



Politics

Congress has not held discussions with anyone on govt formation in Maharashtra, says Mallikarjun Kharge

Nation

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THE ASIAN AGE

SUNDAY | 3 NOVEMBER 2019 | NEW DELHI



Who ordered snooping on Pranab, V.K. Singh during UPA government?

— J.P. Nadda, BJP working prez

SHORT TAKES

MLA disqualified in MP after conviction

Bhopal: In a setback to the opposition BJP, Madhya Pradesh assembly secretary at on Saturday announced disqualification of BJP MLA from Pawai, Prahlad Lodhi, following his conviction in a criminal case. It also informed the Election Commission that Pawai seat has now fallen vacant. On Thursday, a Bhopal court sentenced Lodhi and 12 others to two years in jail for attacking a Tehsildar (revenue official) in 2014. Speaker N.P. Prajapati said as per the Supreme Court's ruling, a public representative should be disqualified as soon as he or she is convicted, and the rule was followed in Lodhi's case. An Assembly official said that as per the apex court's ruling, a legislator is disqualified if he or she is sentenced to two years or more in jail.

Former J&K BSP president joins NC

Jammu: Former Jammu & Kashmir BSP president Tarsem Khullar joined the National Conference along with several others on Saturday, an NC spokesman said. They joined the NC here in the presence of the party's provincial president Devender Singh Rana. Before joining the NC, Khullar was the chief of the Ambedkar Sena. Rana asserted that his party's leadership will always stand by the people of Jammu and Kashmir and fight all challenges. —PTI

Headmaster beaten up over illicit affair

Balalore: Tension prevailed on Saturday at a residential school at Hasanpur village under Sadar block in Odisha's Balasore district after the headmaster was taken to task by villagers for allegedly having illicit relationship with a female staff of the school. Alleging that the headmaster Rajeev Lochan Patra is involved in an illicit relationship with the woman hotel superintendent, students locked the main gate of the school and sat on a dharna demanding his transfer. Later, locals, including women intervened and dragged both of them on road and thrashed them.

ED TO QUESTION AZAM IN LAND GRABBING CASE

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, NOV. 2

Days after his interrogation by the SIT (special investigation team) of Uttar Pradesh police, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) is now preparing to question senior Samajwadi Party (SP) leader and Rampur Lok Sabha MP Azam Khan in connection with its probe into the alleged land-grabbing cases filed against him and the firms linked to him. According to sources, Azam Khan will be questioned by the ED next week. Several cases of land-grabbing have been registered against the SP leader by the state police and central investigation agencies. The ED recently registered a criminal case of money laundering against Azam Khan in connection with the multiple land-grabbing cases against him. The ED has taken cognisance of at least 26 UP police FIRs against the MP to file its Enforcement Case Information Report (ECIR), which is the equivalent of a police FIR. Sections of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act have been pressed against Azam Khan and others who allegedly grabbed land using threat of extortion, sources said.

Didi: Modi govt is 'tapping my phone'

CM asks PM to 'take care of it', says her phone was tapped by 2 govts

AGE CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA, NOV. 2

Chief minister Mamata Banerjee Saturday levelled an explosive allegation that her phone was tapped by two governments, including one ruled by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), for the purpose of spying on her. She also accused the Centre of getting the spy software from Israel's NSO Group for surveillance of politicians and bureaucrats on WhatsApp. "My phone was tapped. I know that because I have that information and I have the evidence with me. What will be raised? The government knows about it as it has done it. Even the state governments did it. I know which of these state govern-



Mamata Banerjee

ments they were. But without knowing the details, I cannot tell you," the Trinamul Congress chief said in the afternoon on the sidelines of the Chhat puja celebrations at Hastings in Kolkata. "There are two governments. One is a BJP government and the second is another government," she elaborated. Lashing out at the Centre and some state governments, Ms Banerjee

► **The Trinamul Congress chief told the media that any kind of talk was totally recorded and someone listened to the recording.**

said that the phones of all IAS and IPS officers and politicians were being tapped and no one was spared. "This is happening at the behest of the Central government and two state governments. It is wrong. You cannot intrude people's privacy. Freedom of press exists in our country. We have the azadi (freedom) in the articles of our Constitution. But what azadi do we have now that we cannot even talk?" she said.

The Trinamul Congress chief told the media that any kind of talk was totally recorded and someone listened to the recording. "You also talk among yourselves on WhatsApp. Earlier, WhatsApp was safe. But the agencies can access WhatsApp, too, through the NSO spyware. Be it landlines or mobiles or WhatsApp or others, nothing is safe..." she asserted.

In a message to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the TMC leader said, "It is only spying which is continuing. It is a very serious situation. I will request the PM to take care of it. It is a fact that the NSO of Israel has supplied the spyware to the government. And there are so many agencies that are using it."

Puducherry MLA dies after being stung by wasp

Puducherry, Nov 2: Former All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) and the party's local unit secretary P. Purushotaman died here on Saturday after he was stung by a venomous wasp, party sources said.

He was 71 and is survived by his wife, a son and five daughters, they said. Purushotaman as removing shrubs from his farm land at Radhapuram village in Tamil Nadu when he was stung by a wasp.

He was rushed to a hospital at Mundiyampakkam, where he died despite treatment, the sources said.

Purushothaman was elected to the territorial Assembly in 1985 and again in 2011 from Ariyankuppam and Manaveli constituencies on an AIADMK ticket. —PTI



Jharkhand chief minister Raghubar Das offers prayers to Sun God with family members on the occasion of Chhath Puja in Jamshedpur on Saturday. —PTI

Sena slams fin min for 'Prez Rule' remark

AGE CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI, NOV. 2

Even as the impasse between the BJP and Shiv Sena showed no sign of ending, the latter has gone on to slam finance minister Sudhir Mungantiwar for his "anti-democratic" remarks about President's rule. However, Mr Mungantiwar said that the Sena misinterpreted his statement. Mr Mungantiwar faced the Sena's ire over his statement that there could be President's rule if the current deadlock did not end by November 7. However, Mr Mungantiwar on Friday told *The Asian Age* that there was no question of imposition of President's rule as the BJP and Sena would form the government.

Still, the Saamana editorial Saturday quoted Mr Mungantiwar as having said, "A new government will have to be in place within the stipulated time, or else the President will have to intervene. President's rule will be imposed if the government formation doesn't happen in the given time."

Farmer kills self in Mumbai, kin blame crop loss

AGE CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI, NOV. 2

Not only have unseasonal rains caused extensive damage to the Kharif crop, they have also claimed the life of a farmer in Palghar district. Farmer Dharma Jadhav (50), a resident of the Zirwipada village in Dahanu taluka, committed suicide by consuming pesticide on October 29.

Meanwhile, Dharma's kin blamed the crop damage caused by unseasonal rains as reason for his suicide. While no suicide note was recovered by the police, the victim's family members claimed that he was depressed as the unseasonal showers had flooded his field and destroyed his crop.

The Kasa police has registered a case of accidental death and is awaiting the post-mortem report, said inspector Anand Kale. The district authorities, who are verifying the family's claims, said that the deceased had not taken loan from any financial institution. Dharma's kin will receive compensation of

► **Dharma's kin will receive compensation of ₹4 lakh once the district agriculture department submits its report on the matter, said Dahanu taluka tehsildar Rahul Sarang.**

₹4 lakh once the district agriculture department submits its report on the matter, said Dahanu taluka tehsildar Rahul Sarang.

Unseasonal rains have caused extensive damage to the Kharif crop, especially cotton and soya bean, in many districts of Maharashtra, particularly in the Marathwada region. While the farmers faced problems due to the delayed onset of the monsoon, the delayed withdrawal, too, has wreaked havoc on their crop.

Meanwhile, a farmer from Beed district in Marathwada region has expressed the desire to become chief minister until the Sena and BJP resolve their differences to solve the problems of fellow farmers.

Cong leader writes to Sonia, says party should back Sena

AGE CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI, NOV. 2

Senior Congress leader Hussein Dalwai has raised eyebrows by demanding that his party should support Shiv Sena in the government formation. Sena, which earlier was a Hindutva party, has now become an all-inclusive party, he said.

Mr Dalwai, a Rajya Sabha MP, on Saturday wrote to party chief Sonia Gandhi requesting her to support the Sena if it comes up with any such proposal. Mr Dalwai recalled the Sena had supported Congress nominees Pratibha Patil and later Pranab Mukherjee for the post of President of India in the past.

"Shiv Sena and BJP are different. The Sena had supported Pratibha Patil, Pranab Mukherjee for



Hussein Dalwai

the President's post. Shiv Sena's politics has become all-inclusive unlike that of the BJP, which is extreme. We must support the Sena to keep the BJP out of power," Mr Dalwai said. He said a cross-section of the Muslim community in the state would prefer the Sena over the BJP. Welcoming Mr Dalwai's statement, senior Sena leader Sanjay Raut said, "Dalwai belongs to the

► **He said a cross-section of the Muslim community in Maharashtra would prefer the Sena over the BJP.**

socialist ideology. He comes from a family of progressive Muslims. We welcome his stand. But Sena fought the elections in an alliance and we will adhere to the coalition dharma till the end."

There are differences within the Congress over the issue of supporting the Sena. While leaders like AICC general secretary Mallikarjun Kharge, Sushilkumar Shinde, and Sanjay Nirupam have expressed their reservations against extending support to the Sena, another section of the party is of the opinion that the party should support the Sena to keep the BJP out of power.

■ **He denied that aid for flood relief was inadequate**

BSY wants to leave a rich legacy behind

NEENA GOPAL, BHASKAR HEGDE AND ARAVIND SHETTY
BENGALURU, NOV. 2

When B.S. Yediyurappa looks back on the last 100 days that he has just completed as chief minister in his record fourth stint in the hot seat, the consummate Karnataka politician who has seen off rivals, both within and outside his party in his tumultuous career, must know that this time, it is his legacy that is at stake.

Except, once again he's in the eye of a storm of his own making, caught on tape, implying that he had BJP president Amit Shah's active blessing in sequestering the 15 rebel Congress and Janata Dal(S) MLAs in a Mumbai hotel, and ensuring their defection to bring down the JD(S)-Congress government in Karnataka.

In an interview at his crowded home office 'Krishna' to mark the 100 day milestone, the Shivamogga strongman shrugged off the charges that former Congress chief minister and opposition leader Siddaramaiah had levelled against him and Mr Shah, charges that Mr Siddaramaiah has taken to Karnataka Governor Vajubhai Vala on Saturday, by saying that he didn't wish to comment on it.

"It's not correct for me to speak about this," the CM said, dismissively. He was equally cagey about questions on whether the 15 rebels would be given BJP tickets to fight the bypolls, or whether he would give in to pressure from within the BJP to field party candidates.

"I don't know for how many constituencies, the Supreme Court will order



Karnataka chief minister B.S. Yediyurappa during an interview on his government completing 100 days in Bengaluru on Saturday. — ASIAN AGE

bypolls, on December 5. Only after the SC decision next week, which is expected by November 4 or November 5, will we get a clear picture."

His confidence in being able to carry the day and win enough seats to give the BJP the 113 seats it needs for a majority in the 224 seat assembly was undimmed. "I have hundred per cent confidence that we will win at least 12 to 13 Assembly seats. We are going to run this government for another three and half years without any hurdle," he said.

He lashed out at his bete noire Siddaramaiah for a lacklustre 100 days in office. Taking strong exception to Siddaramaiah making a negative assessment of his government, he said: "Who's he to say this? In 100 days when unprecedented floods hit the state, how can we achieve everything in this short span of time?"

Making it even more interesting was the support he has received from another political opponent, former chief minister H.D. Kumaraswamy, who led the JD(S) govern-

ment that he toppled, and who offered him support.

Asked if he would take up the offer of JD(S), BSY, looking tetchy and not entirely happy at even the idea of allying with a man with whom he had a grand falling out in 2007, said, "There is no question of taking JD(S) support. After by-elections results, after December 12, our strength will increase to 113. In such a situation there is no question of taking support of JD(S). I welcome Kumaraswamy's statement that he will not destabilise the government that is busy in flood relief works."

He also strongly denied that central aid for flood relief was inadequate. "Which other state got this much money? Tell me. They are helping us. I am confident we will get more in the coming days," he said.

Mr Yediyurappa, who recently reshuffled his chief minister's office, admitted that he would like to leave behind a rich legacy and to achieve this, he needed a battery of good and dynamic officers.

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Centre should take steps to deal with economic slowdown, says Rajasthan CM Ashok Gehlot



New maps of J&K, Ladakh and India released

New Delhi, Nov. 2: The government on Saturday released the maps of newly created Union Territories (UTs) of Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh and the map of India depicting these UTs.

In a statement, the ministry of home affairs said the UT of Ladakh consists of two districts of Kargil and Leh while the rest of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir is in the UT of Jammu and Kashmir.

In 1947, the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir had the following 14 districts — Kathua, Jammu, Udhampur, Reasi, Anantnag, Baramulla, Poonch, Mirpur, Muzaffarabad, Leh and Ladakh, Gilgit, Gilgit Wazarat, Chillas and Tribal Territory.

By 1919, the government of erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir had reorganised the areas of these 14 districts into 28 districts. The names of the new districts were — Kupwara, Bandipur, Ganderbal, Srinagar, Budgam, Pulwama, Shupian, Kulgam, Rajouri, Ramban, Doda, Kishtivar, Samba and Kargil.

Out of these, Kargil district was carved out from the area of Leh and Ladakh district.

The Leh district of the new UT of Ladakh has been defined in the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Removal of Difficulties) Second Order, 2019, issued by the President of India, to include the areas of the districts of Gilgit, Gilgit Wazarat, Chilas and Tribal Territory of 1947, in addition to the remaining areas of Leh and Ladakh districts of 1947, after carving out the Kargil District.

The maps have been prepared by Survey General of India depicting the new UTs. —PTI

■ **Verdict likely to be announced by November 15**

All eyes set on Ayodhya judgment as SC reopens

PARMOD KUMAR
NEW DELHI, NOV. 2

As Supreme Court reopens on November 4, after week long Diwali vacations, all eyes are set on much awaited Ayodhya judgment on the ownership of the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid disputed site that would be pronounced any day in the coming eight working days starting with November 4 to November 15.

The top court constitution bench comprising Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi, Chief

Justice S.A.Bobde, Justice D.Y. Chandrachud, Justice Ashok Bhushan and Justice S. Abdul Nazeer have eight working days — five days from Monday (November 4) to Friday (November 8) and three days of the subsequent week November 13, 14 and 15 to pronounce their much awaited verdict.

November 11 and 12 are holidays on account of Guru Nanak's birthday and another holiday. The 550 birthday of Guru Nanak falls on November 12.

The top court constitution bench had on October 16 reserved its verdict on a batch of cross petitions challenging September 30, 2010, Allahabad high court judgment by which the disputed site was trifurcated in three parts giving two parts to Hindu litigants — idol of Ram Lalla and the Nirmohi Akhara — a Hindu sect — and one to Muslims.

The hearing lasted for 40 days.

The hearing had commenced on August 6 after efforts by three member

committee headed by former top court judge Justice Fakir Mohamed Ibrahim Kalifulla to find an amicable resolution of the dispute did "not result in any final settlement."

Besides, Ayodhya, two more long awaited verdicts on the plea seeking the review of top court judgments giving clean chit to the Centre on the purchase of 36 ready to fly Rafale fighter jets and permitting the entry of women of all age groups in Kerala's Sabrimala temple, too are likely to be pronounced.



NORTH DELHI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (M-II) KPZ
SHAKTI NAGAR EXTN. DELHI-110052**

N.I.T. No. EE(M-II)/KPZ/TC/2019-20/51
Dated:-30.10.2019

Date of start for sale of Tender Document : 30.10.19 upto 18:01 P.M.

Last Date of download of Tender Document : 20.11.19 upto 12:00 P.M.

Last date of Bid Submission : 20.11.19 upto 12:15 P.M.

Opening of financial Bid : 20.11.19 at 12:30 P.M.

1. Name of Work: Imp.&Dev. of roads in Nimri Colony Ph-II in Ward No. 74/KPZ. **Head of A/c:** XL-VIII-S. **Tender Amt.:** 32.64,785. **Estt. Amt.:** 35,30,200 **Earnest Money:** 65300 **Time of Completion :** 3 months

Rates hold: 6 months **Cost of tender:** 500/- **F.T.C. Code:** 14/66/XL/VIII-S.

2. Name of Work: Imp.&Dev. of Lal market nalla (both side) from H.No. A-72 to Lal Market in A-Block Ashok Vihar Ph-II in Ward No. 73N/KPZ. **Head of A/c:** XL-VIII-S. **Tender Amt.:** 38,32,112. **Estt. Amt.:** 41,43,600 **Earnest Money:** 76650 **Time of Completion:** 3 months

Rates hold: 6 months **Cost of tender:** 500/- **F.T.C. Code:** 14/66/XL/VIII-S.

3. Name of Work: Imp.&Dev. of lane/ from H.No. C-2/29 to H.No. C-2/43 and back lane H.No. C-2/29 to M.C. Pry. School by pdg. RMC in C-2 Block in Ashok Vihar Ph-II in Ward No. 73/KPZ. **Head of A/c:** XL-VIII-S. **Tender Amt.:** 25,71,807. **Estt. Amt.:** 27,80,900 **Earnest Money:** 51450 **Time of Completion:** 3 months

Rates hold: 6 months **Cost of tender:** 500/- **F.T.C. Code:** 14/66/XL/VIII-S.

4. Name of Work: Imp./Dev. of road and drainage from H.No. C-2/30 to H.No. C-2/43 in C-2 Block in Ashok Vihar Ph-II in Ward No. 73/KPZ. **Head of A/c:** XL-VIII-S. **Tender Amt.:** 26,64,627. **Estt. Amt.:** 28,81,200 **Earnest Money:** 53300 **Time of Completion:** 3 months

Rates hold: 6 months **Cost of tender:** 500/- **F.T.C. Code:** 14/66/XL/VIII-S

Note:- This tender are also available on the website <http://mcdetenders.com> for bidding by approved and eligible contractor with MCD. The Validity of rates hold good for 6 months

EE(M-II)/KPZ has the right to cancel any or all the tenders without any reasons.

R.O No. 138/DPI/North DMC/19-20
Ex. Engineer (M-II)/KPZ

NORTH DELHI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE, ENGINEER (M-II)/CLZ
2nd Floor 16-RAJPUJ ROAD, DELHI

N.I.T. No. EE (M-II)/CLZ/2019-20/28 **Dated: 29.10.2019**

Date of Download of Tender Document...Upto 12.00 Noon on: 13.11.2019

Last date of Bid Preparation Upto 12.00 Noon on: 13.11.2019

Opening of Financial Bid...12.30 PM on: 13.11.2019

FOR ONLINE TENDERING TIME TABLE PLEASE REFER
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percentage rate for

Tenders are invited for the execution of the following works by the MCD
from approved and eligible contractor on the web site
<http://www.tenderwizard.com/NORTHDMCETENDER>. The
registered contractors of MCD only are eligible to tender for the amount
they have registered in their respective category subject to the
conditions that they are neither black listed nor debarred at the time of
purchase of tenders.

S.No. 1 Name of work: Imp./Dev. of road from B-303 to Pillar N
Z-413-P by pdg. RMC in Gandhi Vihar in C-18N/CLZ. **Head of A/c:**
XL-VIII-S Tender Amt.: 32617545 **E/M:** 65200 **Time of Compln.:** 4
Month Rate hold good for: 5 Month **Tender Cost:** 500 **S.No. 2 Name**
of work: Imp./dev. of Road from A-296 to A-251 by pdg. RMC in Majlisah
Park in C-18N/CLZ. **Head of A/c:** XL-VIII-S **Tender Amt.:** 3784549
E/M: 75700 **Time of completion:** 4 Month **Rate hold good for:** 5
Month Tender Cost: 500 **S.No. 3 Name of work:** Imp./dev. of lane from
A-82 to Om Steel in Kewal Park Extn. by pdg. RMC and drainage
system in 18N/CLZ. **Head of A/c:** XL-VIII-S **Tender Amt.:** 5202317
E/M: 104000 **Time of completion:** 4 Month **Rate hold good for:** 5
Month Tender Cost: 1000 **S.No. 4 Name of work:** Imp./dev. of service
lane of North Ec. Colony from 33KV TDPL Sub Station to Entry gate
by pdg. RMC in C-18N/CLZ. **Head of A/c:** XL-VIII-S **Tender Amt.:**
3758195 **E/M:** 75200 **Time of completion:** 4 Month **Rate hold good**
for: 5 Month **Tender Cost:** 1000 **S.No. 5 Name of work:** Imp./dev. of
reconstruction of CTC with for disabled person near H.No. G-450
Jahangirpuri in 17N/EE(M-II)/CLZ, Adarsh Nagar **Head of A/c:** XL-VIII-S
Tender Amt.: 5228314 **E/M:** 104600 **Time of completion:** 4 Month
Rate hold good for: 5 Month **Tender Cost:** 1000

R.O N.No. 139/DP/19th DMC/19-20 **Executive, Engineer (M-II)/CLZ**



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विभिन्न राज्यों की मशहूर कलाकृतियाँ, हस्तशिल्प,
वस्त्र तथा बहुत कुछ... रियायती दरों पर उपलब्ध हैं

1 से 15 नवम्बर, 2019

प्रातः 10:00 बजे से रात्रि 10:00 बजे तक

स्थान: दिल्ली हाट, आईएनए मार्केट के सामने, श्री अरविन्दो मार्ग, नई दिल्ली



आप सभी
आमंत्रित
हैं











उत्पादों की श्रेणी

लखनऊ
की
चिकनकारी

बनारस
की
सिल्क

कश्मीरी
शाल एवं
स्टोल

असम का
बांस का
सामान

उड़ीसा का
कोणार्क
स्टोन वर्क

राजस्थान
जयपुर की
ब्लू पोंट्री

उत्तर प्रदेश
की
खुरजा पोद्दी

गुजरात की
घादरें एवं
कपड़ा

केरल का
कोकोनट
शैल क्राफ्ट

सिमाना / समीप स्थित व्यापार 'सिमाना' में उपलब्ध / स्थिति में स्थिति में उपलब्ध / स्थिति में उपलब्ध

