

# DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA

CHENNAI | MONDAY 4 | NOVEMBER 2019

[https://t.me/Digital\\_eLibrary](https://t.me/Digital_eLibrary)

WORLD

Islamists await  
Imran's resignation

TABLOID

Everyone loves  
forbidden fruit: Akshay

## WEATHER



Max: 31°C  
Min: 20°C  
Rainfall: Nil

## ASTROGUIDE

**Vikari:** Alppasi 18  
**Tithi:** Saptami  
**Star:** Thiruvonam  
**Rahukalam:**  
7.30 am to 9.00 am  
**Yamagandam:**  
10.30 am to 12 noon  
**PRAYERS**  
**Fajar:** 4.50 am  
**Jumma:** 11.58 am  
**Asar:** 3.13 pm  
**Maghrib:** 5.43 pm  
**Isha:** 6.55 pm  
**SUNSET TODAY** 5.42 PM  
**SUNRISE TOMORROW** 6.04 AM  
**MOONRISE TODAY** 12.28 AM  
**MOONSET TOMORROW** 11.21 PM

## World's biggest stock IPO

**Riyadh:** Saudi Aramco on Sunday confirmed it planned to list on the Riyadh stock exchange, describing it as a "milestone" in the history of the energy behemoth. Depending on the size of the sale and Aramco's valuation, it could be the world's largest initial public offering (IPO). Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba still holds the record with a USD 25 billion IPO in New York in 2014. Alibaba is also aiming to raise another USD 20 billion if it goes ahead with plans to list on the Hong Kong stock market. Here is a list of some of the other biggest IPOs to date: — Multinational conglomerate SoftBank raised USD 23.5 billion via the IPO of its mobile unit in 2018, in Japan's largest stock offering. — AgBank (USD 22.1 billion).

## Lawyers of Delhi HC, lower courts to abstain from work

**New Delhi:** Advocates in the Delhi High Court and all district courts here have decided to abstain from work on Monday to protest against the clash between lawyers and police at Tis Hazari Court on Saturday. The lawyers said they would not participate in any of the judicial work and only proxy counsel would appear in the courts to take dates in various matters. Delhi HC Bar Association president Mohit Mathur said they have requested all members to abstain from work on Monday as a mark of protest.

## Rajnath calls for isolating nations adopting terror

**New Delhi:** Terming terrorism a global problem, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Sunday called for isolating all countries that have adopted terrorism as their state policy, in a reference to Pakistan. Speaking at the curtain raiser of the first ever India-Uzbekistan joint exercise 'Dustlik 2019' in Tashkent, Singh said defence cooperation is crucial to the bilateral ties between India and Uzbekistan.

## COUNTER POINT



His burden is increasing... schoolbag, water bottle now oxygen cylinder!



India's Shikhar Dhawan and KL Rahul during the first T20 against Bangladesh in New Delhi on Sunday. More than 25,000 crazy cricket fans paid little heed to public health emergency as they thronged the Feroz Shah Kotla stadium to watch the match, braving the toxic air pollution in national capital.

## India-Bangla cricketers brave Delhi's toxic smog

**New Delhi, Nov. 3:** Bangladesh skipper Mahmudullah Riyad won the toss and elected to bowl in the opening Twenty20 international against India in a pollution-stricken New Delhi on Sunday.

The Indian capital has been blanketed by smog with authorities saying air pollution had reached "emergency" levels, with schools closed and other restrictions imposed.

But the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) refused to change the venue due to logistical issues, although president Sourav Ganguly said they will "be more practical" in the future when scheduling matches in northern India.

The tourists, whose players trained with masks in the run-up to the first of the three matches, have handed

With a public health emergency declared in the national capital and regions surrounding it due to severe air pollution, the Prime Minister's Office on Sunday asked the chief secretaries of Delhi, Punjab and Haryana to monitor the situation in districts under their jurisdiction on a 24x7 basis

opener Mohammad Naim his international debut.

The capital was enveloped in heavy, toxic smog Sunday — the worst levels in recent years — with flights diverted or delayed as politicians blamed each other for failing to tackle the crisis.

Every winter, the megacity of 20 million people is blanketed by a poisonous smog of car fumes, industrial emissions and smoke from stubble burning at farms in neighbouring states.

## Odd-even car rationing scheme to control pollution

SANJAY KAW | DC  
NEW DELHI, NOV. 3

A week after Diwali, pollution levels in Delhi-NCR region and nearby areas shot up again on Sunday morning, with the air quality bordering on the "severe plus" category at several places.

In order to bring down the pollution levels, the AAP is implementing the third edition of the 12-day "odd-even" car rationing scheme in Delhi from Monday. That means odd-numbered vehicles will be allowed on Delhi's roads on odd dates and even-numbered vehicles will be allowed on even dates till November 15.

## Iran's Khamenei rules out talks with United States

**Tehran, Nov. 3:** Iran's supreme leader on Sunday again ruled out negotiations with Washington, a day before the 40th anniversary of the hostage crisis at the former US embassy in

Tehran. "Those who see negotiations with the US as the solution to every problem are certainly mistaken," Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said during speech to mark the

anniversary, according to his official website. "Nothing will come out of talking to the US, because they certainly and definitely won't make any concessions." — AFP

## PM Modi stressed India's concerns to ASEAN leaders

# World's largest trade pact to be delayed to 2020

**Bangkok, Nov. 3:** Southeast Asian leaders met for a second day in Thailand on Sunday, hoping for a breakthrough in talks over the world's largest trade deal, called the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP).

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations opened its annual summit in Bangkok on Saturday hoping to secure a China-backed free trade pact at the three-day event, but the signing of the pact is likely to be kicked back to 2020, going by a draft statement by the Asean leaders on Sunday.

"Most market access negotiations have been completed and the few outstanding bilateral issues will be resolved by February 2020," said a draft agreement. The statement said the text of all 20 chapters was now complete "pending the resolution of one" member, which is believed to be India.

Objections by India have dampened all the hopes of finalising the pact in Bangkok, sources said.

The draft said all members were "committed to sign the RCEP" next year in Vietnam, which will take over the Asean chair.

New Delhi is worried that its small businesses will be hard hit by any flood of cheap Chinese goods.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi repeated India's concerns during his talks with Asean leaders on Sunday. Mr Modi said India's unresolved issues include "meaningful market access for all parties", according to a diplomat who attended the meeting.

In his address at the annual India-Asean summit, Mr Modi talked about the mutual coordination between India's vision of



Singapore's Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong (L) and India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi (C) laugh beside Thailand's Prime Minister Prayut Chan-O-cha as they pose for a group photo during the 16th ASEAN-India Summit in Bangkok on Sunday, on the sidelines of the 35th Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Summit.

the Indo-Pacific and Asean's outlook for the strategically key region, which has been witnessing growing Chinese assertiveness.

Mr Modi also talked about cross-border terrorism, the spread of violent extremism and the situation in the South China Sea, and underlined the need for greater cooperation between India and Asean to unitedly take on the major challenges facing the region.

"I welcome the mutual coordination of the Indo-Pacific Outlook between India and Asean. India's Act East Policy is an important part of our Indo-Pacific vision. The Asean is and always will be the heart of our Act East Policy. Integrated, organised and economically developing Asean is in India's basic interest," Mr Modi said here on Sunday.

## India stopped working in bureaucratic manner: PM

**Bangkok, Nov. 3:** India has stopped working in a routine, bureaucratic manner as the country is undergoing transformative changes, Prime Minister Narendra Modi told a group of influential business leaders while hard-selling his government's economic reform initiatives.

Inviting Thai business leaders to invest in India, the prime minister particularly talked about initiatives to reform India's tax regime and said his government is now starting faceless tax assessment so that there is no scope for discretion or harassment.

The prime minister was speaking at an event to

mark golden jubilee of the Aditya Birla Group's presence in Thailand.

"In today's India, the contribution of the hard working tax payer is cherished. One area where we have done significant work is taxation. I am happy that India is one of the most people friendly tax regimes. We are committed to further improving it even more," he said.

The prime minister said it was the best time to be in India and that many things such as foreign direct investment, ease of doing business, ease of living and productivity are rising while tax rates, red tapism, corruption, cronyism are on a decline.

## VP bats for cost-effective desalination initiatives

A. ARUL PALANI | DC  
CHENNAI, NOV. 3

Warning that a water war may break out across the globe, Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu emphasised the significance of saving water.

Addressing the silver jubilee celebrations of the country's premier National Institute of Ocean Technology in Chennai on Sunday, Mr Naidu said there is a need to give a thrust to research activities and innovation in the areas of ocean energy, marine biology and



Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu interacts with minister Harsh Vardhan at an event in Chennai on Sunday.

biotechnology for the nation to become a leader in these sectors and NIOT can be a forerunner for achieving the milestone.

He said some people predict there may be water wars across the globe in the future.

## Cong: WhatsApp alerted Priyanka about possible hacking

**New Delhi, Nov. 3:** The Congress on Sunday claimed its leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra had received a message from WhatsApp informing her that her phone was suspected to have been hacked and accused the government of being involved in a "surveillance racket", but the ruling BJP hit back saying the opposition party was imagining things that don't exist.

As the political row over the issue intensified, Parliamentary standing committees on home affairs and information-technology headed by Congress leaders were also likely to take up the snooping allegations and seek details from top government officials, including the Home Secretary.

"I want to tell that Priyanka Gandhi also received a similar message from WhatsApp around the same time," Congress chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala told reporters on Sunday, responding to a question about NCP leader Praful Patel and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee receiving messages from the Facebook-owned messaging platform about the security breach.

# Thiruvalluvar in saffron robes draws flak

DC CORRESPONDENT  
CHENNAI, NOV. 3

The BJP-affiliated Hindu organisations' bid to appropriate classical Tamil saint-poet Thiruvalluvar and portray him in 'saffron robes' in social media memes has evoked strong protests from several opposition parties in Tamil Nadu on Sunday.

In a hard-hitting statement, the CPI(M) Tamil Nadu committee secretary, K Balakrishnan, pointing



to the BJP's reactions to November 1 being celebrated as 'Tamil Nadu Day', said the RSS and the 'Sangha Parivar' had never approved of the reorganisation of States on linguistic basis in 1956, nor do they

believe in state's rights and federalism.

Yet, the 'Sangha Parivar' group wants to claim credit for it now — with the Edappadi K Palaniswami led AIADMK government announcing celebration of November 1, every year as 'Tamil Nadu Day'. Balakrishnan pointed out. On top of it, they have "insulted the memory of Thiruvalluvar by portraying him (in social media posts) in saffron attire and with smeared ashes on his

forehead," Balakrishnan said.

Stating that Thiruvalluvar was beyond caste, class, religions and that his poetic legacy and wisdom belonged to the entire humanity, the CPI(M) leader said his party strongly condemned the attempts to recast the saint-poet in a Hindutva mode. People will not accept this "insult" to Thiruvalluvar and the BJP should rein in its saffron affiliates from distorting

history, Balakrishnan urged.

The DMK president, M K Stalin, in a tweet said the BJP, instead of "saffronising" Thiruvalluvar, would do better to study his great poetic contributions and try to change over a new leaf. "To drag the Tamil saint-poet to the BJP's aid is to hoodwink the Tamils," Stalin said, adding, any amount of trying to paint Thiruvalluvar with various colours will be washed away.

## BJP firm on 'no negotiation' for Maha chief minister post

YOJNA GUSAI | DC  
NEW DELHI, NOV. 3

Remaining firm on its stand of "no negotiation" on the chief minister's post in Maharashtra, the BJP has told its leaders not to react either on ally Shiv Sena's mouthpiece Saamna or its editor Sanjay Raut's statements over government formation.

The BJP, sources said, has told its leaders, including MLAs, that the party

will not react to the Sena or its chief Uddhav Thackeray's "unofficial proxy" — the Saamna and Mr Raut. Deadlock continues over government formation between the BJP and ally Shiv Sena as both remain adamant on their stands.

With 120 MLAs, including Independents and smaller parties, the BJP is hopeful of retaining power in the state, either with Shiv Sena or without it.





## Lesson

PMK founder Dr S Ramadoss said the UK experience of methane extraction and subsequent ban should be a lesson to both Centre and state to give up such plans for TN

DECCAN CHRONICLE

Special

PAGE 2

MONDAY | 4 NOVEMBER 2019 | CHENNAI



As a fan of Rajinikanth, I'm happy about the award being bestowed on him

—Sellur K. Raju,

Cooperation minister

## OTHER STORY

### Chennai, Thailand port to finalise agreement

**Bangkok:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Thai counterpart Prayut Chan-o-cha on Sunday agreed to enhance bilateral cooperation in the defence industries sector and explore possibility of boosting trade ties during their talks on the sidelines of the ASEAN summit. Both the leaders also discussed ways to enhance connectivity between the two countries, including in the areas of physical and digital spheres, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said. In a tweet, the prime minister's office said both leaders held extensive deliberations on accelerating the friendship between India and Thailand. It said the two leaders welcomed the growing air connectivity between the two countries and start of a direct flight between Bangkok and Guwahati and also finalisation of agreements for cooperation between Ranong Port in Thailand and Indian ports in Kolkata, Chennai and Vishakapatnam. Modi and Chan-o-cha also exchanged views on regional and multilateral issues of mutual interest. "India and Thailand are close maritime neighbours having historical and cultural linkages. In the contemporary context, India's 'Act East' policy is complemented by Thailand's 'Look West' policy which has made the relationship deep, robust and multifaceted," the MEA said. Modi also held a bilateral meeting with Indonesian President Joko Widodo. —PTI

# To cap borewells is cheap; why then do children die?

R. Mohan  
Namma  
Chennai diary

It was a most distressing time made considerably worse by the kind of saturation coverage disaster tends to receive these days in the media, especially on the television medium. As time ticked on, the worst was feared for the fate of Sujith Wilson. It couldn't be declared a tragedy until the body was recovered from the shaft of the disused bore well and TV could use that as rationale for keeping those cameras on live near the site. The futility of it all was, however, quite obvious as the days began sliding by.

The media was not the only culprit although their choice of those wishing to prattle on about the situation was most curious. Politicians are drawn to the live camera like bees to a beehive and plenty of people from the category were around to add their twopenny worth of expertise regarding the rescue operation going on. This media feeding frenzy only got worse as more and more volunteers were rustled up to speak about the subterranean operation that stretched for days because of our lack of technical knowledge about how to extract a human being from a hole in the ground.

The far from compelling view of tunnel digging equipment was the nearest to a nasty spectacle on the small screen. Minute by minute coverage of the Tamil channels added to the sorry spectacle of man's inability to take the merest precaution like covering up bore well shafts when they are of no use from the point of view of extracting water. I believe an iron casting to close a bore well hole costs as little as Rs 150. It was ridiculous then to hear that farmers are so



The site of the accident near Tiruchy which received saturation TV coverage.

poor that they cannot be expected to cover the bore wells they pay big bucks to dig.

The announcement of cash prizes to those who can invent ways to extricate kids from bore wells must be appreciated as a sentiment that had a timely ring to it, one would rather hear of ways to not let the tragedy happen in the first place. This is where those who put up pictures of iron castings costing so little that can do the job most efficiently by sealing the mouth of the hole are also to be appreciated. Awareness of this must spread far more than any intricate technology to pincer out toddlers who face the misfortune of slipping into bore wells.

This episode of death by falling into a rabbit hole was particularly galling because the father of the child was the one who had failed to properly seal the bore well. He should have been hanging his head in shame as well as sorrow. While none one grudges the compensation that the government and political parties paid out as salvage for their conscience, it did seem a bit like blood

money paid for the general carelessness that is a feature of life in India where a huge lacuna exists in finishing any task, be it drilling holes in the ground or sending a spacecraft to the Moon.

That brings up the point about our ability to get things off the ground but not quite finish putting holes in the ground. The callousness with which kids are allowed to wander to water bodies also causes a number of deaths of children in a year. Scores of deaths are reported from misadventure in the water, with only those affected by such tragedies grieving the loss while society absolves itself of any blame. Accidental deaths do happen around the world but not always from a distinct thoughtlessness that has too much of an Indian imprint written on it when it comes to forgetting to seal holes in the ground.

The lack of understanding about about what kids can get to is a curse for those without the time or the energy to do it. But if this stems from sheer carelessness, there is indeed a problem. The

compensation in money will do little to mitigate the loss of a loved one, and so young and innocent at that. Even an insurance scheme for accidental deaths cannot make up for the loss of a human life. The State government was not to be blamed in this particular instance as the accident happened on private property in a well dug by the farmer owners.

Politicising the issue was another distinctly Indian exercise. Considering there have been very few instances in which rescues have been successful in such exercises - ham handed initial attempts killed any chance of a rescue as the boy kept slipping with every crude attempt to lasso his hands and pull him up and out - it is pointless blaming the official machinery. Sujith's death would not have been in vain if every bore well shaft is capped and a tragedy like this is never allowed to recur.

(R. Mohan is the Resident Editor of the Chennai and Tamil Nadu editions of Deccan Chronicle)

## Sowmya, Kuldeep M Pai bag excellence awards

DC CORRESPONDENT  
CHENNAI, NOV 3

The Bharat Sangeet Utsav, a pan India music festival, kicked off on Friday. Renowned Carnatic singer, Sudha Raghunathan kick-started the festival with a concert on women empowerment titled 'Sthree Shakthi', along with popular Hindustani flautist Pandit Ronu Majumdar accompanied by 200 girl children from Dr Sudha Raja's Sargam Choir.

Nandhini Prasad, President, Indian Co-operative Network for Women, presented the Bharat Sangeet excellence award to Carnatic music singer, Dr S Sowmya. Carnatic vocalist and composer, Kuldeep M Pai was presented with Bharat Samskriti award for spreading Indian culture and creating young superstars through social media.

Singer Sudha Raghunathan and actress and advocate Maalavika felicitated the awardees. Organised by Carnatica and Sri Parthasarathy Swami Sabha will go on till November 9. It features a



Renowned Carnatic singer Sudha Raghunathan was among the others to present the award.

line up of star performers covering a wide variety of genres and themes. The event is in support of Sukrtham Foundation, aiding the education of underprivileged girl children.

Carnatic icon Aruna Sairam will team up with Ambi and Bindu Subramaniam of the ThayirSaadam project, featuring the SaPa choir. The mridangam legend UmayalpuramSivaraman will appear in a new avatar

as a presents 'Jwaala' with his team, including playback singer Haricharan Seshadri and Stephan Devassy (piano).

Carnatic greats Sanjay Subrahmanyam, Vijay Siva and S. Sowmya will perform traditional kutcheris. Young star Kunnakudi Balamuralikrishna will present a vocal concert with his guru, maestro Karaikkudi Mani on the mridangam. Trichur Brothers will present a duo concert.

## WALK FOR PLASTIC



'Payanam 25', a 25 km walk as part of #Walkforplastic was organised, in collaboration with more than 50 volunteers from all over the city. It marked the 145th day of the initiative on Sunday. The walk was from Villivakkam to Besant Nagar in Chennai. — DC

## Dark cloud or a cloud with a silver-lining?



JAYANTH MURALI

I awakened this morning to cloudy north-east monsoon skies and intermittent drizzle. My daughter was flying down from Mumbai after nearly three months. I knew the aircraft she was in would graze the dense clouds and pierce through them before touching down in the next 20 minutes. As I looked up at the sky, with anticipation and excitement of seeing her, I eavesdropped on a thought which proposed that Cloud computing might be a good idea to contemplate on during such cloudy days. And I also knew, Mat Honan would be a good place to start.

Mat Honan, worked as a senior writer for the Wired magazine, he had an awesome and a cool digital life. His browser displayed beautiful pictures of his 18-month-old daughter, and his tab buzzed with thousands of his followers on Twitter. One fine August afternoon in 2012, Mat was playing with his daughter when his mobile phone suddenly went lifeless. Trying to restore it, he connected his mobile phone to the power source, expecting to see his custom screen saver and the apps. He instead saw the mobile display a multilingual invitation to set up his mobile phone. He was baffled.

As Mat had religiously backed up his iPhone every night, he believed his data would be safe on his iCloud account. He logged in there to reclaim his data and account. Upon doing so, he was horrified to learn that his password, which he knew to be correct, was being divulged as incorrect by iCloud. Startled, he connected his mobile phone to the laptop, hoping to restore the data from the hard drive

of his MacBook. The MacBook too informed him that his password was incorrect and abruptly turned blank. He soon realised that someone had also hacked his Gmail and Twitter accounts.

The entire data Mat had accumulated over his lifetime, including his daughter's pictures, had been erased. All his Gmail messages, work conversations, family photographs, notes, and reminders were gone too. Having just undergone a massive unsuspecting digital onslaught, Mat decided that he should investigate what had happened.

### How the hacker downed Mat

When he called Apple tech support, they told him that 30 minutes prior to his call, a caller had contacted them. The only information Apple needed back then to give the password details was the mailing address and the last four digits of his credit card number. Mat's mailing address was available on his website, and the hacker armed with Mat's email ID and his address exploited a naive customer service employee at Amazon to get the last four digits of Mat's credit card. As in Mat's case, authorising personal information such as family photographs and precious personal information to Cloud service providers could come with huge risks.

We may not be aware that our various accounts get linked to one another as in Mat's case, we may have the same credit card number on an Apple and a Flipkart profile, our iCloud email address may point to our Gmail address and our login credentials may be available online waiting to be creatively or deviously exploited by those wanting to destroy our digital lives.

What is Cloud? In computing parlance, Cloud refers to the practice of storing data on remote servers, some-

times in numerous locations, which is owned and managed by a hosting company. Cloud computing is believed to have been an invention of Joseph Carl Robnett Licklider in the 1960s to connect people and data from anywhere at any time. Cloud service providers store, manage, protect and allow access to our data. Subscribers and organisations buy or lease storage capacity from the hosts to store data.

At an individual level, it would mean, our mobiles are uploading and storing pictures on Instagram, our emails on Google and our documents on mDropbox. The changing paradigm in computing means that less information gets stored locally on our computers and is instead being hosted elsewhere on earth. We may access cloud storage services through a collocated cloud computing service, a web service application programming interface (API) or by applications that use the API, such as cloud desktop storage, a cloud storage gateway or Web-based content management systems.

### Software as a Service

We mostly do not buy software anymore; we just rent it or receive it for free using a new business model known as Software as a Service (SaaS). The accumulation of all these data means our most personal of information is no longer likely stored solely on our local hard drives but are now assembled on computer servers around the world. By aggregating everybody's essential data, financial and otherwise, on cloud-based computer servers, we've prevented the need for criminals to target everybody's hard drive individually and instead put all valuables in a single basket for criminals and hackers to target.

Cloud computing functions by using the Internet with the help of software and hardware virtualisa-



tion. The most significant advantage is the flexible ease of storage and release of data as per the needs of the user. The other advantages of Cloud computing are lowered prices because of the curtailment of cost of hardware/software and better efficiency.

In 2017, Amazon generated \$3.2 million from their public cloud computing infrastructure division known as Amazon Web Services. Microsoft knowing full well that more and more people would use the cloud in the days to come had earmarked 90 percent of its R&D budget in 2011 on cloud computing products and applications. Forbes had reported that by 2018 over 50% of IT spending will be cloud-based.

Banks are the most enthusiastic users of the cloud for mobile banking and virtual transaction services. Companies use cloud more for storage than application development. Over 90 percent of all businesses witnessed at least one area of improvement in their IT department after they moved to the cloud. Small to medium business that adopted the cloud experienced a 40 percent growth in revenues after a year compared to those that did not use the cloud.

### Cloud handles gargantuan data

But on the downside Cloud has several issues. The provider of the cloud computing services has access to gargantuan data and there is a great risk of it being leaked intentionally or accidentally. The data is also in danger of being deleted or modified. This is mainly because most service providers use administrators who could be lured or coerced to disclose data for personal or political gain.

There are instances where cloud service providers have compromised the privacy of several companies. Most service providers have a privacy policy that subscribers have to agree, which lets them share data with third parties for law and order. For instance, Dropbox has a privacy policy which states that for law and order purposes, they may reveal information to third parties if they determine that such disclosure is reasonably necessary to (a) comply with the law; (b) protect any person from death or serious bodily injury; (c) Prevent fraud or abuse of Dropbox or our users; or (d) Protect Dropbox's property rights.

Then there are technical issues. If the servers are down or if there is a denial of service attack, it may not be possible to access data. Cloud computing services require a secure internet connection and consume a great deal of power of the devices such as the smartphone.

### Major cloud service providers breached

Data breach is a huge issue in cloud computing. Hackers could rip off various types of information from a compromised cloud such as email addresses, credit card information, mailing addresses and personal messages. There must be a law to notify customers of the breaches. The U.S. has one such law. The nonlocal storage of our data raises important questions about our deep reliance on cloud-based information systems. When these services go down or become unavailable via DDoS attack, or when we lose our Internet connection, or if our data becomes unavailable, we could go out of business.

All major cloud service providers, such as Dropbox, Google and Microsoft, have gotten breached, and we can foresee more to happen in the future. Several thousand businesses that have valuable data stored in the cloud continue to get breached and stolen. On August 31, 2014, hackers posted a collection of nude photos of various celebrities such as Jennifer Lawrence and Kate Upton on the anonymous image-sharing website 4chan. Apple initially believed that the hackers had got the images via a breach of Apple's cloud services suite iCloud, or a security issue in the iCloud API. However, Apple came to know later that the access route was via spear phishing attacks.

Aadhar breach exposed

### billion Indians

The breach of Aadhar data which exposed literally over a billion Indian citizens has been one of the most significant breaches to date. The information breached included data such as a member's names, their identity numbers which are unique 12-digit numbers assigned, biometric data, and information about the services being subscribed to such as bank details, utility services etc.

