that is now required in order to end the chill that consumes the Indo-Pak freeze. Even from the perspective of an individual's personal conscience, values and personality traits - anyone who can renege, indignify and humiliate his own country openly and seek asylum in another country that is seen as its principal enemy-state speaks volumes of the desperation, pettiness and unfaithfulness of such an individual. If he could not be true to his own country, why would such a person be true to India? He is also getting pursued for terrorism, corruption and bloodletting in the UK and not in some banana military court of Pakistan, therefore his potential welcome to India does not behove the "high ground" and stand of zero-tolerance-against-terrorism that we pursue against Pakistan. Beyond comic relief and television TRPs, Altaf Hussain brings nothing to India.

BROKEN RULES

When then finance minister Arun Jaitley first introduced the concept of electoral bonds in his February 2017 Budget-day speech, the Bank of India Reserve warned that the bonds could be used to launder funds.

The scheme would work in the following way: SBI would be empowered to sell electoral bonds — literally

dering: The bonds should only be sold to donors twice a year in specially-designated time periods, called windows, and must be deposited by the recipient political party within 15 days of pur-

chase. In January 2018, the finance ministry published the rules governing the sale and purchase of these bonds — notably, the bonds would be sold by SBI only four times a year (with a provision for 30 additional days in general election years)

and would have to be redeemed within 15 days of the date of purchase.

But just ahead of the Karnataka Assembly elections in May 2018, as *HuffPost India* has previously reported, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's

Office asked for an unscheduled 10-day window from May 1 to May 10, when wrote on behalf of SBI chairman Rajnish Kumar to the finance ministry, asking whether they should allow the redemption of these expired bonds. "A few of the holders have

approached us with the interpretation that these are valid for 15 working days. We request you to clarify the matter as to whether as on the date of receipt of the bonds at our counters, 15 working days or 15 calendar days are to be counted as validity period," Mahapatra asked in the letter on behalf of the SBI chairman.

The finance ministry acted with alacrity. The very same day, an official drafted a response.

Vijay Kumar, deputy director in the economic affairs ministry, said, "This is clarified that the stipula tion means a total of 15

day was over, the political party, or parties, involved were allowed to redeem the expired bonds worth ₹10 crore, that were bought on May 5, 2018.

The other tranche, bonds worth ₹10 crores bought on May 3, 2018, was sent to the PM's relief fund, the documents show, as they were outside the finance ministry's exceptional "accommodation"

"Which party was done this favour with such alacrity and speed?" Commodore (Retd.) Lokesh Batra, the transparency activist who unearthed these documents, said in an interview with HuffPost India.

The answer to his questions and several secrets still remain hidden from the public eye.

To be continued

Is there any cure for the sorrows of life?

life of bringing only suffer-

ing. Is that all life is — but a

series of disasters strung together? Is there any cure for the sorrows of life?



ews reports we receive through TV, newspapers, magazines, blogs, the Internet, smartphones, tablets or other devices always contain breaking news about a catastrophe in some part of the world. There are always difficulties and problems receiving attention in the local, national or international news.

It's hard to go through a single day without hearing of the suffering other people are undergoing. Even in our own lives, we are

always hearing of someone close to us — whether family or friends — who is facing challenges. As the world turns, each moment carries some sorrow for someone somewhere in the world. Some often feel that every moment of life is filled with sorrow, except for a brief break here and there where we are happy. The news seems to be filled, one moment after other, with the the tragedies people face. It

seems that life brings noth-

ing but sorrow. People fac-

ing these challenges accuse

Here's some breaking news that's good: there is a place of safety where you can find refuge from the sorrows of life. Where can you find that place free of sorrows? That place free of sorrows is within you. It's a place where you can

connect with the peace of your soul. You can find relief from the sufferings of life. You can find the peace within you by sitting in

meditation. In meditation, you can ness is experience calm and bliss. within. You can realise that within you is a place where there is no pain and suffering.

Meditation can help you awaken to the realisation that your existence is more than the outer world in which your body and mind undergo suffering. You have a spiritual side which is connected to the peace and happiness within you. When you emerge from

meditation, you see the world in a different light. You know that the outer sorrows of life are temporary. They will pass. When

you see for your-self there's a place of peace and joy within, you are strengthened with fortitude to pass through the difficult times knowing that happi-

accessible to you

upliftment we receive in meditation stays with us throughout the

day. This may not change the outer suffering of the world, but we are able to spend some time daily in a place of joy that we can spread to others. Our own spirits are lifted and we can then make others feel good.

When we realise there is a place free of sorrows within, we can help others access that place. We see life from a different angle, and are motivated to help and serve others. Our life becomes a song of service to help relieve others of suffering. We are filled with strength to do what we can to help make the world a better place, freeing it of sorrows. Sant Rajinder Singhji,

head of Sawan Kirpal

Ruhani Mission, works towards promoting inner and outer peace. He can be contacted at www.sos.org

The writer is a retired lieutenant-general and a former lieutenant-governor of Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Puducherry





lantra

The





300 KS+

PAGE 8

BESTSELLERS **NON-FICTION** AVIK CHANDA DARA SHUKOH

INDIAN TOP 10

DARA SHUKOH: THE MAN WHO WOULD BE KING Avik Chanda, Harper Collins, ₹699

THE ANARCHY William Dalrymple,

Bloomsbury, ₹699

REMNANTS OF A Aanchal Malhotra HarperCollins, ₹599

GOOD ECONOMICS FOR HARD TIMES Abhijit V. Banerjee, Esther Duflo Juggernaut, ₹699

has

POOR ECONOMICS: **RETHINKING POVERTY** AND THE WAYS TO END IT Abhiiit V. Baneriee. Esther Duflo Penguin, ₹499

R.N. KAO -GENTLEMAN SPYMASTER Nitin Gokhale Bloomsbury, ₹599

TALKING TO STRANGERS Malcolm Gladwell Allen Lane, ₹799

NOBODY CAN LOVE YOU MORE: LIFE IN **DELHI'S RED LIGHT** DISTRICT Mavank Austen Soofi Penguin, ₹299

Rana Safvi HarperCollins, ₹999

KHAKI FILES: INSIDE POLITICAL INVESTIGATIONS Neeraj Kumar Blue Salt, ₹399



War of Karmapas has divided the Himalayas

Phunchok Stobdan extract

mine the Kagyu hold in he growing Ladakh or relate to the dual inter appearance of the Karmapa. The Dalai Lama Tibetan sectarian strife and China had recognized has become Ogyen Trinley Dorje as the another true Karmapa and not instability Trinley Thaye Dorje. factor in the Similarly, Sikkim has Buddhist Himalayas. Of been on the boil for decades

course, there is a strategic calculation involved in this. over contesting sectarian parties claiming rights to It is an old Chinese method Rumtek's ownership. In Nepal, the Chinese have of playing on various faultlines to keep the Tibetans divided, while at the same been supporting Buddhist time furthering their own key objectives. This author projects through Tibetan monks. In May 2016, Drukhang Thubten Drukhang Thubten Khedrup Rinpoche, vice chairman of the Buddhist witnessed in Kazakhstan the Chinese managing to break up over 2,50,000 people of the Uyghur diaspora into at Association of China (BAC), supervised the Buddha Jayanti celebration in Lumbini. In Bhutan too, least 18 different factions. Sectarian suitors of all

sorts—most likely armed though less successfully, with foreign funding-seem the Chinese have been to have found a way to build using the Tibetans to influthe trend of their network while skilfulence the Buddhism. ly manipulating Indian law A rift within the Dalai and influential individuals. politicians and local insti-Lama's own Gelug ranks

has widened after he banned the worship of the sect's protector deity, Dorje Shugden, in 1996. He has good political reason to do tutions. They have built mega-religious infrastructure all along, from Ladakh to Arunachal Pradesh. To top it all, they have brought in sectarian disso, but his opponents in this cord among people hitherto regard, mostly Western devoid of any such differconverts, have been trumences. This is a major cause peting the iniquity of the for worry that could push Dalai Lama, calling him a

'Muslim' and 'the worst dictator' in modern times.

GREAT GAME BUDDHIST HIMALAYAS

Karmapa, Trinley Thaye Dorje. While the majority for a variety of reasons did not ignore the Dalai Lama's directive, the other sects, barring the Gelug sect -Drukpa Kagyu, Drikung Kagyu, Nyingma and even INDIA and CHINA'S QUEST for STRATEGIC the Sakya — defied the gag and accorded a reception to Trinley Thaye Dorje. The incident almost risked the society getting divided and led to a split in the All-Ladakh Gompa Association

THE GREAT GAME IN THE

The Tibetan presence makes the situation in the Indian Buddhist Himalayas rather perilous and one whose end is not in sight. Worse, no finger can be raised in such issues for it would be dubbed as 'China's hand'. For exam-ple, the unrest in Tawang in May 2016 in which a monk was killed was described as the handiwork of China.

In the coming years, such recurring issues would inevitably spark pent-up sectarian and inter-ethnic strife, and convert the Himalayas into a bigger tinderbox, while India's own Buddhist institutions are speedily undermined to the detriment of its interests. This is where China would try to win both the Tibetan Himalayan and the Buddhist games. To be sure, a power strug-

gle among various Tibetan sects will get heightened in the post–Dalai Lama scenario, for the issue is linked to the Gelugpa sect retain-ing its supremacy over the Tibetan order.

Future of the Dalai Lama Himalayan stability would also depend on the future of the Dalai Lama. So far, the Dalai Lama's ambivalent stance on his next birth has confused everyone. It is clear that the Tibetans would certainly need and want a Dalai Lama to lead them, and Beijing too is determined to find a successor of its own choice.

Given the Tibetan track record of ensnaring India in its murky agenda, there would be every attempt to build a case for the rebirth to occur in India. The simple logic for the Americans to play Tibet politics in future would depend on controlling the Tibetan leader's next reincarnation. Not surprisingly, the Dalai Lama has already hinted that he expects his reincarnation to be born in India. Clearly, this would mean he will be born in the Indian Himalayas, either in Arunachal Pradesh or in Ladakh, and possibly also among the Tibetan refugee population in India. No one knows what it would mean but it will cause the Himalayas to become further prone to conflict. And it would animate the seccause of retaining

region.

im leader was stiffly resis-ted by the Gelug faction. They would not like the Dalai Lama's selection process to be handled by non-Gelug Lamas. A situa-tion where he could be cho-sen from outside their area of influence would be strongly resisted by the Gelugpas. In fact, a media report highlighted communication between the Dalai Lama's aide and the chairman of the Gelug Monastic Disciplinary Council, Jangchup Choeden, and Chinese authorities about a joint project, for 'offerings in monasteries in Tibet', to decide the successor of the Fifteenth Dalai Lama.14 Choeden later denied having such a communication about warming up to the Chinese. All in all, the Buddhist Himalayas will continue to remain a contested geo-cultural landscape between the various competing narratives of India and China. However, in the current scenario, India's interests in the Buddhist Himalayas remain even more compromised than during the colonial period, when British strategists were able to play the Himalayan game more perceptively.

Dorje, to be the next inter-

For example, in the early twentieth century, the viceroy of India, Lord Curzon, was able to visualize the Himalayan regions of Ladakh, Sikkim, Bhutan and the north-east frontier as an 'inner defence line for India protected by a

Tibetan buffer region'. However, in the contemporary situation, India's lack of sufficient wherewithal to understand the critical interplay between Buddhism and the Himalayas may have led it to weigh heavily on the minds of the Dalai Lama and his government-in-exile. Of late, the Tibet card' is being redefined, albeit on the grounds of

Buddhist diplomacy. The 2017 Doklam crisis brought into focus what will be one of the most difficult issues that will unfold in the Himalayas in future. It indicated the tensions rising from conflicting territorial claims by both India and China which will almost certain-

from The Great Game in the

Liberation songs: Freda and the theris were not to be deterred

FIEL	Unger
A 1010	Winte
B.F.A	DHURI
MA	The Assessment
	VIJAY

LGA), which is the lent of a local sar LGA office locked to avoid a conflict for severa The main motiv Dalai Lama's actio n't be ascertained either be meant to under-

local communities deeper into the throes of anxiety

and tear apart Himalayan

stability. For example, in

the western Himalayas, a

small incident took a criti-cal turn in 2015 when the

Dalai Lama issued a virtual

gag order against facilitat-

ing the visit of the rival

ie equiva-	
ngha. The	BUDDHI
remained	
ny direct	
ıl years.	By PH
<i>i</i> e for the	STO
ons could-	Pengu
l. It could	5.aa

ST HIMALAYAS HUNCHOK OBDAN iin Vintage 312, ₹599[°]

the Himalayas as a Kagyu tinue raising the risk of bastion, as against the Gelug taking control of the war. Excerpted with permis-In the past, the news of sion from the publishers, the Dalai Lama possibly Penguin Random House,

installing his chosen from The Great Game Karmapa, Ogyen Trinley Buddhist Himalayas

FICTION

THE FAR FIELD Madhuri Vijay 4th Estate UK, ₹599

GIRL, WOMAN, OTHER (BOOKER PRIZE 2019 WINNER) Bernardine Evaristo Hamish Hamilton, ₹799

THE TESTAMENTS) (BOOKER PRIZE 2019 WINNER) Margaret Atwood Chatto & Windus. ₹799

A MINUTE TO MIDNIGHT David Baldacci Pan Macmillan, ₹599

GRAND UNION (STORIES) Zadie Smith Hamish Hamilton, ₹699

SUN-CATCHER Romesh Gunasekera Bloomsbury, ₹599

BLUE MOON (THE NEW JACK REACHER THRILLER) Lee Child Bantam Press, ₹599

AGENT RUNNING IN THE FIELD John Le Carre Penguin, ₹599

MUSIC TO FLAME LILIES Megha Rao Tara - India Research Press, ₹299

NOTHING VENTURED Jeffrey Archer Pan Macmillan, ₹399

Bahrisons, New Delhi

er's

Bedi.

Sridhar Balan meanwhile

staving in Nizamuddin and actor Kabir Bedi once wrote a Kabir recalls, "I went there very moving piece and I suddenly saw her and on his mother in she had shaved her hair and she was in Tibetan Buddhist robes. Firstly, an issue of JS (now defunct) in the late there was the shock of see-1960s which was reprinted after his mother died in ing her like that, and sec-His mother was ondly, was the feeling of ordained as a Buddhist nun betrayal that she hadn't told in 1966 and Kabir recalled me before she did it." He was angry and said so. the deep anguish, bewilder-"Why, why now?" Freda responded, "It is something ment and shock his mothdecision (she was of English origin) caused the I felt I had to do and I knew family. He had been a stuif I started discussing it dent at St Stephen's College then and recalled that theirs had been a happy with everybody, God knows what might have hap-pened." Indeed. The words, family with three children 'It is something I felt I had that had begun with a whirlto do," are very impressive wind romance that had begun at Oxford and culmiand if the earliest women to be ordained as nuns in nated in marriage. I was intrigued then with the Buddhist tradition had not felt the same way,

the life of this remarkable women may never have woman Freda and resolved become nuns. Freda hints that there may to read up on her some day. We are now fortunate that have been opposition or at Andrew Whitehead, a jourleast some pressure to make nalist and a former BBC her change, had her decicorrespondent in India has sion been discussed in the written a wonderful biografamily. The early women phy, The Lives of Freda – the Political, Spiritual amd Personal Journeys of Freda In the book. Whitehead states that Kabir had been told at the college

nuns faced determined opposition to the setting up of a separate holy order. The opposition came from the Buddha himself. Buddha preached in Pali so hostel to go and see his mom that his message could be who was in town. She was understood by the common

people. And people included everyone. Everyone regardless of caste, status or gender, was united in Buddhism, the Buddha preached, "as are the rivers in the sea". The three authorities of Buddhism were the Buddha himself, the "Dhamma" or the rules of Buddhist life, and the "Sangha" or the ascetic community. The Buddha believed that both men and women could attain 'nirvana' and were capable of receiving rigorous training and philosophical education and could even be entrusted with the task of preaching the Buddhist doctrine. Yet, when there was a request from a woman to be ordained and to join the holy order or the "Sangha", the Buddha refused.

Susie Tharu and K. Lalita in their pathbreaking book Women Writing in India – 600 B.C. to the Present record that this request did come early in Budhha's life and to the Buddha himself. Based on records of exchanges in the Sangha and on the status of women. Tharu and Lalita note that Mahapajapati Gotami, the Buddha's royal foster mother, wanted to join the Sangha. She, of royal blood, long distances the heat and walked though dust to find the Buddha and request him but he would not hear of it. Repeated requests were refused repeatedly. There was no moving the Buddha who was steadfast in his decision. At the time, we must



Rangjung Rigpe Dorje, the 16th Karmapa, with Gelongma Karma Kechog Palmo (aka Freda Bedi) at Rumtek Monastery, Sikkim, in 1971

remember that all of the Buddha's preachings were oral in character. There were no written-up texts. The texts or the "Sutras" only came up later after the 'Sakhyamuni's death at the initiative of the disciples who felt that succeeding generations should not deviate from what the Buddha had preached. It was one such disciple Ananda, prodigious of memory, and perhaps moved by Gotami's pleas and entreaties, mustered up the courage to argue with the Buddha. There was nothing in the tenets of the Buddha's preachings, said that forbade Ananda women from entering the Sangha or ascetic order. Today, it's interesting to note that when entry of

women to a holy shrine is a matter that is decided by the highest court in the land, Ananda's appeal was to the Buddha himself, the highest court at the time. We do not know what were the arguments Ananda marshalled in his defence, for there were no written texts, but powerful and persuasive they must have been. And all this against one who was

the originator of the preachings themselves! The Buddha was finally compelled to agree but he laid down eight very stringent laws which all women would have to obey. Among them were a few that illustrate that the status of men and women in the Sangha were not quite equal. No 'theri' or woman monk could rebuke a 'thera' or

male monk, but the converse did not apply no matter how senior the theris may be. After a very stringent two year novitiate, a theri was to seek confirmation from both the male and female congregations but the thera had to submit himself to an examination by the male congregation only. But the women were Gotami willingly accepted all the conditions and joined the Sangha happily thus beginning a long line of women monks that

endures to this day. The first Buddhist women monks were extremely creative too. Charles Hallisey has translated and published for the Murty Classical Library, Therigatha — Poems of the

First Buddhist Women. Written in the sixth century BCE, by senior women monks, the poems, many of them written by monks who were contemporaries of the Buddha, are songs of their experiences in the Sangha and outside. Dhammapala, the sixth-century commen-tator on the *Therigatha* considered the poems "inspired utterances". The poems which ranged from one verse to 40 verses, conveyed a sense of joy and euphoria felt by the women monks and were poems of liberation.