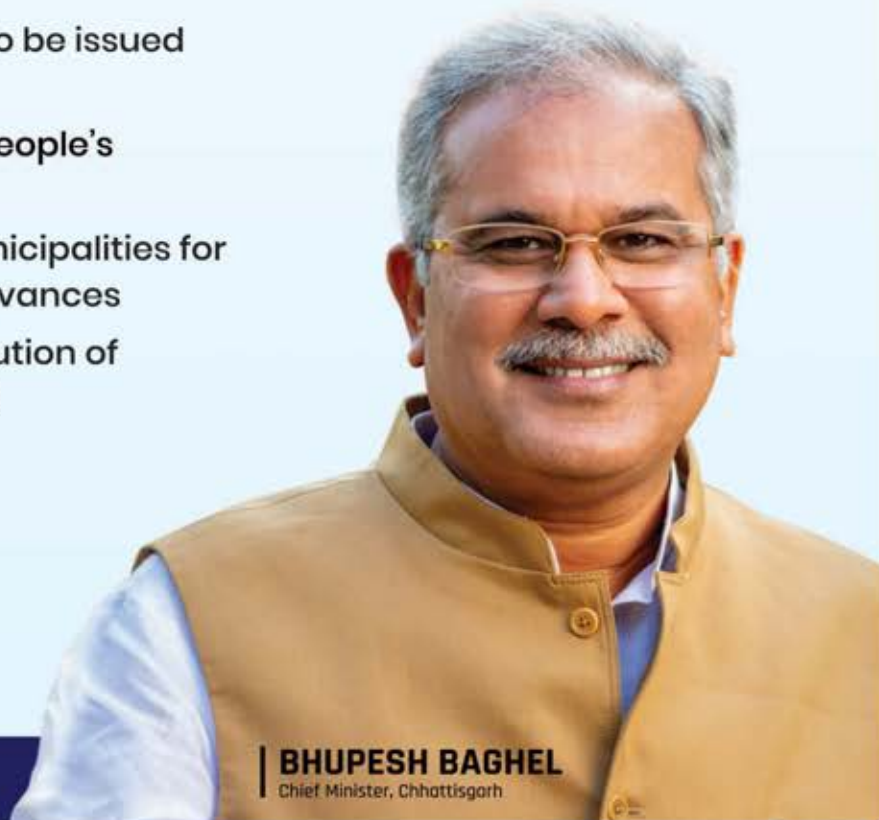
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THE CHANGING URBAN LIFESCAPE

- ❖ **Pauni-Pasari Scheme** : An initiative to encourage traditional and local business. New markets being developed in urban areas
- ❖ **Mukhyamantri Ward Karayala Scheme** : Providing immediate availability of citizen services and facilities to people according to their demands.
- ❖ **Mukhyamantri Shahariya Slum Swasthya Scheme** : Mobile hospitals in urban slum areas benefitting two lakh families living in 661 temporary and permanent slums across municipalities
- ❖ **Mor-Zameen, Mor-Makan Scheme** : Till December 2018 merely 8,000 houses were constructed, in the first ten months, over 40,000 units completed. Housing to all homeless before 2022
- ❖ **Rajeev Gandhi Ashraya Scheme** : Amendment in the Act for providing lease to landless families. The move is aimed towards regularization of encroached land and irregular lease. More than one lakh poor families to be benefitted.
- ❖ **Swachhata Didi** : Honorarium amount to Swachhata Didi raised to Rs 6,000

- ❖ Alderman reserved for differently abled in municipalities
- ❖ **AMRUT Scheme** : Raipur City Drinking Water Augmentation Plan worth 212 crore rupees approved. Sewage Master Plan for Raigarh and Jagdalpur approved
- ❖ **Affordable Housing Scheme** : Approval to 28,694 new housing units worth 1,250 crore rupees
- ❖ **Rain Water Harvesting** : Mandatory installation of rain harvesting plants in residential, commercial and industrial premises
- ❖ **Street Lights** : Conversion of conventional street lights to LED lights in all municipalities
- ❖ **Regularization of Salary** : Teachers to receive salary on regular basis
- ❖ **Certificate** : Caste certificate to be issued along with birth certificate
- ❖ **Financial** : Financial rights to people's representatives
- ❖ **Help Desk** : Help desk in all municipalities for prompt redressal of public grievances
- ❖ **Distribution** : Process of distribution of residential lease bonds started



ProActive
ProPeople

BHUPESH BAGHEL
Chief Minister, Chhattisgarh



Search & Rescue

Amit Shah to inaugurate
SCO joint exercise on
earthquake search, rescue



NGOs have major
role in speeding
up development in
rural India

— Pranab Mukherjee,
Former President

SHORT TAKES

In 2019, 13 died of scrub typhus in HP

Shimla: Thirteen people in Himachal Pradesh died of scrub typhus, a bacterial infection, so far this year as compared to 21 deaths last year, a health official said on Saturday. As many as 1,456 people are suffering from the bacterial infection in the state so far this year, whereas 1,940 people were affected last year, special secretary (health) Dr Nipun Jindal said. During a two-day review meeting of eight northern states and union territories on the Integrated disease surveillance programme in Shimla, the efforts of Himachal Pradesh in effective prevention and control of communicable diseases, especially in containing scrub typhus, were appreciated, Mr Jindal said. — PTI

Leopard dies after being tranquilised

Gariaband: A leopard died in Chhattisgarh's Gariaband district after it was tranquilised and being transported to Raipur for treatment on Saturday. The animal was already ailing, starving and its thigh-bone was shattered, an official said. The female leopard, around two years old, was moving around Kharhari village in Parsuli forest range for the last few days, causing panic among locals, said Mayank Agrawal, DFO. On October 28 it attacked a calf in the village. The villagers managed to rescue the calf. The leopard reportedly received some injuries during the incident, he said. — PTI

Guj man kills wife, mother, baby; held

Palanpur: A mentally unwell man has been arrested for allegedly killing his mother, wife and two-year-old son in Gujarat's Banaskantha district, police said on Saturday. Bhikha Thakor (25), a resident of Bhakadiyal village in the district's Lakhni taluka, killed his mother Jagiben (50), wife Zebar (23) and son Jignesh with a sharp weapon, and injured his brother's wife. "The accused was reportedly angry for constantly nagged by family for not being employed nor helping kin with agriculture work. He is mentally unwell," said police. — PTI

Economy in mess, but PM managing headlines: Sonia

■ **Continued from Page 1**
ignoring hardships and concerns of the people while it prepares to sign the RCEP. She alleged that instead of acknowledging the severe economic slowdown and looking for a comprehensive resolution, PM Modi is too busy "managing headlines and events." Mrs Gandhi asked the party leaders to create awareness among people about the "anti-people policies" of this government. "As if the government's economic decisions have not damaged the economy enough, it is now ready to deal a body blow to it by signing the RCEP — the regional free trade agreement of 16 Asian countries. This will bring untold hardship for our farmers, shopkeepers, small and medium enterprises with serious repercussions. We can ill-afford to become a dumping ground for products — including agricultural produce from foreign countries," she said. On Saturday, Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra also tweeted that when the Indian economy is going through a slowdown signing RCEP agreement will prove disastrous. "There is an economic slowdown in the country. Our policy right now should be such that our markets provide maximum help to farmers. In this environment, the RCEP will prove to be farmers' destruction agreement. This will gobble up all the interests of the farmers

of India, and their space for selling their produce will be limited," Priyanka Gandhi said. Congress spokesperson Randeep Surjewala, at a press conference, said that India should not be made a dumping ground of Chinese goods through RCEP. "The Prime Minister has gone to Bangkok to sign on RCEP. In 72 years, no one has signed free trade agreement with China which Modiji is doing. This will hit our small traders. What will happen to the Indian goods and products when the agricultural products from other countries will be sold in India after RCEP?" Mr Randeep Surjewala said. "Indian economy is on ventilator and the government is sleeping," he added. The Congress will from November 5 to 15 hold nationwide agitation to attract focus on unemployment, RCEP, agricultural and economic crisis by having events at district and zones. However, from November 1 to 8, the party leaders will hold press conference in 35 cities and in December there will be a mega rally in Delhi. During the party meeting on Saturday, Mrs Gandhi talked about the economic crisis saying the GDP growth is at best only 5 per cent during the first quarter which is not just a six year low but also signifies deep crisis.

Allies may want more seats

■ **Continued from Page 1**
alliance partner AJSU may raise its demand for maximum numbers of seats. "The AJSU is not willing to compromise and is planning to contest on the maximum number of seats. The BJP, AJSU and LJP leaders will sit together after the festive season is over to discuss the seat-sharing issue," a source from Ranchi said. The BJP in alliance with the AJSU had won 42 seats in the 2014 Assembly elections. However, the strength of the NDA had gone up to 48 after six JVP(P) legislators joined the BJP in February 2015. During the Lok Sabha polls this year, the BJP and allies had clinched 12

out of 14 seats in the state. Reports suggest that the LJP has also raised its demand and is not willing to compromise on less than six seats. LJP leaders are of the view that the move will help BJP achieve its 65 plus seat target in the Assembly elections. In 2014, the LJP had contested only on one seat and was not able to even win it. "Our party wants to contest at least six Assembly seats. Our parliamentary board president and other top leaders are discussing the issue and we are hopeful that the BJP will accept our demands," Shailendra Dwivedi, LJP spokesperson told this newspaper. India remains committed to a comprehensive and balanced outcome from the ongoing RCEP negotiations and its successful conclusion is in the interest of everyone involved, India seeks balance across goods, services and investments, and also within each pillar. "We recognise the high ambitions of our partners on goods. We too would like a win-win outcome. We believe that for this, addressing our concerns over unsustainable

‘Will ensure our interests served’

■ **Continued from Page 1**
industries as they feel India will be at a disadvantage if it signs the RCEP pact. While a section of domestic industries has raised serious concerns over tariff related issues in the RCEP agreement, farmers have demanded that agriculture be kept out of the purview of RCEP since the free trade deal will bring down import duties on several agricultural commodities. Mr Modi said that while

trade deficits is important. It needs to be recognised that opening the vast Indian market must be matched by openings in some areas where our businesses can also benefit. We have put forward reasonable proposals in a clear manner and are engaged in negotiations with sincerity. We would like to see commensurate levels of ambition on services from many of our partners, even as we are ready to address their sensitivities," said PM.

Cabinet may expand soon

■ **Continued from Page 1**
formula. The BJP is also banking on the support of 13 Independent candidates elected to the House. It was also felt that the newly elected legislators would like to avoid a constitutional crisis as the new state government has to be sworn-in on or before 7 November. The current term of the 288-member Maharashtra Assembly ends on 8 November. The BJP also hopes to end speculation over alliance troubles in Bihar by including the JD(U) in the Cabinet through the impending expansion.

No wait & watch mode: Sena

■ **Continued from Page 1**
a grand swearing-in ceremony at Wankhede stadium. However, party sources said that the swearing-in could be a low-key affair if the party fails to convince Sena soon. "It will take at least three days to print invitation cards and make security arrangements for VIPs, if we decide to hold a grand ceremony at Wankhede. If the decision is not taken before Monday, we will be left with very small window for preparations and will have to go for a smaller ceremony," the source said. The tussle between the BJP and Sena continued

on Saturday with both parties refusing to soften their stand on the post of chief minister and equal sharing of power. In fact, there have been no official talks between the two safar from allies so far. Meanwhile, Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader Ajit Pawar has said that NCP chief Sharad Pawar will be meeting Congress president Sonia Gandhi on Monday to discuss the political situation in the state. The party's chief spokesperson, Nawab Malik, said the NCP will "definitely take a positive view" if the Sena decides to form a government without the BJP.

₹10Kcr aid for farmers

■ **Continued from Page 1**
called a Cabinet sub-committee meeting at his residence 'Varsha' to discuss the issue. At the meeting, the CM directed officials to review the ground situation in their respective areas and finalise the details of the assistance to be provided. "We have decided to provide help to farmers through insurance companies. The government is in touch with insurance companies. The process of conducting

'panchnamas' is being expedited. Even pictures of damaged crop taken from mobile will be considered valid," said Mr Fadnavis. The panchnama is the on-the-spot assessment of the damages. Mr Fadnavis said that farmers could upload the pictures of the damages from their mobile. The chief minister added that crop-wise reimbursement would be decided as soon as the final report about damages will be received.

According to the draft proposal of the 'Right to Health' legislation, delivery of basic healthcare services would be ensured within 3 km, and primary healthcare within 12 km, while medical facility for serious illness and critical illness would be ensured within 50km (or a one-hour journey) and within 150 km, respectively.

■ Lucknow, Patna worse than Delhi ■ Air quality severe in 13 cities across country

Fatehabad's air quality dips to all-India low

New Delhi, Nov. 2: Fatehabad in Haryana had the worst average air quality in India over a period of 24 hours ending on Saturday evening, while the pollution levels in Lucknow in Uttar Pradesh and Patna in Bihar were worse than in Delhi, according to official figures. According to the central pollution control board's (CPCB) on Saturday, "Thirteen cities of the country had an average Air Quality Index (AQI) above 400, which falls in the 'severe' category, with seven of them in Uttar Pradesh, five in Haryana and one in Bihar. According to the bulletin, the average AQI in Delhi was 399. During the

same period, Fatehabad recorded the worst average AQI at 493, while it was 428 in Patna and 422 in Lucknow. Delhi and its neighbouring cities recorded the worst air quality of the season on Friday, forcing the authorities to declare a public health emergency. But pollution levels in the region dipped marginally on Saturday with slight increase in wind speed. The average AQI of 18 cities fell between 300 and 400, which comes in the "very poor" category, and included 11 from Haryana, three from Uttar Pradesh, two from Punjab and one each from Bihar and Madhya Pradesh, the CPCB stated. The CPCB also said that



A Nagar Nigam employee sprinklers water on trees to reduce air pollution in Lucknow on Saturday. — PTI

if the AQI falls in "severe" category, it affects healthy people and seriously impacts those with pre-existing diseases, while

"very poor" air quality can cause respiratory illness on prolonged exposure. In Uttar Pradesh,

Ghaziabad had the worst average AQI of 453, followed by Bulandshahr (446), Hapur (444), Greater Noida (438), Baghpat (435), Noida (432), Lucknow (422), Kanpur (379), Meerut (371) and Varanasi (328), the CPCB data showed. At 493, Haryana's Fatehabad had the worst average AQI across India, closely followed by Hisar (490), Jind (459), Kaithal (408), Faridabad (404), Ballabgarh (395), Panipat (389), Kurukshetra (381), Bhiwani (378), Ambala (376), Palwal (369), Rohtak (367), Gurgaon (364), Karnal (361), Yamunanagar (345), Mandikhera (324) and Manesar (316). Patna had an average AQI of 428, the only city in

Bihar with "severe" air quality, followed by Muzaffarpur (382) which is in the "very poor" category. No other city from the state featured in either category, the CPCB said. In Punjab, the average AQI in Bathinda was 308 and in Ludhiana it was 305, both in the "very poor" category. Singrauli, with an average AQI of 384, was Madhya Pradesh's only city to figure in the list of places with average AQI in the "severe" and "very poor" categories. Particulate matter 2.5 and 10, which cause respiratory and heart ailments, among others, were the most prominent pollutants present in the air of these cities, the CPCB stated. Lucknow resident

Bharat Singh said he has been waking up to "cloudy conditions" for a couple of days now while the weather has been hot and humid all the while. "Due to the deteriorating air quality in the city, it becomes very difficult to move on two-wheelers. We hope that it rains soon so that there could be some relief," Mr Singh told PTI. The CPCB figures on average AQI were available only for 100 cities, and as such people expressed the need for proper data collection in smaller towns and cities. "Using the CPCB mobile app, I can find out AQI of several cities but not mine," Varun Bhandari, a resident of Amethi in Uttar Pradesh said. — PTI

■ Replace diesel buses with EVs: Merkel

Germany to give €1bn to India for green mobility

New Delhi, Nov. 2: German Chancellor Angela Merkel on Saturday pledged to invest 1 billion euros over the next five years on environmentally-friendly urban mobility in India. Ms Merkel, whose visit to the country coincided with one of the worst spells of air pollution in Delhi/NCR, also emphasised on the need to replace diesel-run public transport with electric vehicles. "We have agreed to cooperate on climate protection and green urban mobility and have earmarked 1 billion euros towards this," Ms Merkel said at an event here. Germany would also put in 200 million euros to reform the bus sector in Tamil Nadu, she added. Touching upon the subject of air pollution in Delhi, Ms Merkel said that looking at the severity of the situation, it would be a good idea to replace diesel buses with electric ones. Delhi recorded its worst air quality of the season on Friday as the pollution level touched the 'severe plus' category, prompting authorities to shut schools till November 5, ban all construction activities and declare a "public health emergency". Ms Merkel said that Germany would also like to work with India on various segments including healthcare, agriculture and artificial intelligence. On Friday, India and Germany agreed to deepen efforts to resume stalled negotiations for a free trade agreement between India and the EU. The negotiations have been held up since May



German Chancellor Angela Merkel poses for a selfie during her visit to Continental Automotive Components India plant at Manesar in Haryana on Saturday.

India and Germany ink pact for cooperation in skill development

New Delhi, Nov. 2: India and Germany on Saturday signed signed two major agreements, referred to as the Joint Declaration of Intent, for cooperation in the field of skills development and vocational education. The ministry of skill development and entrepreneurship signed the Joint Declaration of Intent with the federal ministry for economic cooperation and development (BMZ), Germany. The association will provide a systematic structure for conducting mutual consultations, advisory work and policy exchanges at ministerial

and expert levels and provide technical assistance. This collaboration will help further develop the successful cooperation in the various fields covered by the Indo-German Joint Working Group on Vocational Education and Training. One declaration of intent is with the federal ministry of education and research (referred to as BMBF) for Cooperation in Skill Development and Vocational Education and Training, whereas the second was for Dual VET initiative marking Sustainable Growth of Skills with Siemens Limited, India. — PTI

2013 as both the sides failed to bridge substantial gaps on crucial issues. Launched in June 2007, the negotiations for the proposed pact have witnessed many hurdles with

both the sides having major differences on key issues like intellectual property rights, duty cut in automobile and spirits, and liberal visa regime. — PTI

ED opposes bail to PC, says ‘will set wrong precedent’

New Delhi, Nov. 2: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Saturday opposed the bail plea of senior Congress leader P. Chidambaram in Delhi high court in connection with the INX Media money laundering case, saying it will set a wrong precedent in corruption cases. "Grant of bail to Mr Chidambaram would be against the court's zero-tolerance policy on corruption and would set a wrong precedent for cor-



Chidambaram

ruption cases," ED said. The economic offences watchdog said, "high office of the country was used by Mr Chidambaram for his personal gains" and that considering the gravity of the offences against him, bail should not be granted. "Proceeds of crime were generated on the act done by P. Chidambaram in his capacity as the finance minister," it said.

The petition is listed for hearing on Monday before Justice Suresh Kait, who had asked the agency for a response in the matter. Delhi high court had on Friday disposed of the interim bail plea of Mr Chidambaram, who had sought relief on health grounds, and directed the Tihar Jail authorities to provide him mineral water, home-cooked food, mosquito net etc and ensure that his cell is cleaned twice a day. — ANI

‘Right to Health’ bill likely in MP House

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY
BHOPAL, NOV. 2

In a first of its kind initiative in the country, Kamal Nath government is mulling to place "Right to Health" legislation in the upcoming winter session of Assembly, guaranteeing quality healthcare to all citizens of Madhya Pradesh. The proposed legislation has, significantly, provided to hold state government departments concerned accountable for the outbreak of diseases such as dengue or H1N1, according to the draft proposal of the bill. The proposed 'Right to Health' legislation envisaged the establishment of forums for grievance redressal with regards to the deficiency in healthcare facilities. "Failure to provide healthcare by the state government will have legal consequences", a spokesman of the state health department said here on Saturday. A two-day "Right to Health" conclave organised by the state government here to give shape to the proposed legislation ended on Saturday. "The legislation will ensure basic as well as quality healthcare particularly for rural people in the state", MP health minister Tulsi Silawat said. According to the draft proposal of the 'Right to Health' legislation, delivery of basic healthcare services would be ensured within 3 km, and primary healthcare within 12 km, while medical facility for serious illness and critical illness would be ensured within 50km (or a one-hour journey) and within 150 km, respectively.



After demonetisation and GST, it will be the third big jolt to our economy when the Prime Minister goes to Bangkok and expresses India's agreement with the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership — **Jairam Ramesh**, CONGRESS LEADER

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RCEP: Make it or break it

At stake are millions of livelihoods in the agriculture and allied sectors, especially dairy. If adequate safeguards are not put in place, the Indian industry, too, faces a big threat from cheap Chinese goods.



THE GOVERNMENT IS TRYING TO INCLUDE ADEQUATE PROTECTION AGAINST CHEAP CHINESE IMPORTS IN ORDER TO MAKE THE DEAL MORE ACCEPTABLE TO THE INDIAN INDUSTRY AND AGRICULTURE. IF INDIA JOINS RCEP, THE COUNTRY WILL HAVE TO TAKE ON COMMITMENTS FOR TARIFF ELIMINATION FOR ABOUT 90 PER CENT OF ITEMS FROM THE ASEAN, JAPAN AND SOUTH KOREA, AND OVER 74 PER CENT FROM CHINA, AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND.