Another breach that made major headlines was that of Cambridge Analytica; a British political consulting company started in 2013. Cambridge Analytica had collected Facebook information of 87 million users inappropriately to build political profiles of each Facebook user and target-specific political advertisements to manipulate them in a particular way prompting an investigation by the U.S. Congress into the allegations which led to Mark Zuckerberg testifying.

On November 30, 2018, Marriott Starwood Hotels revealed they had recognised a data security breach of their guest database, which it believed compromised up to approximately 327 million guests who made a reservation at a Starwood property. The records that got jeopardised contained information such as name, mailing address, phone number, email address, passport number, Starwood Preferred Guest accounting information, date of birth etc.

Code Spaces is an example of a company that was entirely put out of business by a single cloud security incident. The hacker compromised Code Spaces' Amazon Web Services account and demanded a ransom. When the company declined, the hacker started erasing their data until nothing was left.

Users become victims

In all such cases, it may be the cloud service provider who gets targeted, but we become the victims as the data that is stolen is ours. The terms of service conditions of such companies to which subscribers agree to hold the providers of cloud services unaccountable when such breaches occur. These attacks threaten intellectual property, customer data, and even sensitive government information.

Mat Honan, with whose story we began, eventually created a new twitter account and established contact with his hacker who had annihilated him online. Mat implored his hacker to explain why he had snuffed out his digital life. The teenager replied that he had done so because he had liked his twitter name and wanted it for himself. Not much has changed since then; we are today as much vulnerable as Mat was back in 2012 as we ratchet our reliance on mobile and cloud-based applications.

Whether Cloud computing turns into dark clouds or a Cloud with a silver lining depends on our ability to protect data from being breached or leaked inadvertently. Following best practices can help organisations ensure that their data is kept safe and secure. Using a monitoring and security solution that utilises machine learning to monitor the public cloud environment can be extremely powerful.

Spiritually too, we may be living in a cloud computing universe. If we think of our memories as a document on Google drive. Everything is already in the cloud. So our consciousness is out there in the cosmic cloud as well, which is getting auto-updated in real-time.

(Dr Jayanth K. Murali IPS, is ADGP (Law and Order) Tamil Nadu. He can be contacted at [www.jayanthmurali.com](http://www.jayanthmurali.com))





## Polls delayed

Tamil development minister K Pandiarajan said that TN local body polls is delayed since the Centre has not dispatched EVMs so far

# City

PAGE  
3

DECCAN CHRONICLE

MONDAY | 4 NOVEMBER 2019 | CHENNAI



Rajinikanth is a veteran actor. It is apt that he is given the 'Icon of Golden Jubilee award'

—T T V Dhinakaran, AMMK founder

## BRIEF

### Auto driver arrested for theft

**Chennai:** The City police on Sunday arrested an auto driver who, on the pretext of dropping a passenger to Chennai Central railway station, drove away with ₹5,000 cash and a few other belongings of the passenger. According to sources, Sulthan Nawab (31) working in a private firm in Ambattur industrial estate and living in the area, had packed his clothes, cash and other required things to go to his hometown on Thursday. A passing auto driver had agreed to drop him at the Central railway station and Sulthan kept his bags inside the auto. But before he could lock his house gate, the auto was driven away. Sulthan immediately filed a complaint at the Ambattur estate police station and the cops after going through CCTV footage took note of the auto registration number and found the person involved to be one Ashok (22) from Vyasarpadi and arrested him on Saturday. The bags belonging to Sulthan were recovered from him and after further enquiry Ashok was remanded to judicial custody.

### Manja thread slits child's throat

**Chennai:** A three-year-old child was killed as a banned manja thread slit his neck in Chennai on Sunday. The incident took place when the child was travelling pillion on a two-wheeler. According to sources, Gopal of Korukkupet was riding the mobike with his son Abhinashwaran, 3, on the pillion. A few local youths were engaged in flying kites with the dangerous manja thread. The glass-laced thread slit Abhinashwaran's throat and he started bleeding from his neck in front of his fathers' eyes. He was rushed to Stanley Medical College hospital where he was declared brought dead. Police have registered a case and have launched a hunt for the kite fliers.

### Red sanders worth ₹20L seized from car after chase

**Tiruvallur:** Red sanders worth ₹20 lakh was seized from a car at Elavur in the district on Sunday after a hot chase and one person was arrested, police said. While speeding away, with police in pursuit, the driver lost control over the vehicle, rammed into a stationary lorry and came to a halt, they said. The driver was arrested. The red sanders was later handed over to forest officials. —PTI

### Two arrested for Secretariat job racket

**Chennai:** Two persons, one of them a woman, were arrested by the city police for luring a man into getting him a job at the Secretariat. According to sources, Gunasekaran (35), working as a temporary car driver at the secretariat, had promised Nivendran (23) of getting him a job at the Secretariat if he could arrange ₹5 lakh. Nivendran gave him the amount in 2018 but Gunasekaran did not get him the job. Nivendran filed a complaint at 83 Fort St George Police Station and upon investigation police found that Gunasekaran, with the help of Pushpalatha (Junior assistant in Secretariat) lured many people saying they would get them jobs. They had been using a car with a Tamil Nadu government sticker and a siren to cheat people.

## ■Petitioner had sent costly gifts to his daughter living in US Courier firm fined ₹45k for not delivering Deepavali gifts

DC CORRESPONDENT  
CHENNAI, NOV. 3

The District Consumer Disputes Redressal Forum, Chennai (South) slapped a fine of ₹45,000 on an international express courier firm for not delivering Deepavali gifts, including sweets, snacks and sarees to a woman in Texas, USA. Her father from the city sent the gift prior to Deepavali three years ago.

In the petition, K. Sambandam of Adyar submitted that he sent a parcel containing silk saree, blouses, tops, petticoat, sweet and snacks to his daughter, who was living in an apartment at

Houston, Texas, U.S.A, as Deepavali gift. He purchased a silk saree for a price of ₹11,850.

He sent the parcel through M/s. Queens International Express, Mylapore for ₹4,500 on October 24, 2016. However, the courier company had not delivered the consignment. The purpose of sending the articles to celebrate Deepavali was totally defeated, which caused great mental agony and hardship, he said.

Even after repeated requests there was no proper response from Queens International Express. In its reply, the company, in an email, admitted that the shipping was wrongly deliv-

ered and they were taking steps to retrieve it and deliver it to his daughter. But so far, neither the consignment was delivered to either to the consignee nor returned to the consignor.

He issued notice on November 9, 2016. As there was no response, he filed the complaint seeking direction to K.M. Gani Proprietor of M/s. Queens International Express to pay him compensation for causing mental agony.

In his reply, K.M. Gani denied the averments made in the petition. The consignment was duly shipped to Houston Texas and it was wrongly delivered because of the

address mentioned in proforma invoice. It was handed over to the transporter M/s. FedEx Express, Egmore. He sought dismissal of the petition.

The bench comprising its president M. Mony and member R. Baskarkumar said M/s. Queens International Express committed deficiency in service. Considering the facts and circumstances of the case, the Forum ordered M/s. Queens International Express to pay the petitioner ₹25,000 towards the cost of consignment and a compensation of ₹10,000 for causing mental agony and a cost of ₹10,000.

## Mixed response from Cauvery delta farmers on TN contract farming law

G.SRINIVASAN | DC  
THANJAVUR, NOV. 3

With the President of India, Sri Ramnath Kovind recently giving assent to Tamil Nadu's new law on contract farming, there has been a mixed reaction from farmers of Cauvery delta districts to the contract farming move of the State government.

While S.Ranganathan, secretary, Cauvery delta farmers welfare association welcomed contract farming, V.Jeevakumar of All India Kisan Sabha (AIKS) and a farmer from Budalur said that it will deprive farmers of many facilities they enjoy now from Government and put them in the hands of corporate companies.

Contract farming is a pre-production agreement between farmers, either collectively or individually and sponsors says the Tamil Nadu agricultural produce and livestock contract farming and services (promotion and facilitation) act 2019. Farmers will get support from contractors (corporate companies) with respect to inputs, advance money, feed, fodder and technology says the act.

Ranganathan said that, if the relationship between the farmer or farmers groups and companies is good, contract farming will work well. "Everything will be taken care of by the company from giving inputs, nurturing the crop till its harvest and farmers may not have much work. Thus contract farming is good for farmers in the age of 60s and 70s i.e. who are in the evening of their lives.

Farmers Producers companies stand to gain as they can take up contract farming on behalf of farmers. He also said that companies like Indian Tobacco Company (ITC) are doing well in contract farming. Success of the contract farming will also depend upon the companies," he



said. "It is to be welcomed," he added.

Jeevakumar on the other hand, said that only to evade its responsibility of procurement, providing prices to crops, government is encouraging contract farming. "Nearly 118 crops have been listed for contract farming and crops, which the farmer should raise will be decided by the companies. Prices also will be fixed by them. Recommendation of the National Agriculture Commission that price should be production cost plus half of it will not be implemented. Many farmers who migrate to cities will give land on lease to farm labourers. That is different. Now corporate companies will take over and farmers will become slaves to them. It will introduce new colonialism," Jeevakumar feared.

However, R. Pannirselvam, managing director, Cauvery Delta Agro Producer Company Ltd (CDAPCL) (the company has 1,000 farmers as its members) said that contract farming is welcome, provided there is no violation of norms on both sides i.e. farmers and the company. "Farmers will get advance money, inputs etc. Normally when farmers depend upon banks, they

may not get loan in time. So in contract farming money is given in advance to farmers. But sometimes farmers flout norms and sell the vegetables or crops to other companies. Companies also if they don't have demand, they may not purchase the product even at the cost of losing advance.

"These things should be sorted out. I cultivated Gherkins for export market under contract farming. I sent 19 containers of Gherkins to Canada. But they paid the amount agreed upon in the contract for gherkins sent in eight containers which reached them. Other eleven containers are in sail. At that time prices have fallen in the market for gherkins," he said.

"The foreign party said they will pay only the reduced price for the rest of eleven containers. They also pointed out that the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Agency (APEDA) has provided subsidy for me and I will not incur loss. But the fact is I have not availed this subsidy as I am not aware of existing of such subsidy. Farmers should know all facilities available to them and should stick on to norms of the contract," added Pannirselvam.

## AWARENESS WALK



Union bank of India organised an awareness walk in connection with vigilance awareness week 2019. "Integrity - A way of life" is the theme for the year. Employees of three banks - Union Bank of India, Andhra Bank and Corporation Bank - walked on Elliots beach, Besant Nagar. Mr Lalsingh, Field General Manager, Union Bank of India flagged off the Vigilance Awareness walk.

### ARMY JAWAN FROM TAMIL NADU COMMITS SUICIDE

**Berhampur (Odisha), Nov 3 :** A 30-year old Army jawan allegedly committed suicide by hanging in his quarter inside the Army Air Defence College at Gopalpur in Ganjam district on Sunday, police said.

The deceased was identified as R Krishna of Ranganathapuram in Tamil Nadu, said Sub-Divisional Police Officer (SDPO), Berhampur. Sadar, Jayant Kumar Mohapatra. His body was recovered after breaking the door of the room. The reason behind the suicide was yet to be ascertained, the SDPO said adding investigation is in progress. —PTI

## Hospital launches state-of-the-art stem cell transplant unit

**Chennai, Nov. 3:** SIMS (SRM Institutes for Medical Science) Hospitals, super speciality quaternary care hospitals, launched a dedicated Stem Cell (Bone Marrow) Transplant Unit, at its Vadapalani facility in Chennai. SIMS also signed a MoU with "College of Healthcare Innovations, UK".

The Stem Cell Transplant (SCT) unit with a state-of-the-art facility will provide life saving treatment for life threatening malignant and non-malignant disorders.



SCT will help patients afflicted with resistant malignancies like leukemia (blood cancer), lymphomas (malignancies of the lymph nodes) and

multiple myeloma (cancer of the bone marrow itself) and also non-malignant disorders like Thalassemia and Sickle cell anemia.

The unit was inaugurated by Mr Vaughan Gething AM, Minister for Health and Social Services, Wales, UK. "The new SCT unit will bring in International level health care to patients in India, with requisite expertise and facilities to carry out all types of SCT i.e. Autologous, Allogenic and Haplo Identical procedures," said Dr. Ranjan

Kumar Mohapatra - Director, Institute of Oncology at SIMS.

Mr. Ravi Pachamoothoo, Chairman, SRM Group, said, "Cancer is a result of error in the genetic combination of cells and there are more than 100 different types of cancers. Each cancer is different and so is their treatment. Nevertheless, in recent years the treatment for cancer has improved by great leaps, which facilitates effective treatment for many types of cancers.



## High-tech suite in hospital to treat dry eye condition

**Chennai, Nov 2:** Dr. Agarwal's Eye Hospital, Porur has introduced a comprehensive suite of cutting-edge technology for the diagnosis and treatment of dry-eye syndrome. Dry eye is a condition in which a person doesn't have enough quality tears to lubricate and nourish the eye. The Dry Eye Suite comprises diagnostic and treatment systems designed to stimulate, restore, and maintain normal secretion of tears in the eyes.

Mr. D. Jayakumar, Minister for Fisheries and Personnel and Administrative Reforms, inaugurated the new facility. He said Chennai has

established itself as a top medical destination in the country for all specialties including ophthalmology, thanks to the presence of quality-conscious healthcare institutions.

"In India, the rate of prevalence of dry eye syndrome is estimated to be 5 to 15% of the population. Some of the major factors that have made dry eye a common and often chronic problem are the conditions of modern lifestyles where people stare at computer or mobile phone screens for long periods of time without blinking regularly," said Prof. Amar Agarwal, Chairman, Dr. Agarwal's Group of Eye Hospitals, said.

## Speak Out



### Haphazard parking of share autos

The Luz Junction in Mylapore is already a crowded and congested junction, where we pedestrians find it very difficult to walk as the footpaths are fully occupied by hawkers. Added to the woe is the haphazard parking of Share Auto at the junction right from Aavin Retail shop, which is proving to be a real hindrance for smooth flow of traffic in the junction. Similar is the case near the Kamadhenu Bus Stop, where too the share autos are a hindrance. We request the concerned authorities to take suitable action for trouble free traffic.

N. Mahadevan  
Chennai.

### Lakes have no mouth to cry!

Neet, banner and lately bore well attract politics! But lakes inspite of Chennai water crisis do not attract politics since they have votes on their banks/bunds! (Encroachments). Why Chennai lakes couldn't be rejuvenated when they can be filled with rainwater, made into recreation centres beautifying the city further? Presently lakes pose as mosquitoes breeding centres aiding more dengue cases!

R.Ganesan,  
Chennai.



SPEAKOUT IS A WEEKLY COLUMN.

Letters to this page should be typed or written on one side of the paper. All letters, including those sent by email, should bear the name, address and phone number of the writer. We will not use complaints without these details. If you have a complaint against a vendor or a corporate, mail the letter with supporting documentary evidence, or bring the same to the DC office. [speakout.chennai@deccanmail.com](mailto:speakout.chennai@deccanmail.com) Letters must reach by Friday.

## MONSOON STEPS



Rainwater harvesting structure being readied near Velachery flyover in Chennai on Sunday.

—DC





## Ridicule

TN CPM secretary K Balakrishnan on Sunday said the BJP was trying to ridicule poet Thiruvalluvar

# Politics

PAGE 4

DECCAN CHRONICLE

MONDAY | 4 NOVEMBER 2019 | CHENNAI



The DMK is prepared to face the local body polls anytime

—Durai Murugan, DMK treasurer

## BRIEF

### Former IRS officer appointed expenditure observer for JH poll

**New Delhi:** The Election Commission on Sunday appointed former Indian Revenue Service officer B Murali Kumar as special expenditure observer for Jharkhand Assembly poll. A Commission statement said he will supervise and monitor work being done by electoral machinery and ensure stringent and effective enforcement action against abuse of money power to allure voters. Given his past experience in the investigation wing of Income Tax Department, Kumar was also appointed Special Expenditure Observer for Vellore Parliamentary Constituency in Tamil Nadu and for the recently concluded assembly elections in Maharashtra. —PTI

### Tamil omission in traffic challans: DMK warns stir

**Tiruchy:** The DMK president M K Stalin on Sunday warned off a massive agitation by the party if the Central government and the State traffic police did not ensure the inclusion of Tamil in the 'challans' given to traffic violators for fines collected under the recently amended Motor Vehicles Act. Speaking at a marriage function in the family of the late DMK veteran Vetrikondan here, Mr. Stalin referred to reports in the media that the 'challans' given to traffic violators were printed only in Hindi and English. "The challans issued in Tamil Nadu should also be in Tamil and if it is not restored, then we will launch a massive agitation," the DMK leader said. This was one more instance of how the AIADMK government led by Chief Minister, Edappadi K Palaniswami toed the BJP government at the Centre in all aspects, Stalin pointed out and recalled DMK's recent efforts to restore Tamil in the recruitment exams conducted by the Postal department and in the circulars issued by the Railways regarding instructions given to lower-level field workers. Paying rich tributes to Vetrikondan, the DMK leader said the former dedicated his entire life for party work, even putting aside the concerns of his family.

## ■ CM Edappadi Palaniswami mulls 65:35 ratio for seat-sharing AIADMK to discuss local bodies polls

D SEKAR | DC CHENNAI, NOV. 3

A high-level meeting of party functionaries of the ruling All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) is scheduled here for November 6, which will mainly discuss the coming elections to Local Bodies in Tamil Nadu.

To be jointly chaired by the party coordinator and Deputy Chief Minister O Panneerselvam and co-coordinator and Chief Minister, Edappadi K Palaniswami, the AIADMK meet comes at a crucial time as the State Election Commission (SEC), mandated to hold the elections to rural and urban local bodies, all set to present the election schedule to the High Court and Supreme court on Monday or Tuesday. The court will then direct the holding of the polls, sources told DC.

"Almost, everything is



ready from the SEC side and it is learnt that they have drawn up a three-phase schedule for the Panchayati Raj and Nagarpalika bodies elections in three phases in early December 2019," sources requesting anonymity said.

While for the urban local bodies including election to Mayors of municipal corporations, councillors, chairmen of municipalities, ward members and chairmen of town panchayats, the SEC will this time use electronic voting machines (EVMs), for elections to village pan-



chayats and panchayat unions, it will be through printed ballots. For that purpose, ballot papers were being printed in five colours, the sources said.

The SEC will submit all the details to the High Court, including reservation of wards for women, SC and ST sections, so that the poll body cannot be blamed any further for not holding the elections, the sources added.

It is in this backdrop and buoyed by its two recent Assembly by-election victories from Vikravandi and Nanguneri, that the AIADMK is now fully con-

fident to meet the local bodies' elections and hence the high-level party meeting on November 6 at the party headquarters on Avvai Shanmugam Salai in Chennai. Moreover, Mr. Panneerselvam is scheduled to go to USA for ten days from November 7.

The AIADMK meeting, to be also attended by senior party functionaries including Madhusudhanan, MPs, MLAs, district secretaries and others, will discuss all aspects related to Local Bodies polls including seat-sharing with the party's allies for all posts contested on party lines. Separate committees are expected to be set up at the meeting which will discuss various aspects with AIADMK's allies.

Mr. Palaniswami is faced with tough choices as the AIADMK allies, notably, PMK, DMDK and BJP, demanding a good deal in sharing of seats, sources said. The BJP itself is

demanding two Mayors posts, and PMK is demanding six to seven Mayors posts, they said. The Chief Minister, however, is keen that AIADMK should get a chunk of all winnable seats at all levels. He is learnt to be mulling a 65:35 ratio for AIADMK /allies respectively in seat-sharing, though no official confirmation as yet.

**DMK GENERAL COUNCIL:** The main opposition DMK has already called for its general council meeting in Chennai on November 10 with MK Stalin presiding. The party would not only discuss its twin Assembly by-poll failures, but also more extensively the Local Bodies elections, sources said. Also, with Prof K Anbazhagan not keeping well, the party would also consider alternatives to who could hold the general secretary's post additionally, or any other acceptable arrangement.

## Mr Naidu urges research to address water issue

From Page 1

"We must try to utilise available sea water and for that you (NIOT) need to do more and more research. You already found some solutions, but it has to be cost-effective because converting saline water to potable water, sweet water is a very good thing that will solve the problem to maximum possible extent but the question is at what cost and that is the issue," he said.

Stating that the cost-effective desalination initiatives would fulfil the country's drinking water demands Mr Naidu favoured more research to address the issue. He lauded the NIOT for its efforts in six key areas of blue economy including fisheries and aquaculture, renewable ocean energy, offshore hydrocarbons, and marine biotechnology. They are all very important for the progress of the nation. The blue economy will help in achieving the 14th of UN Sustainable Development Goals, which is "life below water".

Naidu said "the process of desalination will get further impetus in the coming days. And I am worried that we may face water problem and water challenges. Scientific research going on around the world on this issue. We are a huge country with 130 crore population and our requirement is also huge, we have to focus our attention on future challenges along with present challenges," he said.

Naidu has launched the "Coastal Flood Warning System (CFLWS-Chennai) App," for Chennai, developed by the Union Ministry of Earth Sciences.

Union Science and Technology Minister Harsh Vardhan lauded the institute for "catapulting

● Vice President lauded the NIOT for its efforts in six key areas of blue economy

India to the elite club of nations-USA, Japan, France, Germany and Korea-with successful development and usage of 6,000 metre deep Remotely Operated Vehicle." "The NIOT is involved in developing technologies for a wide range of areas such as harnessing deep ocean resources and development of human operated submersible for deep and shallow waters," he said.

Deputy Chief Minister O Panneerselvam said the NIOT has undertaken considerable research work and demonstration projects for the welfare of coastal communities in States including Tamil Nadu. The Early Coastal Flood Warning System for Chennai, launched by Vice-President today will greatly help the State Government to plan even better for flood situations in the future. There is considerable deep sea mineral wealth, within India's Exclusive Economic Zone. NIOT's efforts to undertake deep sea mining of manganese will be a significant measure to add to nation's wealth, he said.

Earlier, Mr Naidu viewed exhibits on the cutting edge and socially relevant technologies developed by NIOT and released a special postal cover to mark its silver jubilee.

The vice president gave away awards to student winners of competitions conducted by the institution to mark NIOT's silver jubilee. Among others Ministers D Jayakumar, RB Udhakumar, Secretary, Union Ministry of Earth Sciences, Dr M Rajeevan and Director, NIOT Dr M.A. Atmanand took part in the function.

## TNPSC exam pattern tweaked

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, NOV 3

The Tamil Nadu Public Services Commission (TNPSC) has effected some more changes in its examination pattern for selection of candidates for Group-2 and Group 2-A posts in the state.

The changes will reflect the demands and suggestions from various quarters including secretary-level officers and departmental heads over a period of years that those working for the Tamil Nadu government should have a high level of proficiency in the Tamil language, particularly in translation and drafting

notes and preparing files, an official release said.

Accordingly, some changes to Group-2 and Group-2A posts exams were made recently, which are being further fine-tuned. Though there is no change in the syllabi for the 'Preliminary exams', nonetheless units related to history and culture of TN, socio-political movements and Tamil development, will be given additional weightage, namely to units 8 and 9 in the preliminary exam.

The model question paper, reflecting these changes will be uploaded on the TNPSC website by the end of Nov, the press release said, adding, enough

time will be given for candidates to assimilate this new pattern of exam.

As far as the 'Main Written Examination' is concerned, the TNPSC has made it into two parts. 'Part-A' (qualifying paper) of the main exam will be a one-and-a-half hours paper, for 100 marks and candidates should necessarily obtain at least 25 marks, for their 'Part-B' or Paper-2 to be evaluated.

The marks obtained in this preliminary exam will not be taken into consideration in assigning the position for candidates in the TNPSC 'rank list'. In the interests of the Tamil medium students from the rural

areas, the TNPSC will henceforth set the question papers on par with 'SSLC standard' to enable students who know to read and write Tamil to get a better chance to get into the state services.

The 'Paper-2' will be a three-hour exam, with 300 marks and the marks obtained in that alone will be considered for the purpose of rank. The rest of the syllabi already set for 'Paper-2' will remain. These have ensured that TNPSC examinees know history of Tamil language, literature and culture from Sangam Age to the present times, which will benefit Tamil-speaking students, it added.

## Bedi inspects revived water bodies in Karaikal

**Karaikal, Nov 3 :** Puducherry Lieutenant Governor Kiran Bedi visited Karaikal district and inspected the water bodies in the enclave of the Union territory that were rejuvenated and desilted under the 'Nam Neer' (Our Water) project in the last three months.

Of the total 300 water bodies, 178 have so far been revived with the participation of public, corporates and government servants.

During the inspection on Saturday, Bedi was all praise for the district Collector A Vikranth Raja for the successful work so far as he had been instrumental in bringing together members of the

public, corporates and government servants.

Bedi was impressed with the work achieved by the Collector and said she would send a recommendation to the Puducherry government to nominate him for an award presented on Civil Services Day which falls on April 21.

She further said she would honour the village-level committees and individual donors who contributed to the project.

It all started five months ago when the Collector asked the temple administrations in the district to desilt the temple tanks. Surprisingly, the temple tanks replenishment project saw an overwhelming

participation of the local people.

"We then decided to rejuvenate and replenish all the water bodies in the district. We came up with the 'Nam Neer' (Our Water) project," said the collector. "We requested the corporates to contribute their mite under their corporate social responsibility (CSR) funds. The government offices were requested to adopt one water body each and then we formed village-level committees comprising volunteers," said the Collector. In addition to rejuvenating the ponds, about 800 km of canals in the district has been desilted, he added. —PTI

## WARM WELCOME TO VP



Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami greets Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu at Chennai airport on his arrival from New Delhi on Sunday. Governor Banwarilal Purohit is also seen.