It was this great tradition of women Buddhist monks Freda Bedi joined when she was ordained as a Buddhist nun by the 16th Karmapa Lama at the Rumtek Monastery in 1966. The literary output of these remarkable women has continued over the years, as we were reminded during a visit to Kyoto in Japan this summer. The Tale of Genji written by a remarkable woman court attendant, Murasaki Shikibu in 1000 CE in Kyoto is considered many to be the by first great novel in world history. Not many know that the protagonist became a Buddhist nun half-way through the novel and later died but the novel continued beyond her lifetime!

> The writer is a senior publishing industry professional who has worked with OUP and is now a senior consultant with Ratna Sagar Books

FINANCIAL **Chronicle**

FRIDAY 29 NOVEMBER 2019 NEW DELHI

quick

41,130.17 +0.27

+0.42

+0.42

+0.30

+0.97

+0.24

+0.37

-0.65

-0.014

0.00

12,151.20

3,153.63

71.77

92.89

79.11

\$63.41

+6.453

+1.767

37,664 139

ABFL first to list

commercial

papers on SEs

Aditya Birla Finance (ABFL), the NBFC arm of Aditya Birla

Capital, became the first com-

pany to list its commercial

papers (CPs) on the stock

exchanges. The move comes

after BSE and NSE came out

to broaden investors' participa-

tion. ABFL said it has listed CPs

with value date of Nov. 28 and

maturity date on Feb. 7, 2020.

Relations Code

Bill placed in LS

Industrial

INDICATORS

Sensex

Nifty 50

S&P 500

Dollar (₹)

Euro (₹)

Pound Sterling (₹)

Gold (10gm)* (₹)

Brent crude (\$/bbl)*

IN 10-Yr bond yield

US 10-Yr T-bill yield

* As of 9:30 pm IST

Tax sleuths to go after GST dodgers

Carlyle to gain from **SBI** Cards' ₹9,000-cr **IPO**

Overleaf Onion 2.0: Price surges to ₹120/kg; Centre gives up

State B

MADHUSUDAN SAHOO NEW DELHI, NOV. 28

Households battling the impact of pervasive eco-nomic slowdown got a rude shock this week when onion prices spiked unexpectedly to Rs 110-120 a kg. Adding to their woes, the Centre has washed its hands off the issue, saying that there is nothing much for the government to do to control the onion prices at this moment.

Leaving consumers a teary-eyed, soaring onion, in its second phase, is retailing at Rs 110-120, after stabilising around Rs 80-90 a kg in the previous weeks, in almost all states and major cities like Delhi, Chennai, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Bhubaneswar and Pune, reports from mandis show.

The price surge comes soon after the government November on announced an estimated 26 per cent fall in onion output in the kharif and late-kharif seasons of this fiscal, saying that there may be some impact in both supply and prices of onion across almost all parts of the country.

As part of measure to arrest rising prices of the kitchen staple, the government is learnt to have extended the ban on onion exports indefinitely. Earlier, the Centre had extended it till February, sensing a surge in domestic prices following mass



Consumer Affairs Ministry data says onion

is selling at Rs 76 per kg in Delhi, Rs 92 in Mumbai,

Rs 100 in Kolkata and Rs

stopping the supply of the

kitchen staple at con-

trolled price, the govern-

ment countered it, saying

that it is taking all possi-

ble steps to normalise prices. "It's not in our

hand, the government is

making maximum efforts,

According to sources, in

order to fight the onion

the consignments are like-

ly to arrive in December.

Affairs Secretary A.K. Srivastava also hinted

that the imported onions

would be sold at Rs 52-55

Vilas Paswan.

80 per kg in Chennai. While Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal accused the Centre of

damage of the bulbs due to untimely incessant rains and floods.

"We have no option but to extend the ban on onion exports indefinitely as domestic prices have skyrocketed sharply in many parts of the country. Besides, the farmers have suffered a lot in their summer harvest, which was delayed and the crop got damaged heavily by untimely rains," said a senior official of the agriculture ministry, requesting not to be named.

"Even on Thursday, conbut who can win nature,' said Food and Consumer Affairs Minister Ram sumers in almost all states are paying Rs 90-110 or above for a kilo of onions while the prices are even higher in south Indian states, where it is crisis, the government is retailing at Rs 120-130 per kilo. In Delhi, onion prices are retailing at Rs expected to order for about 6,090 tonnes of onions from Egypt and 70-90 per kilo," the official added. Department of Consumer

However, by the official data, the average selling price of onion is Rs 70 per kg while Panaji has recorded the maximum rate of Rs 110 per kg.

per kilo in Delhi. **RIL becomes** first to hit ₹10 L crore market cap

ASHWIN J PUNNEN MUMBAI, NOV. 28

Centre also seeks one-time waiver for realty loans **Govt wants RBI to buy** out NBFCs' bad loans %

AFTAB AHMED NEW DELHI, NOV. 28

The central government wants the Reserve Bank of India to set up a fund to buy out stressed assets of the country's top 25 shadow lenders and revive the financial sector, a govern-ment source told reporters on Thursday. The government has also

asked the central bank to consider a one-time waiver to banks from classifying some real estate loans as bad loans, the source said. The non-banking finance sector has been battling a credit crunch ever since one of the sector's biggest Infrastructure & Financial firms Leasing Services collapsed in late 2018 amid fraud allegations

The Ministry of Finance has proposed a bailout plan on the lines of the US Troubled Asset Relief Programme following the with a framework for listing CPs 2008 financial crisis to pull India's financial sector out of a deep slump and get credit flowing back into a weak economy, the source told a group of reporters.

"Talks are on and vari-ous rounds of discussions have happened with the central bank on a mini TARP-like programme," the source who is involved

BEAST OF BURDEN

Finance Ministry has proposed a bailout plan on the lines of the US Troubled Asset Relief Programme in 2008

United States Treasury Department had worked out a \$700-billion bailout plan to address the financial crisis RBI feels the step is too drastic and more discussions are required

in the discussions told reporters. "RBI could be the buyer of last resort"," the source, who cannot be named in line with his service rules, said. In 2008, United States

Treasury Department had worked out a \$700-billion bailout plan to address the financial crisis.

The government has been considering measures to revive the financial sector to boost economic growth after five straight quarters of declines. A further decline in the growth rate is forecast for the July-September period, in data due out on Friday.

lenders, or Shadow NBFCs, account for a large chunk of India's credit

market, accounting for a 30 per cent share of auto loans and more than 40 per cent of home loans as of December 2018, according

to the central bank. The government official said that the RBI has been reluctant to open its bal-ance sheet for a large bail out programme for the shadow banks as it feels the step is too drastic and more discussions are required. The RBI declined to com-

ment on the government source's remarks.

Any new measure is likely to help such as Indiabulls Housing Finance, Piramal Enterprises, Reliance Capital, Shriram Transport Finance and

Shares of Piramal rose nearly 5 per cent to Rs 1,830.70 a share, while Shriram Transport Finance company rose 1.3 per cent to Rs 1,155 a piece from Rs 1,140, after the news before paring some gains. The new proposal comes after the government's Rs 1 lakh crore partial credit guarantee scheme under

Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services.

would buy high-rated pooled assets of financially sound shadow lenders, failed to take off.

Banks, which are bur-dened with over Rs 9 lakh - Reuters

which state run banks

Ambani in talks to sell news assets to Times Group

BAIJU KALESH, ANTO ANTONY & P R SANJAI NEW DELHI/MUMBAI.

Ambani's Mukesh Ambani is in Network18 Media & Investments Ltd, talks to sell his news media assets to Times the people said, asking not Group, as the billionaire to be named as the discusplans to unload a business sions are private. Ambani that's been losing money, is considering various people familiar with the options, ranging from an matter said. outright exit to a stake

Bennett Coleman & Co., the publisher of the Times of India, is looking to hire advisers for due diligence

on the news properties of

stage and may not result in a deal, the people said, adding more suitors may emerge. A representative for Bennett Coleman didn't immediately respond

sale, one of the people said. an ongoing basis and Talks are at an early ther. The company later said the story is "baseless and false," without elaborating.

The tycoon's plan to dispose of his news assets comes as he pursues talks

Delhi, Nov 28:

Parliament on Thursday

maximum

amount is proposed to be raised from Rs 1 lakh to Rs

3 lakh for those managed

by individuals or less than

four partners, and from Rs

6 lakh to Rs 18 lakh for

firms with four or more

sion for foreman, who is

responsible for managing

the chit, is proposed to be

raised from 5 per cent to 7

The bill also allows the

foreman a right to lien

against the credit balance

The maximum commis-

chit

mission for foreman.

November 20.

The

partners.

per cent.

passes various movie, music and comedy chan-nels to Sony Corp. Bloomberg reported last week that the Japanese giant is currently examining the books of the Indian media company and is considering several

CHIT FUNDS BILL PASSED

ended March, while its net debt stood at Rs 2008 crore, according to the company. Network18, acquired by RIL in 2014, owns and operates 56 local channels spanning news and entertainment. News properties

crore of bad loans of their own, remain risk averse.

include MoneyControl,

Industrial Relations Code Bill 2019 in the Lok Sabha. Congress and other opposition parties demanded that the bill be referred to the parliamentary standing committee on labour. This bill is part of the government's labour reform initiative.

Amid vehement opposition by

the Congress and other parties,

Union Labour Minister Santosh

Kumar Gangwar introduced the

No plans to cut retirement age in BSNL, MTŇL

The government on Thursday said it is not planning to reduce retirement age of employees of BSNL and MTNL to 50 years. "The government is not planning to change the retirement age of BSNL and MTNL employees to 50 instead of the current age of 60," Minister of State for Communications Sanjay Dhotre said in a written reply in the Rajya Sabha.

Cotton output pegged at 360 L bales in 2019-20

The cotton output is estimated to go up by 9 per cent at 360 lakh bales in the crop year 2019-20, beginning from Oct-ober, on back of better yield following good monsoon, compared to the previous year, said the Cotton Advisory Board (CAB). The total cotton production in 2018-19 was 330 lakh tonne, the CAB said. The total yield is estimated to go up by 10 per cent to 486.33 lakh bales.

Printed & Published by T Venkateswarlu on behalf of Deccan Chronicle Holdings Limited, Printed at BFL Infotech Ltd, C-9 Sector 3, Noida-201301. Published at 219, N D Tiwari Bhawan, Deen Dayal Upadhyay Marg, New Delhi-110002.

Editor: T.Venkatram Reddy, RNI Registration number 30074/09, Air surcharge Re 1. © All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission of The Editor. Financial Chronicle ® is prohibited.

to a request for comments. while a spokesman for Reliance Industries said the parent of Network18

objection, if any, to this

decision. They have been

given 60 days from the date

of notification to raise

objection. "None of the members

are likely to raise objection

as most of the countries

take 8 to 12 months to get

the rest of the stocks to be

hallmarked. Government

is likely to keep this in

mind while announcing

the deadline,' he said.

to sell a stake in Network18's ment division that encom-

New

entertain-(\$25 million) in the year

potential deal structures. Newsia. CNB Network18 reported a CricketNext and Firstpost. group loss of Rs 178 crore

18.com

- Bloomberg

Business tycoor Ambani-led Mukesh Reliance Industries on Thursday became the first Indian company to hit the Rs 10 lakh crore market capitalisation mark, driven by a sharp spike in its share price. At market close, the

oil-to-telecom conglomerate's market valuation surged to Rs 10,01,555.42 crore on the BSE.

The RIL stock closed at Rs 1,579.95, up 0.65 per cent after gaining 0.90 per cent intra-day to touch an all-time high of Rs 1,584.

fund but if some people are So far this year, the Reliance Ind stock has busy or unable to attend those then they should gained nearly 41 per have the option of video cent, outperforming Sensex that rose 14 per He also told the House that the bill removes the cent in 2019.

TCS is the country's second most valued firm with a market valuation of Rs 7,79,501.64 crore, followed by HDFC Bank with a mar-ket cap of Rs 6,92,853.48 crore, Hindustan Unilever (Rs 4,51,482.38 crore) and HDFC (Rs

Govt notifies WTO about intend to make gold hallmarking must SANGEETHA G in the gazette. Other member countries in WTO can raise their

CHENNAI, NOV. 28

The Indian government has notified to the World Trade Organisation its intention to implement mandatory hallmarking for gold jewellery and artefacts to be sold across the country. Though the government

has not mentioned a date for adoption of mandatory hallmarking, industry experts feel that the councustomer try is getting closer to it. In a notification to the WTO, the Ministry of Consumer Affairs said the government intends to gold jewellerv. bring in "compulsory sell-

ing of precious metals articles of gold (jewellery and gold artefacts) through certified sales outlets and

This will help consumer



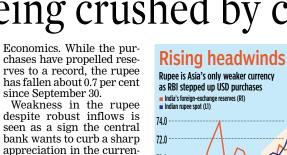
protection through prevention of deceptive practices, satisfaction through third party assurance for the marked purity/fineness of gold and enhance the credibility of

The decision will come into force with effect from the date of its publication in the official gazette. However, the government



currently have mandatory hallmarking. Among large consumers, China too had recently made hallmarking mandatory," Somasundaram Managing Director, India, World Gold Council. "Almost 40 to 50 per cent of the gold in the market are hallmarked. It would

said it has not decided when it would publish this



2018



strategist at TD Securities in Singapore. "Higher reserves prove that the central bank is probably making determined efforts to keep the rupee's competi-

The RBI has said it does not target any particular level of exchange rate and steps in only to curb undue swings in the currency. Though, as the rupee was heading for its worst quarterly decline in a year in the three months ended September, Governor Shaktikanta Das said September 19 that the currency is fairly valued, indicating toler-

India's exports have

Expectations that the government will continue to take steps to revive growth has prompted foreign funds to pump \$4.6 billion into local shares and more than \$600 million into debt this quarter. The purchases have pushed up the

record, and sent the rupee to a three-week high. The currency fell 0.4 per cent to close at 71.77 per dollar on Thursday. The RBI will continue to

soak up the inflows to address the rupee's overvaluation, according to Kotak Securitie. "When you have decent inflows, there is no reason for the rupee to depreciate and the RBI's sharp dollar purchases are the predominant reason behind the weakness," said Anindya Banerjee, a currency analyst at Kotak. Bloomberg

\$127.86 billion at close of trade on the NYSE.

Rupee being crushed by central bank's high reserves

KARTIK GOYAL NOV. 28

with hallmark".

India's efforts to support the flagging economy are turning out to be a bane for the rupee. The currency is the worst performer in emerging Asia this quarter, and analysts say that's because the central bank is mopping up dollars gushing into local stocks and bonds. The RBI bought has about ment.

The Reserve Bank of

\$18 billion of foreign exchange since the end of September, according to estimates by Bloomberg

of the rupee's

cy that can hurt exports.

With slew of data pointing

to weak economic activity,

boosting shipments is high

on agenda for the govern-

under performance is deliberate," said Mitul

Kotecha, a senior EM

"Part

said

tiveness

2019 Source: RBI/Bloomber

passed a bill which profund, rotating savings and vides for raising the monetary limits for chit funds to credit institution to make three-fold and hiking comchit funds respectable. The Chit Funds (Amendment) Bill, 2019 Chit The was passed by voice vote in the Rajya Sabha. The bill got the Lok Sabha's nod on

the bill.

that chit funds are legal and one should understand that these are different from unregulated deposit schemes or ponzi schemes. The bill provides for substituting terms like 'chit amount', 'dividend' and 'prize amount' with 'gross chit amount'. 'share of discount' and 'net chit fund'

Maximum chit amounts raised to ₹3 lakh & ₹18 lakh from subscribers. It further proposes to allow subscribers to join the process of drawing The bill also introduces words such as fraternity chits through video-conferencing. About members' objecmore tion to this clause, Thakur

Funds (Amendment) Bill, 2019 also introduces words such as "fraternity fund", "rotat-ing savings" and "credit institution" to make chit funds more respectable, said Minister of State for Finance Anurag Thakur in his reply to the House on

Piloting the bill, he said respectively.

_



shrunk for three months in a row, contributing to further deepening of a growth slowdown. A report on Friday is likely to show GDP grew 4.6 per cent, which would be the weakest pace of expansion since

ance for a weaker rupee.

ing to the scheme. nation's equities to a

which the provisions of the Act would apply. He said the bill provides that the chit fund operator has to have secured deposit to the size of scheme, which is a sufficient safeguard for people subscrib-

conference.

told the House that all sub-

scribers should be present

at the time of draw of chit

limit of Rs 100 (which was

set in 1982), and allows the

state governments to speci-

fy the base amount over

3.98,994.81 crore). According to analysts,

the stock is gaining on the back of the windfall making on the past investments in consumer-facing sectors like telecom and retail. These investments have yielded fruitful results for the company and has been consistently increasing their

share in the overall profits," according to Ajit Mishra, VP Religare Research,

Broking. For the past few sessions, the company's market valuation has been hovering near the Rs 10-lakh crore mark. The company is still ahead of British energy major BP Plc in terms of market valuation. BP Plc's m-cap was at

Jnaury-March 2013.



FRIDAY | 29 NOVEMBER 2019 | NEW DELHI

HDFC panel to find Puri's successor

FALAKNAAZ SYED MUMBAI, NOV. 28

India's largest private lender HDFC Bank has set up a six-member panel to identify a successor to managing director Aditya Puri who is set to retire in October 2020.