MADHUSUDAN SAHOO

Amid the throes of economic slow-down engulfing all sectors in the country, the government is learnt to have faced severe criticism on India's economic growth front over joining a pact in the proposed Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership or, the RCEP. The negotiations for this deal are likely to be revealed on November 4. Though the government is trying to allay fears and is repeatedly assuring all protection to the interests of each participant in this deal, many domestic stakeholders such as India Inc, farmer groups, civil society organisations and Opposition parties are keeping their fingers crossed. However, they apprehend the fact that China may dump cheaper goods into India using the deal as a major tool. India, which has raised some tariffs under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has long been the main hold-out on an RCEP deal due to strong

domestic opposition from several quarters over fears of Chinese goods flooding the country. RCEP is a proposed free trade agreement or FTA between the 10 member states of the Asean — Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam — and its six FTA partners such as China, Japan, India, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand. RCEP member states account for 3.4 billion people with a total GDP of \$49.5 trillion, approximately 39 per cent of the world's GDP, with the combined GDPs of China and India making up more than half of that amount. Keeping the India's state of economy in view, India remains undecided on several domestic fronts as to whether to sign the deal, even as Mr Modi is all set to join other RCEP heads of states in Bangkok for discussions on Monday. Indian negotiators are trying to include adequate protection against cheap Chinese imports in order to make the deal more acceptable to the Indian industry and agriculture. If India joins RCEP, the country will have to take on commit-

ments for tariff elimination for about 90 per cent of items from the Asean, Japan and South Korea, and over 74 per cent from China, Australia and New Zealand. "India will cut duties for more than 90 per cent of items for most member states in RCEP, excluding China, with some duties being phased out over 10-year, 15-year and 20-year time frames," a government functionary told this newspaper on condition of anonymity. "India's government plans to seal the deal as a political win because tariffs won't kick in for a decade, but the administration still worries that the local manufacturing sector will struggle when tariffs eventually drop and the country's poor, small-scale and low-tech farmers would struggle to compete," he said. India has many issues involved in the deal, including the country's demands to shift the base year for tariff cuts to 2019 and an auto-trigger mechanism to check an import surge from China that may make or break a deal. Besides, there are also differences related to the investor-

to-state dispute settlement (ISDS) mechanism and data localisation. Allaying the fear of entering into free trade agreements with other nations, commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal recently said, "While negotiations for a potential FTA with the US and a larger trade deal with member nations of the RCEP bloc are on, India does not intend to compromise national interest and wrap up such deals without ensuring safeguards for its own industries, according to him." "We can't have inefficient industry lobbying against import and free trade agreements on the pretext that it will affect them. Indian consumers can't be made to keep paying disproportionately high value for inefficiencies in a particular sector," Mr Goyal added. On the other hand, observers are of the view that India keeps making last-minute requests after it agreed to terms for the world's largest regional trade agreement, potentially preventing Asian leaders from announcing a breakthrough in

Bangkok on the 16-nation pact. As far as differences are concerned, "areas like e-commerce, the auto-trigger mechanism and trade remedies are being smoothed over by officials ahead of the summit. Even the ISDS issue has been sorted out. Even after five years, the question of whether to include it or not in the deal will be decided based on consensus rather than by the majority proposed earlier." "But voices have been rising in protest across the country. Farmers, traders and the Opposition parties have joined the clamour — even though it was the Congress which had joined the RCEP negotiations when it had been in power at the Centre," an observer said. As far as the deal is concerned, farmers and non-governmental organisations working in agriculture and allied fields are the main groups who will be affected by the signing of the pact. They have appealed to the government not to sign the deal. They want agricultural produce and dairy to be kept out of the purview of the RCEP. The Gujarat-based National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) has also expressed concerns and

opposed the government's move on tariff reduction as part of the RCEP deal. The NDDB chairman, Dilip Rath, had requested the ministry of commerce on September 15 to keep the dairy sector out of RCEP. "Millions of farmers represent the dairy sector. A decision to reduce the tariff barrier would encourage import of cheap milk powder in the country, particularly from Oceania. This would put the livelihoods of our dairy farmers in peril and at the same time severely compromise our food and nutritional security," Mr Rath said. "Our country will be again pushed into a state of import dependence, as is the case in many South Asian and Southeast and Far East Asian countries," he added. It is learnt that the All India Kisan Sabha has announced a nationwide protest on November 4, the day the deal has to be struck. Farmers' unions and NGOs have formed an Indian Coordination Committee of Farmers' Movements to coordinate the protests against the proposed mega-deal. Even the RSS-affiliated Swadeshi Jagran Manch held protests earlier in October against RCEP.

Cong sees chance to expose BJP govt's poor economics

SREEPARNA CHAKRABARTY

With the recent round of Assembly polls giving a breather to the Congress, the party now seems to have realised the importance of pinning down the government over livelihood and larger economic issues rather than engage on Hindutva and nationalism. It is in context that the opposition to the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) which the Congress-led UPA had itself proposed should be seen. Beginning November 5, the Congress Party has decided to start a country-wide agitation on the state of the economy primarily under four heads — the growing unemployment, agrarian distress, economic downturn and the RCEP. RCEP is a proposed free trade agreement (FTA) between the 10 member states of the Asean — Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam — and its six FTA partners, China, Japan, India, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand. Rajya Sabha member and senior Congress leader Jairam Ramesh, who is one of the members of the newly-set up policy study group of the Congress, has listed RCEP as the third

■ Beginning Nov. 5, it will start a countrywide stir on unemployment, agrarian distress, downturn and RCEP
■ Dumping and the impact on agriculture and the dairy sector are chief concerns
■ Jairam Ramesh has listed RCEP as the third big jolt to the economy after demonetisation and the GST

big jolt to the economy after demonetisation and the GST. Claiming that it would liberalise Chinese trade in the Indian market, he said: "RCEP will result in liberalisation of imports from China. We do not know what was discussed in Wuhan or Mahabalipuram but we can see the results, there will be liberalisation in imports from China. 'Made in India' is not mentioned now. It'll encourage 'Made in China'," he said. Alleging that the government was interested in the RCEP due to mismanagement of the economy, he said it would severely impact the agrarian sector, especially the dairy industry.

When questioned as to the reason for the Opposition to the free trade agreement, when the UPA had also been interested in signing it, the party maintained that the economic situation had been very different then. Disagreeing that his party was making a U-turn, Congress chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala said that when the UPA government negotiated free trade agreements, the economy was booming. "We did not have the economic crisis that we are having today. There was an investment boom, exports were growing. Today, exports are falling, investment is falling, so, the economic context was totally different when UPA negotiated free trade agreements." The Congress has also decided to build a broad political platform on the matter with other Opposition parties and has called a meeting on November 4, the very day RCEP is supposed to be signed. Apart from this, the party would hold a massive protest in the national capital as a culmination of the country-wide protests after November 15. It has also decided to hold press conferences across the country to addressed by top leaders to make people aware of the issue.

Why this deal won't be a win-win for govt

DR R. RAMAKUMAR

The Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) is a free trade agreement being negotiated between the 10-member ASEAN group and six countries that have a free trade relationship with the ASEAN group (India, China, Australia, New Zealand, South Korea and Japan). If the RCEP agreement takes effect, it would envelop a very large and important part of the world economy: about 47 per cent of the world population, about 30 per cent of the world GDP, about 33 per cent of the world exports, eight of the 10 busiest ports of the world and about 30 per cent of the world maritime trade.

WORLD TRADE IN STALEMATE First, the World Trade Organisation (WTO) is now in a state of stalemate. After 1995, while developing countries were forced to reduce their export subsidies and import tariffs in agriculture, developed countries refused to reciprocate. As a result, after the failed Doha round in 2001, most countries ceased to see the WTO as an instrument to harvest gains from trade. In its place, they preferred regional trade agreements (RTA) or bilateral free trade agreements. Examples are the India-ASEAN trade agreement of 2010, the India-South Korea trade agreement of 2010 and the India-Japan trade agreement of 2011. The RCEP agreement essentially represents an escalation of these steps towards a larger umbrella agreement in the Asia-Oceania region. Secondly, the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) agreement, which was to envelop a set of countries to the west and east of the Pacific Ocean, has been declared



dead by the Donald Trump administration. Emerging countries like China saw the TPP as signalling the entry of USA into economic relations in Asia and Oceania. Thus, it was in China's interest that the RCEP is formulated as a response to the TPP. With the demise of the TPP, the Oceanic countries too began to take interest in the RCEP.

EXTREME SECRECY

An amusing aspect of the RCEP negotiations is the extreme secrecy that has surrounded it. While talks have been ongoing from 2011, no major official papers are available in the public domain for discussion. What is available is draft papers leaked from Japan and South Korea back in 2014. These draft papers, and other papers that have become available afterwards, show that the agreement covers a large set of economic spheres and its clauses could have wide-ranging implications for countries like India.

HARMFUL CLAUSES

First, tariff clauses for agriculture in the RCEP are much more severe compared to the existing WTO agreement. While the WTO agreement allows a country to fix

tariffs up to the bound tariff for a given commodity line, the RCEP agreement binds countries to further reduce it to zero. A number of commodities of economic importance to India would flood Indian markets leading to a plummeting of Indian prices. Dairy goods and a number of industrial goods are examples.

Second, the agreement seeks to widen and lengthen the coverage of intellectual property rights (IPR), especially in the pharmaceutical sector. It asks for the validity period of a patent to be extended above 20 years. Such a move would delay the availability of generic drugs in the pharmaceutical market. The agreement also stipulates for "data exclusivity". This implies that clinical trial data would not be in the public domain even after the patent period is over. A new set of clinical trial data would have to be submitted for new approvals of generic drugs. As clinical trials would have to be repeated for new generic drugs, their release will become more expensive and delayed.

Third, the agreement formalises a set of "rights" for investors with no corresponding responsibilities for them. Governments will have to protect these rights of investors

in all circumstances. In fact, India has bitter lessons from the more than 50 bilateral investor treaties signed by it after 1995. Some actions taken by the GOI in public interest against investors had invited international arbitration disputes. This had forced India to rewrite many bilateral investment treaties it had signed. In this context, signing of the RCEP agreement would mean a rejection of lessons learnt from the past. Unlimited investor rights are essentially an anti-people concept. Fourth, the agreement forces countries to privatise a number of public services, such as education, health, electricity, water and waste management. As per the "ratchet" clauses of the agreement, there would be a deadline to lift all public regulations over the public services. Even if the private providers move away from their social obligations, governments would not be able to regulate them. States like Kerala have shown the world how public institutions can be used to improve human development indicators. It cannot accept such reactionary suggestions. India's experience with signing regional free trade agreements in the past has not been pleasant. It had signed a free trade agreement with the ASEAN group in 2010, South Korea in 2010 and Japan in 2011. Data show that India's trade deficit with these countries rose between 2011 and 2018. RCEP agreement is unlikely to be different. It would large numbers of Indian producers into distress. Signing it would be a truly anti-national move.

R. Ramakumar is professor at the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai, and member of the Kerala State Planning Board

SUNDAY INTERVIEW

‘Uddhav Thackeray will take the final decision on forming govt with BJP’

Even after the election results were declared, a new government has not been formed in Maharashtra due to a tug of war between the Shiv Sena and the BJP. Both parties had fought the election as an alliance which got a clear majority by winning 161 seats in the 288-member House, including the BJP's 105 seats and the Sena's 56 seats. However, after the results, the Sena has refused to support the BJP government unless it gets 50 per cent of Cabinet berths and the chief minister's post for two and a half years. While the BJP is refusing to accept the Sena's demand, the Uddhav Thackeray-led party has declared that it can prove its majority in the House on its own (with Congress and NCP support). As per latest reports, Devendra Fadnavis is likely to be sworn in as the chief minister on Tuesday without waiting for the Sena's support and will prove his majority on the floor. Shiv Sena leader **EKNATH SHINDE**, who has been elected as the party's leader in the state legislature, speaks with **BHAGWAN PARAB** on issues related to

government formation and relations with the BJP.

What is the reason that the BJP and the Shiv Sena have not been able to form the government despite fighting the polls as an alliance and having a clear majority?

We had a meeting with all the newly elected MLAs on Thursday, where all MLAs unanimously decided that our party president Uddhav Thackeray will take the final decision on forming a government with the BJP. He will decide the terms and we will abide by whatever decision he takes on this matter.

It is said that the BJP has given a new formula to the Sena for power sharing. Still, why is there no headway?

We are not aware of any new proposal from the BJP. Uddhavji has already made it clear that the BJP should keep its promise made before the Lok Sabha elections when we agreed to form the alliance. (The Sena claims that the BJP had agreed to a 50-50 power sharing formula, including the CM's post).

We had a meeting with all the newly elected MLAs on Thursday, where all MLAs unanimously decided that our party president Uddhav Thackeray will take the final decision on forming a government with the BJP

Several Independent MLAs have come forward to support the Shiv Sena. Does this strengthen the Shiv Sena's case on government formation?

Seven Independent MLAs have already pledged their support to the Shiv Sena and some more are in touch with us. Their support indicates the faith they have in our party. Our numbers are increasing.

You have again been elected as a leader of the Shiv Sena's legislative party. How does it feel?

It's an honour for me that Aaditya Thackeray moved the motion to appoint me as



Shiv Sena legislator Eknath Shinde

— RAJESH JADHAV

the leader of the legislative party. I also thank party chief Uddhav Thackeray for bestowing his faith in me and I will make honest efforts to come true to his expectations. I will work by taking all our MLAs into confidence to ensure that the prestige of the

House is upheld. I will also ensure that people's problems are raised in the House to give voice to their grievances. We will try to raise issues of farmers, women, students, etc in the House.

If the Shiv Sena decides to

form the government, will you be the candidate for the post of chief minister?

I won't be able to comment on this. In the Shiv Sena, the word of party chief Uddhavji is always final. Whatever directive he gives, we follow it earnestly.

But even before government formation, the Shiv Sena has taken the lead on farmers' issues and has urged to the governor that wet drought should be announced in the state. What is the party doing to provide relief to people?

The Shiv Sena's priority will always be to solve problems faced by farmers. Uddhavji has already given directions to all party MLAs that people should be provided immediate aid. A *panchnama* of the loss suffered by the farmers should be done at the earliest. Whether we are in government or not, we will always stand with the farmers. Even when we were in the government, both Uddhavji and Aadityaji had toured the state widely to understand farmers' problems and solve them.



Dilip Cherian
Dilli Ka Babu

RECIPE FOR REPATRIATION

The Modi sarkar has despatched peremptorily Rina Ray, secretary, school education and literacy, ministry of human resource development, to her parent UT cadre. The order issued by the appointments committee of the Cabinet, ministry of personnel, stated that the panel had approved the repatriation of Ms Ray, a 1984-batch IAS officer, to her parent cadre with immediate effect. Amit Khare, secretary of the information and broadcasting ministry, has been given additional charge of the school education department.

The repatriation of Ms Ray took many by surprise but those in the know say that she fell foul of the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), which was reportedly "unhappy" with her performance (read: speed of delivery) and because of "behavioural issues" (read what you will!). But the removal of the senior IAS officer has most likely to do with her decision to withdraw permission to centralised kitchens run by private organisations to serve midday meals in rural schools earlier this year. When Ms Ray took over as the secretary in July 2018, she reviewed the permission to centralised kitchens in rural areas. Ms Ray is learnt to have questioned the rationale for allowing private organisations to operate centralised kitchens for preparing midday meals.

Any guesses who's been hurt by her enthusiasm? That's where the next story is!

PVT TRAIN HITS A 'TECHNICAL' SNAG

The country's first corporate-run train, between Delhi and Lucknow, may have been flagged off with great zeal, but rail babus are pointing out that its fare, which is higher than that of the Shatabdi Express and other trains, is in contravention of the law. The train is operated by the IRCTC, the catering and commercial wing of the railways, and is the first of 150 trains the government will run in private mode.

But rail officials say that according to the Railway Act, 1989, only the Central government is the competent authority to fix the tariffs and not the IRCTC. According to sources, while the Act clearly lays down that tariffs for goods and passengers will be decided by the Central government, it does not recognise privately-operated trains. Further, the government has not issued any order authorising private train authorities to decide the fares.

The issue has come up just after the railway board formed an empowered group of secretaries led by Niti Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant to develop 50 railway stations to world standards and to permit private operators to run 150 trains.

Yet another case of babu lethargy causing a plan to be delayed? Or are we heading into uncharted territories here?

ANOTHER TRANSFER CONTROVERSY

The Supreme Court has directed the Centre and the Assam government to transfer 1995-cadre IAS officer Prateek Hajela to Madhya Pradesh within seven days. Mr Hajela was the coordinator of the National Register of Citizens of India (NRC) that has kicked up a fierce controversy after the final list of NRC released excluded names of over 19 lakh applicants. Mr Hajela had overseen this mammoth and sensitive programme.

Sources say that while the Apex Court has not disclosed the reason for moving Mr Hajela out of Assam, it is understood that the court felt a threat to the babu's life if he stayed in the state. However, the babu has been accused of "playing with the sentiments" of the people of Assam by conducting a "faulty NRC". Some politicians are insisting that the NRC coordinator should not be transferred until he explains how "each and every penny was spent".

Love them, hate them ignore them at national peril, is the babu guarantee and Dilip's belief. Share significant babu escapades dilipcherian@hotmail.com



Aakar Patel

Let us look at a few facts to try and understand the WhatsApp hack on Indians. First, the company that has been accused of the crime has been taken to court in America for the hack by Facebook, which owns WhatsApp. The accused firm, the NSO Group of Israel, has built and sold a platform that allowed its clients to hack into at least 1,400 and possibly more mobile phones worldwide through a missed call. This happened this year between April 29 and May 10. The important fact here is that all of the NSO Group's clients are national governments.

The company says that it "helps government maintain public safety". It claims it has made "best-in-class technology to help government agencies detect and prevent a wide range of local and global threats". The company's products "help government intelligence and law enforcement agencies use technology to meet the challenges of encryption to prevent and investigate terror and crime".

NSO's technology is designed by telecommunications and intelligence experts who, being positioned at the forefront of their fields, are dedicated to keep pace with the ever-changing cyber world.

Second, the people targeted in India are those that our government refers to as anti-nationals. They include the lawyers of the people arrested in the Bhima Koregaon matter and activists who work on the issues of minorities and in tribal areas. Many of them have

been harassed by the government before. Many of these people are individuals I know and have worked with.

Third, the Narendra Modi government did not deny that it had acquired the NSO platform, and did not deny that it was spying on its citizens by hacking into their phones. A statement from the Union minister for information technology instead said India had asked WhatsApp to explain what the nature of the breach was and what it was doing to protect the privacy of Indians. It would have been appropriate for the government to flatly deny that it was involved. However, possibly because the matter is in the courts in America, where judges cannot be manipulated easily, it is possible that the government is holding on to its options in terms of how much information it could reveal. NSO said in a statement that it was "not able to disclose who is or is not a client".

Fourth, the government of India uses private companies to assist it in IT investigations. When my organisation was "raided" (I am using the word in quotes because there was and there is no charge against us or even a complaint) last year, our server was handed over to two individuals from a private company to clone. Meaning to copy it. During this "raid" my mobile phone was taken from me and I was forced to unlock it and hand it over. When I asked if this action was legal, I got no answer. My phone was passed around between some people who fiddled with it and I was not informed what was done with it before it was given back to me. The same has happened at other recent "raids" including that on the Network 18 founder Raghav Bahl's company.

Fifth, unlike in the United States, there is no judicial oversight of surveillance by the government in India. In America, a judge has to authorise a wire tap. In India this is not needed. An RTI filed by the *Indian Express* sometime ago revealed that the Union

home secretary approved of 10,000 phone taps per year. This means 300 approvals per day, indicating that he is approving everything without looking at the details. Unlike America, in India there is no accountability for unauthorised and illegal leakage of the material gathered. Officers and ministers do not get punished for this here.

Sixth, the material that is gathered even on this scale does not result in convictions. The conviction rate for the laws under which terror accused are charged is about one per cent. In 99 per cent of the cases, the government fails or has wrongly booked individuals. This failure includes the UAPA (under which the Bhima Koregaon activists have been booked). There is no accountability in the government for this failure and for this misuse either.

This is the background that we have to know when we consider the fact that someone paid an Israeli company to hack into the phones of Indian citizens — whose work the government does not approve of.

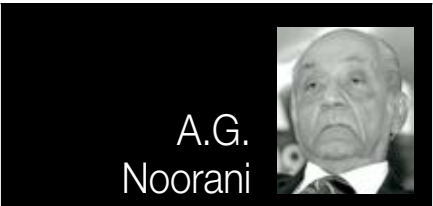
Usually, such matters in India do not reach conclusion because media interest dies and the government as I said is never held accountable. Some years ago, a newspaper I was editing had published the taped conversations of Salman Khan and Preity Zinta. The actress took me to court for defamation and in court it turned out that the Mumbai police had tapped Salman's phone without permission, but no punishment was handed out and the thing was hushed up.

However, this time even Americans have been hacked and in their justice system, the truth is likely to be revealed in due course. And when it is revealed who is behind the hack we can always say that "anti-nationals" in any case do not deserve the right to privacy and that any action against them, even if it is illegal, is permissible.

Aakar Patel is a writer, columnist and executive director of Amnesty International (India)



'I'm in a very fragile place right now.'



A.G. Noorani

Bias in judges hurts public confidence in the judiciary

Recently, the Supreme Court of India heard an argument on the recusal of a judge from the bench of which he was a member, on the ground that there was a reasonable apprehension of bias on his part.

A five-judge constitution bench hearing a case on the interpretation of a provision of the Land Acquisition Act refused the recusal of Justice Arun Mishra. The petitioners had sought his recusal on the ground that he had delivered in 2008 a verdict which had to be reconsidered.

The law and practice on a judge's recusal merits separate discussion. What Justice Arun Mishra said in the court on October 24 has far-reaching implications. He said: "No litigant can choose who should be on the bench. He cannot say that a judge who might have decided a case on a particular issue, which may go against his interest, should not hear his case as part of a larger bench."

But the parties made no such sweeping claim at all. This proposition is altogether different from the one urged by the parties which sought his recusal. The sole issue was a reasonable apprehension in the minds of the litigant and his advocate that, since the judge had expressed emphatically his views on a question of law in a previous case,

there was apprehension that he would not approach the latter case with an open mind. This was not an accusation of lack of integrity. It was simply a reminder of a very natural infirmity of the human mind.

If anything, Justice Mishra's remarks lend support to the objection. For, he said that a judge cannot be suspected of bias for performing his sworn duty. "Previous judgement cannot constitute bias or predisposition or raise reasonable apprehension of bias."

He said, "The ultimate test is for the judge to decide and to find out whether he will be able to deliver impartial justice to a cause with integrity and with whatever intellectual capacity at his command ... In case the answer is that he will be able to deliver justice to the cause, he cannot and must not recuse from any case as the duty assigned by the Constitution has to be performed as per the oath and there lies the larger public interest."

The truth, on the other hand, is that public confidence in the judiciary will be shaken if, faced with a prima facie case of his bias, the judge insists on deciding the case. Worse, Justice Mishra's remarks suggest that a judge can never be biased and, more, he can be judge in his own cause; virtually a claim to judicial infallibility.

Shortly before the learned judge expounded his doctrine, the *New York Times* had a lengthy editorial titled "Watch out: Supreme Court in session". It referred to cases that were to come up for hearing and judgement in the ensuing session in which "the make-up of the Supreme Court matters so much". It is well-recognised that the US Supreme Court's history has been divided between Conservatives and Liberals with a Liberal or two holding the balance.

One of the court's great judges Benjamin N. Cardozo delivered a lecture in 1921 at Yale University, published amongst others in book form under the title *The Nature of the Judicial Process*. They are considered a classic on the subject.

He said: "I have spoken of the forces of which judges avowedly avail to shape the form and content of their judgements. Even these forces are seldom fully in consciousness. They lie so near the surface, however, that their existence and influence are not likely to be disclaimed. But the subject is not exhausted with the recognition of their power. Deep below consciousness are other forces, the likes and the dislikes, the predilections and the prejudices, the complex of instincts and emotions and habits and convictions, which

make the man, whether he be litigant or judge..."