## Palkhivala's basic structure doctrine shield against rising nationalism

M.R. VENKATESH | DC CHENNAI, NOV. 3

To put together an edition of uncollected papers and other essays of the renowned Tax and Constitutional lawyer and one of India's best legal minds, late Nani Palkhivala is no easy task, even if may not be the most favoured public intellectual-type today. This is a special volume coinciding with his birth centenary year (2019-20).

Though Palkhivala's contributions to the Supreme Court formulating the 'basic structure' doctrine as an enduring and fundamental feature of the Indian Constitution which protects its solidity and his lifelong plea to simplify taxes are widely known and acknowledged, Suresh Balakrishnan, a Chennai-based advocate and author, through this very timely publication, has brought to public domain the continuity of his basic positions in the later part of Palkhivala's life.

As political circles voice apprehensions over a bizarre possibility of rewriting the Indian Constitution, Palkhivala's penetrating arguments come as a searchlight, to rekindle the liberal lamps. Suresh Balakrishnan's work seeks to

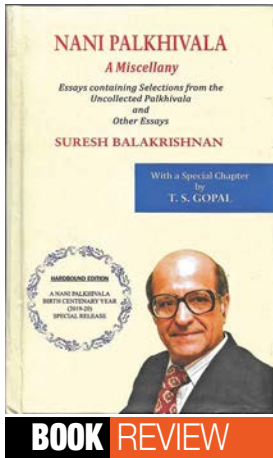
take forward that fond hope to many more who care for the need for a liberal, humane and secular India. The volume is enriched with assorted essays, excerpts from functions Palkhivala participated in, besides personal recollections and anecdotes. The 'Down Memory Lane' part of this bright volume interspersed with rare pictures' is thanks to a special chapter by T. S. Gopal, former assistant secretary of the 'Forum of Free Enterprise', Chennai Centre, and Palkhivala's Man Friday then.

Palkhivala may not have been 'Bombay's answer to Thomas Jefferson', as the 'Sunday' weekly magazine sought to taunt him with a scathing article in October 1997 (which is quoted in this volume). "Youngsters will find this hard to believe, but there was a time when Nani Palkhivala was regarded as a middle-class messiah. He was to the 1970s', what T.N. Seshan and Justice J.S. Verma were to the mid-Nineties," the magazine wrote. His popular speeches on the 'Union Budget' were a big draw in major cities. But "the famous legal victories (of his) belong to the past," it underscored while analysing the factors and circum-

stances in the 1990s' that led to the deconstructing of this 'yesterday's messiah'.

India was beginning to see new icons post-economic liberalisation, but popular memory often ignores or forgets the pre-history, on the persons who made it possible; it goes back to the ideological tussles flagged initially by the Swatantra Party under leaders like Rajaji. India in 1990s' gave greater visibility to a new crop of public intellectuals like Dr Mamohan Singh, Montek Singh Ahluwalia, Nobel laureate Prof Amartya Sen, to contemporary historians like Rajmohan Gandhi, Ramachandra Guha and writers like Arun Shourie, besides tech-heroes like Dr A P J Abdul Kalam. But all that richness does not take away the merit of the earlier decades' thought-leaders despite serious differences and less of TV. This is one insightful message that gently wafts through Palkhivala's uncollected writings.

This socio-political backdrop should help to better read this miscellaneous compendium on the thoughts of Nani Palkhivala in an enduring light. Take for instance, the arguments he



**Nani Palkhivala - A Miscellany, Essays containing Selections from the Uncollected Palkhivala and Other Essays, Suresh Balakrishnan, Published by Old Madras Press, Chennai, first hardbound edition, 2019 (₹480)**

advanced in the Supreme Court (cited in this collection) against the 25th Amendment to the Constitution, which according to him "violates the basic scheme and philosophy underlying the Constitution." With remark-

able clarity Palkhivala points out how it sought to 'subordinate' 'Fundamental Rights' to the 'Directive Principles of State Policy' and thereby "seeks to wreck the very basic structure of the existing Constitution which makes the Fundamental Rights enforceable in a Court of Law and expressly provides that the Directive Principles are not so enforceable. The Fundamental Rights are clear-cut and precise, in contrast to the vague contours of the Directive Principles." The spirit of that argument is still valid as the new powers-to-be seek to take recourse to the Directive Principles to bring in fundamentally new changes to law and society, like uniform civil code for instance. Palkhivala if alive, will still oppose it.

Another thought process of continuing relevance included in this volume is his rejoinder article in a national newspaper, expressing serious reservations about what is widely known as the 'Hindutva Judgment' of the Supreme Court in December 1995, in "Dr. Ramesh Yashwant Prabhu Vs. Shri Prabhakar Kashinath Kunte & Others." In that article, also part of this volume, Palkhivala's criticisms

against the 'Hindutva Judgment' (the judgment by the Bench of three Judges then headed by Mr. Justice Verma), is very simple and forthright: "To say that Hindutva does not involve religious bigotry is wholly irrelevant. The question is very simple. Admittedly, you cannot ask for votes on the ground of religion. Can you get over the prohibition by invoking the same grounds masquerading as Indian culture?" asked Palkhivala.

The fact that the 'Hindutva Judgment' was again in the limelight in 2016 when a larger Bench of the Supreme Court declined to revisit it, is sufficient proof on the continuing relevance of Palkhivala's critique of it. In fact, Palkhivala goes further in that article to stress that, thanks to the 'S.R. Bommai Vs. Union of India' case, the Supreme Court has laid down that 'secularism forms part of the basic structure of the Constitution.' Hence, Palkhivala observed that the 'jubilation' over the 'Hindutva Judgment' by some political parties "is misconceived".

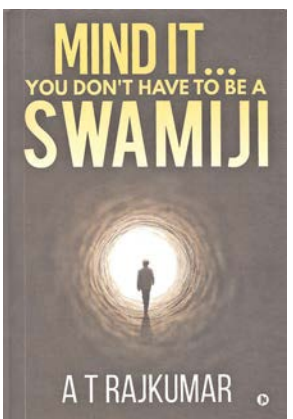
There are several other little known aspects of Palkhivala's life and times in this volume. To sample a few, his letter to the former

President Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, his views on the Kashmir issue, Palkhivala's thoughts on the essential unity of all religions, his spirit of charity and munificence - for instance his generous donation to the Shankar Nethralaya eye hospital in Chennai -, a controversial incident when he was India's Ambassador to the United States, and Palkhivala's 'liberal econom-

ic outlook'- anti-Marxist but sharing some Keynesian concerns as the author Suresh Balakrishnan suggests. There is also an aside on J. Jayalalitha wanting to attend Palkhivala's lecture at the Abbotsbury in Chennai and the irrepressible Cho Ramaswamy unable to ensure a reserved front-row seat for her- make this collection a very illuminating read.

## New arrival

**Mind It.... You Don't Have To Be A Swamiji** - by A.T. Rajkumar. Published by Notion Press, Chennai, 2019 (₹230). Written from the author's personal experiences, this is a book with a lot of useful tips, on how certain spiritual practices like meditation techniques can help people overcome the down phase in their lives and through a positive attitude transform it into something valuable and cheerful, even if it be in a late stage in their lives. Teenage is the phase of energy and defiance and everyone makes mistakes, but there is always a chance to turn over a new leaf sans a sense of guilt. Rajkumar



shows how this is achievable, that one does not have to be necessarily a saint to be a good person. The words and deeds of great spiritual seekers are sufficient for any transformation.





## Award

Dairy minister K T Rajendra Balaji said that the award for actor Rajnikanth is not politically motivated

# State

PAGE  
5

DECCAN CHRONICLE

MONDAY | 4 NOVEMBER 2019 | CHENNAI



BJP has sought two mayor posts in the local body polls, which will be decided by the party leadership — Durai Murugan, DMK treasurer

## IN BRIEF

### 2 kg gold seized in Tiruchy from 3 passengers

**Tiruchy:** The Air intelligence unit of the Customs department has seized ₹78.25 lakh worth allegedly smuggled gold weighing about two kilograms from three air passengers who landed here from Kuala Lumpur by Air Asia flight on Saturday night.

Customs sources said they seized 766 grams of gold worth about ₹29.83 lakhs, concealed in her inner garment from a woman passenger Jesima (36) of Tiruchy. Similarly, they also seized 758 grams gold with ₹29.32 lakh from another woman passenger Praveen Banu, besides 499 grams gold worth about ₹19.30 lakh from one Asain Mohamed. The customs officials have detained all the three and are investigating, the sources added.

### Rotary helps out with anti-dengue steps

**Pudukkottai:** The Pudukkulum Walkers Association in Pudukkottai and City Rotary club jointly organised supply of “Nilavembu” herbal water to members of the public at Pudukkottai on Sunday. In a release here on Sunday, Sri Maruti K. Mohanraj, public image director of Pudukkottai city Rotary Club, said the supply of herbal water will continue until the Northeast monsoon soon was over. He said that there was overwhelming response for this among the people.

### Over 2,000 people take part in SBI Green Marathon

**Thiruvananthapuram:** Over 2,000 runners participated in the third edition of the SBI Green Marathon here on Sunday. The marathon in 5 km, 10 km and 20 km categories, was organised to celebrate the passion for environmental sustainability and better living for the future generation. It was flagged off by Mrigendra Lal Das, Chief General Manager, Thiruvananthapuram Circle, SBI, at the Shangumugham beach. Air Vice Marshal P E Patange was the chief guest at the event, a bank press release said. Kerala DGP Loknath Behera, international athlete and Padma Shri awardee K M Beenamol were among those who were present. The Green Marathon is being held in 15 other cities as well. *PTI*

## ■ A statewide NGO has now decided to take up work Kallaperambur lake: Delay in desilting angers farmers

G.SRINIVASAN | DC  
THANJAVUR, NOV. 3

The ‘Tamil Nadu Neervala Padukappu Kootiyakkam’ (Tamil Nadu water resources protection federation) here has decided to desilt Kallaperambur lake near Thanjavur during this summer.

Announcing this to press persons here on Sunday, S.Pazhanirajan, co-coordinator of the ‘kootiyakkam’ said that the irrigators association of the lake had collected ₹9 lakh and gave it to district collector for desilting the lake two years back.

Tamil Nadu government has also allotted ₹90 lakh for desilting the lake. But due to some

unknown reasons, work has not yet been started.

“This summer, we (Kottiyakkam) will urge the government to desilt the lake. If Government does not do it, we ourselves will do the work,” Pazhanirajan said.

The sprawling lake on 645 acres has an ayacut of 4,000 acres. If water is available in the lake, it will increase the underground water table in towns like Thanjavur, he said.

He also said that the ‘kootiyakkam’ was formed on July 25 at Chennai and 20 organisations are part of it. District-level units of the kootiyakkam have been formed in Ariyalur, Tiruvarur, Tiruchy, and Vidurudnagar districts.



Thanjavur district collector A. Annadurai inspecting the Kallaperambur lake. —DC

“Our aim is to restore water bodies in Tamil Nadu from encroachments and renovate them by taking up works like desilting,” he said.

“We have already desilted Poigaikudi lake near Peravurani in Thanjavur district,” he said.

A district-level meeting of the Kootiyakkam was also held at Thanjavur on Sunday. G. Thirunavukarasu of ‘Thazhanmai Uzhavar Iyakkam’, Pazha Maravaraman of ‘Ulaga Thirukural Peravai’ and others participated in the meeting.

## TALENT SEARCH



Students take the national science talent research exam at Presidency girls high school at Egmore in Chennai on Sunday. —DC

## In a first, Pudukkottai dentist collects 64,800 human teeth

R. VALAYAPATHY | DC  
PUDUKKOTTAI, NOV. 3

A Pudukkottai-based dentist Dr Rajesh Kannan has created a new record in India books of records, Asia book of records and also hopes to enter the Guinness book of records in collecting the largest number of 64,800 extracted human teeth, beating two previous records recently.

According to Dr Rajesh Kannan, the previous record in this category of having collected 11,500 teeth by an Indian dentist Dr Jibreel of Madurai Mission Hospital, had made it to both India book of records and Asian book of records in 2011. A Dubai-based dentist couple had created another world record by collecting 25,000 teeth in the year 2016. But this one exceeds both those records.

He said he had collected these teeth over 15 years of his clinical practice as well as organised more than 120 dental camps and also with the



Dr Rajesh Kannan poses with his certificates for record collection of extracted human teeth. —DC

help of his fellow dentists who have been collecting teeth for the last ten years for achieving his record.

The object of his record was to create awareness among the general public about oral hygiene and the importance of teeth for their overall health, Dr Rajesh Kannan told DC.

He said he got the spot approval and certificate from Asia book of records judge Dr Harisha for both Asia book of Records and India book of records.

He has also applied to Guinness book of world

records with all documentary evidence and will get his certificate from them shortly, he added.

Dr Rajesh said on February 2 this year he also created the World's largest tooth model measuring 35-ft and broke the previous record set by Sensodyne, New Zealand, which created 32-ft tooth model. A juries' panel from Guinness book of world records, London, came to Pudukkottai and after their spot verification, they handed over the certificate for that feat to him, he added.

## ISRO design for deep sea module ready, says secy

**Chennai, Nov 3:** India's ambition to send men to the deep sea in a submersible vehicle appears to be one step closer to fruition with ISRO successfully developing a design for its crew module, a sphere shaped capsule.

“The design for the manned submersible's sphere has been successfully developed by ISRO. Now it has to be certified and then we will go ahead with the fabrication,” Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences, Madhavan Nair Rajeevan said.

Interacting with journalists on the sidelines of the silver jubilee celebrations of the National Institute of Ocean Technology here, the top official said that designing the sphere (intended to be built using titanium) involved complex technology.

“ISRO has developed the design and it will be sent to an international agency for certification,” he said, adding that the Indian space agency has taken up both designing as well as fabrication - at a later stage - of the sphere.

A three member crew can be accommodated in the sphere, one of the key components of the manned submersible vehicle.

“Work is already on for the deep ocean mission and scientific and technical work has started,” he said.

An MoU has already been signed between the ISRO and NIOT on development of the module. NIOT is tasked with aspects like electronics and navigation for the manned submersible.

Also, multiple agencies, including the Goa based

National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research, Centre for Marine Living Resources and Ecology at Kochi and Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (Hyderabad) are involved in the initiatives.

The submersible vehicle is expected to travel to a depth of approximately 6,000 metres under the sea for various studies, whereas submarines can reach only about 200 metres.

This initiative is a part of the Deep Ocean Mission. As part of the ambitious ₹10,000 crore Deep Ocean Mission, India will also study climate change in the deep oceans.

Studying climate change, marine biodiversity and survey for compounds like hydrocarbons and minerals are part of the deep ocean mission. —PTI

## Chaotic traffic in Coonoor town

DC CORRESPONDENT  
COONOOR, NOV. 3

Cops here need to pull up their socks to manage traffic in Dolphin's Nose and Lamb's Rock tourist spots here, especially during weekends as traffic congestion in the narrow roads lead to both these tourist destinations proving to be agonizing for the hundreds of local families and other plantation workers residing in these areas.

It is a general feeling among residents there that traffic management has turned chaotic over the past few weeks, especially in the Upper Coonoor area from where lot of tourist vehicles commute between Coonoor town and Dolphin's Nose and Lamb's Rock tourist spots.

With the hills witnessing a good surge in tourist influx during the autumn weekends, it appears that cops managing traffic here in Upper Coonoor area have failed to do their homework to evolve traffic management plans. Sivakumar, a resident here, said that sometimes traffic snarl turns agonizing that even ambulances find it difficult to move. Posting of a couple of cops in the wanton points would solve the problem, he suggested.



The traffic snarl on Lamb's Rock road in Coonoor on Sunday. —DC

## Four injured in lightning strikes in Nagapattinam dt

R. VALAYAPATHY | DC  
NAGAPATTINAM, NOV. 3

Four persons including three women were hospitalised as lightning struck at two different places near Sirkazhi in Nagapattinam district on Sunday.

Police said a 40-year-old mother and her two teenage daughters were injured due to lightning strike when rain accompanied by thunder damaged their house asbestos roof at

Melavallam village near Sirkazhi. Household articles including a refrigerator, television set, an electric stove and a borewell motor were badly damaged under its impact.

On hearing an unusual sound, others nearby rushed to their rescue and removed all the three to the Government hospital at Sirkazhi.

Similarly, a 60-year-old agriculture worker, Kannu

was also injured due to a lightning strike at Nallavinayagapuram village when he was engaged in field work. He was also rushed to the Government hospital Sirkazhi.

Official sources told DC that at least 100 television sets and other electronic goods were damaged due to the lightning strike in a few villages in and around Sirkazhi today. Kollidam police are investigating.

## SPB upset with PM Narendra Modi

DC CORRESPONDENT  
CHENNAI, NOV.3

Renowned playback Singer SP Balasubrahmanyam is very upset with the treatment meted out to him at a Prime Minister's meeting that he attended. SPB took to Facebook to claim that he was bewildered at a double standard in treatment and the partiality shown towards certain stars from Bollywood.

At the meeting, everyone's phones were taken away and they were given tokens for the same. But SPB was sore that only the Bollywood stars were allowed to take selfies with PM Narendra Modi. His



FB post is going viral.

SPB's post reads, “I am grateful to Ramoji Raoji, (Eenadu), because of whom I was able to attend a reception hosted by our Hon. Prime Minister at his home on the 29th of Oct. Upon entering the premises, we

were asked to leave our cell-phones with the security personnel and were given tokens for the same. But I was bewildered at the STARS taking selfies with the PM on that day. THINGS THAT MAKE YOU GO HMMM???? (sic)”

## Gujarat Baba serves free food to pilgrims in Rameswaram to revive a declining practice

SP. LOGANATHAN | DC  
RAMESWARAM, NOV. 3

A low-profile holy man from Gujarat, Seetharamdas Baba is serving free food to visiting pilgrims and devotees at his ‘ashram’ in Rameswaram, at a time when the tradition of ‘anna chatrams’ is on the decline. During the heydays of the Sethupathy Kings, erstwhile rulers of Ramnad that had extended up to Katchatheevu island, Rameswaram was known for its great tradition of hospitality, with the King having made available a host of facilities for visiting pilgrims by building number of ‘chatrams’ - free lodgings where free food was also served. Not long ago, there were as many as 65 ‘anna chatrams’ in



Free food served at the Gujarat Baba ashram. —DC

Rameswaram island alone which were also supported by various NGOs’.

However, when that tradition is on the decline, a little known holy man from Gujarat who came down here 36 years ago with his assistants, is now serving free food daily to 500-600 persons daily, mostly pilgrims and elders visiting

the island-town to offer prayers to Sri Lord Ramanathaswamy.

Seetharamdas Baba's daily routine starts at 5 am early morning and with the help of his aides begins to cook for that many people every day. The ashram provides either a ‘North Indian Thali’, or the home-style three-course South Indian meals with side dishes, whatever the visitors wished. And all these are cooked in a hygienic way and served free, says Rashid Singh, a pilgrim from Gujarat.

The ingredients for the meals are routinely sourced. Seetharamdas Baba typically needs 20 kg of wheat, 40 kg of vegetables and 50 kg of rice daily, besides milk and curd. Free food is served from 11 am to 2 pm daily.

B. RAVICHANDRAN | DC  
OOTY, NOV. 3

The Nilgiris Documentation Centre (NDC), an NGO here, alleged that hazardous grass is being promoted dubiously in the Nilgiris, that may play havoc with the local hill ecology in future. It also wrote to the National Biodiversity Authority to check this practice in the Nilgiris.

Director of NDC and noted environmental activist, Dharmalingam Venugopal, said here that now there is a deliberate campaign in the Nilgiris to propagate a hazardous grass belonging to the family Chrysopogon as a native species and eco-friendly.

It is being spear-headed by a private individual and



Dharmalingam Venugopal, Director of NDC. —DC

followed by uninformed social service organizations, schools and the administration. This grass is nothing, but a variety of the common ‘Vetiver’ in Tamil.

According to the Nilgiris Gazetteer of 1906, this

grass is not among the 38 varieties of indigenous grasses listed. Actually, this grass appears to be a weed on the hills.

According to the Report ‘Twenty-five Years Research on Soil and Water Conservation in Southern Hilly High Rainfall Regions’ by erstwhile Central Soil and Water Conservation Research and Training Institute, Ootacamund, when native grass is degraded either due to burning or overgrazing, grass like vetiver take their place.

However, they do not survive in the high altitudes of Nilgiris, he noted. The World Bank which once recommended this plant for checking soil erosion in developing countries, stated in its report ‘Vetiver Grass: A Thin Green Line

Against Erosion’ that “From experiences in New Zealand and southern England it appears that vetiver will succeed only where the sun is hot and bright.”

In the Nilgiris too, the grass was tried as a soil binder on slopes on road margins, but was given up. Experiments in China have shown that ‘vetiver’ roots attract rats and snakes.

“In the Nilgiris, the situation could be more serious with many wild animals including wild boars freely roaming the habitations,” he pointed out and added that the Nilgiris district administration should investigate this serious case of misrepresentation of a scientific issue, and take suitable action to end this diabolical plot.

## Vigilance week at BHEL Tiruchy

DC CORRESPONDENT  
TIRUCHY, NOV. 3

M. Dandayudhapani, deputy director general, Armoured Vehicle Headquarters, Ordnance Factory Board, Avadi, said Integrity is doing right thing even when one is not being watched.

Delivering a special lecture at the valedictory function of ‘Vigilance Awareness Week’ held at BHEL here today, Mr. Dandayudhapani also said that vigilance has to be inculcated as a habit and practiced every day. To this end, efforts are to be taken to revisit and review all the procedures to plug the gaps in them and sensitize the students to enable them to aspire and realise the vision of eradication of corruption he added.

Later, Mr. Dandayudhapani also gave away prizes for the winners of various competitions conducted by BHEL as part of Vigilance Awareness Week.

In his presidential address R. Padmanabhan, executive director, BHEL Tiruchirappalli complex, said that observance of vigilance awareness week helps to reaffirm people's faith in integrity and ethics.

Earlier, Mr. S. Thyagarajan, additional general manager, vigilance, welcomed the gathering. Mr. KP Mishra, senior manager, vigilance, proposed the vote of thanks.





Appointment

Former Haryana CM Bhopinder Singh Hooda has been appointed leader of opposition (Haryana)



Centre has no intention to force Hindi on any state

—Narendra Modi, PM

SHORT TAKES

UP: 4-month-old baby dies after stone drops on him

Muzaffarnagar: A four-month-old baby died after a stone dropped by a monkey fell on him at his home in Sohjani village of Uttar Pradesh's Muzaffarnagar district, police said on Sunday. The incident happened on Saturday in Titawli police station area, they said. Police said the monkey was on the terrace while the baby boy was in the ground floor with his parents. The monkey picked up a stone lying on the terrace that slipped from its grip and fell on the boy leaving him with serious injuries. The baby was rushed to a hospital but doctors declared him dead, police added. —PTI

Power supply cut off for not clearing dues

Muzaffarnagar: Power supply to a village in Uttar Pradesh's Shamli district has been disconnected as villagers did not clear dues of over ₹91 lakhs, officials said Sunday. All 300 consumers in the Jahanpura village, under the Kairana police station limits, have not cleared their electricity bills amounting to ₹91.88 lakh despite reminders being issued to them, said Uttar Pradesh Power Corporation's Sub Divisional Officer Atul Yadav. Due to this, power supply to all the consumers in the village has been disconnected, he added. Villagers said due to the power cut they are facing problems with grass-cutting machines and water pumps lying unused. In October, the state government had issued orders to recover electricity dues following heavy revenue losses to power generation companies. —PTI

Three persons drown in Jharkhand

Ranchi: Three persons including two sisters drowned in Palamau and Giridih districts on Sunday as the four-day Chhat Puja ended with lakhs of devotees offering 'Arghya' to the rising sun in Jharkhand, police said. Jharkhand Chief Minister Raghubar Das and his cabinet colleagues joined the people and offered prayers at different places. Two sisters, in their twenties, slipped into a well dug in the bed of Banka River at Koriadih village in Palamau district when they went to the river to take bath before heading for the 'Arghya' ritual, the police said. In Giridih district, a 32-year-old man, Raj Kumar Verma, drowned in a pond while offering Arghya at Dengadih village, the police said. Lakhs of devotees offered 'Arghya' to the setting sun on Saturday, congregated near different water bodies across the state to offer prayers to the rising sun. The state administration had made elaborate arrangements for the devotees at different water bodies with volunteers providing materials required to perform Chhat puja. The railways had introduced a special train on Ranchi-Jaynagar route and extra coaches were attached in some trains on different routes to meet the rush of passengers. —PTI

He has not been invited to any state functions too Dhankhar hurt for not being invited to KIFF

Kolkata, Nov 3: West Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar on Sunday expressed dismay that he has not been invited to the 25th Kolkata International Film Festival to be held from November 8 to 15. Dhankhar told reporters on the sidelines of a programme, he has not been invited to a single state function so far. "So far (since my taking over) I have not been invited to a single state function. An International Film Festival is happening... so many countries are coming... and the governor is



Jagdeep Dhankhar

nowhere," Dhankhar said. "Put yourself in my position and you will know. This is not the way," the governor said. Megastars Amitabh Bachchan, Shah Rukh Khan and several other big Bollywood personali-

ties apart from West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee will attend the inaugural function at Netaji Indoor Stadium on November 8. Stating the Prime Minister had visited the President to greet him on the day of Diwali, Dhankhar said, "I happen to be the only governor in the entire country so far, whom the honourable chief minister did not (formally) greet on Deepavali." "Let me tell you I am hurt," Dhankhar said. The chief minister had invited the governor and

First Lady Sudesh Dhankhar to her south Kolkata residence on the occasion of Kali puja on October 27 after he had expressed his desire to visit her home during 'Bhadrati Dwitiya' or 'Bhai Dooj'. Dhankhar along with his wife went to Banerjee's residence to attend Kali Puja and spent around two hours there. Banerjee herself greeted Dhankhar and his wife and took them inside her residence. The chief minister and the governor were seen talking to each other cordially. —PTI



SURYA PUJA

Devotees offer prayers during the Chhat Puja Festival on the banks of the Upper Bahari Dhawaab Nahar River, on the outskirts of Amritsar on Sunday. The Chhath Festival, also known as Surya Pooja, or worship of the sun, is observed in parts of India and Nepal and sees devotees pay homage to the sun and water gods. —AFP

4 die in 'Chhath' puja in Bihar

Patna, Nov 3: Four persons including two minors died in two separate incidents during 'Chhath' festivities in Bihar, police said on Sunday. Two women devotees, who observed the pious Chhath festival, died and four others injured when a portion of the wall of a Kali temple collapsed this morning at Badgaon vil-

lage in Samastipur district, they said. The wall collapsed at around 6.30 am, when devotees were preparing to leave the ghat after offering 'arghya'. Hasanpur police station SHO Chandrakant Gauri said adding that the incident triggered panic among the people. The deceased have been identified as Lalli Devi and Buchi Devi,

both aged between 40 and 50, and injured devotees have been admitted to Hasanpur primary health centre, he said. In another incident, two children died during a stampede that took place near Suryakund at Deo block in Aurangabad district on Saturday. The deceased have been identified as Baby (7) and Prince Kumar (4). —PTI

Dog, puppies rescued from under rail heap

Bhopal, Nov 3: A dog and her two newborn puppies were rescued in the early hours of Sunday from beneath a pile of rails at a yard near Bhopal station in Madhya Pradesh, a railway official said. The six-hour long operation, carried out by a railway team, ended at around 2:30am, he said.