The bank's chairperson and former RBI deputy governor Shyamala Gopinath, additional director Sanjiv Sachar, former Infosys CFO MD Ranga-nath, Sandeep Parekh, Srikanth Nadhamuni and HDFC's representative Keiki Mistry have been named members of the search committee. Puri will act as an advisor to the search committee, the private lender said in a statement.

"The Search Committee, over the next few months, shall evaluate internal and external candidates to ensure a smooth transition," the bank said in a statement

HDFC Bank is on a global search to find a successor to Founder & Chief Executive Officer Aditya Puri, as he would turn 70 next year.

Nelco to roll out in-flight data services

New Delhi, Nov 28: Tata group company Nelco Ltd on Thursday said it expects to roll out inflight data connectivity services by January but did not divulge the air-lines it would partner with for the offering. The company had, ear-lier this year, obtained a

licence from the DoT for providing in-flight and maritime connectivity (IFMC) services. Nelco said it hopes to

roll out in-flight services in the next one-and-a-half months but refused to comment on tariffs saying the modalities are being fine-tuned.

"We are hoping to start in-flight connectivity services around January timeframe. We will start with data services," Nelco Managing Direct-

Fake B2B invoices & E-way bills under lens Tax sleuths to go after GST dodgers

RITWIK MUKHERJEE KOLKATA, NOV. 28

Tax sleuths across the country are girding up their loins to put checks and balances on growing cases of fake invoices in GST—fake B2B invoices and fake E-way bills which are depriving State exchequers of increasingly larger amount. The basic framework of these cases have some common features, tax department offi-

cials said. "The fake invoices are mainly B2B invoices. Here a seller sells a product to the genuine buyer (say A), without raising an invoice. The products in question are generally intermediate goods (that are processed to make the final product) like plastic granules or metals, for which there is high demand but few suppliers. As no invoices are raised and no GST is collected in this transaction, this is the first leg where government loses its revenue," these officials pointed out.

'Buyer A undertakes further sale of these goods without raising invoices. It may also collect GST from its buyer but may forgo this credit from the input tax, given that it is already earning huge profit and thus feels no need to set off his output tax or evade it,² they added. It is known that every reg-

istered person (subject to conditions) can take credit of input tax on supply of goods or services to him, which are used or intended to be used in course or furtherance of business. Input tax credit can be used to off-

sales grow

slower than

last year

The macro-economic sen-

timents did have a bear-

ing on the online festive

sales this time. The fes-

SANGEETHA G

CHENNAI, NOV, 28



set the input tax with output tax. This aspect is exploited and it promotes the generation of fake invoices to claim input tax credit.

Explaining the modus operandi, Arupa Banik, a young chartered account-ant, said, "The seller enters into an agreement with another buyer (say B), who wants to evade GST and thus needs input tax credit (ITC), which is not actually due to him. Buyer B transfers the funds (as mentioned in the fake bills) through RTGS to the account of the seller. The seller, in turn, reimburses this amount to B in cash. The seller earns a commission from this bogus transaction, while Buyer B earns a net profit (amount of GST evaded in the form of ICT availed of, less the commission paid to the seller). Thus, the whole racket enriches the two unscrupulous parties, while leaving the govern-ment deprived of its rev-

enue." GST officials are also per-

turbed and are working on ways to curb raising fake invoice bills. "This is the issue of generation of fake e-way bills with the names of transporters, who are non-existent or not in business any longer. Since in most cases, the seller and the buyer B are in different states, to make the entire picture look real, the seller generates an e-way bill and furnishes details with respect to the fake consignment on the common GST portal and includes the name of a dummy transporter in the e-way bill,' said Banik.

The tax officials need to be more vigilant with respect to those bills which involve a consignment of exorbitant amount or where the volume and frequency of transactions are unusually high. The transporters mentioned in these e-way bills may be summoned and interrogated, which can help the department to track down the real defaulters and break through this whole sham transaction, she felt.

ONGC raises \$300 mn at 3.375% coupon

New Delhi, Nov 28: State-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corp (ONGC) on Thursday said it has raised \$300 million in overseas borrowing at a coupon rate of 3.375 per cent, the lowest by any Indian issuer.

The 10-year bond will mature in 2029, the com-"ONGC has priced its maiden offering of USD bonds in the aggregate principal amount of USD 300 million for meeting capital expenditure in accordance with the External Commercial Borrowing guidelines issued by the Reserve Bank of India and successfully achieved its

objective to set a fresh benchmark," it said. At 3.375 per cent interest rate, this is the tightest coupon for 10-year or longer tenor offering from India ever achieved by any Indian corporate. "The mix of investors is

diverse, from across Singapore, HK, London, Taiwan, Japan and Middle East which includes 77 per cent bid from Asian investors and 23 per cent from EMEA investors. The Bankers to the deal were – Citi, DBS Bank Ltd, MUFG, SBI-CAP and Standard Chartered," it said.

ONGC Chairman and Managing Director Shashi Shanker said the company funds its opera-tions from internal accruals and it has capacity to do the same in future also."The offering of USD bond however was important to set a benchmark for ONGC Group," he said. —PTI

Carlyle to gain from SBI Cards' ₹9,000-cr IPO

NUPUR ANAND MUMBAI, NOV. 28

SBI Cards and Payment Services, the credit card arm of State Bank of India, aims to raise roughly Rs 9,000 crore (\$1.25 billion) in an initial public offering, according to a source familiar with the matter, in a deal set to make a bumper profit for US private equity firm

Carlyle Group. SBI Cards is 74 per cent owned by SBI, while Carlyle Group owns the remaining 26 per cent, a stake which it bought in 2017 from the lending arm of General Electric for about Rs 2,000

SBI will divest 4 per cent, while Carlyle is set to sell a 10 per cent stake as part of the IPO process, which will also include a sale of fresh equity worth Rs 500 crore, according to a draft prospectus published by the book runners of the deal. SBI Cards, which filed the

FC BUREAU

HYDERABAD, NOV. 28

Despite the current gloom

in Indian economy, Kerala-based NBFC, Muthoot Fincorp, expects its assets

under management (AUM)

to grow at a healthy 17 per

cent during the current

financial year, a senior offi-

Muthoot Fincorp to expand ops

grow at 15 to 17 per cent... We disbursed close to Rs 27,000 crore last fiscal with over 90 per cent towards gold loan'

Muthoot Fincorp, which has over 3,600 branches in India, is now planning to expand its presence in the two Telugu states further.

cial said here on Thursday. Speaking to the media, about 200 branches every Muthoot Fincorp COO year. We should be opening Vasudevan Ramaswami said, "We grew at 16 per cent last year (in terms of AUM). another 60 odd branches in AP and Telangana out of which Telangana will have This year also we expect to 27." Mr Ramaswani said.



Immediate support for Nifty around 12070

The market continued its record-breaking run for the second day on Thursday, helped by gains in index heavy-weights ICICI Bank and Reliance Industries.

The Sensex rose to an all-time intra-day high of 41,163.79 before setting at 41,130 up 109.56 points

or 0.27 per cent. The NSE Nifty closed at a fresh life-time high of 12,151.15, up by 50.45 points or 0.42 per cent over the previous close. Buying was seen in broad market with Smallcap and Midcap indices closed higher. Sustained inflow of foreign investment and short-covering amid the expiry of November derivatives contracts also contributed to the

rally, traders said. For the month of November so far, foreign inflows in the cash seg-ment have totalled \$2 bil-lion, while FII positioning in index futures has

turned to net long after a gap of six months.

The market capitalisa-tion of the BSE-listed companies went up by Rs 1,87,370.56 crore to Rs 1,55,57,484.15 crore.

Broader BSE midcap and smallcap indices rose up to 0.97 per cent. BSE telecom, metal, realty, teck and capital goods indices rose up to

FM seeks Parliament nod for additional ₹21,246 crore **Online festive**

New Delhi, Nov 28: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitha-raman on Thursday sought Parliament approval to spend an additional Rs 21,246.16 crore, including over Rs 8,820 crore in the newly formed union territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, in the current fiscal ending March 2020.

Sitharaman tabled the first batch of Supplemen-tary Demands for Grants for the financial year 2019-20 in both the Houses of Parliament saying of the total spend, cash outgo will be about 19 000 crore The government has sought Rs

8.820.62 crore as grants for Union

infused in the IDBI Bank through recapitalisation bonds, while Rs 2,500 crore will go into recapitalsa-tion of state-owned insurance companies

The Union Budget for FY20, presented in July, had estimated a total government spending of Rs 27.86 lakh crore, excluding expenses of public-sector companies.

The Finance Minister sought Rs 1,500 crore to meet the additional expenditure towards payment of pay and allowance of armed forces and another Rs 666 crore for meeting expenditure of Department of



and lacklustre growth in goods and services tax collections, amid a marked downturn in the economy, have squeezed government finances this year.

The Indian economy expanded by 5 per cent in April-June, its slowest annual pace since 2013 and the pro-jections are that it may have slowed down further in the second quarter, making six consecutive quarters of slowing growth, a first since 2012. This despite a recent series of fiscal stimulus, including a reduction in corporate tax rates.

- Reuters

SBI

draft prospectus on Nov. 27,

did not give valuation details, but based on the

anticipated proceeds the

IPO is likely to value Carlyle's 26 per cent stake at close to seven times its

2017 purchase price, and

rake in about Rs 6,000 crore

from the 10 per cent stake

sale alone. The IPO, which is still

awaiting regulatory approv-al, is poised to be India's

biggest this financial year.

SBI Cards is the second-

largest credit card issuer in

the country, with 9.4 million

outstanding cards as of the

end of September.

Fuelled by the growth,

"We have been opening

3.49 per cent. BSE auto index ended in the red.

Technical View

"In this month, the index first consolidated within a range and is now all set to end the month on a high note. Traders are advised to continue to trade with a positive bias as we continue with our positive view for the targets of 12180-12200 first and then towards 12290.The immediate supports for the index are now placed around 12070 and 12000,' Ruchit Jain Equity Technical Analyst,

Angel Broking said.

efforts to maintain fiscal

The

government's

Growth outlook has weakened

or and CEO P J Nath said of an event here. On March 6 this year, the company announced it has obtained licence

from the government for providing in-flight and maritime connectivity (IFMC) services.

The licence enables connectivity solutions to the individual users onboard the aircraft and ships. -PTI

NBCC asked to offer more land New Delhi, Nov 28:

Lenders of Jaypee Infratech on Thursday Jaypee asked state-owned NBCC Ltd to offer more land with clear title and debtfree Yamuna Expressway, while homebuyers want compensation for huge delay in completion of flats, sources said.

NBCC and Mumbaibased Suraksha Realty are in race to acquire Jaypee Infratech through insolvency proceedings. They submitted fresh bids on November 17 as per direction of the Supreme Court. A meeting of Commi-

ttee of Creditors (CoC) was held here to negotiate with the two contenders. In the meeting, sources said bankers sought many clarifications from NBCC on its resolution plan and asked it to sweeten the bid. To settle an outstanding claim of nearly Rs 9.800 crore to bankers. NBCC has offered 1,426 acre land worth Rs 5,000 crore.

It has also offered 75 per cent of 858 acre land, which has been pledged by promoter Jaiprakash Associates and is likely to be transferred back to Jaypee Infratech. —PTI tive season sales registered a lower growth this compared to last year. The growth rate was even lower than that of a nonfestive business day. The 15-day festive season sales period saw ecommerce companies clocking aggregate sales of Rs 31,000 crore against Rs 25,600 crore last year, as per the data from RedSeer Consulting. Consulting. RedŠeer While this year, the festive season recorded a sales growth of 20.2 per cent, last year the growth rate was as high as 70.7 per cent. Even in 2017, festive sales grew by 43

per cent. More interestingly, the growth rate, though from a higher base, was even slower than the sales growth on a usual business day. During regular days of 2019, e-commerce sales grew by 32 per cent. It was slightly lower than 36 per cent last year. According to RedSeer, the year-on-year growth came down due to tough macro-economic environ-

ment and decreased consumer spending. Slower growth in mobile sales also contributed to the trend.

territories Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh in lieu of the erstwhile state's share of 14th Finance Commission Award.

Another Rs 4,557 crore will be

Space. As much as Rs 3,387.46 crore has

been provided in the supplementary demands for grants for meeting expenditure towards salaries and cost of the ration of police.

About Rs 1,000 crore has been sought for providing additional funds under the scheme for free LPG connection to poor households.

A sharp cut in corporate tax rates

sharpiy this year, with a crunch that with the non-banking started finance institutions spreading to retail businesses, car-makers, home sales and heavy industries.

ical to relieving the deficit.

The country has set a tar-

get of raising \$14.6 billion by March 2020 through

Moody's on Tuesday said it was reviewing BPCL's

'Baa2' rating for possible

downgrade due to the gov-

"A change in ownership could result in the compa-

ny revising its business strategy or financial poli-

cies, which could have implications for its stand-

alone profile," the rating

these stake sales.

ernment sale.

firm said.

HPCL, MRPL workers join BPCL protest

V. SIVARAM & CHRIS THOMAS KOCHI/BENGALURU, NOV. 28

Thousands of employees across India on Thursday protested an upcoming stake sale at state owned refiner Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL), fearing loss of jobs and benefits. In what is seen as the

biggest privatisation push in India in decades, the government last week approved the sale of BPCL and four other state-run companies.

The sales are seen as a way to plug a widening fis-cal gap as New Delhi looks to revive a slowing econo-

Unions of other state-run companies such as Hindustan Petroleum Corp Mangalore Ltd and

Petrochemicals Ltd (MRPL) joined forces with BPCL workers to protest against the privatisation plans.

Employees at BPCL's Kochi refinery— the com-pany's largest with a capacity of 15.5 million metric tonnes per year-fear that privatisation will strip them of various benefits and result in job cuts.

"The government should notice our agitation, as should private players looking to take over BPCL, said Aji M.G., General Secretary of the Kochi refinery's workers association

In Kochi, protesters tried to block the passage of BPCL management arriving at work before police cleared the way into the refinery.



Some 400 kilometres away, employees blocked the gates of refiner MRPL the port city of Mangalore.

"Today it is BPCL, tomor-row it could be us," said Sudhendu K.V., employee union president at MRPL. "We want the government

to revoke its decision. No public sector company should be privatised."

BPCL employees also

marched in the financial capital of Mumbai, where the company runs another refinery, a union member at BPCL said.

A BPCL spokesman said operations at its Kochi refinery were running smoothly despite the protests. The government has not given details of any prospective buyers.

Oil Minister Dharmendra Pradhan indicated this

prudence and stimulus measures may help to extend the breadth of the rally, analysts said. We're eyeing 12,300 in Nifty and reiterate our preference for banking metal and pharma counters for long trades. Upcoming macroecomonth that international nomic data and global energy firms would be invited to participate in privatisation of statecues may result in the marginal profit taking or consolidation. Traders should utilise owned oil companies. India faces tax shortfalls such opportunities to accumulate quality stocks on dips," said Ajit of around Rs 2 lakh crore in the current fiscal year, making the stake sales crit-Mishra, VP - Research,

Market View

Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services, said, 'Market stayed positive despite expiry led volatility & the announcement of GDP data tomorrow as investors got a sense that increase ing global liquidity will provide support in every consolidation.'

Religare Broking Ltd.

- Ashwin J Punnen

That in turn has put pres-

sure on foreign drugmak-

ers. New drugs are often

brought to the China mar-ket at prices lower than they

are sold in the West, but still

face competition from a

growing legion of Chinese

biotech firms developing

similar drugs that can be

Global pharmaceutical companies' older drugs that have gone off-patent

are also facing price cuts.

In a separate national campaign in which China's

public hospitals bulk-buy

generic medications, prices

have been driven down by

Bloomberg

as much as 90 per cent.

sold even cheaper.

- Reuters

Drugmakers cut prices by 61% to get on coveted China list

28: Drugmakers, Nov. including AstraZeneca Plc and Roche Holding AG, agreed to cut prices of some of their newest innovative drugs in China by an average of 61 per cent as the government expanded the number of treatments covered under national insurance. Some 70 new therapies

were added for coverage by China's state-run medical insurance fund after months-long negotiations over prices, according to a notice on the National Healthcare Security Administration's website on Thursday.

onto the list included AstraZeneca's roxadustat, an anemia medicine that was approved in China ahead of the US, and Roche's lung cancer treatment alecensa. Other western medica-

tions added were hepatitis C treatments from Gilead Sciences Inc and Merck & Co. and AbbVie Inc's Humira injection pen for arthritis. rheumatoid There are more than 2,700 medicines on the list after

the latest adjustments. Both domestic drugmakand multinational ers giants are eager to get their treatments on the list even

The drugs that made it at steep discounts in order



in

to gain access to China's \$132 billion pharmaceutical market, the world's second-biggest. Drugs on the list are almost fully paid for by China's 2.34 trillion yuan (\$333 billion) national medical insurance fund.

The list has been annually updated with new entries since 2017, when Beijing accelerated its campaign to bring the best drugs to its growing middle class as quickly and cheaply as possible.

Prior to 2017, the list was updated sporadically and only every several years. But since a regulatory revamp starting around 2016, China has sped up drug approval reviews to meet consumer demand and included more novel, imported therapies on the reimbursement list. China is home to the world's most diabetes patients, nearly 4 million new cancer patients

and an ageng population. The latest negotiated price cuts made the imported drugs "the cheapest in the world," the notice said. Three hepatitis C treatments dropped prices by an average of more than 85 per

cent while tumor and diabetes therapies fell by an average of 65 per cent.

Chinese drugmakers' shares slumped due to the magnitude of the price

"The drugmakers are falling on the news about the national reimbursement list. It shows that they need to lower prices meaningfully to be able to join the list," said Kelvin Chen, an analyst at Bocom International.

The national medical insurance fund, which covers 95 per cent of 1.4 billion Chinese, is demanding deep price cuts to avoid bankrupting the safety net.