He said, "I do not doubt the grandeur of the conception which lifts them [judges] into the realm of pure reason, above and beyond the sweep of perturbing and deflecting forces. Nonetheless, if there is anything of reality in my analysis of the judicial process, they do not stand aloof on these chill and distant heights; and we shall not help the cause of truth by acting and speaking as if they do. The great tides and currents which engulf the best of men do not turn aside in their course and pass the judges by."

President Theodore Roosevelt said in his message to the US Congress in December 1908: "The decisions of the courts on economic and social questions depend upon their economic and social philosophy; and for the peaceful progress of our people during the 20th century we shall owe most to these judges who hold to a 20th-century economic and social philosophy." Surely, this is not unique to the US.

India has not been immune to judicial bias or what came to be called in the heyday of Indira Gandhi's, "committed" judges. The tribes are not dead.

By arrangement with Dawn



3D holograms

A printer capable of producing digital 3D holograms with a high level of detail and realistic colour have been developed

THE ASIAN AGE

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Science+Health

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IN BRIEF



Autistic people have symmetrical brain hemispheres

Washington: While it is known that the human brain is divided into two hemispheres, what is not known is that despite the two develop differently, symmetry is found in the brain of autistic people. The left and right halves develop differently, as each “specialises” in certain functions. But brain asymmetry is sometimes affected in people with developmental or psychiatric disorders like autism, which is characterised by impaired social cognition, repetitive behaviour, and restricted interests. “Previous studies have suggested that people with autism spectrum disorder are less likely to have the typical asymmetries for language dominance or hand preference,” explained PhD student Merel Postema. “However, it has not been clear whether asymmetry of the brain’s anatomy is affected in autism, because different studies have reported different findings,” Postema added. To find if people with autism have a more symmetrical brain, researchers decided to do a large-scale study, based on brain scan data from 1,774 people with autism and 1,809 healthy controls that were collected in different countries over more than 20 years. They found that the left and right cerebral hemispheres of the brain are indeed more similar in people with autism. In other words, people with ASD had less brain asymmetry. The reduced asymmetry was mostly found for cortical thickness, at various locations across the brain’s surface. In the healthy brain, the thickness of the cerebral cortex (the thin layer of gray matter that covers the brain) differs between the left and right hemispheres. Importantly, the anatomical differences did not depend on age, sex or IQ. — ANI



What happens to your brain when you sleep

Washington: A recent study suggests that amazing things happen when a person’s brain while sleeping. The neurons will go quiet and a few seconds later, blood flows out of the head. Then, a watery liquid called cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) flows in, washing through the brain in rhythmic, pulsing waves. The study — published in *Science* — is the first to illustrate that the brain’s CSF pulses during sleep, and that these motions are closely tied with brain wave activity and blood flow. “We’ve known for a while that there are these electrical waves of activity in the neurons,” said study co-author Laura Lewis, a BU College of Engineering assistant professor of biomedical engineering and a Center for Systems Neuroscience faculty member. “But before now, we didn’t realise that there are actually waves in the CSF, too,” added Lewis. This research may also be the first-ever study to take images of CSF during sleep. Lewis hopes that it will one day lead to insights about a variety of neurological and psychological disorders that are frequently associated with disrupted sleep patterns, including autism. The coupling of brain waves with the flow of blood and CSF could provide insights about normal age-related impairments as well. Earlier studies have suggested that CSF flow and slow-wave activity help flush toxic, memory-impairing proteins from the brain. — ANI

■ A practical how-to guide to embrace life with enthusiasm and confidence

Age-old mantra to live a happy life in 60s

London, Nov. 2: You can have the time of your life when you reach your 60s and 70s.

Work, mortgage and worries about bringing up children will all be in the past, and you’ll have an abundance of the one thing younger people want but can’t buy — time to enjoy yourself, according to a Daily Mirror report.

Studies have shown that people in their later years are more likely to suffer from mental health conditions, such as depression or anxiety, than younger people. However, our later years are the best years.

Here’s a practical how-to guide packed with simple tips and advice that’s designed to help you embrace life with enthusiasm and confidence.

Power of positive

If one were to choose a factor above all others to

Remain healthy in the evening of life

▶ Studies have shown that people in their later years are more likely to suffer from mental health conditions, such as depression or anxiety, than younger people

▶ People with optimistic attitudes have fewer illnesses and recover more quickly than pessimists when they are unwell. Pessimism weakens the immune system.



increase longevity, it would be optimism. It can give you real resilience as you get older.

Research has shown that people with optimistic attitudes have fewer illnesses and recover more quickly than pessimists when they are unwell.

This is because pessimism weakens the immune system. Studies have even shown that people with negative or hopeless attitudes are at greater risk of developing heart disease.

Optimists are more likely to feel they can take charge of their health and not just passively slide into old age.

They tend to take better care of themselves too. They sleep better, don’t drink or smoke too much, exercise regularly and are freer from depression. They live longer and age more gently.

Learn to stress less

You have probably heard that stress can be very ageing - and to a certain

respond to stress in the first place.

Smile, smile, smile

When we smile it acts as a trigger to the mind and body to release chemicals that induce pleasant emotions.

The same thing happens when someone smiles at you.

But did you know you can store this good feeling in your memory, and call up the good feelings whenever you want to?

Start by recalling the sensation of smiling in your mind, and visualise an image that makes you smile.

Meditate

Meditation can sound complicated or intimidating, but it isn’t.

It’s simply a way of quieting the mind. When your mind is quiet, you will feel a sense of peace and absence of stressful feelings. — Agencies

Tourism industry’s food waste bigger issue than thought

Washington, Nov. 2: A recent study suggests that food waste is increasing as the tourism industry is becoming more and more diverse.

According to the researchers at the University of Eastern Finland and the University of Southern California, focus on preventing food waste only in the traditional foodservice and accommodation establishments ignores the reality of growing tourist households and will stifle sustainability efforts.

Food waste is a major issue globally, and it has also been identified as the most prominent type of hospitality waste, reported the study published in *Tourism Review*.

Annually, roughly 1.3 billion tons of food is lost or goes to waste, which is equivalent to one third or



▶ Annually, roughly 1.3 billion tons of food goes to waste, which is equivalent to one half of all food intended for human consumption

even up to one half of all food intended for human consumption. Food waste is a major environmental, social and economic issue. Indeed, the tourism industry is facing ever-growing economical, societal and legislative reasons to address food waste. — ANI

Competing species help each other out as ‘frenemies’: Study

Los Angeles, Nov. 2: Social connections between animals, including those belonging to competing species, play a much bigger role in ecology than previously believed, according to a study.

The researchers, including those from University of California (UC) — Davis in the US, said that some animals in the wild like gazelles, wildebeests, or zebras become aware of the presence of a predator such as a lion by seeing how other species in their vicinity react, using their social network to keep themselves safe.

The study, published in the journal *Ecology*, is the first to describe an ecology model taking this kind of short-term information sharing into account at the population level.

“There’s mounting evidence that different species pay attention to each other in the wild, especially if they share

INTERACTION

▶ Some animals in the wild like gazelles, wildebeests, or zebras become aware of the presence of a predator such as a lion by seeing how other species in their vicinity react, using their social network to keep themselves safe

predators. The theory of ecology has lagged behind,” said study co-author Mike Gil from UC Davis.

According to the researchers, ecologists traditionally focused on competition between species for food and other resources.

“But we typically leave out the specifics of animal decision making and

social behaviour,” Gil said.

The researchers hope to understand how the populations of different species interact with each other and change over time.

The effects of such short term behaviour are especially strong at low population densities, he said.

When the number of animals of a species living in a specific region is high, the models show that the competition between species is a stronger influence of their overall behaviour, the study noted.

According to the researchers, the new theory could clear up some existing puzzles in ecology such as how competing species coexist without one driving the other out.

Social interactions between competing — “frenemies” — species could help them get along, study co-author Mike Gil said. — PTI

Surge in superbugs: Figures show 61K antibiotic-resistant infections

London, Nov. 2: The number of antibiotic resistant infections soared by nine per cent in England in one year, official figures have revealed.

There were 61,000 cases — the equivalent of 165 a day — across the country in 2018, compared to 56,000 in 2017.

Serious drug-resistant bloodstream infections, which can be caused by UTIs or skin infections, have risen by a third in five years.

And almost 3,000 people were killed by superbugs in 2018, up from 2,450 in 2017, according to estimates from Public Health England (PHE).

The figures highlight the growing threat of superbugs, which have been deemed as dangerous to humanity as climate change and terrorism.

▶ Bacteria can become resistant — known as a superbug — when people take incorrect doses of antibiotics, or they are given out unnecessarily

Antimicrobial resistance kills around 700,000 a year.

It is mainly fuelled by the over-use of antibiotics in healthcare and farming.

Bacteria can become resistant — known as a superbug — when people take incorrect doses of antibiotics, or they are given out unnecessarily.

However, the statistics showed antibiotics are being doled out less than they used to, with a 17 per

cent drop in prescription rates over the past five years.

Health leaders have now reminded people to only take antibiotics when necessary, amid the worrying trend that is jeopardising medicine.

Antibiotics should not be used to treat coughs, earache and sore throats that can get better on their own.

Dr Susan Hopkins, AMR lead at PHE said: “It’s worrying that more infections are becoming resistant to these life-saving medicines and we must act now to preserve antibiotics for when we really need them.”

Antibiotics may be used to treat bacterial infections that are unlikely to clear up on their own, may infect others, or pose serious risks. — Agencies

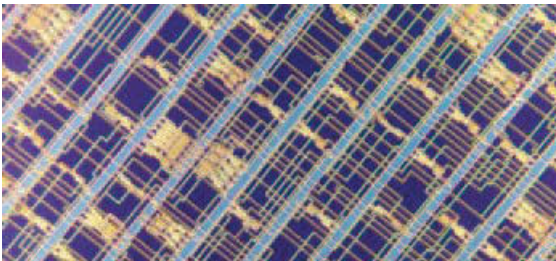
Dietary fibre purifies carbon nanotubes

Washington, Nov. 2: A new study has discovered a cheaper method that can easily and effectively separate two types of carbon nanotubes.

The process, developed by Nagoya University researchers in Japan, could be up-scaled for manufacturing purified batches of single-wall carbon nanotubes that can be used in high-performance electronic devices. The findings were published in the journal *Applied Physics Express*.

Single-wall carbon nanotubes (SWCNTs) have excellent electronic and mechanical properties, making them ideal candidates for use in a wide range of electronic devices, including the thin-film transistors found in LCD displays.

A problem is that only two-thirds of manufactured SWCNTs are suitable for use in electronic



devices. The useful semiconducting SWCNTs must be separated from the unwanted metallic ones. But the most powerful purification process, known as aqueous two-phase extraction, currently involves the use of a costly polysaccharide, called dextran.

Organic chemist Haruka Omachi and colleagues at Nagoya University hypothesized that dextran’s effectiveness in separating semiconducting from metallic SWCNTs lies in the linkages connecting its glucose units.

Instead of using dextran to separate the two types of SWCNTs, the team tried the significantly cheaper isomaltodextran, which has many more of these linkages.

A batch of SWCNTs was left for 15 minutes in a solution containing polyethylene glycol and isomaltodextrin and then centrifuged for five minutes.

Three different types of isomaltodextrin were tried, each with a different number of linkages and a different molecular weight. The team found that metallic SWCNTs sep-

arated to the bottom isomaltodextrin part of the solution, while the semiconducting SWCNTs floated to the top polyethylene glycol part.

The type of isomaltodextrin with high molecular weight and the most linkages was the most (99%) effective in separating the two types of SWCNTs. The team also found that another polysaccharide, called pullulan, whose glucose units are connected with different kinds of linkages, was ineffective in separating the two types of SWCNTs. The researchers suggest that the number and type of linkages present in isomaltodextrin play an important role in their ability to effectively separate the carbon nanotubes.

The team also found that a thin-film transistor made with their purified semiconducting SWCNTs performed well. — ANI

World is facing extensive decline of insect species

Washington, Nov. 2: A recent study reveals that in the past decade many insect species have decreased by one third, affecting the grasslands.

Various studies have already demonstrated that there are far fewer creatures chirping, buzzing, creeping and fluttering in German meadows today than 25 years ago.

“Previous studies, however, either focused exclusively on biomass, i.e. the total weight of all insects, or on individual species or species groups. The fact that a large part of all insect groups is actually affected has not been clear so far,” said Dr Sebastian Seibold, a scientist with the Terrestrial Ecology Research Group at TUM.

In a large-scale biodiversity study, an international research team headed by scientists at TUM surveyed a large number of insect groups in Brandenburg, Thuringia and Baden-Württemberg between 2008 and 2017.

Now the team has published its analysis in the scientific journal — *Nature*.

The researchers collected more than one million insects at 300 sites. They were able to prove that many of the nearly 2700 investigated species are in decline.

In recent years, certain rare species could no longer be found in some of the regions studied. Both in forested areas and grasslands, the scientists counted one third fewer insect species. — ANI

Rest means rust: Early retirement can speed up dementia

Many of us dream of an early retirement, when we can finally book that once-in-a-lifetime holiday and switch off.

But younger retirees may be more likely to develop dementia than those who work until old age, research suggests.

Scientists found quitting work before the age of 60 accelerated cognitive decline and stifled memory in later life — traits of the memory-robbing disorder.

They believe it is caused by a lack of mental stimulation that employees experience during the working day.

New York scientists have found younger retirees experience accelerated cognitive decline and poorer memory in later

life. Retirement is also usually accompanied by a decline in social activities and less interaction with people, which has also been linked to cognitive decline, the researchers say.

It is believed social isolation may also lead a person to live an unhealthier lifestyle, which is thought to drive up the risk of the memory-robbing disorder.

The cause of dementia remains unknown but evidence is quickly mounting that social interaction, mental stimulation, a healthy diet and exercise can all slash the risk.

The team of academics from Binghampton

University in New York analysed more than 17,500 individuals as part of China’s Retirement Longitudinal Survey (CHARLS).

Dementia is an umbrella term used to describe a range of progressive neurological disorders, that is, conditions affecting the brain.

There are many different types of dementia, of which Alzheimer’s disease is the most common.

Some people may have a combination of types of dementia.

Regardless of which type is diagnosed, each person will experience their dementia in their own unique way.

Currently there is no cure for dementia.

But new drugs can slow down its progression and the earlier it is spotted the more effective treatments are.

CHARLS is a national survey of the nation’s over-60s from more than 30 provinces that tests participants for mental cognition, memory and overall wellbeing.

It includes a mix of retired people and those still in the workforce from 150 districts in the Asian nation.

They found people receiving pension were experiencing much more rapid mental decline than those still on the workforce. The prominent indicator of mental decline among retirees was memory. — Agencies

Osteoarthritis affects every joint of body

Osteoarthritis (osteon-bone; arthritis-inflammation) is a common joint disease that mostly affects middle to aged people. It does not affect just one joint, but almost every joint of the body and hence the lifestyle of an individual. That is why it is called a multidimensional disease.

It is characterised by an active and complex process involving inflammatory, mechanical and metabolic factors, which ultimately lead to structural destruction and failure of synovial fluid.

It is an extraordinarily complex pathology, which ultimately include cartilage, bone, synovium and soft tissue structures such as ligaments, muscles and menisci. The patient shows symptoms such as pain, stiff joints, difficulty in performing activities and sleep disturbances.

The risk factors associated with the disease are old age, obesity, joint injury, biomechanical factors such as joint shape and alignment, hormonal changes, metabolic disturbances and genetic predisposition which cause severe joint destruction. Osteoarthritis (OA) is a syndrome rather than just a single disease as it affects our functional ability with joint changes such as spine, hip, wrist, knees, fingers and toes. The condition may affect walk. Impaired wrist, elbow, shoulder joints can affect gross or fine movements like sorting files, pushing, pulling, preparing meals.

Severe OA of the spine may cause cord compression with loss of motion, reflex loss, sensory loss or motor loss.

The diagnosis can be done by a doctor after a medical examination which may include an X-ray that can show damage and other changes related to the disease and also the MRI, which would provide a clear picture of cartilage and other structures to detect abnormalities of osteoarthritis. There is no proven treatment yet that can reverse the changes of osteoarthritis. The goal of treatment is to reduce pain and improve functional ability. This is performed by a combination therapy of drug therapy, nutrition and physical therapy. Weight loss and exercise benefit such patients. Exercises can improve muscle strength, reduce joint stiffness by cartilage replenishment and pain, and lower the chances of disability due to osteoarthritis.

FACTS: Osteoarthritis is a multidimensional disease rather than a single disease; OA symptoms can vary greatly in individuals; Obesity, hormonal changes and biomechanical changes are key factors for the disease; Exercise is an important aspect of treatment as it can add years to life.

The writer is a physiotherapist, AktivHealth

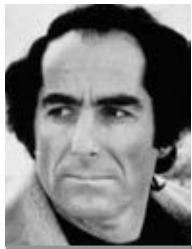


Isha Garg

OA

▶ Osteoarthritis (OA) is a syndrome rather than just a single disease as it affects our functional ability

▶ OA of the spine may cause cord compression with loss of motion



Philip Roth (*When She Was Good*, *The Human Stain* and the Pulitzer-winning *American Pastoral*) was an atheist, a pessimist, a partial-misanthrope and the man who said ‘the book can’t compete with the screen’ when asked to compare it with digital media

THE ASIAN AGE

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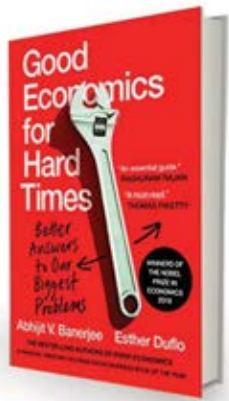
Books

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Saving the world from the bottom upwards



Sanjeev Ahluwalia
review



GOOD ECONOMICS FOR
HARD TIMES

by Abhijit V. Banerjee,
Esther Duflo
Juggernaut, ₹699

One doesn't quite know what it takes to win a Sveriges Riksbank Prize — instituted in 2006 in Memory of Alfred Nobel — in the Economic Sciences category. The three winners this year, of which two are also co-authors of this book, are the ones best placed to find out for they have bet their careers on figuring out why humans do what they do.

All three apply the experimental method of randomised control trials (RCT) from the physical sciences to social science. The claim is that RCT serve to convert economic philosophy into a science by relying on evidence rather than ideology (to be wealthy is glorious or alternatively private property is theft); belief (the poor are lazy) or informed guesswork (low taxes are good for growth).

Poor Economics published in 2011, a first for the Banerjee-Duflo duo (BD hereafter) was about applying the learning from the RCT experiments to formulating policy for ending poverty. This book spans a larger canvas covering the big issues facing us today.

Is migration a calculated economic choice exercised for a better life or a last resort for those pushed to the brink by politics, war or climate disruptions and what does migration do to the host country?

Are the gains from international trade equitably distributed as assumed, or are there losers? Are individual or societal preferences rational, carefully thought through choices to be respected or merely the product of historical biases and targeted political outreach to exploit existing social chasms and deepen homophily — the comfort zone of associating only with familiar stereotypes?

How are needs different from wants? If a poor person has a TV but not enough food, is the TV a need or a want?

The Banerjee-Duflo team are a curious blend of Eastern asceticism and thrift, European social ethics and the Anglo-Saxon belief in markets and citizen rights... This reflects in their views on growth — a central preoccupation in economic policy over the last two decades.

What is economic growth and can it last forever? Is reducing consumption the only real option for mitigating climate change? Will AI and robotics result in permanent net job loss?

How can governments gain legitimacy? Can more cash end poverty or is restoring the dignity of those left behind as important? These are some of the broad themes explored with meticulously researched references to back the arguments.

The best thing is that the BD duo never talks down at you. They are both teachers and young parents, who have mastered the skill of storytelling — unveiling their arguments in a sequenced manner paced to retain the reader's attention. It also helps that they delight in debunking carefully crafted economic myths by leading the evidence to show up their limitations.

If humans are rational maximisers of self-interest, as is commonly assumed, why, they ask, don't poor workers in Odisha accept lower wages in exchange for more days worked rather than starve whilst holding out for a higher daily wage? The answer is that maintaining group identity is vital as an economic backstop for the poor, so group pressure dulls an individual workers "rational" response, thereby rendering labour markets sticky.

A fundamental assumption in macro-economics is that in the

long run (how long is that anyway?) markets smooth out the misallocation of resources across the factors of production — land, labour and capital. But across countries migration controls (think Japan) pose a barrier between surplus labour in poorer countries and labour demand in richer countries. Digital services provide an alternative but the outsourcing country loses out on national income.

Within a country government policy can encourage such seamless movement of resources. But in reality, firms and workers bear the cost of the many barriers to such seamless reallocation.

And what about the best kept secret in trade economics that there are significant "pains from trade" along with the gains. It is true, say the authors, that a rising tide raises all boats. But do all boats rise by as much? Or are there losers from trade liberalisation who then have to be compensated by the government by levying higher taxes — hopefully, only on the winners.

The Banerjee-Duflo team are a curious blend of Eastern asceticism and thrift, European social ethics and the Anglo-Saxon belief in markets and citizen rights. This is not surprising. Banerjee is an American with an Indian heart and Duflo is French. They both work in developing economies in Asia and Africa. Their multicultural heritage and "patient work experience" with the poor, flavours their scientific objectivity with a thinly-veiled soft heart for the underdog.

This reflects in their views on growth — a central preoccupation in economic policy over the last two decades. The duo agree that growth is the basis for much needed jobs and taxes to finance human capital development, build infrastructure and provide a safety

net for the inevitable losers from economic reform.

They agree with Robert Solow that growth is an exogenous process. So, government policy can do little to alter the rate of growth because there are too many happen-stance factors — the price of oil in 1973, war in 1990 or the end of a cycle of high productivity in 2008 — which are outside the control of national governments. Their advice for political leaders who seek everlasting high growth is to instead, seek everlasting youth, which is presently, more reachable.

They warn that over-reliance on growth as a headline performance metric can lead to massive market distortions and grandfathered losses as governments resort to "unorthodox policy" to whip up flagging growth, usually at the cost of the poorest. The current stress in Indian and Chinese banks is one such outcome of governments failing to take the pain of reform in 2008 by opting for loose credit policy to sit out the downturn in the hope that growth would return.

The BD duo is unfailingly humane and high minded by instinct, objective in their scientific assessments and precise in their diagnosis of the problem. This book is a must read for anyone interested in understanding the behavioural roots of effective economic policy.