"A dog got trapped under a heap of rails in our stock yard and gave birth in a distressed condition lying upside down. We were alerted about the incident by an NGO People for Animals on Saturday evening," said Bhopal Divisional Railway Manager Uday Borwanker. "We removed 250 rails to reach to the dog and her litter of four puppies. A hydra machine was deployed as part of the rescue effort. We saved them after a 6-hour operation at around 2:30am. Unfortunately, two puppies died. It seems they were stillborn," he added. —PTI

IRONICAL MORNINGS



An autorickshaw driving through the streets of New Delhi along heavy smog. — AFP

Meghalaya government puts curbs on visitors

MANOJ ANAND GUWAHATI, NOV 3

Bogged down by the growing demand of Inner Line Permits, the Meghalaya government has amended the Meghalaya Residents Safety and Security Act 2019 to make the registration on entry mandatory for visitors who intend to spend more than 24 hours in the state. In what is going to be a major roadblock for the Act East policy of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to strengthen the historical relationship by transforming the northeastern states into a gateway to Southeast Asia, the Meghalaya Cabinet on Sunday approved the Amended Meghalaya Residents Safety and Security Bill (MRRSA) 2019 in the form of an ordinance. It is aimed at keeping a tab on illegal immigrants. "This amendment of the existing act in the form of an ordinance will come into force immediately. The ordinance will be regu-

larised in the next session of the state Assembly," deputy chief minister Prestone Tynsong said. Central and state government employees are exempt from the new entry rule. "According to the provisions of MRRSA 2016, landlords were to register their tenants and inform traditional heads. But through this amendment, we make it applicable to everybody who is interested in visiting our state," Mr Tynsong said. This law was previously applicable only to tenants. He, however, clarified that permanent residents of the state, even if they are non-tribals, need not worry. This law is applicable only to those visiting the state as tourists, labourers, students or for business deals. They will need to comply to certain guidelines to be prepared in the form of rules. Any person who wilfully fails to furnish information or gives false information will be penalised under Section 176 or 177 of IPC,

Mr Tynsong said. The opposition Congress has opposed the amendment while fearing it may have a serious impact on tourism. On being asked about the Congress' objections, the deputy chief minister said he was not sure on what ground they were opposing the move. About the documents that people who are visiting the state need to submit, he said that the government is yet to draft the rules. The Meghalaya Democratic Alliance Cabinet, of which the BJP is a constituent, okayed the amendment amid growing demands for an Inner Line Permit (ILP) system to stop illegal immigration into the state. The ILP, a document issued by the Centre to Indians visiting a protected area for a limited period, is now in force in Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram. Unlike ILP, Meghalaya's new entry requirement will be implemented by the state government.

Fresh plea in SC challenging Kerala's Maradu flats verdict

New Delhi, Nov 3: A fresh plea has been filed in the Supreme Court challenging its verdict directing demolition of four apartment complexes in Kochi's Maradu for violation of environment norms by the builders. The aggrieved residents of Golden Kayaloram Apartment, one of the four complexes to be razed down in a month, have petitioned the apex court claiming that a "fraud" was played upon the court and that it was misled on the project being an impermissible construction. The residents have claimed in their plea that Golden Kayaloram Apartment was never show-caused by the Kerala government for Coastal

Regulation Zone (CRZ) violations, but for building byelaw violations and hence its case was different from the three other complexes. The plea has stated that they got no opportunity to raise errors in the inquiry committee findings that were the basis for the top court's demolition order and have requested for an open court hearing on the issue. "The facts in this petition establish an illegality and a serious instance of fraud in the report filed by the Enquiry Committee before the court. This has resulted in the abuse of the process of the court and gross miscarriage of justice," the plea said. "A direction to remove the constructions which were



made investing large amounts of money and efforts and when there are 40 families living on the same, is against public interest and public policy, especially when the building is now within the permissible area. It is also a national waste especially because now the building can be constructed once again in the same place legally," it said. The court had on October 25 asked the Kerala gov-

ernment to give ₹25 lakh each as interim compensation to the owners of Maradu flats, after it was informed that they have been given a lower amount and had asked the builders to deposit ₹20 crore within one month with the court-appointed committee in the matter. The court had on September 30 refused to entertain a plea of flat owners seeking stay on its order to demolish the four apartment complexes in Maradu which were built in violation of Coastal

Regulation Zone norms. The apex court had directed demolition of the flats within 138 days, a timeline given by the Kerala government, and had asked the state to pay ₹25 lakh interim compensation to each flat owner within four weeks. It had said the government may consider recovering the interim compensation amount, which will be paid to flat owners, from the builders and the promoters. The court had earlier

ordered setting up of one-member committee of retired high court judge to oversee the demolition and to assess total compensation payable to affected flat owners. Besides, it directed freezing of assets of builders and promoters who were involved in the construction of illegal buildings in the coastal zone areas of Kochi. The court had clarified that its primary concern was that no construction should have been carried out in the eco-fragile coastal zone and the question was not regarding any individual. The state government had submitted a plan under which in 138 days the structure would be demolished - including 90 days for demolition and 38

days for removing of debris. The court had passed the order after taking note of a report of a three-member committee, which said when the buildings were built, the area was already notified as a CRZ and construction was prohibited. Earlier, the court had rejected a plea filed by the residents of the area against the demolition order and taken a strong exception to an order passed by a vacation bench during the summer break of the apex court, which had stayed the demolition of these buildings for six weeks. chambers by the Supreme Court without an open court hearing to the residents. —PTI

Web series satire on Rahul, Sonia's 'putra moh'

New Delhi, Nov 3: A long time loyalist of the Gandhi family has hit out at the Congress top brass for the party's decline and is producing a web series to highlight the alleged "failures" of Rahul Gandhi. Pankaj Shankar, a former journalist with years of association with the Congress and the Gandhis, said that Priyanka Gandhi Vadra alone can revive the Congress' fortunes but Sonia Gandhi's 'putra moh' (love for the son) is standing in the way of her daughter's elevation in the Congress hierarchy. "The web series is my attempt to hold up a mirror to the Congress leadership and tell them that the reality is far removed from what they perceive," said Shankar, who managed media activities for AICC general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra during the recent general elections and runs a WhatsApp group on her engagements. When asked about it, Congress chief spokespersons Randeep Singh Surjewala, however, asserted that Shankar has never



worked for either Sonia Gandhi or Priyanka Gandhi Vadra. He has not been associated with Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and is not in her office, Surjewala said. "He has said something in individual capacity. It remains to be seen if he has done it for headlines, in complicity with the BJP government or for publicity," the spokesperson said. Shankar said he is working on a 13-episode web series to highlight the "shortcomings" of Rahul Gandhi during his 15-year stint in the Congress from 2004 to 2019. Production of the series, which will feature professional artists, will start over the next fortnight and it will be ready to air on premium web channels in three months, Shankar told PTI on Sunday. He said the series could be converted into a



biopic but did not elaborate further. "The web series will ask searching questions concerning the Congress. It will feature anecdotes and events to mirror the role the coterie has played in pushing the party to a cliff," Shankar said, adding he has employed satire and humour to drive home the point. "No one has ever showed a mirror to the Gandhis yet," he said. He stressed that a strong opposition is the need of the hour and the Congress alone could stand up to the BJP. He, however, lamented that while "everyone in the Congress believes Priyanka can turn things around, she is being prevented from taking the centre stage." "The leadership role could have been handed over to

Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, who has the personality and abilities to infuse life into the party and bring it out of its present state but Rahul is not letting that happen. Sonia Gandhi's love for the son is a major hurdle," he said. Shankar alleged that the Congress has failed to evolve with the changing times and is "paying the price." "Being a creative person, the only way to communicate with the party leadership is through this piece of art with fictional creativity," Shankar said. The series will highlight how Congress leaders have "ignored" the voice of the common man and inputs from party sympathizers. Shankar, who has been a documentary film maker, says the production revolves around three characters - an ardent woman fan of Rahul Gandhi who has left no stone turned to tell him of his shortcomings and suggest remedies, a female reporter who is also a party sympathizer and a rustic TV reporter from a mofussil town who narrates key events. —PTI

Parliamentary panels to take up WhatsApp snooping case

New Delhi, Nov 3: Two parliamentary panels headed by Congress leaders have decided to examine the WhatsApp snooping case and will seek details from top government officials including the Home Secretary. Describing the entire WhatsApp hacking episode as worrisome, Congress leader Anand Sharma, who chairs the parliamentary standing committee on home affairs, said this issue will be taken up at the panel's next meeting on November 15. Shashi Tharoor, who heads the par-

liamentary standing committee on information technology, said cybersecurity is a major issue and it will be seeking clarifications from the government, adding "we must not, at any price, become a surveillance state like China." Facebook-owned WhatsApp on Thursday said Indian journalists and human rights activists were among those globally spied upon by unnamed entities using an Israeli spyware Pegasus. Union IT Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad has asked Whatsapp for a report on the allegations. —PTI

## திண்டுக்கல் மாநகராட்சி

தகவல்: 11411 / 2018 / இடம் (பின்னாறு ஒப்பந்தப்பள்ளி அறிவிப்பு) நாள்: 31.10.2019

குடிநீர் வழங்கல் வசதிகள் திட்டம் (2018-2020) கீழ் கட்டிடத் திட்டப்பள்ளி நிதியைப் பெற்றுக் கொள்ளும் பணிகள் பற்றிய விவரம்: பின்னாறு ஒப்பந்தப்பள்ளி அறிவிப்பு

பின்னாறு ஒப்பந்தப்பள்ளி நிதியைப் பெற்றுக் கொள்ளும் பணிகள் பற்றிய விவரம்: பின்னாறு ஒப்பந்தப்பள்ளி அறிவிப்பு

பின்னாறு ஒப்பந்தப்பள்ளி நிதியைப் பெற்றுக் கொள்ளும் பணிகள் பற்றிய விவரம்: பின்னாறு ஒப்பந்தப்பள்ளி அறிவிப்பு

பின்னாறு ஒப்பந்தப்பள்ளி நிதியைப் பெற்றுக் கொள்ளும் பணிகள் பற்றிய விவரம்: பின்னாறு ஒப்பந்தப்பள்ளி அறிவிப்பு

பின்னாறு ஒப்பந்தப்பள்ளி நிதியைப் பெற்றுக் கொள்ளும் பணிகள் பற்றிய விவரம்: பின்னாறு ஒப்பந்தப்பள்ளி அறிவிப்பு

பின்னாறு ஒப்பந்தப்பள்ளி நிதியைப் பெற்றுக் கொள்ளும் பணிகள் பற்றிய விவரம்: பின்னாறு ஒப்பந்தப்பள்ளி அறிவிப்பு

பின்னாறு ஒப்பந்தப்பள்ளி நிதியைப் பெற்றுக் கொள்ளும் பணிகள் பற்றிய விவரம்: பின்னாறு ஒப்பந்தப்பள்ளி அறிவிப்பு





## Reel & Real

Good as *Nayak*: Anil Kapoor after a fan's demanded that he take up the role of Maha chief minister

# Nation

PAGE  
7

DECCAN CHRONICLE

MONDAY | 4 NOVEMBER 2019 | CHENNAI



Cybersecurity is a major issue. We will seek clarifications from the government.

— Shashi Tharoor  
Cong leader

## SHORT TAKES

### 6 students from Odisha go missing

**Bhubaneswar:** Six students from two separate schools in Odisha have gone missing since Saturday, giving testing time for their family members. As per reports, five children from Junglepadu village in Gajapati district and a girl student from Keonjhar district are untraceable for the past 24 hours. The parents of the students from Gajapati district suspect that the children might have moved to the neighbouring Andhra Pradesh to escape study pressure. Sources said that all the five students had left their respective homes for school but did not return till late night yesterday. Senior police officials informed that steps were being taken to trace the missing students. In Keonjhar, a girl student studying in Class X has reportedly gone missing from the school premises.

### Slain officer's kin flees Jajpur village

**Bhubaneswar:** The family members of Smitarani Biswal, the gram panchayat executive officer of Haridaspur in Odisha's Jajpur district who was found dead in a private guesthouse on October 16, on Sunday left their village and taken shelter in their relative's house. Smitarani's father Sadananda Biswal, mother, husband and daughter have reportedly left Choramuha village and moved to their relatives' house in Talcher. While their house remained locked, the security personnel deployed to give protection are still guarding the house.

### Man injured in bear attack in HP's Kullu

**Shimla:** A 37-year-old man suffered multiple injuries after he was attacked by a bear in Himachal Pradesh's Kullu district on Sunday, the police said. The animal attacked Beer Singh around 6 am when he was going towards his fields in Bhuntar tehsil's Birni village, Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Gaurav Singh said. After the bear left, Beer Singh managed to call up his brother. His brother, along with some villagers, rushed him to the regional hospital, Kullu, for treatment, the SSP said. — PTI

### MANTRI CLEANS DRAIN, 3 BABUS SUSPENDED

**Gwalior:** Three civic officials in Gwalior in Madhya Pradesh were suspended on Sunday after a video of state minister Pradyumn Singh Tomar entering a drain to clean it went viral on social media. The video shows MP Food and Civil Supplies Minister Tomar cleaning the drain while standing in waist-high water after residents of Birla Nagar repeatedly complained about the drain slush entering their homes. "The women residents complained several times but when no civic staff responded, I entered the drain to clean it on Sunday morning. People are falling sick because of drain water entering their homes," Mr Tomar said, adding that he would go out to more such areas to carry out cleaning works. He said his act should not be considered a publicity stunt and claimed he wanted Gwalior to stand first in the national cleanliness (Swachh Bharat) ranking. Gwalior Municipal Commissioner Sandip Makin suspended three officials of the civic health department posted in the area. "Action was taken immediately against officials responsible for the cleaning work in the ward (number 16) and three of them were suspended," Makin said.

# Priyanka's phone was hacked, claims Cong

ASHHAR KHAN  
NEW DELHI, NOV. 3

The WhatsApp snoop gate controversy took a new turn on Sunday with the Congress claiming that the phones of three opposition leaders including Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi were hacked. Communications Chief Randeep Singh Surjewala addressing a press conference said, "Priyanka Gandhi also received a similar message from WhatsApp around the same time. WhatsApp sent messages to different people whose phones were hacked. One such message was also received from WhatsApp on the mobile phone of Priyanka Gandhi."

Similar messages have

been received by journalists, activists and some politicians.

Charging the government of being involved in the breach Mr Surjewala said, "It is, thus, clear that government and its agencies bought the spyware. It could neither be bought nor deployed by any private operator."

Insiders claim that Congress is mulling a legal action on the hacking of the mobile phone of Ms Priyanka Gandhi.

Last week, Facebook, the parent company of WhatsApp, alleged that Israeli cybersecurity company NSO used WhatsApp servers to spread spyware Pegasus.

Among the 1,400 users targeted across 20 nations were Indian journalists, activists, lawyers and sen-



Priyanka Gandhi ior government officials, who were spied on for two weeks in April before the national elections.

Interestingly, WhatsApp said it was suing NSO Group, an Israeli surveillance firm, that is reportedly behind the technology that helped unnamed entities' spies to hack into phones

Claiming the BJP government has been "exposed",

the Congress levelled a series of allegations, demanding that Prime Minister Mr Narendra Modi give the answers.

Dubbing BJP the "Bharatiya Jasoos Party", Mr Surjewala said, the government was silent on the issue "despite knowing about it".

He further added, "The illegal spyware 'Pegasus' was used to hack and spy upon politicians, journalists, lawyers, civil society groups and human rights defenders. BJP government is the deployer and executor of this illegal and unconstitutional snooping and spying racket."

Referring to documents available in public domain the Congress charged the government of 'keeping mum on the issue in spite of being aware'.

## PMO steps in to review delhi air pollution issue

DC CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI, NOV. 3

With a public health emergency declared in the national capital and regions surrounding it due to severe air pollution, the Prime Minister's Office on Sunday asked the chief secretaries of Delhi, Punjab and Haryana to monitor the situation in districts under their jurisdiction on a 24x7 basis.

Official sources said principal secretary to PM P.K. Mishra reviewed the situation arising out of the severe air pollution in the national capital region (NCR) and other parts of North India. Senior officials from Punjab, Haryana and

PMO on Sunday asked the chief secretaries of Delhi, Punjab and Haryana to monitor the situation in districts under their jurisdiction on a 24x7 basis

Delhi joined the meeting through video conferencing.

Cabinet Secretary Rajiv Gauba will monitor the situation with these states on a daily basis, it was decided in the meeting, sources added. Owing to the deteriorating weather conditions in the national capital, schools - private as well as government as well as government aided - have been ordered shut till November 5 by the

Delhi government.

The Haryana and Uttar Pradesh governments too have followed suit and ordered the closure of all schools in Gurgaon/Faridabad and Noida/Ghaziabad districts.

The chief secretaries of Punjab and Haryana are said to have informed the PMO during the meeting that they had spent around Rs 2,500 crores each for purchasing happy seeder machines (alternative given to farmers to discourage them from burning crop residue, due to which the pollution levels in Delhi-NCR deteriorate annually in the November-December period).

## HARYANA POLLS

### Cong plan to go local helped party win seats

SREEPARNA CHAKRABARTY  
NEW DELHI, NOV. 3

The Congress party's tally of 31 seats in Haryana has not only surprised political pundits, but also many of its leaders. But what seems to have worked for the faction-ridden party in the state is some good old style localized campaign carefully crafted to avoid national issues.

The intent to focus on local issues can be seen in even the name of the campaign theme "Ibbke Congress" (This time Congress) in the local Haryanvi dialect to help connect with the masses.

Similarly, the focus in the party manifesto also was completely local with promises of reservation of 75 per cent jobs in the private sector for state youth, reservation for women in government jobs and loan waiver for farmers.

Though the faction-ridden state unit of the party began its campaign way behind the ruling BJP only on September 21 barely a month before the October 21 polls, it kept

## Language Connect

■ "Ibbke Congress" (This time Congress) in the local Haryanvi dialect helped connect with the masses.

up the momentum through a relentless mass media outreach.

Throughout the campaign, an important strategy was to keep drawing a comparison between the performances of the Khattar government and the earlier Congress dispensation under Bhopinder Singh Hooda.

One of the first parts of the campaign to be kicked off was by Haryana PCC chief Kumari Selja who launched a special programme called "Pehle Report Fir Vote" where voters were asked to seek a report from BJP leaders on the work done by them in the past five years.

It announced a toll-free number where the electorate could call or send an SMS or WhatsApp message to share the issue on which they want to seek a report from the government.

## Maha tussle: Fadnavis to meet Shah

**Mumbai, Nov. 3:** Amid an impasse on government formation in Maharashtra due to a tussle between allies Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Shiv Sena and unseasonal rains destroying crops, chief minister Devendra Fadnavis will head to Delhi on Monday to meet Union home minister Amit Shah.

The BJP won 105 seats in the Assembly polls, results of which were declared on October 24, while the Sena got 56.

However, the two parties, which fought the polls in



Devendra Fadnavis

alliance, have got caught in a stalemate over the chief minister's post, with the Sena demanding equal division of the top post's

tenure and the BJP rejecting it.

The bone of contention is the Sena's insistence for the post of the chief minister on a rotational basis and implementation of a "50:50 power sharing" formula, which entails equal allocation of ministerial portfolios.

Sources, however, said the meeting with Shah will be to discuss aid from the National Disaster Relief Fund (NDRF) to farmers affected by unseasonal rains across the state.

While the state govern-

ment announced a ₹10,000 crore package for affected farmers, ally Sena as well as opposition Congress and NCP called it inadequate considering the several lakh hectares of crops that have been damaged.

The state government had earlier put the crop area damaged at 54.22 lakh hectares.

Incidentally, earlier in the day, the Sena's Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Raut had raised the "mysterious silence" of Mr Shah, who heads the BJP, on the deadlock over formation of government. — PTI

## Rajnath calls for isolating nations backing terrorism

**New Delhi, Nov. 3:** Terming terrorism a global problem, defence minister Rajnath Singh on Sunday called for isolating all countries that have adopted terrorism as their state policy, in a reference to Pakistan.

Speaking at the curtain raiser of the first ever India-Uzbekistan joint exercise 'Dustlik 2019' in Tashkent, Mr Singh said defence cooperation is crucial to the bilateral ties between India and Uzbekistan. The drill will be held from November 4 to 13. In the exercise, an Indian Army contingent will train along with Uzbekistan Army.

The exercise will enable sharing of best practices

and experiences between the armed forces of the two countries and would lead to greater operational effectiveness, the defence ministry said.

"Terrorism is a global problem. There are many examples where some countries have adopted terrorism as their state policy. The need of the hour is to condemn and isolate such countries," Mr Singh said without naming Pakistan.

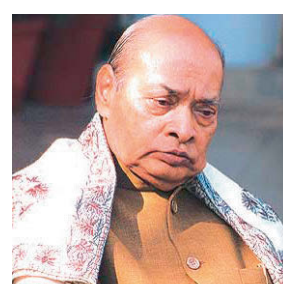
Mr Singh on Saturday, had called upon the member countries to implement all the existing international laws and mechanisms, without exception or double standards, to combat terrorism and its enablers. — PTI

## 'Rao rejected MHA report on Ayodhya'

**New Delhi, Nov. 3:** The Babri Masjid could have been saved if there was political will to act and the then Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao did not accept a comprehensive contingency plan of the Home Ministry prepared before the demolition, claimed Madhav Godbole who was the Union home secretary that time.

"If political initiative had been taken as a Prime Minister's level, the Mahabharata of this Ramayana could have been avoided," he says in his new book on the Ayodhya dispute.

Seeking to draw a cogent



Narasimha Rao

picture of the events which transpired during the critical period before and after the demolition, Mr Godbole says as Prime Minister, Rao "played the most important role in

this crucial test match, but, unfortunately, he turned out to be a non-playing captain".

In *The Babri Masjid-Ram Mandir Dilemma: An Acid Test for India's Constitution*, the author claims that besides Rao, former prime ministers Rajiv Gandhi and V.P. Singh also failed to take timely action when the mosque was under serious threat.

He says that when Rajiv Gandhi was prime minister, some workable compromise solutions were suggested to resolve the dispute, before positions had hardened on either

side but no steps were taken. V.P. Singh remained firm after promulgating an ordinance vesting the specified area in and around the Babri Masjid in the central government, he says.

In 1992, after detailed discussions with institutions and officers concerned, Godbole says the Ministry of Home Affairs prepared a comprehensive contingency plan for the takeover of the structure by invoking Article 356 of the Constitution.

The ministry of law had also cleared the Cabinet note for this purpose, he adds. — PTI



Devotees offer 'Arghya' to the rising sun at Dussehra Ghat near Taj Mahal during Chhath Puja celebrations in Agra on Sunday.

— PTI



DECCAN  
Chronicle

4 NOVEMBER 2019

RTC stir a lost cause,  
strikers must call it off

Every step ahead for reforms in India has come accompanied by a refrain to Victor Hugo's observation of eternal appeal; no force on earth can stop an idea whose time has come. So be it with the month-long Telangana State RTC workers' strike, which has now entered the final decisive phase.

While the journey of economic and political reforms in India have followed a chequered path, resembling a drunken Sisyphus than a Usain Bolt on fire, there have been those moments when a leader here, or a leader there, has resolved to take a firm step, and give in to no opposition or reconsideration. Telangana has reached such a moment here under chief minister K. Chandrashekar Rao, whose media statements after a Cabinet meeting on Saturday evening, leave no doubt — there is no going back on the RTC issue.

A socialist-era RTC with monopoly has been relegated into history, and there is no button to press to turn it back. The private buses in several routes are here to stay too. Cronyism or not, competition has been created for bus routes of the state and there will be reversals. The only question now for RTC workers and trade unions is — will you eat humble pie and go back to work, save your jobs or lose it all. And they have two more days to respond.

The larger issue, emotions created by news reports of suicides and heart attacks of striking workers and the plight of their families considered, and then kept aside, is simple — the numbers.