Clampdown

British PM Boris Johnson issued an apology for the hurt and offence caused by Islamophobia within the Conservative Party as he pledged an independent inquiry into all forms of prejudice





Commander-in-chief Trump has 'very little understanding' of how the American military operates · Richard Spencer **Former Navy secretary**

BRIFE

Ex-Maldives Prez

gets 5-year jail Male: A court in the Maldives has found the country's former president guilty of money laundering and sentenced him to five years in prison. The five-member Criminal Court has also ordered Yameen Abdul Gayoom to pay a \$5 million fine. In its ruling on Thursday, the court found Yameen was guilty of laun-dering \$1 million in state money for personal gain. Yameen led the Indian Ocean archipelago state from 2013 to 2018. During that time he was accused of corruption, muzzling the media and persecuting political opponents. He lost last year's election to current President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih.

N. Korea at it again, says Seoul

Seoul: North Korea on Thursday fired two unidentified projectiles into the sea, South Korea's military said, three days after the North said its troops conducted artillery drills near its disputed sea boundary with South Korea. The launches were an apparent attempt by North Korea to pressure the United States to make concessions in their stalemated nuclear diplomacy. Seoul's Joint chiefs of staff said in a state-ment that the projectiles were launched toward the North's eastern waters after lifting off from the country's northeastern South Hamgyong province. It said South Korea's military is monitoring possible additional launches by North Korea.

Mexico cartels to be terror aroups

Washington: US President Donald Trump put the Mexican government on the defensive when he said he 'absolutely' will move ahead with plans to designate Mexican drug cartels as terrorist organisations. Trump said this week that tens of thousands of Americans are killed every year because of drug trafficking and other activity by the cartels. But Mexico is pushing back, worried that such a step would allow its neighbour to the north to violate its sovereignty by operating unilaterally inside Mexico. "I've been working on that for the last 90 days," Trump said on whether such a designation would be forthcoming.



Cars and trucks in stopped traffic on Interstate 5 near Dunsmuir, California. Thanksgiving travel has been snarled in some places by two powerful storms. A winter storm blamed for one death and hundreds of cancelled flights in the West moved into the Midwest and dropped close to a foot of snow in parts of Minnesota and Wisconsin.

'Thank you, Mr Trump'

Pro-democracy protesters in Hong Kong seek global support after US laws

Hong Kong, Nov. 28: Chanting "Stand with Hong Kong," pro-democracy activists on Thursday urged the world to follow US footsteps by passing laws backing human rights in the semi-autonomous Chinese territory, as police teams began a cleanup of a Hong Kong university earlier occupied demonstrators. Prominent activist Joshua Wong, who was among democracy supporters who lobbied for the new US called them a laws, achieve-"remarkable ment," with human rights triumphing over crucial

US-China trade talks. President Donald Trump signed the two bills into law. One of the laws prehe said. Echoing Wong's call, scribes economic sanctions dozens of office workers on Asia's top financial hub and activists chanted "This is what democracy and diplomatic action on Hong Kong and Chinese officials found guilty of looks like" and other slohuman rights abuses. The gans during a daily other bans the export of lunchtime rally downcertain nonlethal munitown. Washington to penalise the tions to Hong Kong police.



People assemble for a gathering of thanks at Edinburgh Place in Hong Kong.

urged

Some

city's embattled leader, Wong said he hopes the laws will spur Britain and Carrie Lam, over the govother Western nations to follow suit. "Now is the ernment's handling of the crisis. A protester held a time for the Western world placard saying "Thank You Mr. Trump, Sanction to stand with Hong Kong,' #1 Carrie Lam. More than 5,000 people

– AFF trade

> minister Le Yucheng told US ambassador Terry Branstad that the move constituted "serious interference in China's inter-

Angry China calls US ambassador

Beijing, Nov. 28: China reacted furiously to President Donald Trump's signing two bills aimed at supporting human rights in Hong Kong, summoning the US ambassador to protest and warning the move would undermine cooperation with Washington. The clash comes at a sensitive time and could upset already thorny negotiations between the two nations.

THE ASIAN AGE

Chinese vice foreign



Terry Branstad

hegemonic act." He urged the US not to implement the bills to prevent greater damage to US-China relations, the ministry said. The US Embassy said,

Indians from fake varsity may return

Washington, Nov. 28: Federal law enforcement agencies have arrested 90 foreign students, mostly from India, enrolled in a fake university estab-lished by the US government to check immigration fraud, a media report has said

The US Immigration and Customs Enfor-cement (ICE) has so far arrested more than 250 students, who were lured to enroll in the now-closed University of Farmington in the Farmington in the Detroit metropolitan area by the Department of Homeland Security.

When a fake university was closed in March, there were 600 students, mostly Indians, enrolled in it.

Of the 250 students arrested so far, "nearly 80 percent were granted voluntary departure and departed the US." Of the remaining 20

percent, about half of them have received a final order of removal, the official was quoted as saying.

Federal prosecutors claim that the students Federal knew that this was a fake university as there were Senator classes. Elizabeth Warren, a leading Democratic presiden-tial candidate, described the move as "cruel" and appalling. - PTI

WAITING FOR **GREEN CARD** Washington, Nov.

2,27.000 More than Indians are waiting in line for family-sponsored Green Card or legal permanent residency according to the latest official data. Currently, there are about four million people waiting in line for family-sponsored Green Cards against a Congressional cap of 2,26,000 per annum.

The largest number of 1.5 million wait list is from America's southern neighbour Mexico, fol-lowed by a distant India with 2,27,000 and China with nearly 1,80,000.

Majority of those in the family-sponsored Green Card waiting list are siblings of US citizens. Under current law, US citizens can sponsor their family members and blood relatives for Green Cards or permanent legal

residency. Trump is against such a provision which he calls as chain immigration and wants to abolish this. The Democratic party is vehemently opposed to abol-ish family-sponsored immigration system. PT

APPEAL FOR IDENT

General public is hereby informed that one male was found dead at Red Light of Gulabi Bagh, Delhi on 21.11.2019. In this regard a DD No. 13-A, Dated 21.11.2019 has been lodged at P.S. Gulabi Bagh, Delhi The description of the dead body is given as under:



Name: Unknown, S/o: Unknown R/o: Unknown, Age: about 50 years, Height:

5'5", Complexion: Wheatish, Wearing: Pink Colour Jacket 8 Black Colour Pant & Bare Footed.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the information about the dead male but no clue has come to light so far. If any one is having any information about this dead male please inform the undersigned.

	S.H.O
	P.S. Gulabi Bagh, Delhi
DP/683/N/19	Ph.: 011-23651692, 23645100, 8750871634



CONDITIONAL **EXTENSION FOR BAJWA**

SHAFQAT ALI ISLAMABAD, NOV. 28

Pakistan's Supreme Court on Thursday granted a sixmonth conditional extension to General Qamar Javed Bajwa in his service as the chief of army staff (COAS), and ordered the government to complete the required legislation within six months for extension/appointment of an Army Chief. A three-member bench comprising Chief Justice Asif Saeed Khosa, Justice Mian Mazhar Alam Khan Miankhel and Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah announced a short verdict on a petition filed by The Jurists Foundation through its chairman Riaz Rahi against extension of tenure of Chief of the Army Staff. In its short order, the Supreme Court remarked: "Considering that the COAS is responsible for the command, discipline. training, administration, organisation and preparedness for war of the Army, the current appointment of Bajwa as COAS shall be subiect to the said legislation and shall continue for six months, whereafter the new legislation shall determine his tenure."

IRAN CONDEMNS BURNING OF ITS CONSULATE IN SOUTH IRAQ

Baghdad, Nov. 28: Iran staff were not harmed, condemned the burning and escaped out the back of its consulate in southdoor. Iraq's ministry of foreign affairs con-demned the torching of ern Iraq hours earlier, which came amid an escalation in Iraq's anti-government protests the consulate, saying it was perpetrated by "peothat erupted nearly two ple outside of the genuine protesters," in a months ago. Protesters had set fire to the Iranian statement, adding that consulate in the holy city the purpose had been to harm bilateral ties.— AP of Najaf. The Iranian

NORTHERN RAILWAY					
Ţ	TENDER NOTICE				
Name of work	Cleaning/House keeping of Electrical Coaching Complex area at New Delhi, Delhi and Delhi Sarai Rohilla for two years.				
Tender No.	30-Elect-10T-Chg-2019-20				
Approx. cost of the work in (Rs.)	Rs. 39,37.700.88				
Cost of tender form	Rs. 3,540/-				
Address of the Office	Sr. Divl. Elect. Engineer/Chg/Northern Railway, New Delhi				
Earnest Money	Rs. 78,800/-				
Period of completion of work	02 Years				
Last date & time of submission of tender	20.12.2019 up to 15.00 hrs.				
And opening of tender	20.12.2019 at 15.01 hrs.				
Website & notice board	www.ireps.gov.in & Sr. DEE/Chg/DLI				
	3821/2019				

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NORTHERN RAILWAY

E-NOTICE INVITING TENDER

For and on behalf of President of India, Sr. Divisional Security Commissioner (Cord)/ RPF/Northern Railway. Delhi Division, New Delhi Invites 'E-Tender' in prescribed tender form for the following work.

1	Name of the work with its location	Hiring of one multi utility road vehicle Non AC (Innova Crysta, Tata Hexa, Scorpio or equivalent) along with vehicle driver for movement of day & night (24 hrs.) under jurisdiction of ASC/RPF/DLI-M Delhi Division on monthly basis for a period of Two years.
2	Office Address	Sr. DSC (Co-ordination)/RPF, P.K. Road, New Delhi
3	Approx. Cost of work (Tender value) (Rs)	Rs.13,53,600/- + GST as applicable
4	EMD (Rs)	Rs.27,100/-
5	Date and time of submission of tender bid and opening of tender.	- 15.00 hrs on 30:12.2019
6	Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen	www.ireps.gov.in
7	Cost of tender documents	Rs. 2000/- + 380 GST 18% Total Rs. 2360/- payment of tender document Fee in respect of e-tendering should be accepted through net banking or payment gateway only

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

bill seen as an erosion of freedoms promised when the former British colony returned to Chinese control in 1997. -AP

have been detained since

the unrest began in June

over a China extradition

nal affairs and a serious violation of international law," a foreign ministry statement said. Le called it a "nakedly

The Chinese Communist Party must honour its promises to the Hong Kong people.' -AP

TEMPORARY CANCELLATION / PARTIAL CANCELLATION / DIVERSION / REGULATION OF TRAINS DUE TO TRAFFIC BLOCK

In order to ameliorate the train operations, Northern Railway will undertake work of the removal of Double Diamond Slip (DDS) Crossing of Line No. 1 in Rajpura Yard on Ambala -Ludhiana Section. To execute this work, there will be a traffic block for the duration of 8 hours from 11:00 hrs. to 19.00 hrs. on 30.11.2019. As a result, the following trains will temporarily be affected as under :-

CANCELLATION OF TRAINS						
Train No.	Date of Cancellation (from originating station)					
64517/64518	Ambala - Nangal Dam - Ambala MEMU	30.11.2019				
74645/74646	Ambala Cant Jn - Jalandhar City - Ambala Cant Jn DEMU	30.11.2019				
74993/74994	Kurukshetra Jn - Ambala Cant Jn - Kurukshetra Jn DEMU	30.11.2019				

SHORT TERMINATION/PARTIAL CANCELLATION OF TRAINS

Train No. & Name	Termin	o short nate at/ rom station	Train Partially Cancelled Between Stations		Date of ancellation (from iginating station)
54551/54552 Ambala Cant Jn - Bhatinda Jn - Ambala Cant Jn Pass.		írom tiala	Ambala Cant Jn - Patiala - Ambala Cant Jn		30.11.2019
54553 Ambala Cant Jn - Dhuri Jn Passenger	at/from Patiala		Ambala Cant Jn - Patiala		30.11.2019
DI	VERSIO	N OF TR	AINS		
Train No. & Train Name		Di	version Route		Date of passing
22429 Delhi - Pathankot Jn Superfast Express		Diverted via Chandigarh - Sanehwal			30.11.2019
14617 Banmankhi Jn - Amritsar Jn Jansewa Exp.		Diverted via	a Chandigarh - Saneh	wal	29.11.2019
12925 Bandra T Amritsar Jn Paschir	n Express	Diverted via	Chandigarh - Saneh	wal	29.11.2019
12379 Sealdah - Amritsar Jn Jalianwal	a Bagh Exp.	Diverted via	a Chandigarh - Saneh	wal	29.11.2019
12751 Hazur Sahib Nanded - Jammu	Tawi Exp.	Diverted via	a Chandigarh - Saneh	wal	29.11.2019
RE	GULATI	ON OF T	RAINS		
Train No. & Name		F	Regulation of Trains	at S	Station
14649 Jaynagar - Amritsar Jn Saryu Yamuna Express		Train will be Regulated for 90 minutes each at Delhi & Ambala Division on 29.11.2019			
12715 Hazur Sahib Nanded - Amritsa Sachkhand Express	ir Jn	Train will be Regulated for 75 minutes each at Delhi & Ambala Division on 29.11.2019			
19325 Indore Jn - Amritsar Jn Expres	s	Train will be Regulated for 60 minutes each at			nutes each at

Train will be Regulated for 60 minutes each at Delhi & Ambala Division on 29.11.2019

Train will be Regulated for 60 minutes each at 12459 New Delhi - Amritsar Jn Intercity Express Delhi & Ambala Division on 30.11.2019 Train will be Regulated for 20 minutes at Delhi & 14731 Delhi - Fazilka Jn Intercity Express 60 minutes at Ambala Division on 30.11.2019

Note:- For any kind of information passengers are requested to contact Railway Enquiry No. 139 or visit Indian Railways website www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in

Security Helpline No. 182 and Passengers Complaint Helpline No. 138





SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE



NOTICE INVITING TENDER

I	NOTICE INVIT	ING	TENDER
l	NIT No. : E.E.(M-I)/KPZ/TC/2019-20 Start date of sale/download of tender document)/33	Dated : 25.11.2019
l	Start date of sale/download of	:	25.11.19 upto 5:00 P.M.
l	tender document		
l	Last Date of tender document online submission	:	10.12.19 upto 11:00 A.M.
l	online submission		
l	Opening of Financial Bid	:	10.12.19 upto 11:15 A.M.

The Executive Engineer (M)-I/Keshav Puram invites on behalf of the Commissioner, North DMC sealed percentage/item rate tenders from the approved and eligible contractors. The tenders will be opened on the website www.tenderwizard.com/NORTHDMCETENDER by Executive Engineer (M)-I/Keshav Puram. The rates hold good for 6 months.

L	S.	Name	Tender	Estimated	Earnest
	No.	of Work	Amount (Rs.)	Cost (Rs.)	Money (Rs.)
ľ	1. Imp	. to drainage	system from H.No. 78	to 84, 86 to 111,	112 to 115, 144

to 148 and 1 to 66, 67 to 187 & long BM /BQ Park at BQ-Block, Shalimar Bagh (S) in C-63/KPZ. Head of A/c : XL-VIII-S, FTC No. 19/XL/VIII-S/

29.83.500/-27,49,907/-55,000/ 2. Imp. Dev. of lanes from H. No. 25A to 30A and 42 to 45A in LP-Block, Pitampura in Ward No. C-64/KPZ. Head of A/c : XL-VIII-S, FTC No. 27,55,918/-19/XL/VIII-S/ 29.80,000/-55,150/-3. Imp. & Dev. of drainage system and lanes by pdg. CC from H.No. 2A to 1A, 2A to 15A, 1A to 24A, 49A to 68A in PD-Block, Pitampura in C- 64/KPZ. Head of A/c: XL-VIII-S, FTC No. 19/XL/VIII-S/

29,11,644/-31,48,300/-58,250/ 4. Imp. & Dev. of drainage system and lanes by pdg. CC from H.No. 297 to Park, 434 to 385, 434 to 425, 409 to 410, 394 and 393 in SD-Block, Pitampura, C-64/KPZ. Head of A/c: XL-VIII-S, FTC No. 19/XL/VIII-S/

48,28,140/-52,20,600/-96.600/ 5. Imp. Dev. of Khanche by Pdg. Kota Stone near H.No. 97, 91, 41, 25, 141, 129, 56, 40 and 17, 21, 57, 77, 121, 125, 153, 24, 80 in CC-Block at Ward No. 62/KPZ, Shalimar Bagh (N). Head of A/c: XL-VIII-S, FTC No. 19/XL/VIII-S/ 38,43,096/-41.55,500/-76,900/ 6. Imp. Dev. of drainage system and lane by pdg. RMC from H.No. 131 and 105 in BFH Block in Ward No. C-62/KPZ, Shalimar Bagh (N). Head of A/c: XL-VIII-S, FTC No. 19/XL/VIII-S/

32,72,540/-35.38,600/-65.500/ 7. Imp. Dev. of drainage system and lanes by pdg. RMC from H.No. 31A to 89A in BB (East) Block in Ward No. C-62/KPZ, Shalimar Bagh (N). Head of A/c: XL-VIII-S, FTC No. 19/XL/VIII-S/

27,44,988/-29,68,100/-54.900/ Imp. Dev. of drainage system and lanes by pdg. RMC from H.No. 24 to 34 and 49 to 59 in BE-Block in Ward No. C-62/KPZ, Shalimar Bagh (N). Head of A/c : XL-VIII-S, FTC No. 19/XL/VIII-S/

26.87.982/-29.06.500/-53.800/ 9. Imp. Dev. of road and drainage system by pdg. RMC from 1 to 58, 98 to 154, 114 to 153, 154 to 1 and 114 to 153 in SD-Block, Pitampura, C-64N/KPZ. Head of A/c : XL-VIII-S, FTC No. 19/XL/VIII-S/

35.50.978/-38.39.700/-71.100/

10. Imp. Dev. of road and drainage system by pdg. RMC from 209 to NDPL and 218 to 217 and 217 to 210 and 541 to 264 and 233 to 236 and park to 297 and 290 to 306 and 265 to 249 in SD-Block, Pitampura, 64N/ KPZ. Head of A/c: XL-VIII-S, FTC No. 19/XL/VIII-S/

36,77,170/-39,76,100/-73.600/-

11. Imp. Dev. of road and drainage system by pdg. RMC from NP-1 to 20, 140 to 58 and 84 to Park in NP-Block, Pitampura in Ward 64N/KPZ. Head of A/c: XL-VIII-S, FTC No. 19/XL/VIII-S/

36,49,116/-	39,45,800/-	73,000/-

Tender Cost : Rs. 500/- each for all the above works; Time of Completion : 3 Months each for S.No. 1 to 3, 6 to 11, 4 Months each, for S.No. 4 & 5.