Sticking to their comparative advantage — the evidenced economics of hard times will be difficult. Nobel Prize winners are expected to be prophets, heralding a new dawn, not diligent scientists obsessing over the "right" nuance to a policy. Saving the world from above is likely to be very different from saving it from within. Hopefully their single minded pursuit of the truth shall prevail.

The writer is adviser,
Observer Research Foundation

Karna's #MeToo moment cries out for a reckoning



Kushal Gulab
review

The next time I read the *Mahabharata*, I was considerably older and so fascinated by each character's shades of grey that I read seven different translations in succession, then dived into analysis, and then plunged deep into books that focused on certain characters from the story.

I could not get enough of the *Mahabharata* then, and clearly I still cannot get enough of the epic because the second I heard that Marathi writer Ranjit Desai's *Radheya* had been translated to English by Vikrant Pande as *Karna: The Great Warrior*, I wanted it immediately.

And then I opened the book and there was Karna. A man against whom the dice had been loaded from the start, but still a man who tried his best to live an honourable life.

This Karna was bitter because of the circumstances of his life, but he tried not to be. He seemed to genuinely love his family. He was generous to a fault, even giving away the armour he had been born with when Indra asked for it, knowing very well that without that armour he was no longer protected. He was patient, thoughtful and introspective. Best of all, he was the very best friend anyone could have, standing firmly by Duryodhana no matter what.

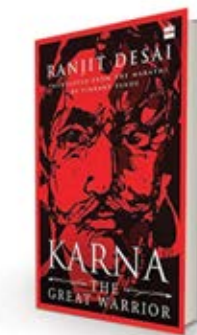
In other words, Karna was a hero, not a villain, except for one detail: he deliberately set out to humiliate Draupadi after Yudhishthira lost everything and everyone in the game of dice on which the great war turned. Karna could have stopped — or at least argued with — Duryodhana when the Kaurava prince ordered Draupadi stripped, but instead he actively urged on the *chirharan* in view of all the court.

Today, we would call this Karna's #MeToo moment. Since we are fictionalising a mythological character here, I would say that this is why Karna is not a hero of the *Mahabharata*. I admit that I hoped for exactly this point to be made in Desai's version of Karna — but it wasn't.

Desai did devote a few words to Karna's state of mind when Draupadi was dragged into the court like a slave after all the dice games were lost. Karna was not a hundred per cent happy even as he urged on the *chirharan*, but he did it anyway. It's clear that the author sees this as a sticking point for a man who should be a hero. But at the end of the book, when Karna finally dies, his behavior with Draupadi is not an issue at all.

For me, this meant that the book is a fail. I wouldn't give it a zero on ten — there are things to think about. But definitely less than pass marks for not exploring the deepest of all its hero's greys.

Kushalrani Gulab is a freelance editor and writer who dreams of being a sanyasi by the sea



KARNA: THE GREAT
WARRIOR

by Ranjit Desai,
translated by
Vikrant Pande
HarperPerennial, ₹499

WE RECOMMEND



The Problem
with
Everything
by Meghan
Daum
Simon &
Schuster, \$27

In the fall of 2016, acclaimed author Meghan Daum began working on a book about the excesses of contemporary feminism. With Hillary Clinton soon to be elected, she figured even the most fiercely liberal of her friends and readers could take the criticisms in stride. But after the election, she knew she needed to do more, and her nearly completed manuscript went in the trash. What came out in its place is the most sharply-observed, all-encompassing, and unput-downable book of her career.

In this gripping new work, Meghan examines the US's most intractable problems with clear-eyed honesty instead of exaggerated outrage. With passion, humor, and most importantly nuance, she tries to make sense of the current landscape—from Donald Trump's presidency to the #MeToo movement and beyond. In the process, she wades into the waters of identity politics and intersectionality, thinks deeply about the gender wage gap, and tests a theory about the divide between Gen Xers and millennials.

This signature work may well be the first book to capture the essence of this era in all its nuances and contradictions. No matter where you stand on its issues, this book will strike a chord.

How orators pioneered women's rights, Indian freedom movement



Priyadarshi Dutta

extract



THE MICROPHONE MEN:
HOW ORATORS CREATED A
MODERN INDIA

by Priyadarshi Dutta
Indus Source Books, ₹799

On December 15, 1829, Raja Ram-mohun Roy and Dwarkanath Tagore, friends and pioneers, addressed a public meeting in the Town Hall of Calcutta (now Kolkata). They spoke favourably of the contract farming of indigo (blue dye) that had been introduced in Bengal. History proved their estimations wrong, as coercive plantation of indigo became a menace in the long run. But that did not falsify the importance of their advocacy. Their real message was in the medium—public speaking. Theirs were apparently the first speeches on a public question delivered by any Indian. Soon public speaking oratory

emerged as a tool of mass communication. Though Roy's early death prevented him from pursuing the medium, Dwarkanath revelled in it in several public meetings.

Speechmaking is essentially training in thinking rather than in speaking. Roy pioneered analytical thinking on contemporary questions. He pondered upon judicial and revenue issues, freedom of press, rights of women and settlement of Europeans in India. He combined these with his thoughts on religious and social reforms. He expressed his ideas mostly in the form of essays, thereby becoming the precursor of prose writing in India. Oratory is criti-

cally dependent on the growth of prose. Roy thus prepared India for the great era of public speaking. He led India into a new time zone where thinkers lived in the present rather than in eternity.

Public speaking, seen in universal perspective, arrived late in India. There was a time lag of two thousand years between the first documented speech in the West (Greece) and that in India...

The rise of speechmaking in nineteenth century India was a sort of revolution. It transformed her national life, giving it a modern outlook... The matrix of power in the ancient or medieval times did not allow persuasion. There was no concept of shaping a collective future. Force, rather than reasoning, was the instrument of change.

Quite a few scholars have stated that India had a tradition of debate and arguments. They have attributed the modern democratic dis-

course in India to that ancient tradition. But there is a serious lacuna in this line of thinking. The polemic in ancient India was centred on metaphysics not politics. It is interesting to see king Menander (*Milinda*), hailing from the highly politically conscious race of the Greeks, discussing only spirituality with the senior Buddhist monk, Nagasena in *Milinda Pahno* (*Questions of King Milinda*). It would be an overstatement to assert that political debates in nineteenth and twentieth century India were an offshoot of the tradition of philosophical debates in ancient India...

The Bengalis pioneered speechmaking in India. They seemed to have emulated the meetings of the British nationals in India. But there the comparison ceases. The ideas they considered were quite original. The object was to represent the people's grievances to the government. The compiler of the *Indian Year Book*,

1862, says public meetings might have always existed in India in one form or the other. The village communities gathered below the venerable tamarind or banyan tree to discuss local questions. In the cities, members of a caste or guild would assemble in the house of one of its principal representatives to deliberate upon issues connected with their immediate interests. But the new thing was to consider the national affairs...

The ascent of the power of the spoken word during the first century of printing in India might surprise us. Such a paradoxical phenomenon was noticeable even in Victorian Britain. How did the spoken word become so influential when printed works were making headway in India? One argument could be that the bulk of the Indian population was still illiterate. They were more receptive to spoken words than written text. But such a hypothesis is not without its drawbacks. During the nine-

teenth century it was a literate audience that was enamoured with the spoken word. It was only after 1920, when Gandhi took the message to the masses, that the audience profile changed... It will perhaps be better to see press and public speaking as complementary strands of opinion-making.

But spoken words always enjoyed a peculiar advantage vis-a-vis print regardless of the audience's literacy profile. Leadership is something that only spoken words can forge. A leader is one who communicates with the masses through speech. He or she takes responsibility for his or her words there and then. Otherwise the person is just an intellectual or writer, dealing with loads of information and theories.

Speechmaking had skeptics even during its heyday. Some of them were votaries of violence and found supplication before the British demeaning. Speeches were mostly petitioning by talk in

those days. And there were others who felt speechmaking alone could not achieve anything. The heroes of the platform could be fake...

In Gandhi, we encounter a new approach towards speechmaking. It became only an aid, not the foundation of his political programme. His mainstay was Satyagraha or civil disobedience — wilfully breaking the law to go to prison for a just cause. Previously, the audiences in meetings were mere spectators. Gandhi gave them a sort of god's work through Charkha, the spinning wheel. He made them into recruits of movement. The crowd was never as orderly or saintly as he had wanted. Thus, violence, which Gandhi clinically eschewed, could not be always avoided. But nonetheless he brought the teeming multitudes of India onto the foreground of history.

Excerpted from Dutta's
The Microphone Men



Out of race

Beto O'Rourke, the former Texas Congressman drops presidential bid



Iraqi govt should listen to protesters and ease media curbs

—Mike Pompeo
US secretary of state

IN BRIEF

Sharif critical after platelet drop

Islamabad: Former Pakistan prime minister Nawaz Sharif's health condition remains critical as his platelet count has dropped again, a day after it rose to 51,000, his personal physician said. Sharif, 69, was admitted to the Services Hospital on Monday night from Pakistan's anti-graft body's custody after his platelets dropped to a critical low level of 2,000. The Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz supremo's platelets increased from 35,000 to 51,000, showing improvement in his condition. The doctor said the cause behind the drop in platelets needs to be diagnosed and established without delay.

US focus turns to new ISIS chief

Washington: The United States is researching the new leader of the ISIS to determine his previous roles in the organisation, Nathan Sales, the US counter-terrorism coordinator, said after a US raid last month killed its former chief, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi. "Any time there is a leadership transition in the terrorist organisation, we want to make sure that we have the latest information that we need to have to confront the threat," Sales said. ISIS, in an audio tape posted online confirmed that Baghdadi was killed in a weekend raid by US special forces in northwestern Syria. It vowed revenge. ISIS also said a successor to Baghdadi identified as Abu Ibrahim al-Hashemi al-Quraishi had been appointed.

US Prez calls Alberto Fernandez

Buenos Aires: US President Donald Trump called Argentine President-elect Alberto Fernandez to congratulate him on his win and discuss the South American country's troubled economy. Fernandez sent a tweet saying Trump told him he had "instructed the IMF to work with us to resolve the problem of our debt." The IMF extended a \$57 billion credit line to the recession, and inflation-racked country last year when a run on the peso currency sparked concerns about a possible sovereign bond default. "I thanked him for the gesture and told him of my intention to maintain mature and cordial relationship with the United States," the tweet said.

AFGHANISTAN MINE BLAST KILLS 9 KIDS

Kabul: Nine Afghan children were killed on Saturday when a mine exploded as they walked to school, police said, the latest victims in a growing toll of civilian casualties in the war. The blast happened in the northeastern province of Takhar. "This area is under Taliban control and since security forces launched attacks to clear it, the Taliban have planted anti-personnel mines," Khalil Asir, a spokesman said. "Unfortunately, one of those mines exploded and killed nine primary school students," he said. The children, aged nine to 12, included four from what Asir described as a "Taliban family". Civilian casualties have been increasing to record levels this year, despite efforts by the United States and Taliban insurgents to reach a peace deal. A record 4,313 civilians were injured or killed between July and September, a 42 percent increase from the same period last year, the UN assistance mission in Afghanistan said. The toll included more than 1,000 deaths, the bloodiest period since the mission began collecting figures in 2009. — Agencies

IRAQIS TAKE TO THE STREETS AND ROOFS



Thousands took to the streets of Baghdad under clouds of teargas to demand the removal of the elected government in the biggest protest movement in Iraq since the fall of Saddam Hussein. The city's Tahrir Square was a chaotic scene of flag-waving demonstrators battling with security forces, while tuk-tuks ferried off wounded dissenters as riot police fired teargas. — AFP

Pakistan did not do enough: US

Nation failed to limit JeM, LeT from fundraising, recruiting: Report

Washington, Nov. 2: Pakistan has "failed to significantly limit" militant outfits like the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and the Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) from fundraising and recruiting while several terrorist groups that focus on attacks outside the country continued to operate from its soil in 2018, a damning US report has said. The US State Department, in its Congressional mandated annual Country Reports on Terrorism for 2018, said even though the Pakistani government voiced support for political reconciliation between

the Afghan government and the Taliban, it did not restrict the terror group and the Haqqani Network (HQN) from operating in Pakistan-based safe havens and threatening the US and Afghan forces in Afghanistan. The (Pakistani) government failed to significantly limit Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammad from raising money, recruiting and training in Pakistan and allowed candidates overtly affiliated with LeT front organisations to contest the July general elections, the US state department said in the report.

Although Pakistan's National Action Plan calls to ensure that no armed militias are allowed to function in the country, several terrorist groups that focus on attacks outside the country continued to operate from Pakistani soil in 2018, including the Haqqani Network, Lashkar-e-Taiba, and Jaish-e-Mohammad, it said. The report observed that the government and military acted inconsistently with respect to terrorist safe havens throughout the country. "Authorities did not take sufficient action to stop

certain terrorist groups and individuals from openly operating in the country, it said. Pakistan, it said, experienced significant terrorist threats in 2018, although the number of attacks and casualties have continued to decrease from previous years. The major terrorist groups that focused on conducting attacks in Pakistan included Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan, Jamaat-ulAhrar, Islamic State's Khorasan Province, and the sectarian group Lashkar-e-Jhangvi al-Alami. ISIS-K claimed several

major attacks against Pakistani targets, some of which may have been conducted in collaboration with other terrorist groups. Separatist militant groups conducted terrorist attacks against governmental, non-governmental, and diplomatic targets in Balochistan and Sindh provinces, it said. As a member of the Asia-Pacific Group on Money Laundering (APG), Pakistan agreed to implement international standards to combat money laundering, terrorism finance and proliferation finance. — PTI

UK POLL PITCH: JOHNSON CITES BREXIT DEAL

London, Nov. 2: British Prime Minister Boris Johnson has put his Brexit withdrawal deal at the centre of his election campaign, rejecting an electoral pact with the Brexit Party that would mean he would have to embrace leaving the European Union without a deal. Johnson had previously pledged to take Britain out of the European Union with or without a deal on Oct. 31, before lawmakers voted to force him to seek an extension until Jan. 31. But he has abandoned the threat of a no-deal Brexit in his Conservative Party's manifesto for the Dec. 12 election. The focus would be on getting his Brexit deal approved. Johnson rejected a call from the Brexit Party to drop the deal he negotiated with the EU in order to form a new electoral pact, saying that he could put his deal through parliament after any election win. — Reuters

UK truck deaths: Victims reportedly Vietnamese

Belfast, Nov. 2: A second man was charged with manslaughter over the deaths of 39 people found in the back of a truck near London, British police said, as they confirmed they now believe all the victims were Vietnamese. In Vietnam, police said they had detained two people. The discovery of the bodies in a container on an industrial estate has shone a spotlight on the illicit trade that sends the poor of Asia, Africa and the Middle East on perilous journeys to the West. The alleged truck driver has already been charged

■ **A SECOND MAN** was charged with manslaughter over the deaths of 39 people found in the back of a truck near London

over the deaths, and detectives said Eamon Harrison, 23, from Northern Ireland, was also accused of 39 counts of manslaughter as well as human trafficking and immigration offences. Harrison appeared at Dublin's High Court at the start of proceedings to extradite him from

Ireland to Britain. He was remanded in custody until November 11, a court spokesman said. The bodies were found in the early hours of October 23 after the container arrived in Britain from Zeebrugge in Belgium. The container was picked up at Purfleet dock in Essex, east of London, by a truck allegedly driven by Maurice Robinson, 25, from Northern Ireland. The victims were found not long afterwards. Police have not confirmed the exact cause of their deaths. — Reuters



Activists of the Jamiat Ulema-e Islam part march along a road during an anti-government Azadi March in Islamabad. — AFP

Imran gets Army backing

Islamabad, Nov. 2: Pakistan's powerful military said it supported the country's elected government and the constitution, as tens of thousands of opposition protesters gathered in the capital demanding that Prime Minister Imran Khan's resignation. "We believe in the law and the constitution and

our support is with the democratically elected government, not with any party," military spokesman Major General Asif Ghafoor said. The opposition had demanded that Khan resign within two days, raising the stakes in a protest campaign that the government has denounced as a threat to democracy.

The opposition says Khan's government is illegitimate and is being propped up by the military, which has ruled Pakistan for about half of its history and sets security and foreign policy. The Army denies meddling in politics. — Reuters

MELANIA WILL NOT CRY IF I'M SHOT: TRUMP

Washington, Nov. 2: During a private fundraising event at Trump Hotel recently, US President Donald Trump appeared to joke that his wife, Melania Trump, wouldn't cry if he was shot. According to *Politico*, Mr Trump gave a speech in which he discussed the shooting of House Minority Whip Steve Scalise in 2017. He then said Scalise's wife "cried her eyes out when I met her at the hospital that fateful day ... I mean not many wives would react that way to tragedy, I know mine wouldn't." — Agencies

U.S. LAUNCHES REVIEW OF CHINA-OWNED TIKTOK APP

Washington, Nov. 2: Multiple published reports say that the US government has launched a national-security review of the China-owned video app TikTok, popular with millions of US teens and young adults. Media reports said that the interagency Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States, which reviews acquisitions by foreign firms, has opened an inquiry into TikTok owner ByteDance's 2017 acquisition of a predecessor app, Musical.ly. Several senators have recently noted concerns about censorship and data collection on TikTok. The Treasury Department, which houses CFIUS, said it does not comment on specific cases because the agency by law cannot disclose to the public information filed to it. TikTok said it cannot comment on ongoing regulatory processes. But it said it "has made clear that we have no higher priority than earning the trust of users and regulators in the US. Part of that effort includes working with Congress and we are committed to doing so." After acquiring Musical.ly, Beijing-based ByteDance merged it into TikTok. Musical.ly, popular in the US and Europe, had operated out of offices in Shanghai and California. Sen. Marco Rubio last month sent a letter to Treasury requesting a CFIUS review of the national-security implications of the Musical.ly deal. — AP

Trump slams Dems' move

US Prez calls impeachment an attack on US democracy

Washington, Nov. 2: US President Donald Trump has said that the vote by the Democratic lawmakers in the US House of Representatives to approve the process of impeachment against him is an attack on American democracy. The 435-member lower chamber of the US Congress passed the measure, the third time in the history of the modern presidency, establishing rules for open hearings and the questioning of witnesses by members and staff by 232-196 votes. Democrats enjoy majority with 233 seats in the House of Representatives while the ruling Republican, from which Trump comes, has 197 elected representatives. "They've been plotting to overthrow the election. Friday's vote by the radical Democrats is an attack on democracy itself. But I'll tell you, the Republicans are really strong, the strongest I've ever seen and the most unified," Trump said during his address at the "Keep America Great" rally in Tupelo, Mississippi on Friday. So far, only two US Presidents Andrew Johnson and Bill Clinton have been impeached by the US House of Representatives but neither of them were convicted by the Senate, as a result no US president has been removed from office using the impeachment process. In the 100-member Senate, Trump's Republican Party enjoys majority with 53 seats and the Democrats have 47 seats. Given the current composition of the US Congress, the impeachment process is likely to sail through the Democratic-controlled House of Representatives and unlikely to be passed by the GOP-majority Senate. Trump, in his first election rally, also alleged that the



Rick Perry

US ENERGY SECY REFUSES TO TESTIFY

Washington, Nov. 2: US energy secretary Rick Perry, a member of President Donald Trump's Cabinet who has played a pivotal role in the Ukraine controversy, will refuse to testify as requested next week in the Democratic-led impeachment inquiry against Trump, an energy department spokesman said. Perry's refusal represented the latest instance of Trump's administration refusing to cooperate in the fast-moving inquiry in the House of Representatives. Trump said on Oct. 17 that Perry was resigning from his Cabinet post and would step down by the end of the year. Perry, White House budget office acting director Russell Vought and two other officials were asked to testify in a closed session before the three House committees leading the inquiry, a probe official said. — Reuters

mainstream US media is too involved in this conspiracy. The impeachment process has started deepening the bitter political divide between the Democrats and the Republicans. — PTI

NORTH DELHI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (M-II) KPZ
SHAKTI NAGAR EXTN. DELHI-110052
N.I.T. No. EE(M-II)/KPZ/TC/2019-20/49 Dated:-29.10.2019
Date of start for sale of Tender Document: 19.10.19 upto 18:01 P.M.
Last Date of download of Tender Document: 20.11.19 upto 12:00 P.M.
Last date of Bid Submission: 20.11.19 upto 12:15 P.M.
Opening of financial Bid: 20.11.19 at 12:30 P.M.
1. Name of Work: Imp./Dev. of road by pdg. RMC from H.No. 331 to H.No. 227 in Kohat Enclave in Ward No. 68N, Kohat Enclave. Head of A/c: XL-VIII-S(d), Tender Amt.: 61,18,364, Estt. Amt.: 66,15,800 Earnest Money: 122400 Time of Completion: 5 months Rates hold: 6 months Cost of tender: 1000/- F.T.C. Code: 14/66/XL/VIII-S(d), 2. Name of Work: Imp./Dev. of road by pdg. RMC from H.No. 25 to H.No. 236 (45 ft. road) in Rajdhani Enclave in Ward No. 68N, Kohat Enclave. Head of A/c: XL-VIII-S(d), Tender Amt.: 87,16,377, Estt. Amt.: 94,25,000 Earnest Money: 174350 Time of Completion: 5 months Rates hold: 6 months Cost of tender: 1000/- F.T.C. Code: 14/66/XL/VIII-S(d), Note:- This tender are also available on the website http://mcdetenders.com for bidding by approved and eligible contractor with MCD. The Validity of rates hold good for 6 months EE(M-II)/KPZ has the right to cancel any or all the tenders without any reasons. R.O No. 137/DPI/North DMC/19-20 Ex. Engineer (M-II)/KPZ