State-subsidised socialism, destroying all competition, providing a monopoly, created over 50,000 RTC jobs in all these decades — at a public investment running into billions of rupees. The RTC staff had safe jobs, assured monthly salaries, near immunity from traffic rules — recall the last time a RTC driver was checked for drunken driving, wearing a seat belt (do those buses even have one?), or reckless driving, speeding, jumping a signal?

Contrast it with the imperfect capitalism of auto-rickshaw drivers, entrepreneurs who never got their due, but who, at zero investment from government, could create over three lakh self-employed jobs in Hyderabad alone. Now add the tech-empowered global capitalism dimension — nearly two lakh Uber and Ola drivers on streets of Hyderabad alone — who serve the same purpose.

Now ask: on what basis can an RTC driver feel more entitled than an auto or Uber driver? Who is a relic here, a fossil of a bygone era?

By giving a three-day notice, Chief Minister Rao has been too kind to the RTC. By giving an opportunity to join back their jobs, the CM has benevolently overlooked the arm-twisting intent of the obdurate, Luddite, trade union leaders. By offering them their jobs back, Mr Rao has offered them a deal too generous.

They must now heed the call of history — workers of RTC, unite to end the strike and return to work. Or write your own obituary. And your time is nearly over.

## Living in a gas chamber

It's early winter and Delhi has become a gas chamber so enveloped in smog that flights are disrupted due to poor visibility. The focus was on Delhi even more as an India-Bangladesh T20 cricket match was played, with the fielders needing masks. The Safar air quality index has gone north, somewhat appropriately as the NCR symbolises everything mankind can do to pollute the environment. WHO believes the air quality is worse than smoking 50 cigarettes a day. Schools are shut, cars run to "odd-even" restrictions in a bizarre move to cut automobile pollution. The problem is they seem to wake up to the smog only in November and take a few desperate measures. Until then they go their merry way, with construction dust, firecracker fumes, diesel emissions of heavy vehicles and plastic and garbage burning fouling the air.

Air quality science says 46 per cent of pollution is caused by stubble burning in Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh. No amount of incentives seems to convince farmers not to burn the straw left from the harvest. Delivery of straw management equipment is dreadfully short, with 63,000 machines given so far, while there are 27 lakh farmers. We know Delhi's air is a national problem that is bringing the NCR global notoriety; yet the Centre doesn't seem keen to get the states to sit together and find lasting solutions. Coal-fired power plants can't be stopped the entire winter. Neither can masks be given to 100 million people, nor can schools and colleges be shut indefinitely for "Safar" holidays. Do we want to protect our children by giving them a chance to breathe clean air or consign them to life in a nationwide gas chamber?

## DECCAN CHRONICLE

ADITYA SINHA  
EditorT. VENKATESWARULU  
Printer & PublisherR. MOHAN  
Resident Editor

DECCAN CHRONICLE offices are located at:

Chennai: SP 3 Developed Plot, Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai 600032. Phones: (044) 22254747, 22254748

Coimbatore: 77 Vivekananda Road, Ramnagar, Coimbatore 641009. Phone: (0422) 2231255, 2231256  
Hyderabad: 36, Sarojini Devi Road, Secunderabad 500 003. Phone: (040) 27803930-4. Fax: (040) 27805256.

Bengaluru: 5th Floor, BMTC Commercial Complex, 80 Ft. Road, Koramangala, Bangalore-560095. Ph: 08043460500; Fax: 080-22960551/52/55

Visakhapatnam: Survey No. 1/3A Beach Road, Near Kailasagiri Roadway, Sector-9 MVP Colony, Visakhapatnam - 530 017. Phones: (0891) 2552333/2552334. Fax: (0891) 2755285

Vijayawada: No. C 3 &amp; 4, Patamata, Industrial Estate, Auto Nagar, Vijayawada (A.P.). Phones: (0866) 2555284/ 2555287, Fax: (0866) 2555234

Rajahmundry: Vemagiri, Dhawleswaram Rd, Rajahmundry 533125. Phones: (0883) 2417208, 2417618

Anantapur: Thapovan Colony, Bangalore Bye-Pass Road, Anantapur 515004. Phones: (08554) 276903, Fax: (08554) 276904

Nellore: Survey No. 527/2, Burranpur Village, Venkatachalam (M), Chemudugunta Panchayat, Nellore. Phone: (0861) 2348581/ 82, Telefax (0861) 2348580

Karimnagar: Survey No. 1341, Vavilapally Colony, Jagityala Road, Karimnagar 505 001. Phone: (0878) 2228908; Telefax (0878) 2220433

Kochi: No. 3-B, 3rd Floor, DD TRADE TOWER, Kaloor-Kadavantham Road, Ernakulam, Ph: 0484-4039408

Kozhikode: No 61/002 E, First Floor City Mall, Opp. YMCA Kannur Road, Kozhikode - 673 001 Fax: 0495 4019018

Thiruvananthapuram: St Joseph Press Thycaud post, Cotton Hills, Thiruvananthapuram-14, Ph: 0471-2735105/67, Fax: 0471-4016112 Gram: CHRONICLE Postal registration no: No. H/SD-348/2006-08



Anita Katyal

## Political Gup-Shup

BJP 'brokered'  
J-K spin fails;  
Cong revises  
stand on RCEP

While the Narendra Modi government has succeeded in eliciting the support of the mainstream Indian media on its decision to strip Jammu and Kashmir of its special status and divide the state into two Union territories, it has been unable to convince the foreign media. Unlike the Indian media, the foreign press has been extremely critical of the government's decision in its reportage and has disputed the official claim that everything is normal in the Valley by consistently drawing attention to the communication lockdown and the problems being faced by ordinary citizens in accessing basic facilities. This has obviously not gone down well with the Indian government but officials are at their wit's end as they have failed to change the narrative abroad despite their best efforts. In fact, officials from the external affairs and defence ministries have, over the past two months, gone all out to convey the government's viewpoint to foreign media-persons but to little avail. The government was hoping that the

visit of European Union MPs to the Kashmir Valley would help to shift the focus from human rights violations to the proxy war being waged in the state by Pakistan. However, this move also backfired thanks to the involvement of "international business broker" Madi Sharma in facilitating this visit. This has led to a lot of chatter in BJP circles about the identity of the person who organised this visit through Ms Sharma. Some say it is party leader Ram Madhav while others maintain it is national security advisor Ajit Doval's son, Shaurya Doval, who runs a think tank.

The Congress decision to protest the signing of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) trade agreement by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Bangkok was taken at a lengthy meeting of senior party leaders which witnessed a heated discussion. There were some reservations about opposing the RCEP as the trade pact was initiated by the Manmohan Singh government.

Anand Sharma, who handled this subject in his capacity as the commerce minister, is stated to have pointed this out but eventually, it was agreed that the Congress should not be apologetic about its past role. Those who favoured the party's proposal to oppose the trade agreement argued that the country's economic situation has worsened from the time the RCEP was first proposed and that the Congress must pin down the Modi government by highlighting how this move will prove ruinous for the economy. The recent announcement by the Swadeshi Jagran Manch, an affiliate of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, opposing the RCEP was also a major factor. The Congress felt that if it failed to put up a fight, it would end up conceding the opposition space to the RSS, which would eventually work to the BJP's advantage.

Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi's decision to take off on yet another trip abroad has left his party colleagues red-faced. Party spokespersons are hard

put to explain the Nehru- Gandhi scion's hands-off approach and his penchant for disappearing at a critical juncture. Doing their best to cover for him, Congress leaders have been at pains to point out that it is incorrect to say that Rahul Gandhi has lost interest in party affairs and that he was instrumental in planning and finalising the party's nationwide agitation programme being launched from November 5 to 15 to expose the Modi government's handling of the economy. They also insist that he will be back in time to lead the stir. The last time Rahul Gandhi went abroad was when the Congress was in the midst of preparing for the Maharashtra and Haryana Assembly elections. He did come back in time to address a few election meetings but was apparently a reluctant campaigner.

The Delhi Assembly election is due only in February but speculation about the Bharatiya Janata Party's probable chief ministerial candidates has been doing the rounds for

some time. While BJP state presi-

Mail your letters to  
editor@deccanmail.com

dent Manoj Tewari and former minister Vijay Goel are obvious choices, Union minister for urban development Hardeep Puri is also being mentioned. Puri was recently fielded to announce the Cabinet's decision to regularise unauthorised colonies in Delhi though the official explanation is that he spoke in his capacity as an urban development minister. Puri is a lateral entrant to the BJP but Prime Minister Modi is known to have a soft spot for former bureaucrats. However, BJP insiders said party leader Satish Upadhyay who had virtually gone underground after he was replaced by Manoj Tewari, is back in circulation and also in the reckoning. Upadhyay is learned to have been noticed by the BJP leadership after he organised the felicitation programme for the Prime

## LETTERS

## PAKISTAN IN SOUP

This refers to the report, *Pakistan did not do enough: US*. The report states that "Pakistan has failed to significantly limit militant outfits like the LeT and the JeM from fundraising and recruiting while several terrorist groups that focus on attacks outside the country continued to operate from its soil in 2018." While Pakistan maintained in its statements that it has not provided any help for the terrorists to operate from its soil, the US report has clearly stated otherwise. Though the US report does not specifically name India or the J&K the operations of the terrorist outfits would not have confined their operations outside Indian territorial limits. The government should attach importance to this US report and show it as proof for the terrorists operating from its soil.

T.R. Anandan, Coimbatore

## NO NEED FOR BY-POLLS

The people have not supported the DMK alliance in TN because the huge presence of nearly 100 MLAs in the Opposition has not benefitted a single member of the public. None of the MLAs from DMK/Congress have done a single day's honest work during the last three and a half years, for the good of his constituency. Not a single rupee has been spent by them from their constituency fund either. The Tambaram MLA is a case in point. Simply going around bad-mouthing the ruling party and 'condemning' something or other is not good enough. Holding by-elections is a waste of time, money and effort. When an elected MLA resigns for whatever reason, or even dies, the position should be given to the candidate who stood second in the previous election, till the tenure ends.

Usha Sundar, Chennai

## EYE ON RAJINI

TRajinikanth has been conferred with "Icon of Golden Jubilee" award. It is not disputed that Rajini is a super star in his own right. But seniority should be observed. Kamal Haasan is eminently suitable to confer that title first. He is much senior to Rajini. He is singularly qualified for his multifaceted capabilities. He may be called next only to Sivaji Ganesan. He is a multifaceted personality. Besides acting, which is his forte, he is a dancer of repute, singer, script writer and director. It does not require much intelligence to decode the real reason behind the "Icon" award that it is politically motivated and smells of politics as the BJP is very much interested in roping Rajini to its fold, which is a well-known secret. To think that the award is to appease Tamilians to get votes for the BJP may be an erroneous notion. As a shrewd person, Rajini himself will know that the award is meant to "catch" him and not in recognition of his "outstanding contribution" to Indian Cinema as his contribution is confined to making commercial cinemas only.

V.N. Gopal, Chennai



Subhani

Will Dec. 12 polls spell  
a saner future for UK?Charles  
Marquand

The past fortnight has seen yet more twists and turns in the Brexit saga. The first was the agreement of the United Kingdom and the European Union on an exit deal. This was no surprise. Conservative Prime Minister Boris Johnson simply reverted to an arrangement that the EU had originally offered the former Prime Minister, Theresa May, which she had rejected. It involves Northern Ireland remaining in the EU customs union and single market — to preserve the soft border with the Republic of Ireland — and allowing the rest of the UK, the island of Great Britain, to leave. The practical effect is to place Northern Ireland, an integral part of the UK, under a different legal and regulatory regime from the rest of the country.

More surprising was that this arrangement was agreed, in principle, by the House of Commons, where the Conservatives are a minority, by a narrow majority. Yet despite this victory — something which had eluded his predecessor — Mr Johnson decided instead to seek an early general election. He wants a stable majority to prevent "his" agreement being amended out of all recognition by Parliament. After some misgivings, the Opposition parties acceded to his request.

The UK now faces a general election on December 12. It is hard to think of a more important election in British political history. Although the outcome may be difficult to predict, it is easy to predict that the result — one or way or another — will fundamentally shape the course of British history

for generations.

If Mr Johnson's Conservatives win an overall majority, his exit deal will pass. The economic harm caused by Great Britain's departure from the EU single market and customs union will be, in all likelihood, immense. But the political impact would be no less immense. The sentiment in favour of uniting Northern Ireland with the Republic will be significantly strengthened. There is already only a narrow margin in favour of remaining in the UK. It is likely to disappear. Meanwhile, the argument is being powerfully made in Scotland that if Northern Ireland can remain in the EU's economic structures, why can't Scotland too. The Scottish National Party, in government in Scotland, has said it will demand another independence referendum. Recent polls suggest that this time the campaign for independence will be victorious. Once Scotland leaves the UK, Wales is unlikely to be far behind.

Such an outcome would be rich in historic irony. The Conservatives, or the Conservative and Unionist Party to give them their full title, would have presided over the breakup of the Union; support for which has been virtually their only consistent principle since the party's creation some 150 years ago.

If, on the other hand, the general election produces another hung Parliament, all kinds of possibilities emerge. The UK could remain in the EU customs union and single market. There could be another referendum on whether to leave the EU; and — if the opinion polls are to be believed — the British public could vote

to remain. And if the UK remains, although there will still be difficulties to overcome, the immediate threat to the country's well-being will have been averted.

How is it then that the UK has arrived at a juncture where its very existence is potentially at stake? The simple answer is that the Conservative PM David Cameron called the referendum on the UK's membership of the EU because he wanted to kill off the growing hostility to the EU in his party and destroy the growing threat to the right posed by the nationalist UK Independence Party. He lost because he led a disastrous campaign, which completely failed to put forward a positive case for Europe. Although ostensibly correct, this explanation ignores the pathology of the Conservative Party.

Deep in the Conservative psyche is the feeling that the Conservative Party is the only legitimate party of government. Other parties when they govern are interlopers and, somehow, unpatriotic, so goes the thinking. This has led to a deep sense that the Conservative Party is more than just a political party. Its fortunes and those of the nation are intimately bound together. Its interests are more than vulgar political ones; they are national interests. It and the nation are one.

It is this pathology which led Mr Cameron to think it acceptable to gamble with the country's future to resolve his party's political

**It is hard to think of a more important election in British political history. Although the outcome may be difficult to predict, it is easy to predict that the result — one or way or another — will fundamentally shape the course of British history...**

problems. It is this pathology which caused him to fight a half-hearted campaign, holding back from attacking leave-supporting colleagues. Forget the UK's future, party unity had to be preserved at all costs. And it is this pathology which has informed the actions of a large segment of the Conservative Party since the referendum.

In the immediate aftermath of the result, there was a window of opportunity. Ms May, who became Prime Minister directly after, could have opened out to other political parties to create a national consensus on the way forward. Instead, she prioritised keeping the Conservative Party together, by appeasing her party's Europhobes and shutting out the Opposition.

With a few brave and honourable exceptions, Conservative MPs too have put party loyalty above the national interest. Most of them voted remain in the referendum. Deep down they know what harm Brexit will cause. Yet the vast majority have loyally toed the party line and spouted the party's propaganda. Like an abused wife who cannot admit that her husband is a brute and that the marriage is over, they continue to believe — deep down — that the Conservative Party is still the only party that can be trusted with the national interest. At each stage of the Conservatives' metamorphosis into a nationalistic party of the hard right, they have subordinated their own political personalities and meekly submitted.

In the meantime, the political psycho drama continues, and the country has to suffer its consequences. One can only hope that the general election puts the Conservatives out of their misery and the country on course for a saner future.

*The writer is a lawyer and a keen observer of European affairs, and works in the UK and France*



To access the data on a wireless network without authorisation

Writers and other members of the intelligentsia who advocate war or imperialism

DECCAN CHRONICLE

MONDAY | 4 NOVEMBER 2019 | CHENNAI

# India, Saudis, Gulf & Iran: Turbulence ahead



K.C. Singh

Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Saudi Arabia, a second time after 2016, on October 29-30. Besides bilateral parleys he addressed the Future Investment Initiative (FII), known as “Davos in the Desert”. Earlier, Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman had visited India in February 2019, on the eve of India’s Lok Sabha elections. The US-Saudi combine obtained a win for the Narendra Modi government after the Balakot airstrike by securing getting Indian Air Force pilot Wing Commander Abhinandan Varthaman’s prompt return by Islamabad. The Modi government’s wooing of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) by establishing close personal ties with their crown princes, the de facto rulers, has multiple facets. This outreach is neither new nor inexplicable, as India has

always favoured good relations with them. First, these two nations host most of the six million-odd Indian Gulf diaspora. Both are vital for India’s energy security and are, particularly the UAE, important trading partners. Strategically, deepened engagement undercuts the financial, strategic and religion-based support that Pakistan has previously drawn to its advantage, especially in manipulating the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) for India-bashing over Kashmir. Finally, Saudi Arabia, despite the crown prince’s unsavoury reputation as a ruthless autocrat, is liberalising, albeit at its own pace. Both nations are diversifying their economies and foreign partners fearing American unpredictability and global opinion against carbon based energy. However, international relations cannot be conducted in isolated subsets with groups of nations, as regional and global

forces create dynamic contexts. A fresh churn is driven by the popular protests on the streets of nations ranging from Chile to Lebanon, Iraq and Hong Kong. In the Gulf and West Asia, the scenario is further complicated by the US withdrawal of troops from the Syrian Kurdish region, which allowed the rebalancing by regional powers and Russia. As the Turkish military intruded into northern Syria to create a 30-km buffer zone along its entire Syrian border, the Kurds sought protection from Russia and the Bashar al-Assad regime, choosing survival over freedom. US President Donald Trump, facing much congressional criticism, including from his own party, in damage control mode sent vice-president Mike Pence to buy time for an orderly withdrawal by the Kurds. But the real diplomacy was led by Russia in Sochi, where President Vladimir Putin hosted Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. Eventually, the Turks managed to occupy only about one-third of their planned buffer zone, with Russia and Syrian government forces inserting themselves into the rest. In a sense, this opened the path for possible Syrian reconciliation, for which talks have begun in Geneva. But the surrogate battle between Saudi Arabia and Iran continues and is suspected to

**Why is India wooing the Saudis so arduously? In play is the need for foreign investment, as Prime Minister Narendra Modi noted, of \$100 billion to simply create oil and gas infrastructure in the coming decade.**

be behind the protests in Lebanon and Iraq, where corruption, poor governance and unemployment have been catalysts. Iran feels outside forces are destabilising pro-Iran regimes. In September, the Saudis became top suppliers of oil to India with 830,500 barrels per day, out of total imports of 3.82 million barrels. Iraq fell to number two position, with 821,000 barrels, with the UAE coming next. The implications of the Iran-Saudi Arabian tug-of-war are obvious as any destabilisation of Iraq can hit Indian oil supplies badly. Why then is India wooing the Saudis so arduously? In play is the need for foreign investment, as Mr Modi noted, of \$100 billion to simply create oil and gas infrastructure in the coming decade. The Saudis and Emiratis have committed to investing in Asia’s biggest

refinery on India’s west coast. Relations with the Saudis stand upgraded with the establishment of a Strategic Partnership Council at the Prime Minister’s level. India has such councils only with Germany, Japan and Russia. That mechanisms do not always trump geopolitics is obvious from India’s relations with those three nations. German Chancellor Angela Merkel expressed, during her just-concluded visit to India, her discomfort with India’s Kashmir policy, calling it “unsustainable”, as indeed the difficulty of doing business in India. The Germans have also been unhappy with India delaying a Free Trade Agreement with the European Union. German car companies have been scaling back production with the automotive slowdown in India. The German government is also obviously irritated over India wooing neo-Nazi members of the European Parliament’s members, from the Alternate for Deutschland (Germany), called AfD, by inviting them as part of a handpicked delegation to visit Kashmir. Similarly, the Saudis and Emiratis are playing a strategic game to keep India on the hook to distance it from Iran. In the process, they are happy to acquire strategic economic assets.

Thus, formal or “informal” summits have limitations as they cannot instantly overcome geostrategic faultlines. The “Chennai Connect” slogan following the Modi-Xi Jinping summit last month evaporated on October 31 when China strongly criticised the division and downgrading of Jammu and Kashmir into two Union territories. Similarly, the Saudis, and perhaps to a lesser extent the Emiratis, would not abandon their “brotherly” links with Pakistan as that nation remains their last resort for acquiring nuclear weapons, if Iran was to break out towards possessing nuclear weapons. America’s unreliability is now manifest in its sudden dropping of the Syrian Kurds. The Saudis and Emiratis have also been reaching out to China and Russia, with President Putin making a state visit to Saudi Arabia. The Saudis laid on highest protocol, including their Air Force painting the sky with the colours of the Russian flag. Thus, past Indian leaders, belonging to whichever party, were not wrong in avoiding going overboard with one side in dealing with bickering factions in the Gulf and West Asia. Unfortunately, India has got itself aligned with the Saudi-Emirati combine against Turkey, Malaysia and

Iran. The three latter nations have criticised India’s Kashmir policy and India, instead of trying to diplomatically neutralise them, has chosen confrontation and arm-twisting. As a result, while gaining Saudi silence on Kashmir, India now has equally powerful Islamic nations opposing it. When the Afghanistan endgame is upon India, as is soon inevitable, Iran may no longer be available for giving India free access and support in countering the Taliban, backed by China and Pakistan. The Supreme Court’s verdict on Ayodhya is just days away. The court has to also start looking at the constitutionality and methodology adopted to annul Article 370 in Kashmir. In addition, bleak economic news, rising unemployment and recent electoral setbacks do not seem so far to have humbled the government enough to revert to ruling by consensus and domestic consultation. Theatre still prevails over balanced and thoughtful diplomacy. India’s foreign policy appears headed for testing times as the domestic and regional trends portend turbulence. *The writer is a former secretary in the external affairs ministry. He tweets at @ambkcsingh*

## Beyond Twitter: Real story behind Trump’s fake withdrawal from Syria



John R. Bradley

That noise you can hear is Donald Trump flip-flopping in the sand. Last week, American troops and dozens of tanks and armoured vehicles moved to occupy oil fields in Syria. The escalation came just half an hour after Trump had tweeted that all US soldiers had left the country and would be coming home. As so often, the President says one thing, then orders the military to do the other. On Twitter, Trump is ending the endless wars. In the real world, he is perpetuating them. Trump’s focus is not really Syria, of course. It is the presidential election next year, and his precious voter base. But he can’t seem to decide if his supporters are peaceniks or blood-thirsty chauvinists. His problem is that they are both and neither. He’s beginning to learn that the relationship between foreign policy and domestic politics is more complicated than perhaps he realised. The most important group in Trump’s base are white evangelical Christians. In 2016, evangelicals rallied behind Trump in greater numbers — he took a staggering 82 per cent of their votes — than they had for any candidate since Nixon. Securing their loyalty had hardly been a slam dunk. In Trump, the powerful preachers had to overlook pretty much every sin they rail against day in, day out: divorces, cursing, lying, tricking, debt, gambling, porn stars. The alternative, though, was Hillary Clinton.

Unlike Clinton, Trump is anti-abortion, and he is pro-family and sceptical of sexual-identity politics. He also shares the evangelicals’ love of Israel. The majority of them see Trump as the most pro-Israel President ever, and they were especially elated by the decision to move the US embassy in Israel to Jerusalem. Many believe this will to help bring about the so-called rapture, when all Christians will join with God. Terrorism is a higher concern for his supporters than for Americans generally. That’s why Trump made such a song and dance about the killing of Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, the Isis leader, last weekend. He hopes that will shore up key supporters. His trouble, however, is that he needs even higher levels of the evangelicals’ support to have any chance of being re-elected. In three crucial mid-western states where there are large evangelical populations, he won by just 70,000 votes. And his poll numbers there are down, so if there is even a 1 per cent drop in the evangelical support he is toast. This helps explain his dramatic volte-face in Syria. Evangelical leaders condemned his pulling the troops out, so he sent them back in. Pat Robertson, for instance, warned that Trump could be “losing the mandate of heaven” by withdrawing the US military and drew a comparison with the appeasement of Hitler in Europe in the 1930s. More subtly, Franklin Graham asked Trump to “reconsider”.