Tender document can be downloaded online on website www.tenderwizard.com/NORTHDMCETENDER for bidding by approved/eligible contractors. The detailed NIT can be seen on webs R.O. No. 165/DPI/North/2019-20 Ex. Engineer (M)-I/KPZ





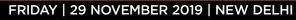




Fresh start Girl band Pussycat Dolls reuniting after nine years, Instagram account created

Newsmakers 12

"Rocky



onship of the world.

Rocky IV, in which Balboa beat Russian Ivan

Drago, opened in theatres

on November 27 in 1985,

which could explain why Trump posted the image

on Wednesday. Trump, however, did not

include text in the post.

Some in the media specu-

lated that it was in reference to his ability to fight

off controversy during the

ongoing

impeachment



Aims to back marginalised voices and bring them to the 'front and centre' — Sterling K. Brown, Actor



Bella to compensate for carbon footprint

Washington: Flagging concerns regarding the climate crisis, American model Bella Hadid is turning into an environment saviour as she is set to donate 600 trees to compensate for her carbon footprint from air travel. On Wednesday, Hadid on Instagram announced that she will donate 600 trees to make up for the carbon released due to the flights she's taken over the past three months. With this, the model plans to cover her emissions through the end of the year. She also asked fans to suggest her if they can come up with locations that need plantation, be it in any country. - ANI

Idris Elba trying to

quit social media New York: Actor Idris Elba says he is trying to step back from social media as it makes him feel "dep-ressed". The Hobbs & Shaw star said he doesn't like receiving news via social media apps like Twitter. "I've been trying to wean myself off. I used to post a lot more, but it's been putting me off lately. Twitter's just not how I want to receive my news. I read the news on my iPad, but I can't check it constantly — I'm not proud of it, but it's true because it makes me feel depressed,' Elba told Fast Company magazine.— PTI



Andy Samberg to host





Trump posts pic of himself as Rocky

Post retweeted 161,300 times, received 542,000 likes US Prez didn't include text with pic Nick Pappas.

Some in the

that it was in

Chicago: People are used to seeing Donald Trump's face transposed on to a lot of things: satsumas, the Queen, a giant floating baby flying across the US and the UK. But, this morning, the President himself posted a

photo where his head was photoshopped on to something utterly surprising: the super-buff, bare body of the fictional boxer Rocky Balboa. It was tweeted at 10.54 am

with Mr Trump offering exactly zero explanation not even a caption. All we know is that the tweet was sent during a golf trip at one of Mr Trump's golf clubs in Florida during his Thanksgiving holiday at

Mar-a-Lago. The post was retweeted 161,300 times and received almost 542,000 likes at the time of filing this, as many followers responded with memes and photos of their own, comparing

Boyega's lost Star Wars script was on ebay

Los Angeles: Actor John Boyega has revealed that he once lost the of



the auc. site eBay. John Boyega year-old

actor, who portrays Finn in the beloved sci-fi franchise, shared the story during his appearance on "Good Morning America"

"I was moving apart-ments and I left the script under my bed. I was like, I will leave it under my bed and when I wake up the next morning, I will take it and

then move." "But then my boys came over and we started partying a little bit. And the script, it just stayed there," Boyega explained.

The actor added, "A few weeks after, this



Trump's physique to that know he's a fighter. Maybe of former Barack Obama. President he's upset about of all the low blows thrown his way Who knows how we during his tenure, with people saying mean things should interpret it?

Perhaps, the 45th President suffered a blow like "why does he grab women by the pussy?' to the head this morning. Or perhaps he wants us to Whatever he meant, it led to an outpouring of

London: London police

are defending the deci-sion not to pursue a full investigation of allega-

tions made against Prince

Andrew by a woman, who

says she was trafficked by

the late convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein. Police acknowledged on Thursday that they received a complaint in 2015 from a runner allog

2015 from a woman alleg-

ing she was the victim of

trafficking for sexual

exploitation. The woman, Virginia Roberts Giuffre, has said

she was trafficked by

Epstein and had sex three

times with Prince Andrew starting in 2001,

including once in London. She says she was

17 when they first had

Metropolitan police commander Alex Murray

said police concluded in

2016 after looking into the

matter and consulting

prosecutors that the

London-based force was

the wrong agency to investigate. "Following

the legal advice, it was

clear that any investiga-

tion into human traffick-

ing would be largely

investigate.

times

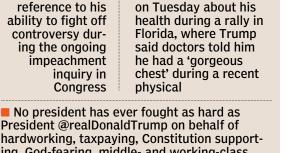
Police backs its 2015

move in Andrew case

policy.

tims.

the scandal.



Others suggested

that the image alluded

to comments he made

hardworking, taxpaying, Constitution supporting, God-fearing, middle- and working-class, patriotic, everyday, American citizens Allen Sutton, editor StewardshipAmerica.com

focused on

activities

and rela-

tionships

outside the

he

UK,"

commentary from the Twitterati. Some people found Mr Trump's post a little more than ironic. At least Rocky was willing to fight the Russians, they figured.

defeated Russia – Trump continues to hand them victories." White power at the heart of the first Rocky movie is Balboa's fear of being replaced, in a competitive sport where a working-class Italian American — looks increasingly like an outsider. Of course, Balboa is triumphant against the newcomers, so his sense of insecurity is eased and his pride reasserted.

inquiry in Congress. Others suggested that Some believe that the Rocky films also speak, therefore, to a problem the image alluded to comments he made on Tuesday about his health during a rally in Florida, close to Mr Trump's heart: the (many) anxieties of white voters. where he said doctors told him he had a "gorgeous chest" during a recent

Actor Sylvester Stallone, who said, "I love Donald Trump" in a 2016 inter-view with Variety, played Rocky Balboa in the *Rocky* movie series, about a washed-up fighter in Philadelphia who rose up the ranks to win the heavyweight champi-



Madonna cancels 3 shows in Boston

Los Angeles: Pop star Madonna has cancelled her three performances in Boston and apologised to her fans for the 'unexpected turn of

physical. For anyone not sure what to make of all of this, there is a final thought. Leadership takes many forms. No further comment needed.

- Agencies

A blue plastic bag and a toilet seat hangs from the statue of the Swedish football player Zlatan Ibrahimovic in Malmo on Wednesday. A fence has been placed around a statue of Zlatan Ibrahimovic and security guards have been keeping watch after it was vandalised by Malmo soccer fans furious at the Swedish soccer star buying a stake in a rival

display during the Amsterdam Light



Cartoon film characters from the Minions entertain visitors during the launch of 'Universal Christmas' at Universal Studios - PTI Singapore on Thursday.



events" The shows were sched-uled to take place at Boch Centre Wang Theatre from November 30 to December 2 as part of her "Madame X" tour. In an Instagram post, the 61-year-old singer

said she is in "overwhelming" pain and her doctor has advised her to take rest.

"Please forgive this unexpected turn of events. Doing my show every night brings me so much joy and to cancel is a kind of punishment for me but the pain I'm in right now is overwhelming and I must rest and follow doctors orders so, I can come back stronger and better and continue the Madame X journey with all of you. #madamextheatre' Madonna wrote in the post. Event management company, Live Nation, confirmed the news and said they are unable to reschedule the cancelled

shows. "As we are unable to reschedule the Boston dates due to the tight scheduling through the balance of the year, refunds will be automatically issued to the cred-it card on which they were ordered," Live Nation said in a statement. Madonna had earlier this month said that she was suffering from a torn ligament and knee problems after she wrapped up a threenight stand at San Francisco's Golden Gate Theatre. - PTI



faced trafficking charges. The Met's Murray said police reviewed its decision after Epstein's death and decided not to change Andrew, 59, has repeatedly denied the allegations, most recently dur-ing a TV interview broadcast nearly two weeks ago in which he lost public support by defending his friendship with Epstein and by not expressing sympathy for Epstein's

> A light artwork titled 'Big Bang' on Festival on Wednesday.

Prince London Andrew police, he a d d e d, would not be the "appropriate authority" to investigate. Epstein, a wealthy financier, died in prison in August in what the New York City coroner ruled as a suicide. He

"This is all wrong," tweeted the comedian

food contest show

Los Angeles: Brooklyn Nine-Nine star Andy Samberg will host food competition series Biggest Little Cook-Off at Quibi. According to Deadline, the show will see two top chefs battle to create the most mouth-watering meals in a single bite of food. The challenge for the chefs will be to make meals such as spaghetti and meatballs on a plate the size of a dime or sushi on a single grain of rice. Samberg will also executive produce the series, which hails from Triage Entertainment. - PTI

AVRIL LAVIGNE AND SAROFIM CALL IT QUITS

Washington: Pop singer Avril Lavigne has reportedly called it quits with her billionaire boyfriend Phillip Sarofim. According to Fox News, the former couple, who was together for less than two years met through a mutual friend. The son of Texas billionaire investor Fayez

Sarofim and Lavigne first fuelled dating rumours after they were spotted at a dinner date in Los Angeles in March 2018, as per People maga-

Avril zine. The two were Lavigne last seen together back in June while they were shopping in West Hollywood, California. Prior to that, they were also spotted attending the Race to Erase MS Gala at the Beverly Hilton Hotel. Before their abrupt split, they celebrated their one-year-anniversary on Valentine's Day, according to Us Weekly, which first reported their break-up. The singer has endured her share of high-profile relationships. She tied the knots with Canadian musician, Deryck Whibley but later called it quits in 2009. - ANI

cleaner comes in, finds this script and puts it on eBay for like 65 pounds (USD 84). The person didn't know the true value.

Boyega joked that he felt that it was a great opportunity for the fans to read the story of the latest film before its release.

However, a Disney official noticed the script being listed on eBay and approached the site to remove it. But that did not spare

the actor from the company's wrath.

'It was scary, I got calls from every official. Even Mickey Mouse called me, 'What did you do?!'" Boyega added.

The Rise of Skywalker is set to hit the theatres worldwide on December 20.

Disney's The Rise of Skywalker opens worldwide on December 18. - PTI



many young female vic-

since stepped down from

royal duties because of

The prince has

-AP

Singer Philip H. Anselmo (above) of Philip H. Anselmo & The Illegals performs during a stop of Slayer's Final World Tour at MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas on Wednesday. — AFP

Bollywood actors Arjun Kapoor and Kriti Sanon during a promotion of their upcoming film Panipat in New Delhi on

Thursday.



tists, who warned on Thursday that more than half of the climate tipping points identified a decade ago are now "active". In an

Amazon rainforest and the great ice sheets of and Antarctica Greenland, which are precedented changes uch earlier than expected. The other active tipping points include Arctic sea ice, warm-— PTI — PTI permafrost. water corals.

NEWS NUGGETS

'CLIMATE CHANGE

MAY TURN EARTH

London: The "cas-

cade" of changes sparked by global warming could threat-en the future of humanity, say scien-

article published in the

journal Nature, the researchers noted that climate change threat-

ens the loss of the

INTO HOTHOUSE'

SYDNEY EASES **DRINKING RULES TO BOOST NIGHTLIFE**

rules severely limiting

Sydney: Sydney's lack nightlife lustre received a long-awaited boost on Thursday, when officials announced an end to

where and when people can drink alcohol. New South Wales premier Gladys Berejiklian announced pubs' trading hours would be extended and laws of after-midnight drinking would be eased in central Sydney. 'We need to ensure we have a vibrant nighttime economy that reflects our position as Australia's only truly global city," said Berejiklian. For a city famed for its New Year's Eve parties and weaned on alcohol Sydney is surprisingly dead at night. Measures were introduced in 2014 to limit alcoholrelated violence.—AFP

Animals carrying sensors can fill many gaps through natural behaviour Animals may help monitor unmapped oceans

penguins, turtles, or sharks carrying sensors could help humans monitor the oceans by transmitting information, according to a study, which assessed 183 species and the areas they are known

by research vessels, underwater drones and

thousands of floating sen-

sors drifting with the cur-

rents, large areas still

remain under-sampled,

leaving gaps in our knowl-

to inhabit The researchers, including those from the University of Exeter in the UK, said while ocean monitoring is mostly done

London: Animals such as that animals carrying sensors can fill many of these gaps through their natural behaviour like diving under ice, swimming in shallow water or moving against currents.

'We want to highlight the massive potential of animal-borne sensors to teach us about the oceans," said study lead author David March from the University of Exeter. "This is already happening on a limited scale, but there's scope for much more," March said. The researchers looked at 183 species — including tuna, sharks, rays, whales and flying seabirds — and the edge. The study, published areas they inhabit. in the journal *Global* "We have pro have processed

Researchers said while ocean monitoring is mostly done by research vessels, underwater drones and thousands of floating sensors drifting with the currents, large areas still remain under-sampled.

Animals such as penguins or turtles carrying sensors could help monitor oceans by transmit- ting information	Researchers looked at 183 species, includ- ing tuna, sharks, rays, whales and flying seabirds, and the areas they inhabit.	
We want to highlight the massive potential of animal-borne sensors to teach us about the oceans," said study lead author David March from the University of Exeter.		

measurements from float- per cent of the global ocean surface)," March ing sensors to identify Change Biology, noted more than 1.5 million poorly sampled areas (18.6 said. The study identified

poorly sampled areas where data from animal sensors would help fill gaps. The researchers found these areas by comparing the data from floating measurements with gaps in current observations. "These include seas near the poles (above 60 degree latitude) and shallow and coastal areas where Argo profilers are at risk of hitting the land." said Brendan Godley, study co-author from the University of Exeter.

The Caribbean and seas around Indonesia, as well as other semi-enclosed seas are good examples of places where Argo profilers struggle because of these problems," Godley said. -PT

JULIA BUTTERS DIDN'T KNOW DICAPRIO, PITT UNTIL ONCE UPON A TIME... AUDITION Los Angeles: Child actor

Julia Butters, who had one of most scene-stealing moments in Once *Upon a Time in Hollywood*, says she was unaware who superstars Leonardo DiCaprio and Brad Pitt were, until she auditioned for the film. The 10-year-old Butters featured as a committed child actor Trudi Fraser in Quentin Tarantino's 1969-set drama. She said she had no idea about DiCaprio and Pitt until she told her math tutor that she was going to audition for the film. "This is the weird way I

found out. I told my math

tutor that I was going up



"I didn't know who they were." Butters said. As far as I was concerned. Leonardo DiCaprio was Leonardo da Vinci," Butters told The Butters told Hollywood Reporter.

Butters, who has a scene with DiCaprio in the film, also said, "I'm not as starstruck as most

adults would be.' The young actor said she tried to be a true professional like her character. -PTI

Published by T. Venkateswarlu for and on behalf of Deccan Chronicle Holdings Limited at Jawaharlal Nehru National Youth Centre, 219 Deen Dayal Upadhyay Marg, New Delhi 110 002. and Printed by him at BFL Infotech Limited, C – 9, Sector – III, Noida – 201301. Editor – T. Venkatram Reddy, RNI Registration number 57290/94, Price in Nepal - Nep. Rs. 20.00 per copy.











DELHI SPECIAL **NEW DELHI FRIDAY 29 NOVEMBER 2019**



SPORT | Cricket

This IPL is going to be big for Kuldeep: Bangar

AGE CORRESPONDENT

The Lok Sabha on Thursday passed a bill to

grant ownership rights to residents of 1,731 unau-thorised colonies. The

National Capital Territory

of Delhi (Recognition of

Property Rights of Citizens in Unauthorised Colonies) Bill, 2019, was passed by a voice vote.

Moving the bill, Union

minister Hardeep Singh

Puri said that the process of

digital mapping of 1,731 unauthorised colonies of Delhi will be completed by December 31 this year. The

confident that it will be completed by December 31

digitally mapped so far.

such dwellings.

important process before

NEW DELHI, NOV. 28



Tick the answer and check them below.

Since the 1840s, on which day of the week have U.S. presidential elections been held?

Tuesday Monday Sunday

2 What animal did 2 William F. Cody's Wild West show introduce to audiences in London?

Bison Elephant Yak

Which structure was destroyed in the September 11 terrorist attacks?

The World Trade Centre

The Pentagon The Chrysler Building

SHORT TAKES

25-year-old gun smuggler arrested

New Delhi: A 25-year-old man was arrested for allegedly smuggling firearms in the national capital and 20 pistols, along with 100 bullets, were recovered from his possession, police said on Thursday. The accused, iden-tified as Raju Deshi, is a resident of Burhanpur district in Madhya Pradesh, they said. Police received information that Deshi would come near Akshardham Temple to deliver a consignment of arms on Tuesday evening, Pramod Singh Kushwah, DCP (special cell) said. A trap was laid and the accused was arrested, he said. Deshi was involved in smuggling firearms for the past two to three years. He used to procure pistols at ₹6,000-9,000 and sell them at ₹15,000-20,000 per piece,

Scrap dealer held for stealing cables

the DCP said

Illegal colonies: LS passes bill on ownership rights

BJP, Congress in war of words during discussions on the issue

Bill aimed at reaping poll benefits: Cong, AAP

president

Chopra. Delhi Congress chief

spokesperson Mukesh

fact that Congress was rul-

ing at both the Centre and

in Delhi. At this point, Congress MP Hibi Eden

raised a point of order on

which Lok Sabha chair A.