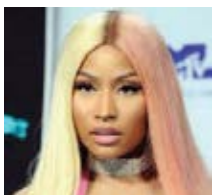
NORTH DELHI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (M-II)/CLZ
2nd Floor 16-RAJPUR ROAD, DELHI
N.I.T. No. EE (M-II)/CLZ/2019-20/30 Dated: 29.10.2019
Date of Download of Tender Document... Upto 12.00 Noon on: 14.11.2019
Last date of Bid Preparation Upto 12.00 Noon on: 14.11.2019
Opening of Financial Bid... 12.30 PM on: 14.11.2019
FOR ONLINE TENDERING TIME TABLE PLEASE REFER
http://www.tenderwizard.com/NORTHDMCETENDER Sealed percentage rate for
Tenders are invited for the execution of the following works by the MCD from approved and eligible contractor on the web site http://www.tenderwizard.com/NORTHDMCETENDER. The registered contractors of MCD only are eligible to tender for the amount they have registered in their respective category subject to the conditions that they are neither black listed nor debarred at the time of purchase of tenders. S.No. 1 Name of work: Imp./Dev. of Ambekar Avas Yagna gate No.1 from H.No. 11 to H.No. 621 and back lane H.No. 42 to H.No. 640 by pdg. RMC in Jahangirpuri in Ward No. 17N/CLZ. Head of A/c: XL-VIII-S Tender Amt.: 4676961 E/M: 93500 Time of completion: 4 Month Rate hold good for: 5 Month Tender Cost: 1000 S.No. 2 Name of work: Imp/Dev. of various Chowks in Ambekar Avas Yagna Jahangirpuri in Ward No. 17N/CLZ. Head of A/c: XL-VIII-S Tender Amt.: 7212253 E/M: 144200 Time of Compln.: 4 Month Rate hold good for: 5 Month Tender Cost: 1000 S.No. 3 Name of work: Imp/Dev. of drainage system from Radio Colony entry gate to Kali Mata mandir by pdg. RCC drain in Dhirpur in Ward No. C-18/CLZ. Head of A/c: XL-VIII-S Tender Amt.: 4312107 E/M: 86800 Time of completion: 4 Month Rate hold good for: 5 Month Tender Cost: 1000 S.No. 4 Name of work: Imp./dev. of connecting lane between Kushal Cinema road and main road Jahangirpuri near C-2000 in Jahangirpuri Ward No. 21N/CLZ. Head of A/c: XL-VIII-S(d) Tender Amt.: 8196968 E/M: 163900 Time of completion: 4 Month Rate hold good for: 5 Month Tender Cost: 1000 R.O No. 140/DPI/North DMC/19-20 Executive Engineer (M-II)/CLZ



Birthday greetings

Celebs, including DJ Snake, extend greetings to B'wood star Shahrukh Khan on his 54th birthday



Nicki Minaj, Rapper

When a woman is not loved at home, the viciousness is a different type

IN BRIEF

2 koalas rescued in Australia bushfire

Port Macquarie, Australia: 2 koalas were rescued from a fire-ravaged area of Australia's east coast Saturday but the fate of hundreds more remains uncertain with blazes still raging in their bush habitat. The first koala, named "Corduroy Paul", was found dehydrated amid the devastation some 400 km north of Sydney, and was taken to the Port Macquarie Koala Hospital early Saturday morning. "He was picked up off the ground and curled up in a little ball," Sue Ashton, the hospital's president said. — *AFP*

I smoked a lot of weed, says Pink

Washington: Singer Pink shared the experience of shooting her first-ever music video and the story might surprise you. Pink's first single, *There You Go*, debuted in 2000, and the video featured her riding a motorcycle. "My first video. I think this is the prettiest I've ever looked and will ever look," the 40-year-old singer told Billboard. "I think I was 19 when I shot this video. I'd just started riding motorcycles. I almost crashed 85 times... "I smoked a lot of weed, too," she said. — *ANI*



Iran unveils new anti-US murals

Tehran: Iran on Saturday unveiled new anti-American murals on the walls of the former US embassy as Tehran prepares to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the storming of what it labels the "den of spies". The accusatory message of the paintings was one of a violent US that is thirsty for war and bent on tightening its grip on the world, yet weakening despite its military might. The new murals — mainly painted in white, red and blue, colours of the US flag — were unveiled by Major General Hossein Salami, the head of Iran's Revolutionary Guards, at former mission turned museum. — *AFP*

NICK OPENS UP ON SUFFERING FROM DIABETES

Washington: Following the diabetes month which kicked off on Friday, singer Nick Jonas who suffers from Type 1 diabetes opened up about the same. The 27-year-old Jonas Brothers member and solo artist shared a candid Instagram post on Friday to discuss how getting diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes about 14 years back has impacted his life and shaped how he approaches his health. "This experience has shaped how I approach my health — working out, eating well, and always thinking about my blood sugar and insulin needs," he wrote in the post, which included a selfie of himself wearing a hat with the Beyond Type 1 logo. "You can't always see what goes into managing an invisible illness, and Type 1 diabetes can feel lonely and isolating," he continued. "That's why I co-founded @BeyondType1 in 2015, to make sure no one feels alone with this diagnosis and to share how you can thrive with it." "November is Diabetes Awareness Month," he said. — *ANI*



Nick Jonas

US cops hope Alexa can solve bizarre murder

Tallahassee, Florida: Florida police investigating the bizarre death of a woman during a domestic row have obtained audio from two Amazon Echo devices, BBC reported.

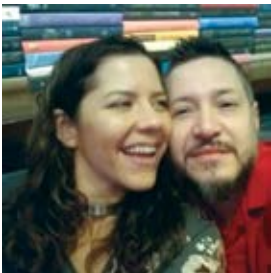
Silvia Galva, 32, was impaled by a spear-tipped bed post in a struggle with her boyfriend, Adam Reechard Crespo, at their Hallandale Beach home.

Mr Crespo, 43, has pleaded not guilty to second-degree murder. He says her death was a tragic accident.

Police want to establish if the smart-speaker, Alexa, recorded the dispute.

According to the police report, Mr Crespo said he was trying to pull Ms Galva off their bed during an argument in the bedroom of their Hallandale Beach apartment in July when he heard a snap.

The police report says: "[Mr Crespo] pulled the blade out of the victim's chest 'hoping it was not too bad.'"



Silvia Galva and Adam Crespo

But Ms Galva died with a 12in double-sided blade through her chest following the altercation at the flat in a seaside city 32km north of Miami.

A lawyer for Mr Crespo, Christopher O'Toole, told the BBC that Ms Galva's death was unintentional.

Mr Crespo was sleeping when "Silvia came into the bedroom, knocked the door down".

Ms Galva broke off one of the pointy bedposts and "it ended up inside of her", Mr O'Toole said.

Hallandale Police did not return a request for comment. — *Agencies*

Thai cave reopens for visitors after rescue of Wild Boars



People visit Tham Luang cave in the Mae Sai district of Thailand's northern Chiang Rai province. Thailand reopened the cave on November 1 where 12 young footballers and their coach were trapped last year in a saga that captivated the world. Guests are not allowed beyond the entrance for now, where they can peer into the cave opening. — *AFP*

Thai woman duped investors out of millions in Ponzi scheme

London: A woman is on the run from Thai police after being accused of scamming nearly 3,000 people out of a total of \$28.3 m and setting up a fake gold shop to fool her alleged victims about her assets, the Guardian reported.

Wantanee Tippaveth, 28, known as Mae Manee, is accused of fraud and other financial crimes after allegedly setting up a Ponzi scheme offering 93



Wantanee Tippaveth

per cent profit to a total of 2,977 investors.

Her boyfriend Metee Chinpa, 20, has also been charged with financial

misdeemeanours. On Friday police raided a fake "gold shop" she had allegedly set up in the city of Udon Thani, north Thailand, to convince potential investors that she lived a super-wealthy lifestyle. Many of those convinced to join Tippaveth's scheme would reportedly start by paying 1,000 Baht which they were told would be invested in cosmetics and film businesses. — *Agencies*

Bercow seeks apology over £1m celeb claim

London: John Bercow is demanding an apology from the *Daily Mirror* over claims he asked for £1m to appear on "I'm a Celebrity, Get Me Out of Here!"

The outgoing Commons Speaker has accused the paper of "publishing lies despite being advised of the truth" and has complained to the press watchdog, BBC reported.

The *Mirror* claimed talks between Mr Bercow and ITV broke down over the size of his appearance fee.

It said it stood by its story, which was based on "authoritative sources".

However, the newspaper also said it was "happy to accept" that Mr Bercow had "no serious desire to appear" on the programme. Mr Bercow, who retired on Thursday after 10 years in the Speaker's chair, is understood to be



John Bercow

furiously about the story.

In a letter to the *Mirror*'s showbiz editor, he said: "I must make it clear to you in the most uncompromising terms that I have not had the slightest interest now or at any time or on any basis to go on that programme."

He adds that he "did not at any time to anybody ask for £1m to go on the show, which I consider to be utterly trashy".

He demands an apology from the paper. — *Agencies*



Models walk the ramp during fashion week in Beijing on Friday. — *AFP*



Actress Jane Fonda (centre) sits with activists inside the Hart Senate office building during a climate change protest in Washington, DC, on Friday. — *AFP*



Manfred Dederl at the "Supercandy Pop-Up Museum Vol. 2" in Cologne, western Germany on Friday. — *AFP*

Uber driver gets death for murdering UK diplomat

London: An Uber driver has been sentenced to death for raping and murdering a British embassy worker in Lebanon.

The Mount Lebanon criminal court sentenced Tarek Houshieh on Friday, according to Lebanon's national news agency, the *Guardian* reported.

The body of Rebecca Dykes, 30, was found dumped on the side of a road north of Beirut in December 2017. She disappeared after spending an evening with friends at a bar in the Gemmayzeh district in the Lebanese capital.

Houshieh picked her up while working as a taxi driver despite having a criminal record and after twice being arrested for alleged harassment and theft, according to AFP.

He disposed of Dykes's personal identification along with the body. Local authorities reported marks on her neck from having been strangled with a rope. Houshieh confessed to the murder in December 2017.

The death penalty is regularly handed down for murder cases in Lebanon, but there has not been an official execution since 2004, according to Human Rights Watch.

Houshieh's death sentence is likely to be commuted to life imprisonment. — *Agencies*

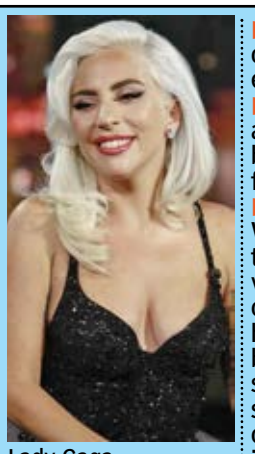
Lady Gaga boards Ridley Scott's film about Gucci glam & murder

Los Angeles: Pop star Lady Gaga will feature in Ridley Scott's film about the Gucci family fashion dynasty and the murder of the grandson of founder Guccio Gucci.

According to *Variety*, Gaga will essay the role of Patrizia Reggiani, the ex-wife of Maurizio Gucci.

Reggiani was abandoned after 12 years of marriage by Maurizio Gucci in 1985 for a younger woman. She was tried and convicted of orchestrating her ex-husband's assassination on the steps of his office in Italy in 1995.

She got the nickname the Black Widow during the trial and served 18 years before being released from prison in 2016. The film is based on



Lady Gaga

► Gaga will essay the role of Patrizia Reggiani, the ex-wife of Maurizio Gucci
► Reggiani was abandoned after 12 years of marriage by Maurizio Gucci in 1985 for a younger woman
► She, dubbed as Black Widow was tried and convicted of orchestrating her ex-husband's assassination on the steps of his office in Italy in 1995



Maurizio Gucci

Sara Gay Forden's book *The House of Gucci: A Sensational Story of Murder*,

Glamour, and *Greed*. Roberto Bentivegna is adapting the book for the big screen. — *PTI*

UK theatre to keep Sackler name despite rejecting £1m

London: London arts venue The Roundhouse will keep the name of the controversial Sackler family on one of its theatres despite rejecting their £1m donation. The venue's studio theatre was renamed the Sackler Space in 2015 after getting a grant from the billionaire family, the BBC reported.

But arts organisations have since shunned their money due to its connections with the controversial opioid painkiller OxyContin. The Roundhouse turned down a further £1m in 2018.

It said the donation could distract "from our work with young people". "Hub for emerging artists" Earlier this year, the Sackler Trust suspended charitable donations in the UK after institutions including the Tate and National Portrait Gallery also declined their funds. — *Agencies*



Mexican agents find heroin inside tamarind candy

Mexico City: In a find that gives a new dimension to "trick or treat," Mexican agents who have been inspecting a package being sent to England found 59 rolls of tamarind-flavoured candy with heroin inside.

The National Guard on Friday said that agents had used x-rays to inspect a cardboard box headed for an address in London.

When they opened the box, they discovered a black substance at the centre of each roll. Mexican-produced heroin is often referred to "black tar," because it is processed differently than white or tan powder heroin.

The candy is made of tamarind pulp, which is normally reddish-brown in colour. Tests later confirmed the substance was heroin. — *AP*

Elon Musk says he is going off Twitter

S a n Francisco: Tesla chief Elon Musk fired off a tweet on Friday indicating that he is disconnecting from Twitter, perhaps in favour of popular news and discussion platform Reddit.

Kicking the Twitter habit would be a radical change for the colourful serial entrepreneur who is known for tweeting so freely that he landed in hot water with the US Securities and Exchange Commission which accused him of misleading investors on the platform.

"Not sure about good of Twitter," Musk told his more than 29 million followers in a series of rapid-fire tweets. "Reddit still seems good."

"Going offline," Musk concluded. Musk is being sued for defamation in Los Angeles by a man who helped in the dramatic rescue of 12 boys trapped in an underwater cave in Thailand last year.

Musk called the British caver a "pedo guy" on Twitter following a highly public spat between the two after Musk travelled to Thailand and offered to assist in rescue efforts.

Musk said in a court filing last month that he did not mean to accuse the caver of pedophilia when he referred to him as "pedo guy." In the filing, Musk claimed the term was a common insult used in South Africa when he was growing up, synonymous with "creepy old man." The case is set to go to trial on December 2. Musk's trouble with the SEC meanwhile stems from multiple tweets.

In February 2018 he posted that Tesla would make 500,000 cars in 2019 — up from the 400,000 that the company had estimated until then, an apparent increase on a benchmark tied to profitability, which elicited a rebuke from the SEC.

— *AFP*



Elon Musk

POLLUTION DOWN BY 25%

BUT SMOKE FROM STUBBLE BURNING IS REACHING DELHI



Dip/Shabbir/D0223/19-20

ODD EVEN ONCE MORE

4 TO 15 NOVEMBER



1. On odd dates - 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15 November - only vehicles with number plates ending with an odd number - 1, 3, 5, 7, 9 - can ply on the roads
2. On even dates - 4, 6, 8, 12, 14 November - only vehicles with number plates ending with an even number - 0, 2, 4, 6, 8 - can ply on the roads.
3. This rule is applicable from Monday to Saturday, from 8am to 8pm
4. Odd Even rules are not applicable on two-wheelers
5. Cars with only women commuters or cars carrying children wearing school uniform will be exempt
6. Violation of Odd Even will attract a fine of Rs 4,000



SPORT | Cricket

India vs Bangladesh
Twenty20 opener at
Kotla ground today

14

SPORT | Tennis

Djoko, Nadal edge
closer to possible
final in Paris

15



GUIDE TO FORTUNE

Tick the answer and check them below.

1 The officer responsible for the safe custody of land records during the Gupta period was known as?

- Dhruvadhikarana
- Karanika
- Samaharta

2 Who amongst the following was involved in the Alipore Bomb case?

- S. N. Banerjee
- Bipin Chandra Pal
- Jatin Das

3 What is the meaning of the word 'Sangam' in the Sangam Age?

- Royal Court
- Assembly of poets
- Meeting of rivers

SHORT TAKES

Minor boy's body found in Narela

New Delhi: The body of a six-year-old child with his throat slit was found hardly 200 metres away from his home in a pile of garbage in Narela area on Saturday morning. According to the police, the boy was missing since Friday evening. The victim, a resident of resettlement colony in Narela area, was missing since 5 pm on Friday following which a case was registered at PS Narela. DCP (Outer North) Gaurav Sharma said that on Saturday morning an information was received that body of the missing child was found on the corner of the street around 200 to 250 meters away from his house. Injury marks on throat has been noticed. Teams have been formed and efforts are being made to arrest the accused. Prima facie, it appears that the minor's throat was slit by some sharp object, the DCP added.

3 held for killing woman, 1 on run

New Delhi: Three men have been arrested for allegedly killing a woman and dumping her body in Outer North Delhi's Bawana area, police said on Saturday. The arrested have been identified as Noman (30), a resident of Noida, Arman (26), a resident of Shakurpur Village and Samsad (30), a resident of New Usmanpur. According to police, the body of the woman was found stuffed in a suitcase on October 18 morning. After investigation, the deceased was identified as Neha Patel, a resident of Shakurpur village, who was in a relationship with one Lukman, police said. Interrogations revealed that Patel wanted to end her relationship with Lukman. On October 16, a quarrel ensued between the couple, following which Lukman and his brothers killed her. Efforts are to arrest Lukman,

ATM cards cloning racket busted

New Delhi: With the arrest of three men at Sarai Kale Khan ISBT, the Delhi police on Saturday claimed to have busted an ATM card cloning racket. Police have also recovered 67 cloned cards, one skimming machine, two spy cameras, one MSR writer and one laptop. The accused have been identified as Shrehansh Nitin Kothadia (38), Anubhav Nayak alias Babu (23) and Dilshad (33). All three reside in Mumbai. During interrogation, it was revealed that the gang operates all over India. The gang used to roam across the states to install gadgets in ATM machines, said the police.

THE ANSWERS TO TODAY'S GUIDE TO FORTUNE

- Assembly of poets
- Jatin Das
- Karanika

Argument between police, lawyers over parking turns violent ■ ADCP, 2 SHOs, 8 lawyers among 28 injured

Tis Hazari court complex turns into battlefield

BHASKAR HARI SHARMA
NEW DELHI, NOV. 2

The Tis Hazari court complex turned into a battleground after a minor parking issue turned ugly, which instigated a bloody sequence of events on Saturday. Almost 20 police officials including one additional DCP, two SHOs, and eight advocates sustained injuries. The unruly mob vandalised and set ablaze 12 private motorcycles, one police Gypsy, and eight jail vans.

The hour-long clash had put the law enforcement agency on their toes to control the situation and had to resort to firing in the air and lathi charge. A special investigation team (SIT) of the Crime Branch will investigate the cases of both sides while the Special CP will enquire into the entire sequence of events.

The lawyers alleged that the police had opened fired on them, in which two advocates sustained bullet injuries. However, the police denied that it opened fire. The agitated lawyers also burned the prison locker room and the generator room in the court complex.

According to the police, "Jarnail Singh, the station house officer (SHO) of Civil

Lines police station, sustained serious injuries while SHO (Kotwali police station) Rajeev Bharadwaj sustained head injury and is undergoing treatment. Additional deputy commissioner of police (North) Harinder Kumar Singh and the operator of DCP (North) are also among the injured police officials," said the senior police official.

The police added that at around 2.00 pm, an argument ensued between the advocates and the sentry of 3rd battalion, posted outside the lockup of Tis Hazari courts, over the issue of parking of a car by the advocate in front of the lockup. The sentry requested the advocate to park the vehicle at the proper parking as the said parking would have hindered the movement of under trial prisoner vehicles.

In protest, a large number of advocates of the Tis Hazari court assembled near the lockup.

CCTV footage examined so far has shown that lawyers forcefully entered the lockup and started manhandling the police officials on duty, cops added.

The senior staff reached the spot and tried to counsel the advocates, but they



Police vehicles vandalised and torched after clashes between lawyers and policemen at Tis Hazari Court in New Delhi on Saturday.

started assaulting the police personnel mercilessly. Further, they also set on fire some police vehicles. When they stormed into the lockup, the police had to resort to firing in the air for the safety of the under trial prisoners and in self defence.

The circumstances of the gunshot injury to the lawyer are being further

investigated with the help of the CFSL team.

Due to the burning of vehicles, the under trial prisoners started feeling suffocated. A human chain was formed and all the under trial prisoners were safely removed from the lockup and safely shifted to Tihar jail with proper escort and the situation was brought under control



after lot of efforts.

Several videos of the incident, in which lawyers can be seen beating police personnel and damaging police cars, were doing the rounds on social media websites and WhatsApp on Saturday evening.

Huge posses of police and anti-riot vehicles were deployed at the site after the violence.

The secretary of Tis Hazari Bar Association, Jaiveer Singh Chauhan, said that at around 3.00 pm on Saturday the trouble began when a lawyer's car allegedly hit a police jail van in the complex, following which an argument broke out between him and the police. "The lawyer was taken into the prison locker room in the court complex,

where he was manhandled by police personnel. A few of his colleagues tried to free him. The district judges of the Central and West district, along with six other judges, went there but were unable to get the lawyer out," he said.

Lawyers alleged that the police personnel resorted to firing in an attempt to disperse them, following which at least one of the police cars stationed at the complex was set on fire.

Bar Associations condemned the incident and called a one-day strike across all district courts in the national capital on November 4.

K.C. Mittal, the chairman of the Bar Council of Delhi, said: "We strongly condemn the brutal and unprovoked attack on lawyers by the police at the Tis Hazari court. One lawyer is critical. A young lawyer was beaten in the lockup. They should be dismissed and prosecuted. We stand with the Delhi lawyers."

Delhi Congress chief Subhash Chopra also visited the court complex along with party members and strongly condemned the unprovoked brutal attack and firing on lawyers.

The Tis Hazari court Bar Council election will be held on November 5.

Delhi, Punjab, Haryana CMs call for urgent meet to tackle air pollution

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, NOV. 2

In a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Punjab chief minister Capt Amrinder Singh maintained that data from several independent agencies had pointed out that largescale industrial pollution, traffic overload, excessive construction activity in Delhi were equally, if not more, to blame for the alarming rise in air pollution in Delhi-NCR. Meanwhile, Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal and his Haryana counterpart Manohar Lal Khattar also urged Union environment minister

Prakash Javadekar to convene a meeting of chief ministers of Delhi and neighbouring states to prepare a joint strategy to address this problem.

Mr Singh, in his letter, said that he was hurt, shocked and angry at the declaration of a public health emergency in Delhi. "This unprecedented development has exposed the hollowness of our claims of being a progressive and developed nation. How can a country be called developed when its capital has been reduced to a gas chamber, not by a natural disaster but by a series of man-made one," the Punjab CM said.

"No Indian, and definitely no person in Punjab, is oblivious of the misery of our brethren in the national capital, whatever many around the country might have been led to believe," he said.

He also stressed the need for the Centre's urgent intervention. He concluded his letter saying: "After all, what is at stake goes way beyond our petty political ambitions."

Mr Khattar criticised the "growing tendency" of some stakeholders to "play petty politics" on the issue. The chief minister, in a telephonic conversation with Mr Javadekar earlier in the day, requested him to convene a meeting, preferably on Sunday, to prepare a well thought-out strategy that would synergise the efforts of different organisations and



Students wearing anti-pollution masks attend a class in Gurgaon on Saturday. — PTI

the governments in the region.