**It is now clear that Donald Trump is not the President that anti-war types hoped he might be. And the reason is that perpetuating wars (while pretending to end them) is the least risky path for him to take electorally.**

Russell Moore, another influential pastor, did not try to mask his fury. “Kurdish Christians (and others among the brave Kurds) have stood up for the United States and for freedom and human dignity against Isis terrorism and the bloodthirsty Assad regime,” he wrote. “What they are now facing from Erdogan’s authoritarian Turkey is horrifying beyond words.” Trump took dozens of phone calls from other evangelical activists, while vice president Mike Pence and secretary of state Mike Pompeo, evangelical Christians themselves, met with numerous church congregations to try to pacify them. Hours later, Trump made the shock decision to send troops back to Syria. Trump’s other great miscalculation in Syria was to underestimate how the neoccons — also strong supporters of Israel and therefore fearful of Iranian expansionism — would flank him on the domestic front. With the threat of impeachment hanging over his head, Trump cannot afford to alienate hawks such as senator Lindsey Graham. Graham was instrumental in getting the President to reverse course during the evangelical backlash. He visited Trump in the White House to show him a map of where the oil fields are in Syria. (For all his boasting about American energy inde-

pendence, Trump is preoccupied with the idea of seizing Middle Eastern oil.) Within hours of Trump agreeing to seize them, Graham gave his first major public appearance unequivocally denouncing impeachment proceedings. Talk about quid pro quo. After the al-Baghdadi raid, Graham said the event “changes everything” for the war on terror in the region. The official reason given for the occupation of the oil fields was to ensure Isis fighters in the region would not take them. Al-Baghdadi’s death plays into that narrative, and Trump can now argue that he has not taken his eye off the Isis ball. But this, let’s not forget, is coming from a President who spent the past three years telling us that Isis and al-Qaeda were largely defeated, and that getting rid of what remained of them was the responsibility of Russia, Turkey and Syria. The US generals will be over the moon that Graham forced the U-turn in Syria. From the moment he entered the White House, Trump’s inexperience in international affairs meant he had to rely on men in uniform to guide him, even as his instinct told him to end the endless wars. He was hopelessly out of his depth, as became obvious during the election campaign when he nonchalantly admitted to not knowing the difference between (Shia, Lebanon-based) Hezbollah and (Sunni, Gaza-based) Hamas. There were echoes of George W. Bush, another ignoramus, who launched the disastrous invasion of Iraq. If being a birdbrain proved no impediment to Bush launching wars, why should Trump’s foolishness prove such a handicap in his lacklustre efforts to end them? The most obvious reason is that the US annual defence budget is at least \$1 trillion (and growing), and

there is no group more determined to keep the wars alive (and the money flowing) than the military top brass. The build-up announcements in Syria and in Saudi Arabia in September — which also undermined Trump’s initial promises of de-escalation — following an attack on the kingdom’s oil facilities blamed on Iran came not from the White House but the Pentagon. Last year, the same was true when thousands more troops were sent to Afghanistan, again just days after Trump announced that he was going to withdraw all of those already there. Thus Trump defers to generals and men in uniform. Whenever they tell him they need something, he obliges. That he has not completely caved in to the top brass — Trump is the first US President in two decades, we should remember, not to have started a new war — is at least something to his credit. At the same time, it is now clear that Trump is not the President that anti-war types hoped he might be. And the reason is that perpetuating wars (while pretending to end them) is the least risky path for him to take electorally. He is not going to lose much support by failing to act on his end-the-wars instincts. Large sections of the American public are fed up with these military conflicts, but unfortunately this doesn’t mean they have all become Ron Paul libertarian types. They are not even angry enough to take to the streets. The reason Trump was put off with war with Iran was less to do with a public backlash and more because he was persuaded that it might well mean losing votes. Trump, like most Americans, likes winning and kicking a\*\*. The warmongers now have him exactly where they want him.

*By arrangement with the Spectator*

## What is so seductive about the ‘caliphate’ for some Muslims?



Irfan Husain

In a world where news of fresh disasters is the norm, anything positive is worth cheering about. Especially when it comes from Donald Trump’s White House. Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi’s departure from the world was widely welcomed, even though I have no doubt that some of his murderous acolytes who profited from his reign regret his death, and the manner of his demise. Even liberals have stifled their joy as the American success may enhance Trump’s electoral chances next year. They say we shouldn’t speak ill of the dead. Me, I would happily dance on Baghdadi’s grave except for the fact that his remains have been dumped into the sea. Just consider how many thousands he slaughtered in his mad quest to carve out a “caliphate”. In addition, he and his sex-starved jihadists raped and enslaved tens of thousands of women and girls. The Yazidis were easy targets for Baghdadi’s blood-thirsty horde: peaceful and largely unarmed, they were hunted down, and their women distributed and sold among soldiers of the militant Islamic State group. Had not the remnants of this ancient community been rescued by Western forces, Baghdadi would have succeeded in carrying out his genocidal plans. But it was his so-called jihad against the treasures of antiquity the region is so rich in that infuriated all civilised people everywhere. The savage destruction of the relics and statues at the Mosul Cultural Museum, and dynamiting of the ancient desert city of Palmyra must count among the greatest crimes against our cultural heritage. Nineveh and Nimrud were also laid to waste. Nevertheless, Baghdadi’s relentless war on culture and history still makes my blood boil when I think of it. The unravelling of his “caliphate” became inevitable as soon as he took and held territory. This is the kind of hubris he shared with Prabhakaran, the leader of the Tamil Tigers, the dreaded terrorist group in Sri Lanka. He, too, sought to carve out his own territory, and like the IS, collected taxes and organised a rudimentary nation state. But countries don’t hand over land to separatists without a bitter fight. The American Civil War took

hundreds of thousands of lives before the secessionist southern states were finally defeated after several years of carnage. And the bloody civil war that led to the creation of Bangladesh in 1971 only succeeded because the two wings of the Pakistani state were separated by a thousand miles of Indian territory. Ideologues like Baghdadi and Prabhakaran, intoxicated by early victories, forget that states are able to raise funds and armies, and buy arms at a level ragtag guerrilla forces simply can’t. The Vietcong were helped by the Chinese and the Russians; the Afghan Taliban by Pakistan, the US and Saudi Arabia; and initially, the IS was allegedly armed by an evil coalition of Western and Middle Eastern states. Once this assistance was withdrawn, the defeat of the IS was just a matter of time. There has been no shortage of nasty killers who strutted on the world stage for a while before going to meet their maker. Hitler, Osama bin Laden and Pol Pot spring to mind. But perhaps because his cruelty and viciousness are so recent, Baghdadi appears to be a special case. His cynical use of religion to justify his murder, rape and loot attracted many brain-washed young Muslims from across the world to his black banner. What is it about the caliphate that is so seductive to millions of Muslims? This archaic institution was relevant in the early days of Islam when Muslims enjoyed some semblance of unity. But those days are long gone. Perhaps some believers think the restoration of a caliph and the emergence of a caliphate would somehow bring back the glory days when Islam ruled a large part of the known world. But these pipe dreams prevent Muslims from doing the hard work needed to catch up with the rest of the world. Instead of focusing on education and economic growth, they indulge in fantasies and conspiracy theories. So when a Bin Laden or a Baghdadi arrives, they think he is Saladin reincarnated to lead Muslims to regain their lost empires. Terrorism is no substitute for toil, just as fantasies cannot replace facts and figures. Both show how far behind we are.

*By arrangement with Dawn*

## Sit silently and let the grass grow by itself



Amrit Sadhana

The Zen master Basho’s famous haiku, “Sitting silently, doing nothing, and the grass grows by itself” is hard to believe in or to achieve in the days of workaholic and the fast pace of life. Who has time to sit silently doing nothing when you have to drive for two hours to attend a meeting or catch the train? And “doing nothing” is a most derogatory term in modern lifestyle. Wait a minute — I am not regressing into ancient beliefs and traditions. Contemporary neuroscience shows

that 50-year-olds can have the brains of 25-year-olds if they sit quietly and do nothing for 15 minutes a day. Neuroscientist Sara Lazar of Mass General and Harvard Medical School started studying meditation by accident. She sustained running injuries training for the Boston Marathon, and her physical therapist told her to stretch. So Lazar took up yoga. And the yoga stretches introduced her to the inner realm of meditation, exactly what Basho says — sitting silently, doing nothing — and the grass may have grown or not but her cortex definitely grew. Her grey matter enlarged just by sitting silently on the floor with herself. She noticed that she was calmer. She was better able to handle more difficult situations. She was more compassionate and open-hearted, and able to see things from others’ points of view.



This increased grey matter in several areas of the brain, including the auditory and sensory cortex, as well as the insula and sensory regions. This makes sense since mindful meditation has you slow down and become aware of the present moment, including physical sensations such as your breathing and the sounds around you. This is what Osho says: Truth is something that happens on its own accord. All that is needed from your side, from your end, is receptivity, a relaxed receptivity. Some things happen through effort, and some things happen only through effortlessness. Some things will never happen through effort, and there are things that will never happen through effortlessness. All that is mundane happens through effort; all that is

worldly happens through effort. And all that is sacred, other-worldly, happens through effortlessness. That which is outside you has to be reached through action, and that which is inside you has to be reached through inaction. And this statement is about the inner. I am not saying: sit silently, doing anything, the spring comes, and you become the richest man in the world. I am not saying that. You will not become. You may become the poorest, but you cannot become the richest man in the world. I am not saying the spring comes and you become the President of America — that I am not saying. But God comes only when you are sitting silently, doing nothing. *Amrit Sadhana is editor of Osho Times International. She facilitates meditation workshops based on Osho insights around the country and abroad.*





## Firm stand

Iran will not lift its ban on talks with the United States, said Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.



The vision I have for this country, there's nothing small about it. It is like going to the moon.

— Joe Biden  
US Presidential candidate

## IN BRIEF

### 5 candidates in Algeria Prez race

**Algiers:** Five candidates will run in Algeria's presidential election next month, including two former prime ministers, the head of the election authority said amid mass protests rejecting the vote. Candidates for the Dec. 12 election include former prime ministers Abdelmadjid Tebboune and Ali Benflis, former culture minister Azzeddine Mihoubi, former tourism minister Abdelkader Bengrine, and Abdelaziz Belaid, head of the El Mostakbal Movement party.

### Kurds in talks with Russia, Syria

**Rome:** The commander of the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces said he mistrusted both the Syrian government and Russia, but said that he would follow "a political path" for the sake of peace. Mazlum Abdi, also known as Kobani, stated that future negotiations required guarantees from the international community, including Europe. "We have no confidence, but it's not possible to solve Syria's problems without using the political path. We must negotiate," he said. Until the United States pulled out of Syria the SDF, whose members are for the most part Kurds, enjoyed the support of a Washington-led coalition in its fight against the Islamic State group.

### Activists remove Macron portraits

**Lyon:** Is stealing a presidential portrait a prison-worthy crime? Or a laudable act of civil disobedience? Courts around France are grappling with this question in response to an unusual new environmental movement that's aiming to push French President Emmanuel Macron to do more to fight climate change. One by one, environmental activists around France have removed Macron's official portraits from more than 130 town halls this year, from the foothills of the Alps to the Left Bank of Paris. They say though Macron portrays himself on the global stage as Mr. Climate, the centrist, business-friendly president isn't doing enough to change his own country's planet-damaging ways.

### INDIAN ORIGIN RAPIST GETS 15 YRS JAIL

**London, Nov. 3:** An Indian-origin man who raped and robbed a woman at knife point in south-east England has been sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment by a UK court. Diljeet Grewal was found guilty of rape, sexual assault and aggravated burglary at Isleworth Crown Court and sentenced to 15 years behind bars, with a further five years on "licence" to be monitored upon release. The court was told how the 28-year-old met the survivor, a woman in her 30s, for a pre-arranged meeting at her address in Hillingdon in April this year and upon entering produced a knife and threatened the woman causing her fear for her life. He went on to carry out a "sustained attack", which lasted for approximately two-and-a-half hours. "I welcome this sentencing and hope it gives the victim some measure of closure. I would like to thank the victim for her bravery in supporting our investigation and identifying Grewal as her attacker," said detective constable Mark Palmer, adding, "After physically attacking the woman, Diljeet stole her phone and threatened her again, this time demanding money. She handed him cash from her handbag, but he continued to ransack her room looking for more money, before fleeing the building."

## France nabs 30 from Pak

### Pakistani migrants caught sneaking into France

**Nice, Nov. 3:** More than 30 migrants from Pakistan were found hidden in a lorry in southern France, prosecutors said. They said the driver, who was also from Pakistan, was detained. The discovery came after 39 people, all believed to be Vietnamese nationals, were found dead in a refrigerated truck in Britain last month. The group of 31 Pakistani migrants was discovered during a routine check on a motorway near the Italian border, French prosecutors said. The migrants, who included three teenagers, were handed over to the Italian authorities in accordance with immigration procedures. "We will try and establish if we can trace it back to a network and backers as we always do in this type of case," the prosecutors' office in the southeastern city of Nice said. Meanwhile, Vietnam has said that it "strongly condemns" human trafficking, after British police confirmed 39 people found dead in a truck last week are believed to be Vietnamese. Most of the victims are thought to come from central Vietnam, where easy-to-find brokers help to arrange trips to Europe — often via Russia — for migrants hoping to earn money overseas. The extreme risks of the journeys were laid bare after eight women and 31 men were found dead in a refrigerated container in Essex, east of London, on October 23. Two people were arrested in central Ha Tinh province for human trafficking, as British police sought more suspects. Foreign ministry spokeswoman Le Thi Thu Hang called the incident a "serious humanitarian tragedy", urging help to tackle the scourge of trafficking. — AFP

### Act of defiance



An Iraqi protester shouts slogans during ongoing anti-government demonstrations in the eastern city of Diwaniyah. Protesters shut down streets and government offices in a new campaign of civil disobedience on Sunday, escalating their month-long movement demanding change to the political system. — AFP

## US President approves plan to cap refugees at 18,000 in 2020

**Washington, Nov. 3:** President Donald Trump has signed off on a plan that continues a dramatic drop in the number of refugees taken in by the US to no more than 18,000 in fiscal year 2020. When the State Department first announced the plan in September religious and humanitarian groups sharply criticized the administration. In the last full year of the Obama administration, the refugee ceiling was 85,000. This year, the Trump administration set the limit at 30,000. That number was the lowest since the modern resettlement program's creation in 1980. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo noted that refugee resettlement "is only one aspect of US humanitarian-based immigration efforts." He cited diplomatic efforts to find solutions to crises as well as humanitarian aid. The US President always made refugee admissions



Donald Trump

a critical part of his broader goal to restrict immigration. It is interesting to note that it's a fraction of the 1.10,000 that the former president Obama offered in the fiscal year of 2017. The shriveling of the program comes as the number of people fleeing violence and persecution in the world touched 70 million last year. Meanwhile, documents released by the US department of justice indicated that a top advisor to then-candidate Donald Trump

said as early as the summer of 2016 that Ukraine, not Russia, was behind a hack of Democratic party emails. Trump and his surrogates have suggested that Kiev hacked Democratic National Committee servers and planted evidence to frame Russia, as a way of undermining the legitimacy of the US leader's election. Trump has pressured Ukraine's president to investigate that debunked conspiracy theory as well as his election rival Joe Biden — a move at the crux of an impeachment investigation against him in the House of Representatives. The hundreds of pages of documents which were out on Saturday were part of an initial tranche released to US media, which sued the government for access to notes from the investigation conducted by special counsel Robert Mueller into Russian meddling in the 2016 election. — AP

### US JUDGE BLOCKS TRUMP'S INSURANCE RULE

**Portland, Nov. 3:** A federal judge in Portland, Oregon, put on hold a Trump administration rule requiring immigrants prove they will have health insurance or can pay for medical care before they can get visas. US District Judge Michael Simon granted a preliminary injunction that prevents the rule from going into effect. It's not clear when he will rule on the merits of the case. Seven US citizens and a nonprofit organization filed the federal lawsuit contending the rule would block nearly two-thirds of all prospective legal immigrants. The lawsuit also said the rule would greatly reduce or eliminate the number of immigrants who enter the US with family-sponsored visas. — PTI

## World's biggest IPO: Aramco to make stock market debut

**DHAHRAN, Saudi Arabia, Nov. 3:** Sunday its long-awaited stock market debut in what could be the world's biggest IPO, underpinning Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's ambitions to overhaul the kingdom's oil-reliant economy. After years of delay, Aramco said it plans to sell an unspecified number of shares on the Riyadh stock exchange, calling it a "historic" milestone for the energy giant which pumps 10 percent of the world's oil. However, the state firm said there were no current

plans for an international listing, indicating that the long-discussed goal for a two-stage IPO including an offering on a foreign bourse had been put aside. The market launch of the world's most profitable company forms the linchpin of Prince Mohammed's ambitious plans to overhaul the oil-reliant economy, with tens of billions of dollars needed to fund megaprojects and new industries. With analysts saying that Aramco could be valued at up to \$1.7 trillion, the initial public offering (IPO) is potentially the world's biggest, depending

on how much of the company it decides to sell. "Today marks a significant milestone in the history of the company and important progress towards delivering Saudi Vision 2030, the kingdom's blueprint for sustained economic diversification and growth," Aramco chairman Yasir al-Rumayyan said. "Since its formation, Saudi Aramco has become critical to global energy supply." The final offer price and the number of shares to be sold "will be determined at the end of the book-building period," said the firm.

## Islamists await Imran Khan's resignation

**Islamabad, Nov. 3:** Tens of thousands of Islamists at a massive protest camp in Pakistan's capital awaited a Sunday deadline set by their leader calling for the prime minister to resign. Authorities in Islamabad strengthened security around the camp as the protest entered its third day, including walls of shipping containers blocking roads leading into and out of the protest area, as well as deploying riot police and paramilitary forces. Firebrand cleric Maulana Fazlur Rehman had led a caravan of supporters to Islamabad last week in a bid to pressure Imran Khan to step down, calling him an "illegitimate" ruler. He claims the 2018 election that brought Khan to power was rigged, and has implied — without taking names — that Pakistan's powerful army supported Khan. The military denies the allegations, saying it remains impartial.

Rehman, who heads the Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam party, has agreed with authorities that the protesters will not leave the government-designated area. But he has also hinted he could lead a march on the "Red Zone," the seat of Pakistan's government, to force Khan's resignation. The prime minister says he has no plans of quitting. It's unclear what Rehman's next move will be once his deadline expired on Sunday. Negotiations to defuse the standoff were taking place between members of Khan's government and opposition lawmakers. Authorities have said they won't try to stop the protests as long as they remain in the designated area, which stretches over a kilometre along a highway and into an open



**THE ELECTIONS** of 25 July were fraud elections. We neither accept the results nor the government that came into power after those polls.

**MAULANA REHMAN, Pakistan cleric**

area. Some protesters in the all-male encampment seemed prepared for a long stay, and had even begun turning the shipping containers into living spaces. "I want the government to bring more of these containers, they're now serving as our little homes here, as the weather is getting colder every night," said Gul Aman, a protester from the western Baluchistan province. Others were seen cooking meals and washing clothes outside their tents on Sunday. Several thousand volunteers dressed in head-to-toe yellow uniforms have been handling security, according to protest organizers. Many supporters also carried the black and white striped flag of the party. Rehman tried to ban female journalists from accessing the camp, but was forced to reverse his decision after sparking outrage on social media. — AP

### KARTARPUR READY FOR SIKH PILGRIMS: IMRAN

**Islamabad, Nov. 3:** Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan shared some of the dazzling pictures of the Kartarpur complex and Gurdwara Darbar Sahib, saying the revered venue is ready to welcome the Sikh pilgrims for the 550th birth anniversary celebrations of Guru Nanak Dev. The pictures were shared by Khan on his Twitter account ahead of the planned inauguration of the Kartarpur corridor on November 9. The year 2019 marks the 550th birth anniversary year of Sikhism founder Guru Nanak Dev, whose birthplace is Sri Nankana Sahib in Pakistan. "Kartarpur (is) ready to welcome Sikh pilgrims," he tweeted. In another tweet, he congratulated his own government for completing the construction work on time. "I want to congratulate our govt for readying Kartarpur, in record time, for Guru Nanak jee's 550th birthday celebrations," he said. It appears that Khan is trying to sell the idea of religious tourism by attracting millions of Sikhs who have several holiest places in Pakistan. — PTI



Imran Khan

### DAMAGE | CONTROL ■ Guests who fail to comply with policies will be removed & delisted: CEO

## Airbnb bans party houses after CA shooting

**Orinda, Nov. 4:** Airbnb's CEO said the company was taking actions against unauthorized parties in the wake of a deadly shooting at a Halloween party held at an Airbnb rental home in California. In a series of tweets, Brian Chesky said the San Francisco-based company is expanding manual screening of "high risk" reservations and will remove guests who fail to comply with policies banning parties at Airbnb rental homes. He also said the company is forming a "rapid response team" when complaints of unauthorized

parties come in. "We must do better, and we will. This is unacceptable," he tweeted. Five people died after a Thursday night shooting that sent some 100 terrified partygoers running for their lives in the San Francisco suburb of Orinda. The four-bedroom home had been rented on Airbnb by a woman who told the owner her dozen family members had asthma and needed to escape smoke from a wildfire. A fire burning in Sonoma County about 60 miles north of Orinda earlier in the week fouled the air



Brian Chesky

over a wide area. The owner was suspicious of a one-night rental on Halloween and before agreeing reminded the renter that no parties were

allowed, said a person. The owner, Michael Wang, said his wife reached out to the renter after neighbours contacted them about the party. The renter said there were only a dozen people at the home but Wang said he could see more people on video from his doorbell camera. "We called the police. They were on the way to go there to stop them, but before we got there the neighbour already sent us a message saying there was a shooting," he said. No arrests had been made and there was no immediate word on a motive for the attack. Two

guns were found at the property, authorities said. Three people, all from the Bay Area, died at the scene and a fourth died at the hospital, authorities initially said. The Contra Costa County Sheriff's Office identified them as Tiyon Farley, 22, of Antioch; Omar Taylor, 24, of Pittsburg; Ramon Hill Jr., 23, and Javier County, 29. The sheriff's office identified a fifth victim, 19-year-old Oshiana Tompkins of Vallejo and Hercules, saying she died at a hospital. Taylor's father, Omar Taylor Sr., said his son was hired to play music at the

party. "Wrong place, wrong time," he said. Laneisha Epps, his stepmother, stated that the family was devastated. "I personally think this was a senseless, careless act. It's such a traumatic experience the family is taking on now," Epps said. "Music and DJing was his happiness, I don't even think he was going in thinking there was trouble or anything." Airbnb is "urgently investigating" what happened, spokesman Ben Breit said in an email. Airbnb has banned the renter and home removed as a listing. — AP



Invest in  
companies  
with good  
promoters

Money

Don't be complacent  
with investmentquick  
BITES

INDICATORS		%
Sensex	40,165.03	+0.09
Nifty 50	11,890.60	+0.11
S&P 500	3,066.91	+0.97
Dollar (₹)	70.81	-0.15
Pound Sterling (₹)	91.40	-0.80
Euro (₹)	78.86	-0.64
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	39,395	▲181
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	61.69	+3.47
IN 10-Yr bond yield	+6.44	-0.14
US 10-Yr T-bill yield	+1.73	+2.48

\* As of Saturday

FPIs infuse  
₹12,476 cr into  
equities in Oct.

Foreign portfolio investors pumped in a net Rs 16,464 crore into the capital markets in October amid positive domestic and global cues. They pumped in a net Rs 12,475.7 crore into equities and Rs 3,988.9 crore into the debt segment during October 1-31. This translates into a total net investment of Rs 16,464.6 crore in the domestic capital markets.

3,400 branches  
of 26 PSBs shut  
in last 5 years

Over 3,400 branches of 26 public sector banks have been either closed or merged during the last five financial years. Of this, 75 per cent of the affected branches belong to the SBI. To an RTI query filed by a Neemuch-based activist Chandrashekhar Gaud, the RBI said 26 PSBs either closed or merged 253 in FY17, 2,083 branches in FY18 and 875 branches in FY19.

Iffco brings nano  
tech fertilisers  
for on-field trials

Iffco introduced its 'nano-technology' based products—nano nitrogen, nano zinc and nano copper—for on-field trials in Kalol, Gujarat, as part of its efforts to cut usage of chemical fertilisers and boost farmers' income. These products have the potential to reduce usage of conventional chemical fertilisers by 50 per cent besides raising crop output by 15-30 per cent, Iffco said.

Thomas Cook  
India not part of  
Fosun acquisition

Thomas Cook India said the sale of the travel company to China's Fosun does not include regions of India, Sri Lanka and Mauritius. "With regard to recent media reports, it is imperative to clarify that the reported sale of the Global Thomas Cook brand to Fosun of China does not include the regions of India, Sri Lanka and Mauritius," Thomas Cook India CMD Madhavan Menon said.

Printed & Published by T Venkateswarlu on behalf of Deccan Chronicle Holdings Limited. Printed & Published at Deccan Chronicle Presses situated at SP-3 Developed Plot, Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai. Editor: T.Venkatram Reddy, RNI Reg. No. TNENG/2008/25473 Air surcharge Re 1. © All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission of The Editor, Financial Chronicle is prohibited.

## Insurance firms to close about 80 non-compliant plans

LIC to withdraw many  
products from Nov. 30FALAKNAAZ SYED  
MUMBAI, NOV. 3

Public sector behemoth Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) is about to close over two dozen individual insurance products, eight group insurance plans and seven-eight riders on November 30. Among the retail products that would be closed are some of LIC's best sellers such as Jeevan Anand, Jeevan Umang, Jeevan Lakshya and Jeevan Labh.

These plans will be revised and relaunched in line with the insurance regulator's revised customer-centric product guidelines in the course of the next few months. However, the newer products would have lower bonus rates and higher premium rates.

According to top industry sources, around 75-80 life insurance products of the entire industry would go off the shelf after November 30 as they remain non-compliant to the new non-linked and linked insurance product regulations issued on July 8 2019.

LIC's insurance agents are pushing the existing products hard asking customers to buy them before they close on November 30.

A senior official from the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Irdai) told *Financial*

## PREMIUM RATES TO GO UP

► Some of LIC's best sellers such as Jeevan Anand, Jeevan Umang, Jeevan Lakshya and Jeevan Labh to be closed

► These will be relaunched in line with Irdai's revised guidelines in the next few

months

► Existing policies will not be affected by the changes

► Surrender of policies to be allowed after 2 years instead of 3 now

► LIC may close 25 individual plans and eight group products

*Chronicle*, "We don't see any disruption in the market. The insurers are on the job. Around 75-80 products may have been withdrawn by November 30 as they are not compliant. However, a significantly large number of products are compliant and would continue to be sold from December 1 with a tweak in pricing. Insurers will have to reprice the products within the bandwidth to manage their risk. In certain cases the premium rates can fall also.

"However please note that a 'product withdrawn' only means that it may not be ready to go to the market immediately but insurers can work on improving the withdrawn product in line with the (regulatory guidelines) and launch them back again. Also we have

allowed companies to offer products under the "Use and File" category where they can sell the products to customers and later file it with us for verification and approval."

The official added that the guidelines make insurance products "more customer-centric and curb mis-selling."

M. R. Kumar, Chairman, LIC, told FC, "We will be closing some products, modifying them as per the new norms and then relaunching them in the coming months."