Raja stated that he will

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, NOV. 28

The Congress's Delhi unit alleged that the unauthorised colonies bill, passed in Lok Sabha on Thursday, was a "fraud" and that it was aimed at reaping elec-toral benefits in the Delhi Assembly elections scheduled for early next year. The party also claimed that the "half-baked" bill

had nothing about regularisation of the unauthorised colonies and its scope was limited only to ownership rights.

becember 31 this year. The process to map these colonies digitally should have started in 2008, Mr Puri said. He said that though the process has been initiated now, he is confident that it will be Participating in the dis-cussion, BJP member Ramesh Bidhuri attacked and images would be uploaded on a newly creatsuccessive Delhi govern-ments for allegedly failing to extend ownership rights to people residing ed portal. He said that more than 600 colonies have been The minister asserted that digital mapping is an in unauthorised colonies here, drawing a sharp response from Congress. Mr Bidhuri targeted varownership rights can be granted to those living in ious city governments. He also said that former

"The Bill is a fraud, it as nothing for regulari-ation of colonies. The JP is least bothered bout helping residents for the base of the b has nothing for regulari-sation of colonies. The BJP is least bothered about helping residents of these colonies," alleged Delhi Congress president Subhash

Assembly polls, accused Sharma. The AAP on Thursday questioned BJP's motive behind introducing the bill ahead of the Assembly elections.

AAP spokesperson Raghav Chadha told reporters: "The Centre was sitting on the bill for the past four years even

Delhi chief minister look into the records and Shiela Dikshit did not if found derogatory found derogatory against any person, it will

Parliamentary affairs minister Pralhad Joshi said the member was only expressing "historical views" on the important legislation. Adhir Ranjan of Congress said the BJP member is using derogatowords.

Fake call centre busted in Noida: 45 arrested, 29 mobiles seized

AGE CORRESPONDENT NOIDA, NOV. 28

A fake call centre was busted here on Thursday

Price touches nearly ₹100 in last 4 days AAP govt requests Centre to provide onions at lower rate

DELHI AGE

Matinee

Shilpa also

offered role in

Hungama 2

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, NOV. 28

SPORT | Basketball

Anthony scores

beat Pelicans

41 points as Lakers

Amid rise in onion prices, the city government requested the Centre on Thursday to resume supplying the kitchen staple and make it available to Delhi at ₹15.60 per kg instead of ₹60 as conveyed to the AAP dispensation. In a letter to Union minister Ram Vilas Paswan, Delhi food and civil supplies minister Imran Hussain said that a gov-ernment should not be seen as making profit over an essential commodity. He alleged that the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED) has stopped the supply of onion, saying it will be able to make it available to the Delhi gov-ernment after procuring from the markets in Alwar and later from the stock of onions to be imported

from Egypt. On Wednesday, chief minister Arvind Kejriwal per kg in Delhi as before in larger public interest. Consumers will be hit hard by the sudden increase in retail prices of had accused the Central government of stopping the supply of onions at controlled price to Delhi. Onion price in the national capital has again onions through government outlets. The govern-ment should not be seen increased from ₹40-50 per kg to nearly ₹100 a kg over the past few days. Mr as doing business with profit motive over an essential commodity," he Hussain said that the NAFED had been supplysaid. In view of this, Mr Hussain said there is an immediate need to review ing onion to the Delhi government at ₹15.60 per kg and the city government was retailing these onions the matter and activate the price stabilisation fund (PSF) mechanism to the residents at ₹23.90 per kg for providing nec-essary relief from the price rise. Mr Hussain said the

Centre's decision to make onion available at such high price will adversely affect the supply of onions to the citizens of Delhi. "I would therefore seek your kind personal intervention in the matter and

also request to kindly

under which onion was earlier being supplied to Delhi. He said that the AAP government has under-taken retailing of onions in Delhi since September onwards supplied by NAFED from the Central buffer to manage their prices and availability sit-

uation.

direct NAFED to continue

supplying onions at ₹15.60



Schoolchildren at Parliament House lawns on Thursday. - PRITAM BANDYOPADHYAY

Air quality



when we completed all formalities from our side (Delhi government) years

Sharma claimed that no layout plans were pre-pared for the colonies. "There is nothing about regularisation of unauthorised colonies in the Bill. The boundaries of colonies are yet to be worked out and layouts of only 13 of 1731 such set-

ago and woke up right before the polls."

think about those people and distributed provisionbe expunged. al certificates prior to the 2007 elections despite the

New Delhi: A 37-year-old scrap dealer has been arrested for allegedly stealing system cable wires from the PTI office in central Delhi. The accused was identified as Shokeen, a resident of Sita Ram Bazar, Delhi. During probe, the police team checked the CCTV footage and obtained details of the scrap dealer appointed by PTI to remove furniture from the main hall of first floor. It was noticed that during the work of removing the furniture, three workers of the scrap dealer entered the server room and cut-off the system cables lying under the floor of the main hall and server room. With the system cables removed the internet service got interrupted and work of the news agency got affected. The scrap dealer informed that he had subtendered the work to another scrap dealer Shokeen, subsequently a raid was conducted and Shokeen was nabbed.

80-yr-old woman united with family

New Delhi: The Delhi Police reunited an 80-year-old specially-challenged woman with her family in Safdarjung Enclave area. DCP (PCR) Sharat Kumar Sinha said that the MPV staff received a call about a missing woman. The staff reached the spot where they found an elderly specially-challenged woman with the caller. The staff started searching for the family and even announced through public address system of MPV. On hearing the announcement, a woman came and said that she had seen the elderly woman near DDA Flats, SafdarJung Enclave. Further, she was identified by her daughter-in-law

THE ANSWE`TO TODAY'S GUIDE TO FORTUNE

The World Trade Centre Bison VebseuT

hydraulic lifts, CCTV cameras and panic button under the cluster scheme in New Delhi on Thursday. – BUNNY SMÍTH

JNUSU to protest outside HRD ministry today Make panel report public, demand agitating students

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, NOV. 28

The Jawaharlal Nehru University Students' University Students' Union (JNUSU) on Thursday said they will hold a protest outside the HRD ministry and demand that the recommendations of a committee, constituted to restore the smooth functioning of the varsity, be made public. The protest will be held on

Friday, they said. The HRD ministry had constituted a three-member high-powered committee to restore normal functioning of the varsity. The panel had submitted its report to the ministry on Tuesday. The students' union protest is being held to demand that the report be made public and the draft hostel manual, which has provisions for hostel fee hike, be completely

The Jawaharlal Nehru

sought on Thursday an

urgent appointment with

Union human resource

'Nishank' to press upon the

Teachers'

(JNUTA)

minister Pokhriyal

rolled back

University

Association

development

Ramesh

STIR AGAINST HOSTEL FEE HIKE JNUTA alleged that the Giving more time and V-C made "another shameless attempt" of space to the V-C will only push the universiscuttling any real resolu-tion to the issue by ty into a deeper crisis and therefore it is announcing a new set of imperative that the hostel charges decided HRD ministry act, and upon through a "com-pletely arbitrary and illeact immediately to end the misrule, JNUTA

grace" of addressing the concerns raised by the stuministry's intervention in ensuring that the impasse over hostel fee hike is resolved. dents or the JNUTA.

said

and therefore it is impera-tive that the HRD ministry

act, and act immediately to

end this misrule and

ensure the necessary con-

ditions for restoration of

and complete withdrawal

of the revisions in hostel

charges and a guarantee

that any changes in the

hostel manual would only be made through due delib-

eration and discussion in

statutory bodies with the

full participation of all stu-

dent representatives, the

JNUTA demanded.

This must include full

normalcy, they said.

The JNUTA said neither the report submitted by the HRD ministry-constituted high-powered committee has been officially made public, nor has the ministry announced any follow-up action, despite the urgency that the situation demands.

gal process"

The university teachers' association alleged that the vice-chancellor made "another shameless "another shameless attempt" of scuttling any real resolution to the issue by announcing a new set of hostel charges decided upon through a "completely arbitrary and illegal process", which "didn't even have the saving

and people, who allegedly duped people in the guise of popular shopping portals such as Flipkart and Myntra, were arrested, the Noida police said.

The fake call centre, operating from Sector 6, was busted by a team of the cyber cell and Knowledge Park police station, a senior officer said.

Gautam Buddh Nagar senior superintendent of police Vaibhav Krishna said that 45 people have been arrested and 16 walkie-talkies, 29 mobile phones and two computer systems have been recovered from the spot. The modus operandi adopted by the gang was to dupe people in the name of cashback, security money and lucky draw using popular online shopping sites. The SSP said the gang has duped "thousands of innocent people" and exact details are being assessed.

In another incident, a criminal, carrying a reward of ₹12,000 on his head, was arrested on Thursday after a brief exchange of fire with police in Ghaziabad district, an official said.

BJP councillors march to secretariat over dues

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, NOV. 28

BJP councillors of all three corporations of the national capital, on Thursday, marched from Civic Centre to the Delhi Secretariat against the Delhi government to demand their due funds of ₹9,195 crore. Eighty-six councillors of the ruling BJP participated in the protest march. The Leader of House in

the North Delhi Municipal Corporation, Tilak Raj Kataria, said that the total amount of ₹3,649.48 crore of the North Corporation is due with the Delhi government which is not being provided by it. Owing to this, the development works are getting hampered.

Mayor of North Delhi Avtar Singh said that the difference of the fourth Finance Commission of ₹968.97 crore was not given by the Delhi government till date along with ₹90.90 crore, which was not given to the corpora-

North Delhi mayor Avtar Singh said that the difference of the **fourth Finance Commission of** ₹968.97 crore was not given by the Delhi government till date along with ₹90.90 crore for 2018-19

tion under the plan head for the year 2018-19.

"As per the assurance of the Delhi government, whatever reduction in property tax on the imple-mentation of the unit area method will be met by the government, it is ₹1,285.97 crore which is still pending. With this, the corporation's share in transfer duty was reduced from five per cent to three per cent, after which the Delhi government had to pay ₹1,620 crore, which has not been given yet," Mr Singh added.

further due to light rains air quality for the sec-

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, NOV. 28 Light rains in parts of the national capital on Thursday morning further improved the city's

improves

ond consecutive day, officials said. The air quality index (AQI) in Delhi stood at 136 at 8.47 am which falls

under the "moderate" category. 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 AQI at NSIT Dwarka, Anand Vihar, Wazirpur and Vivek Vihar were registered at 201, 170, 170 and 164 respectively. In the National Capital Region (NCR), Noida (131), Ghaziabad (169) Greater Noida (162), Gurgaon (128) and Faridabad (133), the AQI was in the 'moderate" band.

Rains and favourable wind speed on Wednesday had improved Delhi's air quality which was recorded in the "moder-

ate" category. In the last 24 hours, the maximum temperature was recorded at 27.4 degree Celsius, two notches above normal and the minimum was recorded at 16.2 degree Celsius, six notches above normal, a senior MeT official said. The MeT department

has forecast generally cloudy sky with light rain on Friday.

Giving more time and space to the V-C therefore will only push the univer-NEW DELHI, NOV 28 sity into a deeper crisis

Timely surgical interven-tion by a team of highly experienced doctors and the right selection of procedures saved life of a seven-year old Delhi girl. Tajveen Kaur suffered a traumatic road accident as a rod pierced through her chest breaking her rib cage and crushing the right subclavian artery and surrounding veins. According to senior consultant and paediatric surgeon at BLK Super Speciality Hospital Dr. Prashant Jain, the girl's condition was very criti-

Rare surgery saves 7-yr-old accident victim

"Her right limb was cold and pulse could not be detected. Initially, 4-5 units of blood was transfused to stabilise the patient and wounds were cleaned as pieces of glass were also there in the body due to the car accident. Tajveen's right subclavian artery and surrounding veins were badly crushed which could have led to the loss of the right limb." said Dr

cal when she came to us Jain. and the rod had exposed Senior consultant and her right rib cage while director, cardiothoracic

and vascular surgery, Dr

crushing the chest area badly. Her chest was full of

blood due to external and internal bleeding.

Sushant Srivastava said: 'We planned to put a graft and in such cases preference is always given to the native tissues. So a graft was taken from her lower

limb and was replaced with crushed subclavian artery. However, a CT scan showed blockage of the graft. She was re-explored within 24 hours and a synthetic graft was put in place of the previous graft and attached to the main arteries. This graft worked and the blood sup-

ply was regained.

AGE CORRESPONDENT



Debut

Daryl Mitchell, son of England rugby coach, has been named to make his debut for New Zealand in the second Test against England on Friday





He (Jofra) has dealt with it very well; he'll be absolutely fine to play.

— Joe Root, England captain says Jofra Archer is ready to fire in the second Test against Kiwis despite suffering racist abuse

TAKES SHORT

Azhar to address

corruption charges

Hyderabad: HCA chief Mohammed Azharuddin on Thursday said he would address the alleged corruption charges against his governing body after hosting the December 6 T20 series opener between India and West Indies. India batsman Ambati Rayudu had recently accused Hyderabad Cricket Association of "rampant corruption" and urged Azaruddin to "isolate himself from the seasoned crooks" and clean up the mess. However, Azharuddin, who is gearing up to host the first T20 match on December 6, said he doesn't want to take the focus away from the match by talking about the issue related to corruption. "Since this is a T20 game which we are holding, I don't want to take anything away from the game. I want you to report only on this game, focus on the game," said the former India skipper. "I am sure you must have come very well prepared. After the sixth, if there is anything, we will have another press conference. I will address the other things which have been happening in the recent past." – PTI

Dravid says IPL teams missing trick

Lucknow: Batting great Rahul Dravid is disappointed at the lack of opportunities for Indian coaches in the IPL and feels the franchises are "missing a trick" by not involving them in their support staff. According to the former captain and the current National Cricket Academy (NCA) director, most of the Indian coaches were as good as any in the world. "I believe we've got some very good coaches, a lot of good people. I'm fully confident (in their ability). Just as we have a lot of talent in the cricket department, we have a lot of talent in the coaching department," Dravid was quoted as saying by *'ESPNcricinfo*'. "We need to give them confidence and time to flourish. I'm sure they will do it. It does sometimes disappoint me when a lot of our boys don't get opportunities as assistant coaches in IPL. "Honestly, there are so many Indian players in the IPL, there's so much of local knowledge (among our coaches). I feel a lot of teams could actually benefit from using a lot of our Indian coaches in the IPL."

Chief selector MSK says Shreyas can settle No. 4 debate in ODIs and T20s

New Delhi, Nov. 28: Chairman of selectors MSK Prasad says Shreyas Iyer can be the solution to India's no.4 problem in the limited-overs line-up given his fine growth as a player in the past two years.

Iyer made his India debut in November 2017 with a T20 International against New Zealand and in the following month, played in his maiden ODI series, scoring back-to-back half centuries in the home rubber against Sri Lanka.

The 24-year-old played three ODIs in South Africa two months later before he was sidelined, only making a comeback in the ODIs against the West Indies in August this year following India's campaign in the World Cup. 'If you recall, we had induct-

ed Shreyas Iyer (when Virat Kohli was rested) 18 months back into the ODI squad and he has done reasonably w e l l

Unfortunately we couldn't continue with him. Having said that, he has evolved as a player now and he can be the solution to our number 4 slot in both ODIs and T20s," Prasad said in an interview.

The highly-rated batsman kept piling on the

runs for Mumbai in domestic cricket and also for India A besides expressing disappoint-ment at not getting enough chances at the highest level. Now he is back in the thick of things and has done well in both ODIs and T20s since the West Indies tour.

THE ASIAN AGE

Prasad, who was appointed chief selector in 2016 and is now nearing the end of his tenure, said it was unfortunate that Iyer had to miss out in the period leading up to the World Cup. During the Prasad-led selection committee's tenure, India scaled new heights by winning a Test series in Australia, assembled a world-class pace attack (by giving Jasprit Bumrah a go in Tests), regained the world number one ranking in Tests but was not able to win a major global event.

Asked if India's lethal Test attack is the most significant legacy of the selection committee, Prasad said: "The primary duty of the selection committee is to identify right talent, groom them through a systematic

process, induct them at an appropriate time into the senior squad and trust them to deliver by backing them.

"Except Bumrah, the other fast bowlers (Ishant, Umesh, Shami) had been in the circuit even before our committee took over. Only thing is that they all have com-bined well as a unit during our tenure...we have been instrumental in helping Bumrah to evolve into a top-class bowler across all for-mats," said the 44-year-old former

India wicketkeeper-

Middle-order puzzle Pant running out of time: Laxman

New Delhi, Nov. 28: Former Indian batsman VVS Laxman says Rishabh Pant is fast running out of time to justify the time invested in him by the team management and might lose his place to Sanju Samson if he doesn't

regain his form soon. Laxman said Sanju Samson's selection in the squad for the three T20 Internationals against the West Indies is a "strong message" for Pant to either perform or perish. "The team management and the

selection committee have passed on a strong message that we got a backup in the form of Sanju. Pant has been given a lot of opportunities and I'm sure that they will be communicating and giving him that within Laxman security that told group, 'Star Sports'.

"But then ultimately the player has to justify the ment, the selection com-mittee has been imposing on him," he said.

"Unfortunately, Rishabh hasn't been able to do that, but he is that X factor. I still feel that he is an exclusive batsman who can come and change the course of the match just by his abili-ty to hit good balls out of the park.

Not so long ago, Pant was India's number one wicket-

I still feel that he is an exclusive batsman who can come and change the course of the match just by his ability to hit good balls out of the park. -VVS

LAXMAN



PAGE

I too get affected by failures: Kohli New Delhi, Nov. 28: He

hasn't seen too much of it but India captain and bat-

ting mainstay Virat Kohli

says he is not immune to

being affected by failure,

the most recent instance

The swashbuckling bats-

man said the loss to New

"Do I get affected by fail-

ures? Yes, I do. Everyone

does. At the end of the

day, I know my team

would need me. I had the

feeling so strong in my heart that I am going to

come not out and make

India go through that tough phase (in the semi-final)," Kohli told 'India

"But then again, maybe

that was I my ego talking

because how can you pre-

Cup.

Todav

Rishabh Pant

keeper batsman in all three

formats but has endured an erratic run of form for some time now. With being India's semifinal exit from the ODI World Wriddhiman Saha back in the team, Pant has now lost his place in the Test eleven and his place in the limit-Zealand lost by 18 runs was hard to deal with. ed-overs format has also been questioned for lack of runs and his poor work with the gloves.

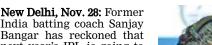
"As a batsman — there's no clarity of thoughts, there's no doubt that he's under pressure, because how many times have you seen Pant, when he is in full flow, play and he has a different mindset and technique against the spinners. I feel he will be under tremendous pressure to retain his place in the play-



"When I walk out, I want to have zero energy. We want to leave behind a legacy that future crick-eters will say we want to play like that."