He said as no single person, organisation or government can improve the quality of air in the NCR, "playing politics" on this serious situation is unfortunate and, in itself, a matter of concern. Following up his conversation with a letter,

Mr Khattar said the meeting of all chief ministers and environment ministers of the states concerned would help evolve an actionable plan and a joint strategy to address the serious situation and to mitigate the suffering and hardships of people. Mr Kejriwal sought Mr Javadekar's intervention into pollution-related problems and work on a concrete plan to deal with the issue of stubble burning.

Mr Kejriwal noted that the high level of pollution was not only a health hazard for the citizens, but it also shows India in a poor light in the eyes of visiting dignitaries. "What is the total number of machines required in each of the three states to ensure complete stoppage of stubble-burning?" he asked.

The letter comes on a day when Mr Javadekar slammed Mr Kejriwal for "politicising" the issue of stubble-burning by asking schoolstudents to write letters to his Punjab and Haryana counterparts over pollution caused by such fires.

Pollution level dropped marginally in Delhi-NCR

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, NOV. 2

Pollution levels in Delhi and neighbouring cities dropped marginally on Saturday with slight increase in wind speed and light rains, a day after the region recorded its worst air quality forcing authorities to shut schools, ban all construction activities and declare a public health emergency. Light scattered rainfall due to a western disturbance slightly brought down the city's overall air quality index (AQI) to 402 at 8 pm from 407 at 10 am. It was 484 at 4 pm on Friday, according to official data.

However, 20 out of 37 monitoring stations recorded AQI in the 'severe' category (401-500). Vivek Vihar was the most polluted at 450 followed by Anand Vihar and ITO, both at 448.

In the National Capital Region (NCR), Ghaziabad, Noida and Greater Noida recorded AQIs of 455, 432 and 429, respectively, at 8 pm on Saturday. On Friday, Ghaziabad and Greater Noida had an AQI of 496 at 4 pm, the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) said.

► In a crackdown on violators, authorities arrested 34 people including a director and three engineers, from sites of five real estate groups in Noida and Greater Noida for construction activities despite the ban

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". Above 500 is "severe-plus or emergency" category.

In a crackdown on violators, authorities arrested 34 people including a director and three engineers, from sites of five real estate groups in Noida and Greater Noida for carrying out construction activities despite the ban.

The South Delhi Municipal Corporation issued challans of ₹5 lakh to each of the four companies involved in the ongoing development work at Pragati Maidan for violating the National Green Tribunal order pertaining to construction work.



Devotees perform Chhath Puja at Yamuna in New Delhi on Saturday. — BUNNY SMITH

Unable to return money, woman & aide kill financier

Gurgaon, Nov. 2: A woman student and her associate were arrested for allegedly killing a financier here after he demanded his money back, a police officer said on Saturday.

The accused was identified as Sumit Phoghat (24), an MBA student, and Vikram (32). They were arrested from Honda Chowk in the early hours of Saturday.

Both the accused are native of Haryana's Charkhi Dadri and Jhajjar. The incident came to light on Thursday when Gurgaon police found a bullet-wounded body of the victim, Roshan Lal, at a flat in Sector-103 here.

"When investigators informed Lal's son Rahul about the murder, he told police that Lal had gone to his finance office in Jhajjar on October 31 when Phoghat took him somewhere," Gurgaon police PRO Subhash Bokan said.

A police team on a tip-off nabbed Phoghat and her associate. During

► The incident came to light on Thursday when Gurgaon police found a bullet-wounded body of the victim, Roshan Lal, at a flat in Sector-103 here

interrogation, the accused told police that they knew Lal through common friends. Lal helped them financially and he had given some money to Phoghat which she was unable to return. When Lal asked for his money, she made a plan to eliminate him.

As per the plan, she, along with Vikram, took Lal to Gurgaon from Jhajjar. They later had liquor in the flat and when Lal was fully intoxicated, she took his revolver and shot bullet on his temple. The accused later fled the spot, the officer added.

A hunt is on to nab the other accused involved in the crime.

— PTI



3 seconds

“Just three seconds” is all what it took for Sourav Ganguly to convince Virat Kohli into playing a Day/Night Test against Bangladesh, revealed the BCCI president



I was always of the belief that I can never cheat Pakistan, but I was surrounded by match-fixers.

— Shoaib Akhtar, former Pakistan bowler

SHORT TAKES

Punia fifty in vain as India go down

North Sound: Opener Priya Punia's well-compiled fifty went in vain as the Indian women's team suffered a narrow one-run defeat against the West Indies in the first ICC Women's Championship ODI here. Chasing 226 to win, Punia smashed six boundaries in her 107-ball innings, while Jemimah Rodrigues (41) scored a 67-ball 41 at the top but they didn't get enough support from lower-order to be dismissed for 224 in 50 overs by the hosts. Earlier, Stefanie Taylor opted to bat first and produced a captain's knock, scoring a 91-ball 94 studded with eight boundaries and two sixes. Opener Natasha McLean also put up a good show, smashing a 82-ball 51 as West Indies posted a competitive 225 for 7 at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium on Friday. Defending the total, off-spinner Anisa came up with a superb bowling performance, claiming five wickets for 46 runs. — *PTI*
Brief scores: West Indies 225 for 7 in 50 overs (S Taylor 94; S Pandey 2/38) bt India 224 in 50 overs (P Punia 75; A Mohammed 5/46).

Axar sizzles in India C's big win

Ranchi: All-rounder Axar Patel smashed a 61-ball 98 before leg-spinner Mayank Markande claimed four wickets as India 'C' trounced India 'B' by 136 runs in the third and final one-day of the Deodhar Trophy on Saturday. Batting first, India 'C' posted a challenging 280 for 5, riding on Axar's brilliance and Virat Singh's 96-ball 76. They then returned to dismiss India 'B' for 144 in 43.4 overs to complete the drubbing. For India 'B', Baba Aparajith emerged as the top-scorer with a 90-ball 53 but he didn't get any support from the other hand. India 'B' and India 'C' have already qualified for the finals after India 'A' lost both their ties and the two teams will face off in the summit clash here on Monday. Chasing the total, India 'B' batsmen threw away starts, losing wickets at regular intervals. Openers Gaikwad and Yashashvi Jaiswal were the first to go after being dismissed by Pathania and Jalaj as India 'B' were reduced to 74 for two in 17.5 overs. However, India B suffered a collapse after that with Jadhav, Rana, Parthiv, Shankar and Roy failing to reach double figures as they slumped to 115 for 7 in the 35th over. — *PTI*
Brief scores: India C 280/5 in 50 overs (Axar Patel 98, Virat Singh 76; S Nadeem 2/37) bt India B 144 in 43.4 overs (B Aparajith 53; M Markande 4/25).

Breathtaking opener

India and Bangladesh promise a cracker of a contest at smog-hit Delhi



Shikhar Dhawan during a training session ahead of the first T20 against Bangladesh. — AFP

New Delhi, Nov. 2: The youngsters on the fringes will line up for another World Twenty20 audition while a few seniors will try to get back into the groove when firm-favourite India take on Bangladesh in the smog-hit series-opener here on Sunday.

Questions have been raised over the rationale behind hosting the match in Delhi at a time when the national capital is battling post-Diwali air pollution but the BCCI ruled out shifting the tie at the last minute due to logistic issues.

The visiting side is not complaining but pollution, the resultant health concerns and the ban imposed on Bangladesh's iconic all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan just before the tour has definitely hogged more lime-light in the build-up to the three-match series.

The teams are ready to battle it out and with no established name figuring in India's bowling department, it will be an opportunity for Mumbai all-rounder Shivam Dube, his state-mate Shardul Thakur and Rajasthan's Deepak Chahar to show what they bring to the table.

There are still around 20 matches that India will play before next year's World T20 in Australia but the Indian team management has said that it would prefer to identify the core of the team without much tinkering. Considering the same, it is time for these youngsters, including spin all-rounder Washington Sundar, to make a case for themselves.

Stand-in captain Rohit Sharma is in perilous form and he would look to carry his Test form into the shortest format. But his opening partner Shikhar Dhawan is yet to find that big knock after making a comeback to white-ball cricket from a thumb injury that had cut short his 50-over World Cup in England.

The Delhi left-hander had scores of 36 and 40 during the South Africa series and struggled to find runs during the recently-concluded Vijay Hazare Trophy, where he managed just one half-century in seven matches.

Among others, KL Rahul, Shreyas Iyer, Krunal Pandya and local boy Rishabh Pant look certain in the middle order. If Shivam Dube is handed his much-awaited India debut, he will have to



Bangladesh players during a training session ahead of the T20 series opener in New Delhi. — AFP

Focus is on cricket now: Mahmudullah

New Delhi, Nov. 2: The issue of poor air quality indeed figured in Bangladesh's team discussions but the visiting skipper Mahmudullah Riyad said that it's time to shift focus on cricket since they have no control over weather conditions.

A public health emergency has been declared in the NCR region following rising pollution level in the region due to stubble burning incidents in Northern states of Haryana and Punjab. The bursting of crackers during the Diwali festivities coupled with construction work too impacted the air quality level. "Actually, we had a chat about these conditions. It is not within our control. We are focussing much more on the match and win this game," said Mahmudullah ahead of the T20 series-opener.

"Players have practised last three days, trying to adapt to the conditions. It's not within our control, we have to focus on our cricket," said Mahmudullah. — *PTI*

be placed up in the batting order, considering his big-hitting ability.

Dube's selection in the playing XI will rule out both Manish Pandey and Sanju Samson because the remaining slots are likely to be taken by Yuzvendra Chahal, Khaleel Ahmed, Deepak Chahar and Washington Sundar.

Like Dhawan, it's also an opportunity for leg-spinner Chahal to earn back his place in the Indian side. Getting limited opportunities this year has put brakes on his career which at one time soared in company of Kuldeep Yadav.

With Chahal likely to be preferred for usually low-slow Kotla surface, an off-spinner in Washington Sundar will be a more useful option than fielding leg spinner Rahul Chahar.

The team may not field two wrist spinners and Sundar's superior batting ability gives him an edge. For India, it's also a chance to work out a strategy to do well when it bats first. The team management has

identified this as an issue since if the top order fails, the middle order does not inspire much confidence.

Bangladesh have emerged as a potent Asian cricketing force, replacing struggling Sri Lanka in that position, but the neighbouring side has not been in the best of form, of late. Afghanistan trumped them for a historic Test win in Chittagong in September, though Bangladesh did a decent job in the following T20 tri-series, winning three of the four matches they played but not before losing a T20 to the Asian minnows.

Bangladesh would still present a good challenge, especially with their strong batting line up which is led by skipper Mahmudullah Riyad. But they will definitely miss charismatic skipper Shakib, who has been banned by the ICC for failing to report corrupt approaches. In his absence, the onus will also be on Liton Das, Mushfiquur Rahim and Soumya Sarker to deliver the goods. — *PTI*

HOW THEY FARED IN T20s					
	P	W	L	T	N/R
India	120	74	42	1	3
Bangladesh	89	29	58	0	2
India (vs Bangla)	8	8	0	0	-

Youngsters should be given long rope: Stand-in skipper

New Delhi, Nov. 2: There is no dearth of options to have a settled middle order going into the World T20 next year reckons stand-in skipper Rohit Sharma, who advocated the need to shift from chop-and-change policy to provide the youngsters a sense of security.

Whenever India's top-order fires, the team stays in a good space but a weak middle and lower order has been exposed a number of times when that does not happen.

Asked if the team has zeroed in on, on this aspect, ahead of the World T20 in Australia, Rohit said, "We have lot of options."



Rohit Sharma

Bangladesh.

"There has always been a chop and change between that number 4,5,6 and 7 as well. So now this is the best time for us to try these guys. Shreyas Iyer, Shivam Dube, Manish Pandey then Rishabh as well. There are a lot of guys who can do the job."

However, he acknowledged that the road is tough for the youngsters, trying

to find a place in this formidable Indian set up. "When they play for their IPL team it's different but when they come here, it is different ball game. They bat higher for their IPL franchise and that is the challenge in international cricket, you will not get, what you want. "You have to earn that position and make sure whatever little opportunities you get, you have to make the most of it. In IPL they are guaranteed 15 games but not in international cricket."

Explaining India's preparations for the World T20 next year, Rohit said the team needs to better their performance while batting first. "We have looked at certain number and stats. Our numbers are very good when we chase whether it's in India or outside. Something we really want to focus is on posting targets and defending them." — *PTI*

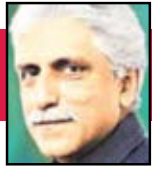
Shakib got away quite lightly

Shakib Al Hasan cavorting with bookie Deepak Aggarwal, for which he has been slapped with a two-year ban last week, is painful reminder that the malaise of corruption has still not been entirely eliminated from top-level cricket.

Shakib is now ineligible to play against India, which could affect Bangladesh seriously in the T20 as well as Test series's. He is their premier player by far and was the lynchpin of the team, apart from being captain.

His absence affects Bangladesh adversely in the two series unless the other players can remarkably make up for his Shakib's absence. But the issue currently is not so much the outcome of the bilateral series's between Bangladesh and India, but what Shakib's misdeed means for the future of the sport.

The charge against Shakib is not of match or spot fixing, but of withholding information from the BCB (and ICC) of approaches made to him on Whatsapp by Aggarwal.



Ayaz Memon Over The Top

There is a huge difference between the two sins of commission, of course. But all said, this is a major transgression and I think Shakib got away quite lightly. He is not a rookie, having been around for more than a decade, and can't be ignorant of the crises cricket has gone through because of attempts by the underworld and other nefarious elements to destroy the sport by enticing players into corruption.

Two things emerge as the most concerning from the Shakib saga which should occupy the minds of administrators, the fraternity of players and law-enforcing agencies as they come to terms with the present controversy and work out strategies for the future.

One, it is clearly not just fringe players who are vulnerable and therefore more approachable by bookies

and such as has widely been understood through some episodes in the past.

If anything, senior players and captains have more value for bookies and fixers since they are better informed of team's tactics or in positions of influence to steer a game in a certain direction. They are prime targets.

What's more disturbing, however, is not the temerity of bookie Aggarwal to reach out to a senior pro, but the relative ease with which he managed this without being found out for so many months.

That Shakib would continue the Whatsapp conversation with Aggarwal over several months shows that the fear about punishment among players for dalliances with bookies is not as intense as the cricket establishment would have imagined.

It has been argued that Shakib just strung along with Aggarwal without obliging him. But even if true, it is of little solace in the context of what cricket has already suffered and what such reckless behaviour could mean for it in the future. He is arguably the best all-rounder in the world today, unarguably the best-ever player from Bangladesh, and was also the captain of his country. There is surely some responsibility that comes with this exalted status.

After the Hansie Cronje story broke in circa 2000, taking down in its wake not just the late South Africa captain but several other stellar players, cricket has been intermittently hit by similar scandal, albeit not of the same scale.

As a custodian of the game — particularly seniors/captains — it was not just important, but obligatory for Shakib to inform authorities about the overtures made to him by bookie Aggarwal. By not doing so, he was leaving the door open for corruption even if he was not directly involved in fixing.

Fact is, despite measures being put in place in all countries as mandated by the ICC, cases of match-fixing, spot-fixing and the like have erupted every now and then in the past two decades. Most have been attributed to the proliferation of T20 leagues.

There have been disastrous consequences in some instances. The IPL corruption case of 2013 brought down a few careers and earned a couple of teams a ban. It also led to a melt-down of the Indian cricket administration, and left many big players with a dubious reputation.

The fight against corruption has to be fought on several fronts. Anti-corruption units have to be ever vigilant. In countries like India, Pakistan and Bangladesh, legalising betting would be of great help provided laws punishing transgressions are strict and enforced. But the buck ultimately stops with the player — his belief system and sense of integrity. There is no way any sport can be cleansed of corruption if a player decides he wants to be.

LIVE on TV

India vs Bangladesh
1st T20
on Star Sports 1, HD1
FROM 7 PM

TEAMS

INDIA: Rohit Sharma (c), Khaleel Ahmed, Yuzvendra Chahal, Deepak Chahar, Rahul Chahar, Shikhar Dhawan, Shivam Dube, Shreyas Iyer, Manish Pandey, Krunal Pandya, Rishabh Pant, K L Rahul, Sanju Samson, Washington Sundar and Shardul Thakur.

BANGLADESH: Mahmudullah Riyad (C), Taijul Islam, Mohammad Mithun, Liton Kumer Das, Soumya Sarker, Naim Sheikh, Mushfiquur Rahhim, Afif Hossain, Mosaddek Hossain Saikat, Aminul Islam Biplob, Arafat Sunny, Abu Hider, Al-Amin Hossain, Mustafizur Rahman and Shafiu Islam.

TRACK RECORD

HIGHEST INNINGS TOTALS
India: 180/5 in 20 overs at Nottingham in 2009
Bangladesh: 166/8 in 20 overs at Colombo in 2018

LOWEST INNINGS TOTALS
India: 146/7 in 20 overs at Bangalore in 2016
Bangladesh: 121/7 in 20 overs at Dhaka in 2016

HIGHEST INDIVIDUAL SCORES
India: India 89 Rohit Sharma at Dhaka in 2016
Bangladesh: 77 Sabbir Rahman at Colombo in 2018

BEST BOWLING IN AN INNINGS
India: 4/21 Pragyan Ojha at Nottingham in 2009
Bangladesh: 3/37 Al-Amin Hossain at Dhaka in 2016

STATS: S. PERVEZ QAISER



Crown defence

Defending champion Lelisa Desisa will attempt an unprecedented double on Sunday when he bids to retain his New York Marathon crown just four weeks after winning gold at the World C'ships

Sport

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THE ASIAN AGE

SUNDAY | 3 NOVEMBER 2019 | NEW DELHI



I'm going to leave everything on the court (in the final) to try to raise the cup again.

— Elina Svitolina after reaching the final in WTA finals

SHORT TAKES

Fabio takes pole in Malaysia

Sepang (Malaysia): French rookie Fabio Quartararo snatched pole position for the Malaysian MotoGP Saturday in a hard-fought race, but world champion Marc Marquez had a dramatic crash and will start from 11th place. The 20-year-old Petronas Yamaha sensation, who has emerged this season as a key rival to Marquez, powered to a quickest lap of 1min 58.303sec to seal first place on the grid. Spain's Maverick Vinales was second quickest, 0.103 off the pace, while Franco Morbidelli of Italy rounded out an all-Yamaha front row. Quartararo, who had already set blistering times in practice at the Sepang circuit, was fastest in the early stages of qualifying. Valentino Rossi briefly took over before Vinales surged into the lead, and looked to be heading for victory. But the French rider raced a scorching lap in the dying stages to beat his Monster Energy Yamaha rival, and secure his fifth pole position of the season. The result is a major boost for Quartararo, who crashed out of the Australian MotoGP last week, and lifts his hopes of winning his first race on Sunday. — AFP

Indonesian rider dies in accident

Sepang (Malaysia): An Indonesian motorbike rider competing in a tournament to promote young talent died Saturday after an accident at the Sepang circuit in Malaysia, officials said, triggering tributes from the racing community. Afridza Munandar, 20, was involved in the incident on turn 10 in the first lap of the race which took place after qualifying for Sunday's MotoGP, they said. Reports said he was involved in a crash with another rider. The race, part of the Asia Talent Cup, was red-flagged following the accident and then cancelled. He received medical treatment by the side of the track and was then taken by helicopter to a hospital in Kuala Lumpur, MotoGP said in a statement. "Despite the best efforts of circuit medical staff and those at the hospital, Munandar sadly succumbed to his injuries shortly thereafter," it said. Munandar notched up two wins, two second place and two third place finishes this season and had been set to fight for the championship this weekend. — AFP

MCILROY IN LEAD WITH THIRD 67

Shanghai: A rock-steady Rory McIlroy said he was poised to seize his first WGC-HSBC Champions title after strolling into the lead with his third straight 67 on Saturday to continue his assault on the world's top ranking. Now the world number two, McIlroy has climbed up the ranks thanks to his best season in years and said this week in Shanghai that he hopes to soon regain the number one ranking for the first time since 2015. The 30-year-old Northern Irishman played bogey-free on Saturday and took sole possession of the lead with his last shot of the day, rolling in a birdie on the par-5 18th. "Right now, the game feels pretty simple. I know it's not going to feel like that all the time but when it does you have to take advantage of that feeling," he said. Past experience has shown him that when victory is within reach "you just have to grab it with both hands, and that's what I'll do tomorrow". McIlroy moved to -15 at the Sheshan International Golf Club. Teeing off with him in the leader's trio on Sunday will be fellow Major winner Louis Oosthuizen of South Africa, who shot the lowest round of the day at 65 after birdying the first five holes to move to -14. — AFP

TOP 2 FIGHT ON

■ Nadal, Djokovic edge closer to possible final in Paris

Paris, Nov. 2: Rafael Nadal and Novak Djokovic, fighting it out for the year-end world number one spot, edged closer to a possible Paris Masters final clash as both eased into the last four on Friday.

The 33-year-old Nadal, who can secure the end-of-year top ranking ahead of Djokovic by winning his maiden Bercy title, beat French wildcard Jo-Wilfried Tsonga 7-6 (7/4), 6-1.

Nadal is bidding for a record-extending 36th Masters crown and will take on Denis Shapovalov in the last four on Saturday after the Canadian youngster thrashed Gael Monfils 6-2, 6-2.

The Spaniard has reached the semis for the first time at the event since 2013, having withdrawn injured before the quarter-finals on his last appearance in 2017.

"I've had a lot of injuries in this tournament (historically)," said Nadal. "I'm happy to be back in the semi-finals."

Djokovic had earlier crushed seventh seed Stefanos Tsitsipas 6-1, 6-2 and will next face Grigor Dimitrov, who saw off unseeded Chilean Cristian Garin 6-2, 7-5.

Nadal has now reached 73 Masters semi-finals in total and is two wins away from his 85th ATP title, but only third indoors.

Tsonga was rock solid on serve in a first set which did not see a single service



Spain's Rafael Nadal returns the ball to France's Jo-Wilfried Tsonga in a quarter-final match of the Paris Masters tennis tournament Friday. Novak Djokovic (inset) defeated Stefanos Tsitsipas in quarter-finals.

— AP

game from either player even reach deuce.

But second seed Nadal stepped it up in the tie-break, with two incredible winners on the run helping him take a crucial one-set lead.

Tsonga's serve briefly deserted him in the second game of the second set, as successive double faults allowed Nadal to claim the first break of

the match and he then sped to victory.

Novak beats Tsitsipas

Djokovic said he played "one of his best matches of the season" to thrash Tsitsipas.

The 32-year-old dispatched his Greek opponent in only 58 minutes.

The 16-time Grand Slam champion went into the

match with a 2-1 losing record against Tsitsipas, but put the young world number seven in his place with a commanding victory.