Another LIC official said, "The Irdai has been liberal and offered insurers another extension of up to February to revise the remaining products. Our term plans and annuity plans are already compliant. However, around 25

individual plans, eight group products and seven to eight riders need to be closed and then revised and relaunched. It is a massive exercise as we will have to modify the product, prepare the policy documents, revise the benefit illustrations, change the software, train the agents to sell them. Time is a challenge, logistics and implementation will also be a challenge.

"The point is if you give customers a higher exit value, it would be at the expense of those who choose to continue their policies for longer term. If people are allowed to exit early, it will impact their maturity value. As per the existing norms, a policyholder can exit after three years but the new products have to pay surrender value from the 2nd year onwards. So while this will provide liquidity to policyholders, it will impact cash-flows and bonus distribution. Also, interest rates are falling and any uncertainty (in the economy) could impact bonus rates."

To discourage policyholders from surrendering policies early, the Irdai has increased the penalties for regular premium policies with an annualised premium between Rs 25,000 and Rs 50,000 and for single premium policies with premiums greater than Rs 25,000.

## Slower growth seen for NBFC-MFIs

SANGEETHA G  
CHENNAI, NOV. 3

Despite RBI increasing the lending limit for individual borrowers and households, industry observers project a slower growth for micro finance institutions (MFIs) in FY20 compared to FY19. Liability-side issues due to the NBFC crisis will keep the growth under check.

The assets under management (AUM) of NBFC-MFIs had grown by 47 per cent in FY19. Brickwork Ratings expects the AUM growth to be 40-45 per cent in FY20.

"Liability-side limitations due to the NBFC crisis will pose challenges for the industry. In the first two quarters, the growth has been subdued. Compared to the first half



of last year, MFIs are more cautious this time. Though growth could pick up in the subsequent quarters, it will limit the yearly growth below last year's levels," said Rajat Bahl, Chief Analytical Officer and Head-Financial Institutions, Brickwork Ratings.

In the June quarter, AUMs grew 4 per cent QoQ against 20 per cent in the same quarter last year. The YoY growth in June

quarter too was slower at 44 per cent against 77 per cent in the year-ago quarter. The total disbursements in the June quarter fell to Rs 16,137 crore from Rs 19,230 crore in the March quarter—a drop of 16 per cent.

Though MFIs have been receiving funds from banks, small MFIs have faced challenges in raising funds as these entities have been dependent on NBFCs. After the NBFC

crisis, some of the small MFIs have started working as business correspondents—partly or fully. As per the arrangement, these entities originate loans on behalf of the partner banks.

In order to boost lending at the bottom of the economic pyramid, RBI had recently increased the lending limit per borrower and household. The lending limit per eligible borrower has been raised from Rs 1 lakh to Rs 1.25 lakh. However, Brickwork does not expect any major incremental growth due to this announcement. "The number of loans which touch the current upper limit are not many. It will take some time for NBFC-MFIs to increase the average ticket size due to the liability challenges," said Bahl.

Indian vessels will not carry  
single-use plastics from Jan.

New Delhi, Nov. 3: Come January 1, and Indian ships will prohibit on board a large number of single-use plastic products, including ice cream containers, hot dish cups, microwave dishes and potato chips bags.

The decision has been taken by the Directorate General of Shipping following an appeal by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on August 15 to "take the first big step" towards freeing India of single-use plastics.

Not only a large number of single-use plastics will be prohibited to be used on board Indian ships but will also be banned in foreign ships when in Indian waters.

The Directorate General of Shipping has come out with an order prohibiting a large number of single-use plastics in Indian ships and foreign ships in Indian waters from January 2, 2020.

The list of items contain bags, trays, containers, food packaging film, milk bottles, freezer bags, shampoo bottles, ice cream con-



tainers, bottles for water and other drinks, dispensing containers for cleaning fluid and biscuits trays.

Items prohibited also include hot drink cups, insulated food packaging, protective packaging for fragile items, microwave dishes, ice cream tubs, potato chips bags and bottle caps.

Besides, the Directorate has banned use of single-use plastic cutlery, plates and cups, up to 10 litres of bottles for water and other drinks, garbage and shopping bags and dispensing containers for cleaning fluids which are less than 10 litres volume with immediate impact.

It has directed authorities to "ensure during surveys, inspection and audit of Indian ships that single-

use plastics are not found used/stored on board any Indian ship" and added that in case of non compliance and repeated offence it will be a case for detention.

It also said that foreign ships intending to enter Indian waters will have to declare single use plastic items on-board and no such items will be discharged at Indian ports.

Quoting international reports it said most common finds during international coastal cleanups are, in order of magnitude - cigarette butts, plastic beverage bottles, plastic bottle caps, food wrappers, plastic grocery bags, plastic lids, straw and stirrer, glass beverage bottles and other kind of plastic bags.

—PTI

RCEP trade deal to  
be delayed to 2020JENNY VAUGHAN &  
AIDAN JONES  
BANGKOK, NOV. 3

The signing of the world's largest trade pact will likely be kicked back to 2020, according to a draft statement by Southeast Asian leaders, delaying a deal craved by China as it seeks to temper the fallout from a painful tariff war with the US.

The 16-nation Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) spans from India to New Zealand and includes 30 per cent of global GDP and half of the world's people.

Objections by India have dampened hopes of finalising the pact at this week-end's Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) summit in Bangkok, where members of the 10-nation bloc have been joined by the premiers of India and China.

"Most market access negotiations have been completed and the few outstanding bilateral issues will be resolved by Feb 2020," said a draft agreement obtained by *AFP*.

Negotiations have sputtered for several years, but the statement said the text of all 20 chapters was now complete "pending the resolution of one" member, believed to be India.

But it said all members were "committed to sign the RCEP" next year in Vietnam, which will take over the Asean chair.

New Delhi is worried its small businesses will be hard hit by any flood of cheap Chinese goods.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi repeated his country's concerns during talks with Asean leaders on Sunday.

Modi said India's unresolved issues include "meaningful market access for all parties", according to a diplomat who attended the meeting.

Beijing sees RCEP as a central pillar of its trade strategy for its Asian neighbourhood, and it is backed by the leaders of Asean and who represent a 650 million-strong market.

The tariffs lobbied by the US and China on billions of dollars worth of each others' goods could drag

New Delhi, Nov. 3: Debt-

ridden mortgage firm DHFL said it has stopped payment to its creditors, including fixed deposit holders, following the direction of Bombay High Court.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Thailand's Prime Minister General Prayut Chan-O-cha (C) and his wife Naraporn Chan-O-cha pose for photographs, on the sidelines of the 35th Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Summit in Bangkok. — AFP

## Not joining would harm biz: CII

FC BUREAU  
NEW DELHI, NOV. 3

As the RCEP meeting enters a crucial phase in Bangkok, India Inc believes a pact would throw up both challenges as opportunities for Indian businesses.

However, CII, the country's largest industry body, feels that not being part of the proposed mega trade deal will harm India's exports and future investment flow by cutting off the country from the trading bloc comprising 15 other nations in terms of preferential access.

"Any decision of joining an agreement of this size and magnitude must not be based on our concerns with regards to just one country," said Vikram Kirloskar, President, CII.

The industry body expects increased trade with RCEP nations once the mega deal is signed. "By being part of the bloc, India will get an opportunity to tap large and vibrant economies

and grow its exports. Not being part of the bloc is tantamount to not having an even footing in terms of preferential access and losing export competitiveness," the CII said.

The CII statement assumes significance as a section of domestic industries has raised concern over the RCEP deal over tariff related issues. However, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had said on Saturday that India would consider whether its concerns and interests in trade in goods, services, and investments are being fully accommodated when he attends the RCEP Summit there.

"FTAs must be considered from their long term impact, both on our domestic market and the access it provides. Some of our industry may be domestically focused today, but in ten years would want the access to this most vibrant region of 15 other countries that RCEP provides", said Kirloskar.

growth to the lowest rate in over a decade, according to the IMF. That has spooked Asia-Pacific economies and—with the exception of India—sharpened the focus on getting the RCEP deal over the line.

Chinese premier Li Keqiang said earlier in the day his country remained "firmly committed to sup-

porting Asean centrality" as part of its regional ties.

He is expected to drive the case for RCEP when member states meet on Monday afternoon.

Li also professed Beijing's readiness "to work" with Asean states on a code of conduct in the contested South China Sea.

—AFP

## Stopped payment on court orders: DHFL

This clarification has come a day after Congress General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi termed the company a defaulter and slammed the UP government for investing the EFF

money in such a firm. She wondered whose interest was being served by investing Rs 2,000 crore of the employees' hard-earned money in such a company. —PTI

Tea exports see double-digit  
increase in prices this yearRITWIK MUKHERJEE  
KOLKATA, NOV. 3

A stagnation or marginal drop in exports volume notwithstanding, India managed to earn 10.93 per cent more from tea exports till September this calendar year, compared to what it had earned in January-September 2018. And this can be attributed to 11.77 per cent increase in the price realised, Tea Board of India statistics showed.

With the global prices having headed northward, Indian teas fetched Rs 227.67 a kg on average till September against Rs 203.69 during January-September 2018. That is, every kg fetched Rs 23.98 more than it did last year, marking a gain of 11.77 per cent.

Going by Tea Board data, tea exports from India remained nearly stagnant in the first 8 months of 2019 (from January to August). Tea exports stood at 162.18 million kg during the period from January to August 2019, compared to 162.15 million kg in the same period last year (2018). Over all



tea exports from India during 2018 stood at 249.11 million kg.

This coincided with Indian tea facing stiff competition from African teas in the UK, European Union and Pakistan as prices of the tea grown in Europe have declined significantly.

In another significant development, Kenya tea prices have fallen 22 per cent in a year and the Uganda crop is cheaper by 36 per cent.

Oversupply has caused the prices of African teas to fall to five year lows, which, in turn, has been impacting Indian tea exports. This is understandable because India cannot

Commodity  
Compass

offer teas at prices lower than the Africa tea. Mind you that the cost of production of tea is very high in India and any attempt to export teas at a lower price is bound to lead to heavy losses.

Offtake by the CIS countries, that figure among the top importers traditionally, are lower at 36.63 million kg compared to 41.35 million kg registered in January to August 2018. The other key tea importing country — Iran showed a steep jump at 40.96 million kg in

January to August 2019 as against 17.98 million kg in the last eight months.

On the domestic front, Tea Board of India statistics showed that tea prices in the first three quarters (Q3) of the current calendar in all the auction centres in the country have increased by 4.44 per cent over Jan-Sept 2018. Prices have increased in the auction centres in both the North and South, thereby proving an overall improvement in the prices all over the country. The average price in all the auction centres in the country till September went up to Rs 141.94 a kg from Rs 135.91 in January-September 2018, up by 4.44 per cent.

Quite interestingly, prices of CTC, the most common black tea sold locally, are not picking up. The Tea Board is not sitting idle. It is working on a plan to boost tea prices through modification of the auction system. It is also working on ways to enable sellers to reach out to a larger buyer base, and improve the quality of tea.



Brokers  
BYTES

Ramco Cements  
to benefit from  
lower costs

Amid the weak demand environment, Ramco Cement surprised with a robust 10 per cent volume growth, benefiting from its east operations and TN and Kerala and high trade sales. The second-largest cement operator in the South and with operations in the east, Ramco is expected to enjoy CAGRs over FY19-21 of 15 per cent in revenue and nine per cent in volumes supported by the commissioned capacity, pick-up in demand in H2 FY20 and a better pricing environment. The ₹958 EBITDA/tonne, up 15.4 per cent on year-on-year basis, was aided by savings in freight cost/tonne (down 9.5 per cent yoy) and greater revenue. Of the 6 million-tonne ongoing expansion at ₹3,430 crore capital expenditure in Q2 the 1 million-tonne Kolaghat GU expansion was completed. The average cost of interest on borrowings was 7.55 per cent. Lower costs and the benefits of the ongoing expansion plans would result in a better performance. The broking house gives a buy rating on the stock

Broking firm: Anand Rathi  
Rating: Buy  
Closing price: ₹800.90

Pain on Yes  
Bank P&L a/c  
to continue

Yes Bank reported a weak set of results with a huge loss of ₹600 crore due to sharp rise in gross NPAs (up 2.38 per cent to 7.4 per cent) leading to lower NIMs/higher LLP and one-time DTA impact of ₹710 crore. It has doubled LLP guidance to 2.5 per cent for FY20, hinting at more P&L pain. Fresh NPAs were sky-high at ₹5,900 crore (annualised 10 per cent of loans), while gross addition to BB & below portfolio was ₹5,200 crore with o/s now at ₹31400 crore (14 per cent of loans), which can go up further including further stress from real estate/telecom sector. The bank's CET 1 stands at 8.7 per cent and it has a binding offer of ₹1.2 billion to be raised by Nov-end from an investor, which should improve its CET 1 by 2.7 per cent to a still sub-optimal level of 11.4 per cent, which could be largely consumed for absorbing the NPA shock than growth. The broking house believes that heavy capital injection, if any, may ease the pressure on the capital front but P/L would continue to bleed. The sell rating is continued.

Broking firm: Emkay  
Rating: Buy  
Closing price: ₹66.60

Higher volume  
likely to help  
Petronet LNG

Petronet LNG reported an EBITDA of ₹1,160 crore, grew by 31 per cent year-on-year basis and 13 per cent QoQ in Q2FY20. EBITDA growth is aided by stellar operating volume, five per cent rise in regasification tariffs and adoption of Ind AS 116 with 'Lease Liability'. PBT grew by just two per cent YoY and six per cent QoQ mainly due to fall in other income and higher in interest cost. Notably, reported net profit is higher than pre-tax profit due to adoption of lower tax rate for HIFY20 and reversal of deferred tax liability of ₹380 crore. PAT grew by 96 per cent YoY and 97 per cent QoQ to ₹1,100 crore, exceeding market estimates by 75 per cent and 69 per cent respectively. Despite delay in commissioning of Kochi-Mangalore pipeline (February 20), the broking house believes lower spot LNG prices are a new growth driver, which will likely improve the LNG volume growth rate and maintains hold recommendation on the stock.

Broking firm: Reliance Sec  
Rating: Buy  
Closing price: ₹283.25

A check on your financial alertness  
Don't be complacent

Determine your life goals and chalk out a plan for achieving them

Money talk  
Adhil Shetty

Financial planning involves visualising the future. In what ways will the world change in 30 years? How much should you save for retirement? In which city should you buy a house? It's important to keep seeking answers to these questions. The future's an unpredictable place. You don't want an unexpected turn of events to take you by surprise and catch you financially unprepared. You must, therefore, guard against complacency. The going may be smooth for you now, but it may not be so forever. Complacency can hurt you financially. Let's look at some ways in which you can get complacent with your money.

LIVING WITHOUT A BUDGET

Financial goals are ends. Your income provides the means. But without a budget, you can't use the means to get to the ends. Budgets help you map what you earn, spend, save, and invest. They also tell you much you need to borrow or where you need to cut back. Your domestic budget is the 30,000-foot perspective of your financial life you must have in order to manage your money better. Without the perspective, the goals, or the discipline, you will struggle to manage your money well.

NOT SETTING FINANCIAL GOALS

Financial goals help you find focus in your financial life. These goals tell you how much and by when you would require money at any life stage. For example, you have calculated that if you retire in 30 years' time, you will require a retirement fund of ₹5 crore to maintain your current lifestyle. Similarly, you may be able to calculate that you need ₹30 lakh in 10 years to put your child through college. Without goals, you would not be able to find financial direction, save taxes, make profitable investments, or be able to find funds right when you need them. So go ahead - set the goals that will define your life.

NOT KEEPING A TAB ON YOUR BILLS

The budget provides you a big picture view of your financial life. But it's also important to keep track of the tinier details. Your bill payments must ideally be automated so that they are settled before the due date, freeing you up from the hassles of bill tracking. However, this doesn't mean that you should forgo looking at your bills altogether. Always read through your utility bills, credit card and bank statements, and any other statements to ascertain that what you are paying is as per your expectations, and no charges have been slipped in without your consent. Complacency about your bills would mean you may end up being exploited by your service provider in some way.

NOT KEEPING A TAB ON YOUR BILLS

Financial goals help you find focus in your financial life. These goals tell you how much and by when you would require money at any life stage. For example, you have calculated that if you retire in 30 years' time, you will require a retirement fund of ₹5 crore to maintain your current lifestyle. Similarly, you may be able to calculate that you need ₹30 lakh in 10 years to put your child through college. Without goals, you would not be able to find financial direction, save taxes, make profitable investments, or be able to find funds right when you need them. So go ahead - set the goals that will define your life.

NOT SETTING FINANCIAL GOALS

Financial goals help you find focus in your financial life. These goals tell you how much and by when you would require money at any life stage. For example, you have calculated that if you retire in 30 years' time, you will require a retirement fund of ₹5 crore to maintain your current lifestyle. Similarly, you may be able to calculate that you need ₹30 lakh in 10 years to put your child through college. Without goals, you would not be able to find financial direction, save taxes, make profitable investments, or be able to find funds right when you need them. So go ahead - set the goals that will define your life.

NOT REVIEWING YOUR INVESTMENTS

Investments should be reviewed periodically — at least once a quarter. Every year, as your income increases, you must step up your investment contributions. This will help you accelerate towards your financial goals and also avoid spending the additional income. You must track your investments for their rate of return, various risks from stock markets, inflation, interest rate fluctuations, currency volatility and so on. Whenever there is a problem and your investment isn't performing as per expectations, you must step in to take corrective actions. Continuing on a bad investment plan could have several, terrible consequences such as losing your money, getting a poor rate of return, and not being able to redeem the investment in your time of need.

Last but not least, it is sheer financial complacency when you know that insurance is important to protect your loved ones from future eventualities, but you still don't buy coverage. Having health insurance is among your financial priorities, and so is owning term insurance if you have dependents. You can keep financial complacency away by being aware of your financial priorities, acknowledging your risks, and working towards overcoming them.

NOT REVIEWING YOUR INVESTMENTS

Investments should be reviewed periodically — at least once a quarter. Every year, as your income increases, you must step up your investment contributions. This will help you accelerate towards your financial goals and also avoid spending the additional income. You must track your investments for their rate of return, various risks from stock markets, inflation, interest rate fluctuations, currency volatility and so on. Whenever there is a problem and your investment isn't performing as per expectations, you must step in to take corrective actions. Continuing on a bad investment plan could have several, terrible consequences such as losing your money, getting a poor rate of return, and not being able to redeem the investment in your time of need.

STICKING TO THE SAME JOB WITHOUT ANY GROWTH

Sticking to a job that is financially rewarding is a good idea. However, not seeking opportunities to learn and not seeking growth is not a great idea. In a world where technological leaps happen every few months, it is absolutely important to keep updating your knowledge and skillset to remain competitive in the workforce. Not doing so would lead to stagnation and eventually when your skills become outdated, your finances would be impacted.

The writer is CEO, BankBazaar.com

INTEREST RATES ON PERSONAL LOAN

EMI on Loan Up to ₹1,00,000 for four-year Tenure

Lender's Name	Floating Rate (%)	EMI (In Rs)
Bank Of India	10.5 - 13.5	2,560 - 2,708
IDBI Bank	9.65 - 14.0	2,519 - 2,733
Punjab National Bank	9.95 - 14.50	2,534 - 2,758
Union Bank	10.10-13.2	2,541 - 2,693
SBI	10.55 - 14.95	2,563 - 2,781
HDFC Bank	10.75 - 21.3	2,572 - 3,113
ICICI Bank	11.25 - 22.0	2,597 - 3,151
Kotak Bank	11.5 - 24.0	2,609 - 3,260
Canara Bank	11.6 - 15.3	2,614 - 2,798
Axis Bank	12.0 - 24.0	2,633 - 3,260

The EMI range is indicative and calculated on the basis of interest rate range as provided in the table. Actual EMI may include other fees and charges as per bank's terms and conditions.

Compiled by BankBazaar.com using data from bank websites. Data is correct as on Oct 30.

Invest in companies with good promoters

Invest talk  
R. Balakrishnan

I used to frequently meet up with one of the most popular and successful equity investors of Mumbai, in the nineties. Apart from being an aggressive risk taker, he could form a quick picture of 'tomorrow' and what companies and industries could be like in the next 10 years. He had tremendous patience and also the stomach to absorb wrong calls. He was not bothered by loss of money. One difference we used to have was on promoter quality. Given my notoriously suspicious and sceptical nature, my first call would be to run

away from bad ones. I recall we were discussing McDowell and Shaw Wallace. In those days, the stocks used to trade below book. The balance sheets were not great, the market reputation of the managements was terrible and the general consensus was that the accounts were suspect. The friend was busy buying blocks of shares from UTI (the go to place when you wanted to buy large blocks of illiquid shares without moving the price) and accumulating them. His logic was that these companies had great brands and the products

will outlive the promoters. It was a question of patience. Of course, he was proved right. Me with my scepticism and empty pockets did precisely nothing. So, a bad promoter and a great business can be a winning combination, provided, you buy at a good price and the promoter gets out of the saddle. The question before me is, do we find such things today? I am sure we will. Unfortunately, unlike the nineties, today the investors' willingness to bet on anything and anyone is infinitely more. So, opportunities are fleeting and there is someone betting on every number on the roulette and most numbers will have many bets. This means that it is very difficult for someone to be the early bird. There are businesses we identify. And bet early. We are don-

ning the hat of a Venture Capital investor. The problem often with this approach is that the management may not change at all. Then the next bet is that the second or third generation is more tuned in to the capital markets and will do things so that the share price gets a boost. For instance, in the past, the first-generation entrepreneur lived in an era of controls and a capital market without institutional or foreign participation. He would take out as much as he could from the company and build his personal wealth. Now, things have changed. If he shows good profits and growth, the P/E multiple of the stock expands big time. Thus, a rupee not stolen gets converted into significantly higher 'wealth' as the market gives a higher valua-

tion. The younger generation is aware of this and is using this strategy better. They also understand the need to keep the profits growing and meeting market expectations. They are also helped by the fact that they can pay themselves good salaries which their founders could not take. Thus, a lot of old businesses have now become 'valuable' businesses also. The risk one runs is that many managements give in to the goal of growing profits and resort to accounting magic to keep the illusion on. What I notice is that in a bull market, everyone ignores promoter history and valuations touch new highs. In this noise we make the most mistakes as we are swayed by the noise. We start believing in the number '30'. Thirty per cent growth, 30 per

cent EBITDA and sustainable for 30 years. Promoters and managements, who we are sceptical about in bear markets, become prodigal sons in bull market. We justify our investments by saying that this promoter won't do us in as he is a changed man. Finally, they come crashing. It is just a matter of time. I have not come across tigers that have changed their stripes. The key thing when we bet on such kind of stocks is to be aware of the risk that we are taking. We are trying to ride a short and dangerous wave, hoping that the market will have enough believers in the story when we want to get out. It is very unlikely that we would like to keep such stocks in the box for our grandchildren. My friend made a pile of money in the vice stocks

after nearly two decades. He also wrote off half a dozen or more of investment calls he took. The key thing was that he never risked his all money on one stock. He was careful enough to put only so much in a single stock, that losing everything did not make a difference to his quality of sleep. Our markets today is at an interesting spot. The proven high quality is at expensive prices. So the focus and attention have shifted to the stocks where prices have collapsed over the last one year. Believe me, it is a treasure hunt. Finding good quality promoters, whose integrity and quality have been proven, is the key to avoiding mishaps. (The writer is a veteran investment advisor. He can be reached at balakrishnanr@gmail.com)



Tax matters  
Kamal Rathi

Share sale gain  
is taxed at 15%

I am a senior citizen aged 65 year and a pensioner. I receive my pension through Canara Bank, Bengaluru. I am charged TDS by the bank on pension paid to me. I would like to know from you whether TDS falls under the category of advance tax or some other category. If it falls under the advance tax category, why am I being charged with this as the senior citizens are not required to pay advance tax. Canara Bank has refused to accept my argument. If it is an unauthorised deduction, can I ask Canara Bank to pay me four per cent interest on sums wrongly deducted?

SRIDHAR SHUKLA  
Via mail

A) If the pension received by you is in excess of the threshold limit (after taking into consideration the deductions under chapter VI-A) specified under the Income-Tax Act, TDS needs to be deducted on the excess by the payer and deposited with the department. The advance tax provisions are different from TDS provisions and are not applicable to the senior citizens, who are resident in India without having business income during the year. The deduction of tax in your case appears to be appropriate. However, if TDS is more than the tax you are liable to pay, you claim the excess amount as a refund from the income-tax department by filing tax return.

If the short-term capital gains arise from dealing in shares through a stock exchange, where Securities Transaction Tax (STT) is charged at the time of sale, the gain will be charged to tax at the rate of 15 per cent u/s 111A

In the current year 2019-20, my wife has earned ₹4,35,300 — which comprise of short-term capital gains of ₹3,65,200 from trading and investments in shares through stock exchange and ₹70,100 as interest from bank deposits. Please tell me if the basic exemption can be exhausted against the short-term capital gains earned. What is the rate of tax is applicable if this income is taxable. Is she eligible for deduction under Section 80C against the short-term capital gain?

SATYA SAI  
Via email

A) In the instant case, the entire income that is chargeable to tax after exhausting the basic exemption against interest income comprises of only short-term capital gains. If the short-term capital gains arise from dealing in shares through a recognised stock exchange, where Securities Transaction Tax (STT) is charged at the time of sale, the gain will be charged to tax at the rate of 15 per cent under Section 111A.

No deduction under Section 80C can be claimed in respect of such income under the head capital gain arising from the sale of shares through a recognised stock exchange where STT is charged at the time of sale in view of restriction under Section 111A(2). You may alternatively choose to claim deduction under Section 80C against income from bank deposits.