Kohli and his men recently notched up their 12th successive Test series win, beating series win, beating Bangladesh 2-0 in a twomatch rubber earlier this

This IPL is going to be big for Kuldeep: Bangar

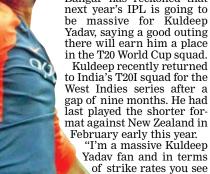


Shrevas Iver

I'm a massive **Kuldeep Yadav**

T20 squad.

Bangar also believed Pandya here as Krunal has-Ravinder Jadeja's bowling prowess makes him a better option than Krunal



To

Kuldeep Yadav

be massive for Kuldeep Yadav, saying a good outing there will earn him a place in the T20 World Cup squad. Kuldeep recently returned to India's T20I squad for the West Indies series after a gap of nine months. He had last played the shorter format against New Zealand in February early this year.

shorter format, if you look at the match we won in England, he picked up five wickets at a time where the opposition was running away from the match," Bangar told '*Star Sports*'. "I wouldn't count out he is the quickest to 100 ODI wickets and even in the

tan and in terms of strike rates you see he is the quickest to 100 ODI wickets. -SANJAY BANGAR,

Kuldeep Yadav, it's just that he's had a couple of poor games in the IPL last season. For him, this IPL is going to be a massive factor

him out.'

former India batting wherein 2 wrist spinners played a massive role in coach most of the one day's and T20 series the team has had across conditions hence

you will need a bowler who is capable of bowling the and if he does really well, it will be very hard to keep

complete 4 overs and also bat at No.7," he said. "Hence, I feel Ravinder Jadeja edges over Krunal

Pandya in India's World

"You require a wrist spin-

ner in the T20 format, it has

been a very major compo-

nent in India's success

and Jadeia has been in great form recently."

However, batting great VVS Laxman said it is going to be tough for Kuldeep to earn a place in India's squad for next year's T20 World Cup. "Kuldeep Yadav hit two blows when the team was under pressure; he and Krunal Pandya got those important runs at the finishing stage of the India's innings against West Indies in the first T20

month. The team is currently gearing up for the limited-overs series against the West Indies starting December 6. - PTI

Virat Kohli says he is not immune to being affected by failure, the most recent instance being India's semifinal exit from the **ODI World Cup.**

-PTI

Oz remain unchanged for pink-ball Test

Adelaide, Nov. 28: Australia on Thursday named an unchanged team for the day-night second Test day-night second Test against Pakistan after trouncing them in Brisbane, but took a risk by releasing concussion substitute Cameron Bancroft.

The home side easily won the first Test by an innings and five runs inside four days, but selectors resisted the urge to rest one of their strike bowlers or add a fourth to help share the load at Adelaide Oval.

That means swing bowler Michael Neser will be 12th man when the Test starts on Friday, with paceman James Pattinson and batsman Bancroft released to

man Bancroit released to play domestic cricket. "We're unchanged," said skipper Tim Paine. "Obviously we thought we played a pretty good game of cricket last week (in Paidemen) Brisbane).

"Our attack is all feeling good and fresh and they have all got great pink-ball records so no need to change.

Bancroft's departure to play for Western Australia in Perth means there will be no immediate batting substitute in case of a concussion.

Paine joked that "we'll just get someone out the



Australian captain Tim Paine inspects the pitch on the eve of the second Test match — ΔFP against Pakistan in Adelaide

crowd", before adding: Bangers' is a couple of hours away on a plane so if anything does happen, we will be able to get him back pretty quickly."

The decision comes just days after Bangladesh were forced to use two concussion substitutes in one day, with Liton Das and Naveem Hasan both forced out of their day-night Test against India in Kolkata.

The task facing Pakistan

wicket.

is ominous with Mitchell Starc, Josh Hazlewood and Nathan Lyon all in the world's top five wicket-tak-ers in day-night Tests, while Pat Cummins is the world's top-ranked bowler.

Australia have won all five pink-ball Tests they have played since the concept was launched four years ago, with Paine warning his pace attack was relishing the chance to bowl under lights on a home

'That (Adelaide) wicket looks a little bit perhaps drier than it was for the last pink-ball Test we played here against England," he said.

"But as we know, the pink ball always offers enough. Our fast bowlers certainly enjoy bowling with it, particularly under the lights and the games tend to go quite quickly.'

-AFP

Pakistan recall Abbas to add consistency

Adelaide, Nov. 28: Pakistan were set to recall paceman Mohammad Abbas on Thursday for the second Test against Australia as they look to add consis-tency to their bowling attack under lights at Adalaida Qual Adelaide Oval.

Skipper Azhar Ali will also drop down the order to bat at number three in the day-night Test starting Friday, with Imam-ul-Haq set to get the nod to open the innings along-side Shan Masood and Haris Sohail dropped.

"Definitely there will be some changes," Azhar said of the team line-up, which will be announced on Friday. Asked if Abbas would be one of those changes, he replied: Yes

"He's (Abbas) done well in Test matches, he can definitely bring a lot of control and he has worked a lot since the last Test match on his rhythm and he is feeling better,' - AÉP he said.

Brooks, spinners put Windies in command

International last year," he

said.

Lucknow, Nov. 28: A maiden Test century by Shamarh Brooks and wily spin bowling put the West Indies in firm command of their one-off Test against Afghanistan on Thursday.

Brooks made 111 as West Indies managed a lead of 90 after they were 277 all out in the second session of day two in the northern Indian city of Lucknow, which has been hit by heavy air pollution over the past month.

Spinners Rakheem Cornwall and Roston Chase then took three wickets each to leave Afghanistan tottering at 109 for seven at stumps on day two. The Afghans lead by just 19 runs in their second

innings. Opener Javed Ahmadi made 62 before falling to Chase's off spin on the final delivery of the day dominated by West Indies, who resumed on 68 for two response to Afghanistan's 187.

Afghanistan slipped from none for 53 to stare down the barrel, losing seven wickets for 56 runs in a dramatic collapse.

Once they were 50 for no loss, we thought we had to

hang in there and get one wicket and you never know," Brooks said at the end of day. Cornwall, the heaviest

man in Test cricket weighing 140 kilogrammes (300 pounds), and 1.96 metres (six feet five inches) tall — rattled the Afghanistan top-order and improved his match haul to

10 so far. The 26-year-old Cornwall,



West Indies' Shamarh Brooks celebrates his century against Afghanistan in Lucknow on Thursday.

> who returned figures of 7-75 with his off spin on day one, struck in three successive overs.

He trapped Ibrahim Zadran for 23 after a brisk start by the Afghan openers and then got Rahmat Shah and Asghar Afghan back in the pavilion for scores of zero.

Chase also took three wickets in his three overs. -AFP

Shoulder surgery



World MotoGP champion Marc Marguez underwent his second shoulder operation in the space of a year





Man it feels so good. I just tried to play through it and calm my nerves and play basketball. - Anthony Davis, LA Lakers player, after scoring 41 points

SHORT TAKES **Champ Hami eyes** Abu Dhabi hoorah

Abu Dhabi: Lewis Hamilton heads into this weekend's sea son-ending floodlit Abu Dhabi Grand Prix seeking to mark his 250th Formula One race with a memorable performance as Mercedes bid to bounce back from an off-form outing in Brazil.

The six-time world champion, whose future beyond 2020 when his current contract expires has been a subject of intensifying speculation, has conceded that he faces a battle with his advancing age next season against the sport's new generation of younger tyros. "I feel like I'm still able to kick it with these guys right now and so I am excited about the future," said 34-year-old Hamilton.

"But you know it's inevitable that the youngsters are going to come through," he added. Speaking after he finished third on the road in Sao Paulo, before being penalised and dropped to seventh for a late clash with Red Bull's Alex Albon, Hamilton made clear also that he still relishes ontrack battles and hopes next season will see a multi-team multi-driver scrap for glory.

Leclerc vows to drive better

Abu Dhabi: Charles Leclerc pledges to behave better at the Abu Dhabi Grand Prix this weekend, vowing there will be no repeat of the crash which sent both Ferraris spinning out of the last race. Leclerc wants to end an impressive first season with Ferrari on a high in the last race, but knows he simply can't chase a victory at all costs given what happened two weeks ago at the Brazilian GP. He made a stunningly bold but clean move to overtake on

the inside of Ferrari teammate Sebastian Vettel nearing the end of the race at Interlagos. The veteran German driver, perhaps feeling usurped by his far younger teammate, then moved back across Leclerc as he sought to regain position through a narrow gap down the right. They collided fighting for only fourth place, and ended up scoring no points in an embarrassing outcome for the proud Italian manufacturer which has once again finished considerably behind Mercedes in the Formula One drivers' and constructors' championships. Matters have not been helped by the track tussle between Vettel and Leclerc for supremacy within Ferrari. – AP

Davis stars on return

THE ASIAN AGE

Anthony scores 41 points as Lakers beat Pelicans

Los Angeles, Nov. 28: Los Angeles forward Anthony Davis shrugged off the boos that greeted his return to New Orleans on Wednesday, scoring 41 points to power the Lakers to a 114-110 NBA victory over the Pelicans. "Man it feels so good,"

said Davis, who finished his night by grabbing an attempted inbounds pass from New Orleans' Jrue Holiday with 4.2 seconds left and then sinking two free throws to close out come-from-behind the win

Los Angeles had trailed by as many as 16 early in the third quarter but opened the fourth on a 9-0 scoring run as they trimmed the deficit to one point.

Kyle Kuzma's three-pointer knotted the score at 91-91, but the Pelicans pushed their lead back to four points before Davis returned from treatment on his right elbow and stuffed a dunk off a pass from LeBron James.

The Lakers took the lead for good when Kuzma drained a three-pointer to make it 111-109 with 1:07 to play.

"They made shot after shot, big shots," said Davis, who was booed by Pelicans fans in the open-ing introductions and every time he touched the ball thereafter. "We showed our resilien-

cy tonight and we were able to get the win," he added.

Davis, who had been booed by Pels fans last year when he tried to engineer a trade from the club a move that finally happened in the off-season, said he was prepared for the reaction.

The Lakers won their ninth straight and improved their league-leading record to 16-2.

CELTICS EDGE PAST

Brooklyn's Kyrie Irving didn't make it back to Boston for a scheduled rematch with his former team.

junior team pistol coach

Jaspal Rana feels the

national shooting federa-tion will be better off not

tinkering with the existing

policies and programmes

that brought the country a

record 15 Olympic quotas. The likes of Manu

Bhakar, Chinki Yadav and

Saurabh Chaudhary, who

have all secured quotas for

the 2020 Tokyo Olympics,

have prospered under the

tutelage of the former pis-

Seeking to protect them

from exploitation and dis-

tractions in the run-up to

next summer's Games, National Rifle Association

of India (NRAI) president

Raninder Singh said

recently that the shooters

will not be allowed to sign

any new commercial deals

without the federation's

permission and the par-

ents will also have to sign a

bond that no exploitation will be done for "financial

gains". "I think this could

have been done long time

back. Right now, even if

tol ace.

He cast a long shadow at Irving unfavorably with TD Garden, but it was Boston guard Kemba Walker — who was back in action five days after he Walker who starred in the was stretchered off with a Celtics' 121-110 triumph. neck injury after a scary games this season. rne game would have collision in a loss at been Irving's first in Denver. Boston since he departed

New Delhi, Nov. 28: India's I think this could have

been done long time

back. Right now, even if

there are shooters who

are already contracted,

who will give them the

money? How do you

expect them to come

out of contracts before

the time of their expiry?

JASPAL RANA

already contracted, who

will give them the money?

How do you expect them to

come out of contracts

before the time of their expiry?," asked Rana said.

Raninder also said the

shooters, prior to the Olympics, will have to

train in India only as he

believed few may have lost

their focus while training

abroad in the past. "While I

understand the federation

is trying to protect the

shooters but, end of the

day, it may affect the shoot-

ers' preparations before

the Olympics," Rana said.

pistol coach

India's junior team

absence



LeBron James (left) of the Los Angeles Lakers goes for a basket past J. J. Redick of the New Orleans Pelicans at – AFP Smoothie King Centre in New Orleans, Louisiana, on Wednesday. The Lakers won 114-110.

the Celtics as a free agent Irving's job in Boston, scored a season-high 39 in the off season. But he missed a seventh

points. straight contest with a That included 13 in the shoulder injury third an greeted with Boston rallied from an skepticism by many Boston fans who chanted eight-point deficit with 10:05 to play in the period. Around the arena, fans Jaylen Brown scored 22 points and pulled down 10 carried signs comparing rebounds and Jayson Tatum added 16 points for the Celtics, who remained unbeaten in seven home

the next nine points. The Celtics took a 104-101 lead into the fourth and ruthlessly pulled away. In Memphis, the Los quarter, when Angeles Clippers ground

out a 121-119 victory over the Grizzlies to stretch their win streak to seven games. PHILADELPHIA DOWN SACRAMENTO KINGS

The Philadelphia 76ers

remained unbeaten at

ATHLETES DOPING

Will ensure Russia at Olympics: Chief

If WADA chiefs

recommendations at

2018 Pyeongchang Winter

Olympics, though Russian

competitors who could

prove they were above sus-

picion were able to com-pete as neutrals under the

Monday's call from the

WADA review panel came

after Russian authorities

were accused of falsifying

laboratory data related to the country's doping scan-

dal, which were handed

over to investigators in

The International Olympic Committee (IOC)

has said it backs "the

toughest sanctions against

all those responsible for

this manipulation," while cautioning against blanket sanctions that would pun-

If Russia challenges an

eventual suspension by

WADA the case will go to

the Swiss-based Court of

Arbitration for Sport.

whose decision will be

ish the innocent.

Olympic flag.

January.

a meeting in Paris

on December 9,

adopt the

committee's

page 15

Moscow, Nov. 28: Russia's Olympic Committee will do all it can to ensure Russian athletes take part in the 2020 Games, its chief said Thursday, as the country faces a four-year doping ban. "We will do everything in

Russia faces our power to ensure our team is in Tokyo under the exclusion from key sporting events Russian flag," news agency including the 2020 *RIA Novosti* quoted Stanislav Pozdnyakov as Tokyo Olympics. include all events at the

saying. He said there were no "objective obstacles" to the "vast majority" of Russian athletes fully participating

in the Olympics. The compliance review committee at the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) on Monday recommended a four-year sport-ing ban over falsified lab data it received from

Russia. If WADA chiefs adopt the committee's recommendations at a meeting in Paris on December 9, Russia faces exclusion from key sporting events including the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. The scandal has tainted

Russia's sporting reputation since the revelation of large-scale state-sponsored doping aimed at improving Russia's medal perform-ance at the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi.

Russian track and field athletes were barred from competing at the Rio Olympics in 2016 although Russians competing in other events were allowed to take part. The ban was widened to

binding on sports bodies including International Olympic Committee

Russia hits back at proposed ban

Moscow: Russia on Thursday hit back at a proposed four-year ban on the country's athletes, denouncing accusations of a doping cover-up as a politically motivated politically motivated attempt to block its athletes from competing. A committee of the World Anti-Doping Agency on Monday made a bombshell

CYCLING BODY TO RETEST SAMPLES

Paris: The international cycling federation (UCI) said it has ordered the re-testing of samples over two seasons following new revelations linked to the Aderlass doping scandal. The UCI said it had asked the Cvcling Anti-Doping Centre on Wednesday to re-analyse samples for the 2016 and 2017 sea-

The move was prompted by "new information and documents received from Austrian police involved in the Aderlass operation," the UCI said. The 'Aderlass' scandal erupted in February when authorities raided the Nordic skiing world championships and Seefeld, Austria

They uncovered evidence of a major blood-doping operation linked to German doctor Mark Schmidt.

Schmidt, detained by police in Erfurt, is suspected of facilitating blood doping for at least 21 athletes of eight nationalities and across five different sports. Professional cyclists suspended as a result of the operation include Austrians Stefan Denifl and Georg Preidler, Slovenian Kristijan Koren and Croatia's Kristjan Durasek. – AFP The Nets led 83-82 with

3:13 remaining in the Wells Fargo Center with a secured his 10th double-Walker, who took over third, but Boston scored 97-91 victory over the double this season. — AFP

Don't tinker with Mairaj, Gurjoat shoot 100/100 in Nationals policy, says Rana

New Delhi, Nov. 28, Olympian Mairaj Ahmad Khan of Uttar Pradesh and Gurjoat Singh of Punioh Punjab, maintained their clean slates shooting down 100 out of 100 targets over two days and four rounds of qualifving, to lead the 110strong Men's Skeet field at the Dr Karni Singh Shooting Range (DKSSR), where the 63rd National Shooting Championship Compet-itions (63rd NSCC) for Shotgun events is cur-

rently underway. Punjab also led all other Skeet shooting categories with Rajveer Singh Gill leading the Men's junior field while Ganemat Shekhon led both the Women's and Women's junior categories with one more round to go on Friday, followed by the finals on the same day. Mairaj and Gurjoat

began Thursday sharing the top spot with India international Smit Singh, who had also shot

after rounds, target.

and joint finals world record holder Angad Vir Singh Bajwa and yet another India international Amarinder Singh Cheema, besides the youngster Rajveer.