"I played one of the best matches of the season," said Djokovic. "I prepared myself very well for this match."

"I lost to Stefanos about three weeks ago in Shanghai. And obviously I

went through the videos and understanding on what I did well, what I didn't do so well, what I can do better."

Djokovic will be usurped by Nadal at the top of the rankings next week, but can ensure the race to be the best player at the end of the year reaches the ATP Tour Finals in London by winning a fifth Paris Masters title. — AFP

NBA SEASON

Warriors' Curry out for 3 months

San Francisco, Nov. 2: Golden State Warriors star Stephen Curry will be out of action for at least three months after undergoing surgery to repair his fractured left hand, the struggling NBA giants said Friday.

A team statement said Curry underwent successful surgery at Cedars-Sinai Kerlan-Jobe Institute in Los Angeles on Friday to fix the second metacarpal bone following the Warriors loss to Phoenix on Wednesday.

"Curry is expected to make a full recovery and an update on his status will be provided in three months," the team said.

Curry suffered the injury after falling heavily following a foul by Phoenix center Aron Baynes during the Warriors' 121-110 loss to the Suns on Wednesday.

The injury means that the six-time All Star and two-time NBA MVP will not return until February

● **Stephen Curry underwent surgery on Friday to repair fractured left hand**

● **He suffered injury on Wednesday after falling heavily following a foul**

at the earliest.

News of Curry's long injury layoff was a further hammer blow to the Warriors, who were already facing a period of transition following the departure of Kevin Durant and the long-term absence of Klay Thompson, who is expected to miss the entire season as he recovers from a knee injury.

The Warriors, who reached five NBA finals in a row between 2015 and 2019, have suffered heavy losses to the Oklahoma City Thunder and the Los Angeles Clippers as well as the Suns. — AFP

FORMULA ONE RACING

Lewis wary of massive bumps

Austin, Nov. 2: Lewis Hamilton said he had to lie down and recover from a "massive headache" caused by the bumpy track before he topped second practice at the United States Grand Prix on Friday.

The 34-year-old Briton, who is poised to clinch his sixth drivers' world title on Sunday, said the Circuit of the Americas was "the bumpiest track by far that I have ever been on."

Several other drivers also complained as they struggled with the uneven surface including Ferrari's Charles Leclerc who wound up second fastest by three-tenths of a second.

Hamilton said he "was not feeling good" because of the bumps after opening practice, topped by Red Bull's Max Verstappen who was third-quickest in the second session.

"It was the bumpiest track by far that I have ever been on — I had such a headache," said Hamilton who needs only to finish in the top eight



Lewis Hamilton of Great Britain driving the on track during practice in Texas on Friday.

— AFP

It was the bumpiest track by far that I have ever been on — I had such a headache. This one is like massive, massive bumps — and the problem, for us, is that we don't have much suspension.

— LEWIS HAMILTON
F1 driver

to retain his title. "They are not such a bad thing in some places because it just adds character to a circuit. I'm not a fan of completely

smooth circuits, but this one is like massive, massive bumps — and the problem, for us, is that we don't have much suspension."

"So it's usually your butt on the floor and your spine takes all the compression so I was feeling horrible. I had such a massive headache after P1, I had to lay down."

"I was not feeling great. We made some changes to make it a little bit better for the second one so it wasn't feeling as bad through P2 — so fingers crossed." — AFP

James powers Lakers to overtime win

Los Angeles, Nov. 2: LeBron James had a triple double and Danny Green hit a buzzer beater to force overtime as the Los Angeles Lakers stunned the Dallas Mavericks 119-110 on Friday.

James, a 15-time all star, finished with a season high 39 points and added 16 assists and 12 rebounds for the Lakers.

"After the injury last year I wasn't myself," said James. "I heard it all. I heard it all from my year 17. Is this the last we seen of LeBron? He's not very good at defence."

James stepped up his game in the overtime session, drawing a foul on a layup for a three point play that gave Los Angeles a 110-103 lead.

James said teams make the mistake of underestimating his defensive skills.

"You can't single me out on defence because I am in tune with that side as well. It is important for me," he said.

James wasn't the only player to register a triple

double. Mavericks star Luka Doncic finished with 31 points, 15 assists and 13 rebounds for his 10th career triple double. At 20 he has the most triple doubles in history for a player under the age of 21.

Anthony Davis delivered 31 points and eight rebounds in the win. Lakers reserve Dwight Howard was involved in two controversial plays near the end of the game that could have resulted in calls against the Lakers at key moments but didn't.

Howard clashed heads with an unsuspecting Doncic with about a minute and a half left in regulation, sending Doncic to the floor in pain and blood oozing from a cut in the back of his head.

On Green's game-tying basket, Howard appeared to grab Seth Curry with both hands, preventing the Mavericks defender from getting to Green in time to prevent the shot. "There was no penalty on either play."

Elsewhere, Jayson

After the injury last year I wasn't myself. I heard it all from my year 17. Is this the last we seen of LeBron? You can't single me out on defence because I am in tune with that side as well.

— LEBRON JAMES
NBA star

Tatum hit the winning shot in the final seconds and Kemba Walker posted his third straight 30 point game as the Boston Celtics beat the New York Knicks 104-102.

Tatum nailed a turnaround jumper with 1.3 seconds left as the Celtics improved to 4-1 by winning their fourth consecutive game.

Brooklyn slowed down red-hot Houston Rockets star James Harden by using a stingy defence and a well balanced offensive attack for a 123-116 victory. Taurean Prince had 27 points and 12 rebounds to lead the Nets. — AFP



Los Angeles Lakers forward LeBron James goes up for shot in the first half of an NBA game on Friday.

— AP

WTA FINALS

Svitolina defeats injured Bencic

Shenzhen (China), Nov. 2: Belinda Bencic retired in the third set as defending champion Elina Svitolina outlasted the injured Swiss to win 5-7, 6-3, 4-1 and reach her second straight final at the WTA Finals on Saturday.

Bencic was already struggling in the semifinal with a right leg problem before the end of the first set, which she won.

Svitolina had made it through the group stage without dropping a set. Winning the WTA Finals in Singapore last season remains the biggest title of her career.

In the other semifinal, Karolina Pliskova of Czech Republic will take on top-ranked Ash Barty, Australia's first female year-end No. 1.

After holding serve to 6-5 in the first set against Svitolina, Bencic received a medical timeout to have

her right leg treated during the changeover. Back on court, Bencic took the set on her third set point with a backhand down-the-line winner.

But the leg injury caused more problems for Bencic, allowing Svitolina to gain control.

Bencic, who lost her serve in the first and ninth games of the second set, received further treatment when trailing 1-2 and 3-4 at the changeovers. In the third set, Svitolina went ahead 3-0, and by 4-1 Bencic couldn't continue.

The tournament has been hit by injuries this year. Naomi Osaka withdrew ahead of her second round-robin match with a right shoulder injury. Bianca Andreescu withdrew before her third round-robin match after injuring her knee in the previous match. — AP

BOPANNA-SHAPOVALOV OUT OF PARIS MASTERS

Paris, Nov. 2: India's top doubles player Rohan Bopanna, along with his partner Denis Shapovalov of Canada, suffered a narrow defeat against Russian duo of Karen Khachanov and Andrey Rublov in the quarter-finals to crash out of the Paris Masters here.

The Indo-Canadian duo fought hard for over 80 minutes before losing 5-7, 7-6, 8-10 against the Russian pair to bow out of the ATP Masters 1000 tournament.

Bopanna and Shapovalov produced 10 aces but they also committed three double faults during the match.

The Indo-Canadian pair saved four out of seven break points and converted both the chances that came their way. They had defeated the Manuel Gonzalez and Austin Krajicek in the prequarterfinals. — PTI

‘Right way to go’: Ferrari back changes for 2021

Austin, Nov. 2: Ferrari team chief Mattia Binotto on Friday explained why the Italian scuderia had chosen to back Formula One's radical new regulations package for 2021 and beyond.

The package, including an annual budget cap, was approved unanimously by the FIA's World Motor Sports Council on Thursday with Ferrari making clear they had decided not to use their exclusive veto to block them.

Speaking to reporters at a news conference at the United States Grand Prix at the Circuit of the Americas, Binotto talked of Ferrari's wish to be part of the collaborative effort to join with the sport's American commercial rights owners Liberty Media and ruling body the International Motoring Federation (FIA).

The package was also approved of by most other teams, without much complaint, but with Binotto

● **Ferrari voted in favour and are happy with the new set of regulations**

● **Red Bull team boss gave the rules package a cautious welcome**

adding that he and Ferrari still believed there is much more to do.

"We voted in favour so we are happy with the new set of regulations," he said.

"If not happy, at least, we are convinced it's the right way to go."

He described the blueprint for the future as "a starting point" that represented the best package to be presented for a vote of support and said F1 still had much to be developed and improved for a sustainable future.

"We believe it's the right moment to look for this continuity," he explained.

"Our sport has to be sustainable, we are all aware of

that. We need to work hard as well in the future on a more sustainable, green as well, sport so, there is still much to work on.

"If there is anything I would avoid, it is to say it has been locked on. I think that's a starting point. We are all together now and we need to collaborate."

Red Bull team boss Christian Horner gave the rules package, which included radical new aerodynamics for the cars to improve the racing, a cautious welcome.

He said he believed the concept was good in "trying to allow the drivers to follow closely."

Like Ferrari's four-time champion Sebastian Vettel and several other drivers, he criticised the increased weight of the cars.

"The cars are going to be heavier, we need to get that down," he said. "But I think the principle in what they're trying to do is absolutely right. It's important now that we try to work collectively." — AFP



Lakshya on target

Lakshya Sen beats countrymate Kiran George 21-13, 14-21, 21-9 to enter the SaarLorLux Open badminton final



This moment will be etched forever not only on the trophy but for every South African — Bryan Habana, Springboks legend after his team lift the Rugby World Cup

SHORT TAKES

Luwang clinches Korea Jr Open title

New Delhi: Maisnam Meiraba Luwang lived up to his top billing as he clinched the boys' singles U-19 title at the Woncheon Yonex Korea Junior Open International Challenge 2019 in Miryang, Korea, on Saturday. The top seed from Manipur needed just 36 minutes to brush aside the challenge of 15th seed Lee Hak Joo of Korea in a 21-10, 21-13 win. Also claiming the bronze in the same category at this Junior International Challenge tournament was eighth seed Sathish Kumar Karunakaran, who had bowed out to Luwang 16-21, 22-24 in a gritty semi-final contest on Friday. Luwang, who currently holds the No. 9 spot in the world junior rankings, was impressive throughout the week and dropped just one game in six matches. This is the 16-year-old rising star's third international title this year following his triumphs at the Russian Junior White Nights 2019 and India Junior International 2019. — PTI

Pooja takes silver in U-23 wrestling

Budapest: Pooja Gehlot (53kg) claimed India's second silver medal after going down to Japan's 2017 world champion Haruna Okuno in the finals of the UWW Under-23 World Championships here. Gehlot lost 0-2 to Okuno in the summit clash to emulate Ravinder (61kg), who also won a silver earlier this week. Three-time World Junior Championships medallist Sajjan Bhanwal (77kg), however, lost a close semi-final bout 4-5 to Japan's Kodai Sakuraba. He will now fight for the bronze on Saturday. A terrific Bhanwal had earlier blanked Jesse Alexander Porter 6-0 in the qualifiers to move into the pre-quarter-finals, where he notched up a 3-1 win over Azerbaijan's Tunjay Vazirzade. The unstoppable Bhanwal, one of the best Greco-Roman talents to have emerged from India, then rushed into the semi-finals on the back of a strong 6-2 win over Per Albin Olafsson of Sweden. — PTI

INDIA READY FOR VIETNAM CHALLENGE

Hanoi: Indian women's team head coach Maymol Rocky sounded confident on the eve of their first international friendly against Vietnam, stating they are here to play their own game. The coach said that the preparatory camp in Delhi helped the players get ready for the upcoming challenge. India are set to take on Vietnam in the first of two Fifa international friendlies here on Sunday. The coach is wary of the fact that Vietnam (34) are a much higher-ranked side than India (58). "Vietnam are obviously a strong side, they are much higher ranked than us, so it is a bit of an uphill task for us," she said. However, she believes that it will be down to how the two teams will perform on a particular day, which will decide the result of the match. "But football is not a game that is played on paper. It is played on the pitch, where the two sets of 11 players start on equal terms. So we are here to play our own game against them, and we are ready for the fight," she continued. Rocky and her charges spent a week in Delhi for a training camp ahead of the upcoming encounters. "The team has been really preparing well for the two matches coming up against Vietnam. We have had a good camp in New Delhi to gear ourselves up for the Vietnam games and that has really helped us put the girls back in shape for international football," said Rocky. — PTI

King-size win for Cherries

Bournemouth, Nov. 2: Ole Gunnar Solskjaer admitted Manchester United had taken a "step back" after their mini-revival came to a crashing halt as Josh King's strike earned Bournemouth a 1-0 win in treacherous weather conditions on England's south coast.

Solskjaer's men had not won away from home since March until 10 days ago, but three consecutive wins on the road at Partizan Belgrade, Norwich and Chelsea to book a place in the League Cup quarter-finals in midweek hinted at a turning point for the Norwegian.

Instead, the failings that have characterised their season were back in

evidence as a lack of goal threat and one moment of slack defending inflicted a fourth Premier League defeat in 11 games.

"We have to win games like this. We are disappointed but when you come to places like this you have to take control of the game. We did not and we could not get the goal," Solskjaer said.

"We were missing some quality at times. Maybe I should have started some others. I think we started the game well though so maybe that was not the case."

After their upturn in form lately, Solskjaer conceded he was expecting a better result as United try to get back in the race for a top four fin-

We have to win games like this. We are disappointed but when you come to places like this you have to take control of the game. We did not and we could not get the goal.

— OLE GUNNAR SOLSKJAER Man United coach

ish. "You are always very down when you lose and considering the form we were in we were hoping to take the three points. It is a step back for us today, but we need to shake it off and go again," he said.

"The first goal was always going to be important. Every time you concede a goal it is bad but

we are disappointed with this. We had time to tackle on a couple of occasions.

"We could not capitalise on the good start and a moment of magic won the game for them."

The visitors had started the brighter as both sides struggled to cope in the howling wind and rain.

Daniel James whistled a long-range effort just wide, whilst Anthony Martial saw appeals for a penalty waved away.

Bournemouth struck their decisive blow just before the break when King, who started his career in England at United after being recommended to Alex Ferguson by Solskjaer, came back to haunt his former employers.

PARIS STUNNED BY ROCK-BOTTOM DIJON

Paris, Nov. 2: Paris Saint-Germain suffered a shock 2-1 defeat at the hands of rock-bottom Dijon on Friday with coach Thomas Tuchel accusing his expensively-assembled team of "being too passive and not playing together". It was the third loss of the Ligue 1 season for the French champions who could also see their lead at the top trimmed to just five points by the end of the weekend.

Dijon, who started the day at the foot of the

table with just nine points, fell behind to Kylian Mbappe's fifth goal in seven games.

However, Mounir Chouair levelled in the sixth minute of stoppage time in the first half before Venezuelan international Jhonder Cadiz hit the winner in the 47th minute.

"We were too passive in the first half, not only in defence but also in attack because we did not play together," said Tuchel.

"We lacked precision and rhythm." — AFP



Bournemouth's Joshua King (right) scores past Manchester United goalkeeper David de Gea in their EPL match at the Vitality Stadium in Bournemouth on Saturday. — AFP

Rainbow Nation turn gold

Kolisi becomes 1st black captain to lift rugby World Cup for S. Africa

Yokohama, Nov. 2: At times it was brutal, often it was downright ugly, but who cares? In the end there can have been few more poignant sights than that of Siya Kolisi, the boy from a dusty, poverty-stricken South African township, on Saturday lifting the Rugby World Cup following an emphatic victory over England. The first black man to captain the Springboks hoisted the trophy high into the Yokohama night and was instantly showered with golden streamers as fireworks lit up the sky at the end of a momentous 32-12 triumph.

It was a scene destined for posterity, and sporting showreels the world over, and one which prompted tears from South Africans on the field and off it.

"Since I have been alive I have not seen South Africa like this," Kolisi said. "It was like in '95," he added, referring to the Rainbow Nation's first World Cup triumph, on home soil.

That victory was immortalised by Nelson Mandela, South Africa's first post-apartheid president, wearing then-captain Francois Pienaar's number six jersey.

That gesture was mirrored on Saturday when a beaming President Cyril Ramaphosa also donned the number six shirt, now worn by Kolisi, as he watched the presentation pitch-side, waving to the cap-

tain who replied with a victory sign and a clenched fist.

"So many challenges we have," Kolisi said.

"Coach (Rassie Erasmus) told us we are not playing for ourselves, we are playing for the people back home. We are really proud as South Africans. Not many people gave us a chance. We had to believe in each other and our plan. We love you, South Africa, and we can achieve anything if we work together."

ELECTRIC SPRINGBOKS

Giant number eight Duane Vermeulen agreed.

"We are doing it for each other but also for 57 million people back home in South Africa," the man of the match said.

This night was all South Africa's as they won their third World Cup to draw level with New Zealand as the most successful side in the tournament's history. With three cups from three finals, they are the only nation with a 100 percent record in the showcase match.

England lost finals in 1991 and 2007, the latter to South Africa, and now join France as three-time runners-up.

England will now try to figure out how a side that obliterated the seemingly invincible All Blacks in the semi-finals could show up with so little invention. — Reuters



South Africa captain Siya Kolisi lifts the Webb Ellis Cup as the team celebrate winning the 2019 Rugby World Cup final against England in Yokohama on Saturday. — AFP

WIN SHOWS WHAT S. AFRICA CAN ACHIEVE: SIYA

Yokohama (Japan), Nov. 2: Springbok captain Siya Kolisi said South Africa's Rugby World Cup victory on Saturday showed what the Rainbow Nation could achieve if it pulled together to face its challenges.

An emotional Kolisi, the first black man to captain the Springboks, devoted the Webb Ellis Cup to the people of South Africa and said he was so grateful for their support.

"We have so many problems in our country but a team like this, we come from different backgrounds, different races but we came together with

one goal and we wanted to achieve it," Kolisi said.

"I really hope we've done that for South Africa. Just shows that we can pull together if we want to achieve something," said the captain, who led his team to a resounding 32-12 victory over England in Yokohama.

He said coach Rassie Erasmus had told the team they were not just playing for themselves but for all the people in South Africa, which is suffering an economic crisis with unemployment hovering around 30 percent. And Kolisi said the Springboks had

received countless messages from home as the nation got behind his team. "Since I've been alive, I've never seen South Africa like this," he said.

"Thank you so much. We love you South Africa and we can achieve anything if we work together as one," said the captain.

Erasmus, who is stepping down as head coach after the World Cup, said the support had driven the team to new heights.

"To the Springbok supporters, I would like to say we never felt alone here in Japan. We felt them all the way," said Erasmus. — AFP

HOCKEY

RANI'S LATE GOAL SEALS TOKYO BERTH

Bhubaneswar, Nov. 2: Skipper Rani Rampal's 48th minute strike sealed Tokyo Olympics berth for the Indian women's hockey team as they pipped USA 6-5 on aggregate despite losing 1-4 in the second leg of the FIH Qualifier here on Saturday.

After thrashing USA 5-1 on Friday, it was expected to be a formality for the Indian women but they were given a real scare by the USA women, who raced to a 4-0 lead at the halfway mark.

However the partisan fans went into raptures when Rani pulled one back to maintain the slender lead till final hooter.

Indian women have now qualified for back-to-back Olympics having sealed it in Rio de Janeiro after a gap of 36 years. The women's team first participated in the quadrennial extravaganza in 1980 where the men's team last won their gold medal.

INDIAN MEN QUALIFY FOR OLYMPICS TOO

India men's team also qualified for the next year's Olympic Games after mauling Russia 7-1 (11-3 on aggregate) in the second game of the two-legged FIH Qualifiers.

The Indian men had earlier defeated world number 22 Russia 4-2 in the first-leg on Friday.

Akashdeep Singh (23rd, 29th) and Rupinder Pal Singh (48th, 59th) scored a brace each, while Lalit Upadhyay (17th), Nilkanta Sharma (47th) and Amit Rohidas (60th) added one each for the hosts after Russia took an early lead through Alexey Sobolevskiy. — PTI

INDIAN | SUPER LEAGUE

Marcleo gives Kerala a Hyd-ing

MOSES KONDETY HYDERABAD, NOV. 2

High on energy, Hyderabad proved a handful to Kerala Blasters in their first game at home to hammer them 2-1 in their Indian Super League match on Saturday night.

It was all square at the Gachibowli Stadium after Marco Stankovic cancelled out Rahul Kannoly Praveen's 34th minute strike with a punishing penalty in the 54th. Then, a magnificent curling free kick by Marcelo in the 81st minute sent the Kerala net bulging and home fans into raptures. The Brazilian leapt with joy, over the advertising hoardings and celebrated the stunner in front of the ecstatic crowd.

Kerala held early advantage and had the first shot at goal when Rahul worked his way into the box only to shoot the ball high.

Five minutes later, he made another attempt at opening the scoring but his kick from the edge of the box rolled past the Hyderabad post with captain and goalkeeper Kamaljit Singh cheerfully letting it be.

Kerala cracked the home defence deep into the first half courtesy Rahul who capitalised on a bouncy forward pass from Sahal Abdul Samad to blast the ball in from close range

past a flailing goalie. They came close to doubling the lead in the injury time of the first half but captain Bartholomew Ogbече's header rolled wide.

Hyderabad did make some forays forward but lacked the numbers in front of the Kerala goal as the attacks fizzled out. One such was when striker Robin Singh not able to control a measured pass from Marcelo at the Kerala goalmouth. Then, the resultant corner went in vain after Shankar headed wide.

However, one move resulted in a penalty, and goal.

Mouhamadou Moustapha Gning tripped Mohammed Yasir in the box for the referee to point to the spot, from where Marko Stankovic made no mistake to equalise for Hyderabad.

Marcelo then tired a long ranger in 57th minute but the ball sails over. He made amends later though, to bury a brilliant curler into the net that would prove to be the winner.

The atmosphere at the Stadium was lively with a scores of supporters turning up to root for Hyderabad while Kerala's boisterous travelling fans bathed a section of the stand in yellow, often switching on flashlights on their phones and holding them up high to spur their players.



Hyderabad FC's Marcelinho (second from left) celebrates after scoring against Kerala Blasters in their Hero ISL match in Hyderabad on Saturday.