Mairaj Ahmad Khan

Rajveer was most impressive, returning three perfect rounds on the bounce, including two on Thursday to also lead the Men's junior

for four vears It accused Moscow of fal-

Russia to be barred from

recommendation

sifying laboratory data handed over to investigators as part of a probe into the doping allegations that have plagued Russia for years. If WADA chiefs adopt the war.

committee's recommendations at a meeting in Paris on December 9, Russia faces exclusion from key sporting events including the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. Speaking to reporters in Moscow on Thursday, for-

eign ministry spokes-woman Maria Zakharova accused other nations of pursuing doping claims so they don't have to face off against Russian athletes. This is about the politi-

cisation of this issue in order to squeeze Russia out. There is a term for such a thing: unfair competition. This is a battle without rules, maybe even already a war," she said. "The issue of doping...

focuses exclusively on Russia, the problems of

RAJIV, SENTHIL GEAR FOR THAILA

Buriram (Thailand), Nov. 28: India's Rajiv Sethu will be hoping to end the Asian Road Racing Championship 2019 on a high and add to his points tally in the seventh and final round, beginning at the Chang International

Circuit here on Friday. Participating in the Asia Production 250cc class, the Idemitsu Honda Racing driver has so far

Meanwhile, this weekend will provide an opportunity for Sethu's teammate Senthil Kumar to aim for a top 25 finish in his maiden season as he is familiar with the The 18-year old said his

Honda Racing team enters the final round in ninth spot among 20 teams (with 33 points)

The AP 250cc title fight heads for a close finish as Irfan Ardiansyah and Andy Muhammad are tied at the top. -PTI

includes a top-seven fin-ish in the third round at the Chang Circuit. Sethu, in his third season in the ARRC, became the first Indian rider to

-PT

collected 33 points, which

finish in the top 7, with a new fastest lap time (1:53:573).

He is already in the top 16 from among the 40 riders in the AP 250cc class -

starting with the opening ly in the ring, which

requires loads of stamina and I realised that I need to work a bit more on that before considering a fulltime stint," he said. India's entry in the 69kg

country could fetch a medal at the world championships earlier this

year.



New Delhi, Nov. 28: Decorated Indian boxer in the US pro circuit Commonwealth Games before returning to the last year in Gold Coast. before returning to the amateur fold earlier this Vikas Krishan has made his first breakthrough in year, said that he would not attempt another prothe amateur circuit since putting his professional fessional stint until after the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. Vikas also revealed that career on hold by getting selected for the upcoming South Asian Games (SAG) he will now compete in the in Nepal in a new weight 69kg category instead of the division in he won a gold category. 75kg, the The 27-year-old, who which he fought two winning bouts medal in



the

championship said. The South Asian Games are scheduled in Kathmandu and Pokhara,

"I have decided to compete in the 69kg category because that is my division in the professional circuit," Vikas, who won bronze at the 2011 world

ceremony on December 1. Vikas had turned pro after the Asian Games last year, signing up with Hall



about hitting continuous-

Rank Promotions in the USA. He won two bouts before a back injury forced him to reevaluate his goals. "It wasn't easy.

Professional boxing is

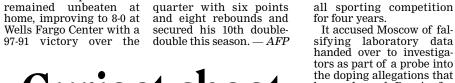
category for the Olympic qualifiers will be decided

by a trial as none from the

of Famer Bob Arum's Top

alongside him include Tokyo 2020 quota winner

Smit missed a couple on the day to be part of a chasing pack of four with 98 hits. Others





two perfect rounds on Wednesday. However, Thursday's Mairaj and Gurjoat were the only two left across categories, yet to miss a

Sacramento Kings. Joel Embiid bounced

back from an embarrass-

ing scoreless performance

in Monday's loss at

Toronto, scoring 33 points

and grabbing 16 rebounds. Embiid, who had missed

all 11 shots from the field

on Monday and gone 0-for-

3 from the free throw line,

seemed determined to

He finished the first

make amends.

sation of this issue in order to squeeze Russia out. There is a term for such a thing: unfair competition. This is a battle without rules. maybe even already a

for

— MARIA ZAKHAROVA Russian foreign ministry spokeswoman

other countries are not discussed at all," she added. The scandal has tainted Russia's sporting reputation since the revelation of large-scale state-sponsored doping aimed at improving Russia's medal performance at the 2014 Winter

Olympics in Sochi. Russian track and field athletes were barred from competing at the Rio Olympics in 2016 although Russians competing in other events were allowed to take part. -AFF

which is an improvement from his overall 27th place in 2018.

> track. aim was to get among the points in the season's final round. lso, the

and will be hoping to add as many as possible.

New bond

Star player Harry Kane wants to build "strong relationship" with new manager Jose Mourinho that will help take Tottenham to the next level



FRIDAY | 29 NOVEMBER 2019 | NEW DELHI

Games





Seven hundred matches for Barcelona is not normal and neither is what (Messi) did on the pitch. — Marc-Andre ter Stegen, Barcelona goalkeeper



DEEPIKA, ANKITA SECURE OLYMPIC QUOTA BERTHS

Bangkok: The seasoned Deepika Kumari struck gold, while Ankita Bhakat bagged a silver after securing India an Olympic quota place at the **Continental Qualification** Tournament held on the sidelines of the 21st Asian Championships here on Thursday.

Three individual places were up for grabs from the qualifications and Indian archers, who are competing without a flag due to the national federation's suspension, made a big statement with top seed Deepika and sixth seed Ankita's stellar show.

Entering the brackets as the number one ranked woman, Deepika put up a flawless show to defeat Nur Afisa Abdul Halil of Malaysia 7-2, Zahra Nemati (Iran) 6-4 and local girl Narisara Khunhiranchaiyo 6-2 to make the last four, thereby securing an Olympic quota. "We were a little bit nervous earlier in the day... There was too much wind also. I just concentrated on my breathing and told myself 'just do it'," Deepika said. It was before the final round against the local challenger Narisara, Deepika promised her fiance and teammate Atanu to shoot a 28 but Deepika did one better by hitting two perfect 10s and one nine to seal the issue. "We wanted to give our best. Also I promised (mixed team partner and fiance) Atanu that I will shoot 28. He told me go and shoot. He understands my mind too and it turned out nicely," she said. "Now we hope to qualify a team berth from the Berlin stage of the World Cup next year," she added. Later in the day, Deepika stormed into the final with another one-sided 6-2 win over Nguyet. Ankita, on the other hand. defeated Lam Shuk Ching Ada

LONEL KING Messi rules as Barca enter **Champions League last 16**

Paris, Nov. 28: A Lionel Messi-inspired Barcelona booked their place in the Champions League knockout stages on Wednesday by crushing a desperate Borussia Dortmund 3-1, while RB Leipzig made the last 16 for the first time in their history with an incredible stoppage time comeback.

Lucien Favre's position as Dortmund coach looks increasingly in peril following the thumping at the Camp Nou orchestrated by a sensational Messi that ensured Barca's progress to the last 16 as Group F winners and leaves the Germans in danger of not

qualifying. The Argentine scored one and set up the other two for Luis Suarez and Antoine Griezmann to inflict a punishing defeat on Dortmund and move up to 11 points, four ahead of the Germans and Inter Milan, who won 3-1 at Slavia Prague.

Messi got the ball rolling with a neat pass which allowed Suarez to open the scoring in the 29th minute, before the Uruguayan returned the favour four Lille minutes later to lay on Messi for his 613th Barca goal on his 700th appear-

Dortmund are level on seven points with Inter after the defeat but slip down to third behind Antonio Conte's side, who roared to a fine win which keeps alive their hopes of a

ance.

place in the next round. Romelu Lukaku's first Champions League goal for Inter and a Lautaro Martinez double saw off a spirited Slavia side that had levelled through a VAR-awarded Tomas Soucek penalty after Lukaku thought he had doubled his side's lead.

LEIPZIG BACK FROM THE DEAD

Leipzig made the knockout stages in dramatic style after Emil Forsberg fired them back from two goals

THE RESULTS Genk (Samatta 85) Salzburg

(Daka 43, Minamino 45, Hwang 69, Haaland 87) Liverpool (Lovren 65) Napoli

(Mertens 21) Barcelona (Suarez 29, Messi 33, Griezmann 67) **Borussia Dortmund** (Sancho 77)

3

2

0

Slavia Prague (Soucek 37-pen) **Inter Milan** 3 (Martinez 19, 88, Lukaku 81)

RB Leipzig (Forsberg 90-pen, 90+6) Benfica

2 (Pizzi 20, Carlos Vinicius 59)

Zenit Saint Petersburg 2 (Dzyuba 42, Ozdoev 84) Lyon 0

Aiax (Žiyech 2, Promes 59)

Valencia 2 (Soler 40, Wass 82) Chelsea 2 (Kovacic 41, Pulisic 50)

down in the final minute to draw 2-2 with Benfica.

The Germans needed a point to qualify but looked down and out as the match dragged towards added time, but Forsberg pulled a goal back from the penalty spot in the 90th minute before hitting the leveller six minutes later, sparking wild celebrations.

"Reaching the knockout stages for the first time in the club's history means that we're doing the right things and moving in the right direction. I'm just so proud," said Forsberg. AFP



Nur-Sultan (Kazakhstan), Nov. 28: A formidable India is expected to demolish the challenge of a depleted Pakistan in a Davis Cup tie starting here on Friday, after the fixture was shifted to a neutral venue following a drama-filled build

46-year-old Paes a chance to further better his Davis Cup record for most doubles win.

The tie will offer

up. The uncertainty over the venue remained till the last moment and it only added up the confusion regarding players selection in both the sides.

Eventually, International the Tennis Federation moved the tie to Nur-Sultan after its independent tribunal rejected Pakistan Tennis Federation's review

appeal. While it resolved the security concerns, the shifting of the tie did no good to the competition. India, with players of the caliber of Sumit Nagal, Ramkumar Ramanathan and veteran Leander Paes, was already expected to win easy but pulling out of Pakistan top players Aisam-ul-haq Qureshi and Aqeel Khan has made it a

while the Indian players have Grand Slam experi-ence behind them, the Pakistanis are still struggling to make a mark even at the ITF Futures level.

It will be a learning experience Pakistan's for junior players, who will lead their country's challenge in the tie, the winner of which will travel to Croatia in March 2020 for the World Group Qualifiers.

The tie will offer 46-year-

He stands on top with 43 wins, which he had achieved last year while playing against China

> old Paes a chance to further better his Davis Cup record for most doubles win. He stands on top with 43 wins, which he had achieved last year while playing against China.

A 44th win beckons Paes, the owner of 18 Grand Slam trophies, as he will be partnering Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan, who is set to make his Davis Cup debut.

In-form Nagal has an opportunity to earn his first Davis Cup win as he has lost both his singles matches so far - against Spain (2016) and China (2018).

Ramkumar, who will go into this tie as the number two singles player, can also better his win-loss record. So far he has 7-7 record in eight ties.

Ramkumar will open the tie on Friday against Muhammad Shoaib, who has not even won a single match in the main draw of an ITF Futures tournament. The 17-year-old has not played a single match in the entire 2019 season. In the second singles,

Nagal will take on Huzaifa Abdul Rehman, who did well on the junior ITF circuit. -PTI



of Hong Kong 7-1, Nguyen Th Phuong of Vietnam 6-0 and Anastassiya Bannova (Kazhakstan) 6-4 and Karma of Bhutan 6-2 to make it an all-Indian final. - PTI

SRIKANTH MAKES MODI QUARTERS, LAKSHYA LOSES

Lucknow: Former champion Kidambi Srikanth and Sourabh Verma advanced to the quarterfinals but young Lakshya Sen bowed out of the men's singles contest at the Syed Modi International Badminton tournament here on Thursday. Third seed Srikanth, who had lifted the title in 2016, eked out a thrilling 18-21, 22-20 21-16 win over compatriot Parupalli Kashyap, who is also a former two-time champion here. The world no 12 Indian will next square off against seventh seed Son Wan Ho of Korea in the Super 300 tournament. Sourabh, a winner at two Super 100 events in Hyderabad and Vietnam this year, defeated fellow Indian Alap Mishra 21-11, 21-18 to set up a clash with Thailand's Kunlavut Vitidsarn, who accounted for World Championships bronze medallist B. Sai Praneeth 21-11, 21-17 in another round two match. In women's singles, Shruti Mundada and Rituparna Das entered the guarterfinals with straight game wins. While Shruti beat Belgium's Lianne Tan 21-18, 21-14, **Rituparna defeated** Tanvi Lad 21-16, 21-13 to set up an all-Indian face-off. Young women's pair of Simran Singhi and Ritika Thaker also progressed to the final eight after beating compatriots Riya Mookerjee and Anura Prabhudesai 21-12, 21-15 in 33 minutes. Simran and Ritika will face Germany's Linda Efler and Isabel Herttrich next. Lakshya, 18, who has been on a roll with title wins at Belgian International, Dutch Open, SaarLorLux Open and Scottish Open last week, couldn't produce his best and went down 14-21, 17-21 to the experienced Son Wan Ho, a former world number one. - PTI

Mumbai City FC added to Man City football empire

Mumbai, Nov. 28: The owners English Premier League champions Manchester City on Thursday made Indian Super League franchise Mumbai City FC the eighth club in their global football empire.

Abu Dhabi-controlled Football Group Citv announced the takeover of the Indian side the day after a US equity fund pumped \$500 million in new cash into CFG, taking its value to \$4.8 billion.

On top of the English champions, CFG also own New City FC, ourne City York Melbourne City in Australia, Yokohama F in Japan, Jiuniu in Marinos Sichuan China, Spanish second division side Girona and Club Atletico Torque in Uruguay.

Analysts say the 65 percent stake taken in Mumbai is new proof that CFG wants to build a global football-based entertainment conglomerate. Mumbai's former own-

ers, Bollywood actor Ranbir Kapoor and Bimal Parekh, a fund manager for Bollywood stars, "will hold the remaining 35 percent of shares," said a CFG statement.

(51')

with a point. The

Kapoor and Parekh founded Mumbai when the Indian Super League was created in 2014. At the start they hired foreign stars including Nicolas Anelka, Freddie Ljungberg and Diego Forlan with English manager Peter Reid but could not buy success. -AFP

_



Odisha FC's Xisco Hernandez (right) tries hard to score against Chennaiyin FC in their ISL match in Chennai on Thursday.

ODISHA FIGHT BACK TO

Chennai,
ChennaiyinNov.
FC28:
andOdishaFCshared Chennaiyin climb to eighth spot in the table with five points from six games while Odisha, spoils after a thrilling Indian Super who played out a third League encounter finconsecutive draw, are ished 2-2 here on sixth with six points.

Thursday. After a barren first-half, Nerijus Valskis Odisha, as expected, had most of the early possession and the first handed real chance did come Chennaiyin the lead. their way. Masih Saighani gave away the ball in midfield in the eighth minute, allowing But Odisha equalised through Xisco Hernandez (54'). Valskis thought he had given Mawihmingth-Jerry Chennaiyin the win anga to intercept and with a second goal in move forward. The ball eventually fell to Xisco Hernandez inside the the 71st minute, but Aridane Santana (82') ensured Odisha box and his snap-shot was saved by an alert returned from Chennai oint. Chennaiyin goalkeeper result sees Vishal Kaith. — PTI

DOUBLES | TENNIS Sania eyes return at Hobart event

Barcelona's Lionel

Messi (right) cele-

brates with team-

Griezmann after

scoring against

League Group F

in Barcelona on

her best shape. "There are a lot of changes when you have a baby. Your routine

and sleep pattern changes.

I (now) feel fit, my body is

where it used to be before I

had the baby. It was only

six-seven months ago, where I thought about it as

a realistic possibility," she

Sania will partner American Rajeev Ram for the mixed doubles at the

Sania said she encoun-

tered a bout with Chikungunya fever recent-

ly. "Three months ago I got this virus Chikangunya,

that was a setback because

for two weeks I was sick. I

have left wrist pain out of

the blue, because of this

virus and it can last up to three months to one year. All and all I feel good,

today I can tell you that I

am ready to compete again.

Of course, it will take me

-PT

Australian Open.

said.

Borussia Dortmund

in their Champions

match at Camp Nou

Wednesday. - AFP

mate Antoine

Mumbai, Nov. 28: Indian tennis ace Sania Mirza on Thursday confirmed that she will be back to competitive tennis at Hobart International in January 2020, two years after taking a maternity break.

The 33-year-old, who last played at China Open in October 2017, will team up with Ukraine's Nadiia Kichenok, the current world number 38. Sania, married to Pakistani cricketer Shoaib

Malik, gave birth to their first son, Izhaan, in October last year.

"I am playing in Hobart, then I am playing the Australian Open. I am planning to play a tournament in Mumbai, which is event) next month, but I am 50-50 about it, so let's see how my wrist behaves. We will see, but Hobart and Australian Open (for

sure)," she said. Sania, the winner of six Grand Slam

time to the level that I was playing (before), but it is titles, said good start for me to feel good physically," she said. she back to

ice in Nur-Sutan on Thursday. - Twitter

BHUPATHI CRITICISES aita for sackin

Mumbai, Nov. 28: Former Cup captain Bhupathi on Davis Mahesh Thursday said India's tennis players were abandoned by their federation and the government when they expressed security concerns about travelling to Pakistan for a Davis Cup tie, which was even-tually shifted due to security concerns. Bhupathi also said that

he still cannot get over the

"hurt" caused by the All

India

I don't mind if they think that it is time for me to step out, but a courtesy phone call saying 'listen we think it is time to put someone new in the system' and I would have respected that but I didn't even get that call.



they flew down to Hyderabad, had a meeting with me," he said.

Tennis "I don't mind if they Association's manner of hardly a surprise given how the body has dealt with players in the last think that it is time for me to step out, but a courtesy phone call saying 'listen we think it is time to put someone new in the system' and I would have respected that but I didn't even get that call.

"India-Pakistan is a unique scenario. Tension has been there since inception of Pakistan. No "Honestly the way the other sporting team has federation has dealt with toured there for two decades and all of a sudnot only me but everyone in Indian tennis for the den they are saying India tennis team should go, last 20 years, there is no surprise. But at some level and everybody is criticisit kind of hurts," he ing the boys for taking a added. Bhupathi said neither the federation nor the gov-ernment supported the

stance, that was very unfair," Bhupathi said on the sidelines of an event here. 45-year-old was The

removed from the captain's position for refusing to travel to Pakistan for a Davis Cup tie on security grounds. The tie is now being held in Nur-Sultan, starting Kazakhstan Friday.

"I am still in touch with the boys on a daily basis. I was disappointed with the way the Federation dealt with it. When they wanted me to become captain,

about travelling to Islamabad, the original venue of the tie. "It is unfair that the AITA did not back the team, unfair that the government didn't say anything....So everyone kind of put their hands up, that shows how important ten-

when

expressed reservations

players

nis is in higher scheme of things in our country,' added Bhupathi.

-PTI

they