The amount after such deduction may be reduced from the basic exemption limit and such balance left after the basic exemption which is not adjusted against bank deposits may be set-off against the short-term capital gains and the balance, if any, will be charged to tax at the rate of 15 per cent in accordance with section 111A.

My father is senior citizen. He is spending ₹5,000 for purchasing his medicines every month. How can he show this expenditure in his ITR filing for claiming deduction?

JITHENDRA  
Via email

A) Deduction for money spent on medical treatment can be claimed by an individual under Section 80DDB. But the deduction is available only for diseases prescribed in I-T rule 11DD(1).

The payment for the treatment of such diseases or ailment should have been made by himself. In case of HUF, it can pay for any of its members.

The assessee is required to obtain the prescription for such medical treatment from a civil surgeon.

(The writer is a Hyderabad-based chartered accountant. He can be reached at info@rathiandmalanis.com)





New look

As Microsoft tries to move on from the Internet Explorer, Edge browser gets new logo

# Technomics

PAGE 13

DECCAN CHRONICLE

MONDAY | 4 NOVEMBER 2019 | CHENNAI

SHORT TAKES



## MICROSOFT'S 47-HOUR GLOBAL SKYPE-A-THON

New Delhi, Nov. 3: Students, teachers and experts from across the globe will be able to take virtual field trips, experience different cultures and connect with peers in different countries using Skype and other tools in the 47-hour non stop "Skype-a-thon" from November 5.

The event, organised by Microsoft Education, aims to leverage technology to bring classrooms out of physical boundaries and provide students with a holistic approach across the globe.

According to Vinnie Jauhari, director of Education Advocacy, Microsoft, "It will unite and introduce students to diverse culture and experiences from around different corners of the globe, helping them develop empathy and compassion for others. Moreover, it will bring educator experts from different platforms and zones to interact with students through engaging activities and programs."

"With participants from 110 countries to empower the sharing of ideas and knowledge, the ultimate goal is to travel over 17 million virtual miles," she added.

With the theme "Open hearts, Open minds," the tech meet will enable students, educators and experts to connect from around the world using a variety of tools like Skype, Teams and Flipgrid.

"We started this initiative in 2014 by connecting students and experts from around the world to communicate and discuss real-world topics. Through this year's Global Learning Connection, we are bringing in more opportunities for more students to enable them to exchange ideas that can make a real difference in the world," said Manish Prakash, country general manager, public sector, education and healthcare, Microsoft. —PTI



## CHINA GETS INTO BLOCKCHAIN RACE WITH U.S.

Beijing, Nov. 3: China has launched an ambitious effort to challenge the US dominance in blockchain technology, which it could use for everything, from issuing digital money to streamlining a raft of government services and tracking Communist Party loyalty.

The technology received a crucial endorsement from President, Xi Jinping, last week, a signal that the government sees blockchain as an integral part of the country's plan to become a high-tech superpower. Beijing is the latest in a handful of countries to have adopted a law strictly governing the encryption of data, particularly blockchain technology, which allows the storage and direct exchange of data without going through an intermediary.

Reputedly unfalsifiable, blockchain is a database shared across a network of computers. Once a record has been added to the chain, it is almost impossible to change.

It is perhaps best known for underpinning the operation of cryptocurrencies such as bitcoin, which Beijing may seek to replicate as it pushes ahead with its plans for a world-leading government-run digital currency.

Although the new law for blockchain "is still rather vague," the country is clearly one of the most active in terms of regulation, Stanislas Pogorzelski, editor of specialist site Cryptonaute.fr, said.

"China has understood very well that to stay a superpower, you have to be at the forefront of new technologies," he said. —AFP

# Android bug let hackers spread malware, fixed

Millions of devices with older OS still face malware risk

Washington, Nov. 3: In what may be seen as a sign of relief and an indication of potential security threats, Google last month fixed a patch that could let hackers spread malware to a nearby phone through a little-known android OS feature called NFC (Near-Field Communication) beaming.

NFC beaming works with an internal android OS service known as android beam. It allows an android device to send data such as images, files, videos, or even apps, to another nearby device using NFC radio waves. It is generally seen as an unpopular alternative to WiFi and Bluetooth.

In general, apps or the APK files sent through NFC beaming are stored on a disk and a notification would appear on the screen. The notification asks the user if he/she wants to allow the NFC service to install an app from an unknown source.

However, in January this year, a security researcher, Y. Shafra-novich discovered that apps sent via NFC beaming on android 8 or later versions would not show the notification.

Instead, the notification would allow the user to

## ROOT CAUSE LIES IN NFC

■ If users have the NFC service and the Android Beam service enabled, attackers could plant malware on their phones.

■ The October 2019 android patches removed it from the OS whitelist of trusted sources.

■ Google says the loophole wasn't meant to be, as the android beam service was never meant as a way to install apps, but merely as a way to transfer data.



install the app with one tap, without any security warning.

While the lack of a notification sounds unimportant, it has turned out to be a major issue in android's security model. android devices aren't allowed to install apps from 'unknown sources' — as anything installed from outside the official Play Store is considered untrusted and unverified.

If users want to install an app from outside the

Play Store, they have to visit the 'Install apps from unknown sources' section of their android OS and enable the feature.

Until android 8, this option was a system-wide setting, the same for all apps. But, since android 8, Google re-designed this mechanism into an app-based setting.

In latest android versions, users can visit the 'Install unknown apps' section in android's security settings, and allow specific apps to install

other apps. For example, the Chrome and Dropbox android apps are allowed to install apps, similar to the Play Store app, without being blocked.

The bug resided in the fact that the android Beam app was also whitelisted, receiving the same level of trust as the official Play Store app.

Google said it wasn't meant to happen, as the android beam service was never meant as a way to install applications, but merely as a way to transfer data from device to device.

The October 2019 android patches removed the android Beam service from the OS whitelist of trusted sources.

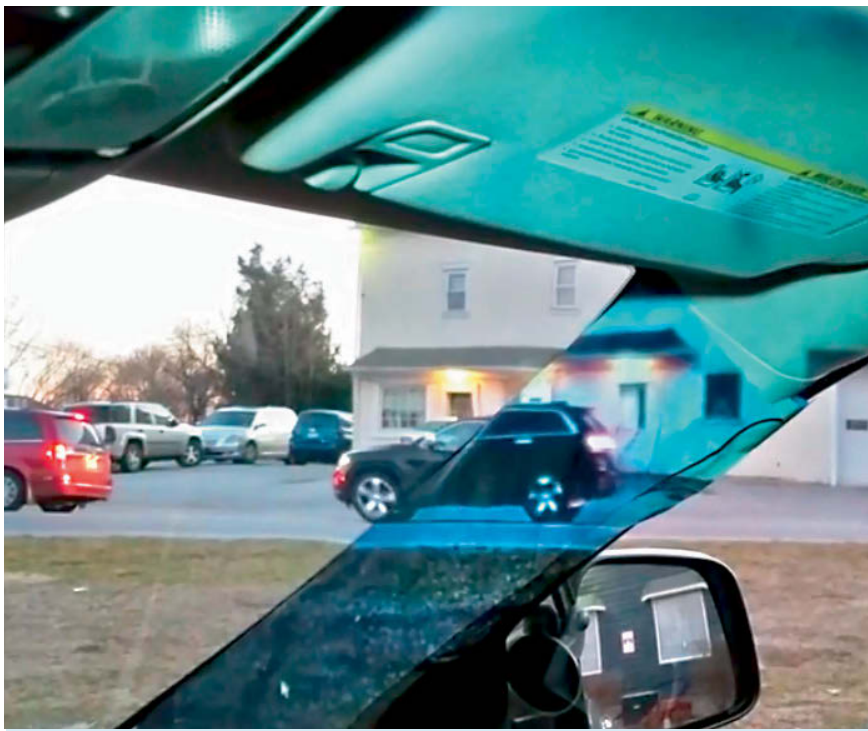
However, many millions of users remain at risk. If users have the NFC service and the android Beam service enabled, a nearby attacker could plant malware on their phones.

Since there's no prompt for an install from an unknown source, tapping the notification starts the malicious app's installation. Also, there's a danger that many users might misinterpret the message as coming from the Play Store, and install the app, thinking it's an update. —Agencies

## GOOGLE TO GIVE DOCS WEB-LIKE SEARCH RESULTS

Washington, Nov. 3: Despite Google's slow-paced development into its recently created health unit, it has given a hint on what it is that it is focusing on. Google health lead, David Feinberg, has outlined some of the ideas his team has and they revolve around search for both patients and doctors. Overall, it looks like the project is aimed at making life easier in healthcare aspects. CNBC's reports also confirm the project details.

Feinberg's team looks to build a search bar that helps doctors find medical records - a model that would replicate the Google Search. For example, a doctor would be able to trace a patient's medical history just by entering his age in the search bar, instead of using the patient's name. Google is considering a Flights-style-dedicated search experience for health. Patients could research conditions without wading through the regular web to find trustworthy info. However, it is not certain how close the project is to completion. Also, it should be seen how Google plans to play the advertising card. —Agencies



## SPOTLESS SOLUTION FOR BLIND SPOTS

A TEENAGER FROM PENNSYLVANIA CAME UP WITH THE 'IMPROVING AUTOMOBILE SAFETY BY REMOVING BLIND SPOTS' PROJECT TO TACKLE THE ISSUE OF BLIND SPOTS.

■ The student found the solution by installing a camera behind the car's pillar which sends a video to a projector which, in turn, projects a live feed onto the inside part of the pillar, making it convenient to visualise for the driver.

■ 'There are so many accidents, injuries and deaths that could have been prevented by a pillar not being there,' the 14-year-old adds.

■ The student won the coveted \$25,000 Samueli Foundation Prize, the top award in the Broadcom Masters, USA's premier science and engineering competition for middle school students

■ The project makes the camera invisible while enabling the driver to see behind it.



# US board drafts AI ethics guidelines for tech cos

Washington, Nov. 3: Amid growing concerns over policy tightening with respect to dealing with applications of Artificial Intelligence (AI), the US defense department is making strides in its groundwork for formulating guidelines for the ethical use of AI.

The department's defense innovation board has published draft guidelines for AI ethics that aim to keep the emerging technology in control.

Some of these guidelines involve checking reliability in use of the technology while keeping in mind the traditional practices and existing policies. One key aspect that featured in the draft was on human responsibility — the ethical use.

The draft aspires for an AI that avoids unintended bias in algorithms, such as racism or sexism. The technology could lead to

■ A governable AI, that can stop itself if it detects that it's about to cause unnecessary harm, is desired.

people being treated unfairly, the board said, even if they're not necessarily in life-and-death situations.

It also wants to check with the military, that its data sources were neutral.

If not for all situations, bias could be useful for targeting key combatants or minimising civilian casualties, the draft mentioned.

The draft calls for a 'governable AI' that can stop itself if it detects that it's about to cause unnecessary harm and control itself in time. It also suggests switching to a human operator if need be.

Highlighting the risks

involved in having fully automated weapons, the board aims at reducing the chances of AI becoming uncontrollable.

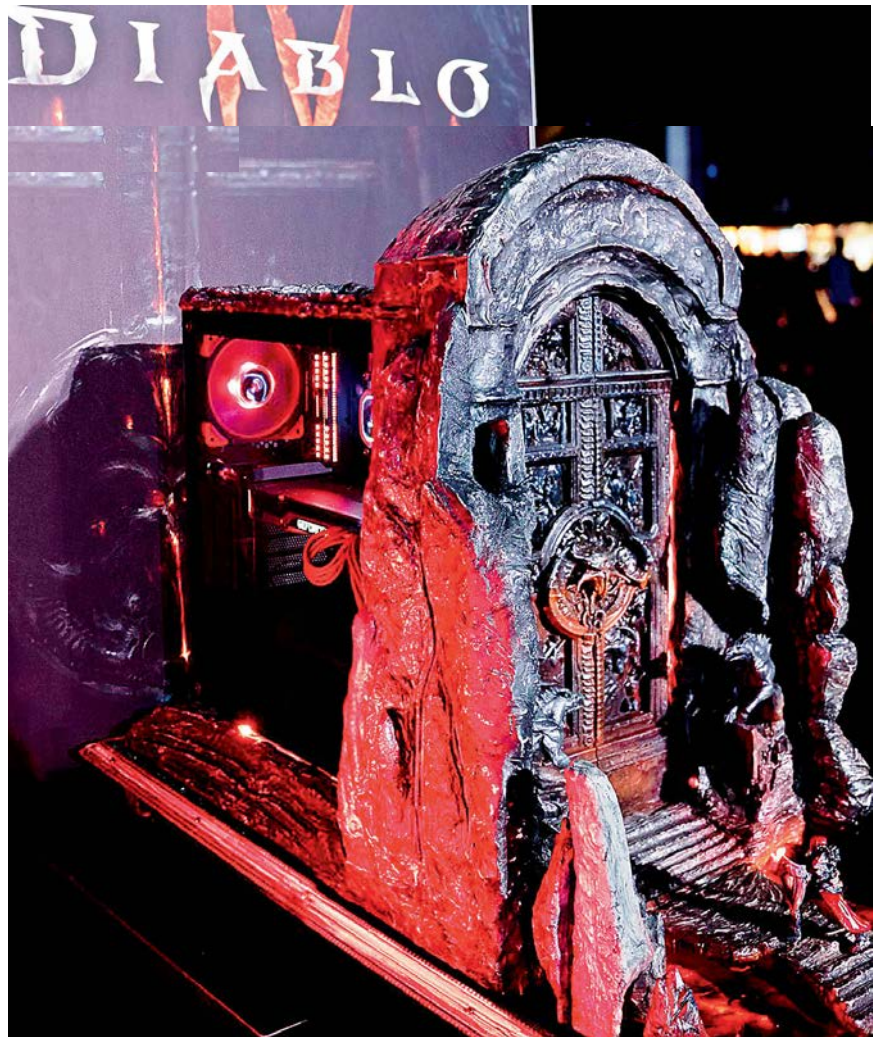
The draft includes a call for 'traceable AI' output that lets people see how an AI system reached its conclusion. While the draft is promising, the challenge is implementing it.

It is easy to promise more accountable and trustworthy AI, but it is another thing to ensure that every military branch follows those ideals with every project.

As observed, though, the department may have an advantage over tech companies in that it's starting with a relatively blank slate. It doesn't have to make exceptions for current AI projects or else rethink its existing strategy — the guidelines should be there from day one.

—Agencies

## Diablo delight !



A #Diablo4 custom PC showcased at the Corsair booth at BlizzCon 2019. Blizzard confirmed that Diablo Immortal players will be able to create a brand new, original hero. They can choose between six classes — Barbarian, Crusader, Demon Hunter, Monk, Necromancer, and Wizard.

# There's more to India's woes than data localisation



Rohan Seth

The personal data protection bill is yet to become a law and the debate is still rife on the costs and benefits of data localisation. It is yet to be seen officially if the government is going to mandate localisation in the data protection bill and to whom it is going to apply. Regardless of whether or not data localization ends up enshrined in the law, it is worth taking a step back and asking why the government is pushing for it in the first place.

For context, localisation is the practice of storing domestic data on domestic soil. One of the most credible arguments for why it should be the norm is that it will help law enforcement. Most platforms that

facilitate messaging are based in the US (think WhatsApp and Messenger). Because of the popularity of these free services, a significant amount of the world's communication takes place on these platforms. This also includes communication regarding crimes and violation of the law.

This is turning out to be a problem because in cases of law violations, communications on these platforms might end up becoming evidence that Indian law enforcement agencies may want to access. The government has already made multiple efforts to make this process easier for law enforcement. In December 2018, the ministry of home

affairs issued an order granting powers of "interception, monitoring, and decryption of any information generated, transmitted, received or stored in any computer," to ten central agencies, to protect security and sovereignty of India.

But this does not help in cases where the information may be stored outside the agencies' jurisdiction. So, in cases where Indian law enforcement agencies want to access data held by US companies, they are obliged to abide by lawful procedures in both the US and India.

The bottleneck here is that there is no mechanism that can keep up with this phenomenon (not counting the CLOUD Act, as India has not entered into an executive agreement under it).

Indian requests for access to data form a fair share, owing to India's large population and growing internet penetration. Had there been a mechanism that provided for these requests in a timely

The byproduct of the mass adoption of social media and messaging is that the electronic criminal evidence world over is now concentrated in the US.

manner, the case for localising data would have been significantly weakened.

According to Google's transparency report in 2017, between January and June, India had 3,843 user data queries, which affected 6,343 accounts. Between January and June the next year, Facebook received 16,580 requests for data from the Indian government. Most of these requests are likely to have been processed largely by one mechanism, called the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaties (MLATs).

MLATs are agreements between two or more countries to facilitate law

enforcement through the provision of data. Most requests are US-bound, thanks to the dominance of US messaging, search, and social media apps. Each request has to justify 'probable cause by US standards.' This, combined with the number of requests from around the world, weighs down on the system and makes it inefficient. People have called the MLATs broken and there have been several calls for reform of the system.

A comprehensive report by the Observer Research Foundation (ORF) found that the MLAT process on global average takes 10 months for law enforcement requests to receive electronic evidence. 10 months of waiting for evidence is simply too long for two reasons. Firstly, in cases of law enforcement, time tends to be of the essence. Secondly, countries such as India have a judicial system with a huge backlog of cases. 10-month-long timelines to access electronic evidence

make things worse.

Access to data is an international bottleneck for law enforcement. The byproduct of the mass adoption of social media and messaging is that electronic criminal evidence for all countries is now concentrated in the US.

The inefficiency of MLATs is one of the key reasons why data-sharing agreements are rising in demand and in supply, and why the CLOUD Act was so well-received as a solution that reduced the burden on MLATs.

Countries need to have standards that can fasten access to data for law enforcement, an understanding of what kinds of data are permissible to be shared across borders, and common standards for security.

India's idea is that localizing data will help with access to it for law enforcement, at least eventually down the line. It may compensate for not being a signatory to the Budapest Convention. It is unclear how effective localisation

will be. Facebook's data stored in India is still Facebook's data.

Facebook is still an US company and should still be subject to US standards of data-sharing, which are one of the toughest in the world and include an independent judge assessing the probable cause, refusing bulk collection or overreach. This is before we take into account encryption.

For Indian law enforcement, the problem in this whole mess is not where the data is physically stored. It is the process that makes access to it inefficient. Localisation is not a direct fix, if it proves to be one at all. The answer lies in better data-sharing arrangements, based on plurilateral terms. The sooner this realized, the faster the problems can be resolved.

(Rohan is a policy analyst at the technology and policy programme at The Takshashila Institution. Views are personal.)





## Morgan wants more

Eoin Morgan has called for an improved fielding performance when his side takes on New Zealand in their third T20I in Nelson on Tuesday



If you're cutting overs off the game and you still have a 20-minute break, it doesn't make much sense to me — Aaron Finch questions the need for long interval between innings

## SHORT TAKES

### Dutch take T20 WC qualifying title

**Dubai:** Netherlands cruised past Papua New Guinea by seven wickets in the final of the T20 World Cup qualifying tournament on Saturday with Ben Cooper and Brandon Glover starring with bat and ball. Both the Dutch and PNG had already made sure of their places at next year's T20 World Cup in Australia along with Oman, Scotland, Namibia and Ireland with Saturday's game at Dubai International Stadium being played for classification purposes. PNG struggled to 128 for 8 off their 20 overs with Glover taking 3-24 before the Dutch reached their target with six balls to spare after Cooper had made 41 off 33 balls. Earlier, Ireland defeated Namibia by 27 runs in the third-place play-off. — AFP

### Pakistan saved by rain in T20 opener

**Sydney:** Pakistan were saved by the rain Sunday as persistent showers halted a rampant Aaron Finch as Australia headed for victory in their opening Twenty20 international. The visitors managed 107 for five in a reduced 15 overs due to the weather at the Sydney Cricket Ground, with Australia set a target of 119 under the Duckworth-Lewis-Stern (DLS) method. With dark clouds looming, Finch plundered 37 off the first 3.1 overs, leaving David Warner, who scored 217 without losing his wicket in his previous three innings, a mere spectator at the other end. He finished Sunday not out on two. But the heavens opened again, with Australia, fresh from a 3-0 whitewash of Sri Lanka, stranded on 41 without loss when the match was abandoned, with no result declared. "It's frustrating," said the Australian skipper. "But you can't do too much about the weather. We played really well. To restrict them to 107 off 15 overs was a great effort and then to be on track to get them was nice." A valid result would have been declared if 11 more balls had been bowled under DLS. — AFP



New Zealand captain Tim Southee (centre) celebrates the wicket of England's Sam Billings during the T20 in Wellington on Sunday. — AFP

## Kiwis catch England out with de Grandhomme's safe hands

**Wellington, Nov. 3:** The safe hands of Colin de Grandhomme proved crucial as New Zealand drew level with England 1-1 in their Twenty20 international series in Wellington on Sunday. While de Grandhomme was pouncing all four skied balls that went his way, England were left to rue an uncomfortable day in the field with six spilled chances including three by James Vince. New Zealand, who suffered a seven-wicket loss in the first match on Friday, were sent in to bat first and made their most of the errant fielding to post 176 for eight. Martin Guptill at the top of the innings clouted 41 off 28 deliveries, while Jimmy Neesham belted 42 off 22,

**BRIEF SCORES**  
New Zealand 176/8 in 20 overs (M. Guptill 41, C. de Grandhomme 28, R. Taylor 28, J. Neesham 42, Curran 2/22, Jordan 3/23) bt England 155 in 19.5 overs (D. Malan 39, E. Morgan 32, C. Jordan 36, Southee 2/25, Ferguson 2/34, Santner 3/25, Sodhi 2/37).

including four sixes, before he was removed on the final ball of the innings. De Grandhomme also pushed the pace, facing only 12 balls for a whirlwind 28. England in reply looked comfortable at 91 for four in the 11th over before New Zealand removed the remaining six wickets to end the innings with a ball

to spare. Mitchell Santner claimed three for 25 while Tim Southee, Lockie Ferguson and Ish Sodhi took two wickets apiece. England captain Eoin Morgan said it was easy to analyse the reasons for the loss, and the issues were repairable. "We dropped catches and we continued to lose wickets," he said. "We need to keep the attacking positive mindset. I think it's important to make mistakes, but I think the most important part is to learn from them." After England lost Johnny Bairstow first ball, and Vince in the second over, Morgan (32) and Dawid Malan (39) set about rebuilding the innings. — AFP



Bangladesh wicket-keeper Mushfiqur Rahim catches Shikhar Dhawan short of the crease during the first T20 in New Delhi on Sunday. — Biplob Banerjee

# India choke

## Rohit & Co. go down to Bangla in smog-hit Delhi

**New Delhi, Nov. 3:** Mushfiqur Rahman singlehandedly fired Bangladesh to their maiden T20 win over India with an unbeaten 60, choking the fancied hosts in the smog-hit series opener here on Sunday. As cricket took centre stage despite severe pollution, Bangladesh negotiated the pitch much better than India, who made 148 for six on a sticky surface. The Indian batsmen appeared over-cautious after being invited to bat as the young brigade disappointed the strong fans. Chasing 149, Bangladesh overhauled the target with three balls to spare to record their first ever win against India in nine meetings. With Bangladesh needing 22 off the last 12 balls, Rahim (60 not out off 43) smashed four boundaries off as many balls in the penultimate over bowled by Khaleel Ahmed to tilt the game in his team's favour. He and Soumya Sarkar (39 off 35 balls) added 60 runs for the third wicket to steer Bangladesh closer to victory. The second T20 will be played in Rajkot on Thursday. After Khaleel cleaned up Sarkar, Rahim was dropped by Krunal Pandya off Chahal when the batsman was on 38. Bangladesh lost Liton Das (7) early but debutant Mohammed Naim (26) and



Bangladesh's Shafiu Islam celebrates after dismissing Rohit Sharma. — AFP

## SCORECARD

**India:** Rohit Sharma lbw b Shafiu 9, Shikhar Dhawan run out (Mahmudullah/Rahim) 41, Lokesh Rahul c Mahmudullah b Aminul Islam 15, Shreyas Iyer c Naim b Shafiu 22, Rishabh Pant c Naim b Shafiu 27, Shivam Dube c & b Afif Hossain 1, Krunal Pandya (not out) 15, Washington Sundar (not out) 14. **Extras (LB-3, W-1) 4. Total (for six wickets in 20 overs) 148.**  
**FoW:** 1-10, 2-36, 3-70, 4-95, 5-102, 6-120.  
**Bowling:** Shafiu 4-0-36-2, Al-Amin 4-0-27-0, Rahman 2-0-15-0, Aminul 3-0-22-2, Soumya 2-0-16-0, Afif 3-0-11-1, Mosaddek 1-0-8-0, Mahmudullah 1-0-10-0.  
**Bangladesh:** Liton Das c Rahul b Chahal 7, Mohammad Naim c Dhawan b Chahal 26, Soumya Sarkar b Ahmed 39, Mushfiqur Rahim (not out) 60, Mahmudullah (not out) 15. **Extras (lb 3, w4) 7. Total (for three wickets in 19.3 overs) 154.**  
**FoW:** 1-8, 2-54, 3-114.  
**Bowling:** Chahal 3-0-24-1; Sundar 4-0-25-0; Ahmed 4-0-37-1; Chahal 4-0-24-1; Pandya 4-0-32-0; Dube 0-3-0-9-0.



Shivam Dube collects his maiden India cap from Rohit Sharma. — BCCI

## Crazy fans throng Kotla despite smog

**New Delhi, Nov. 3:** More than 25,000 crazy cricket fans paid little heed to public health emergency, thronging the Feroz Shah Kotla in large numbers to watch India play a T20 game against Bangladesh, braving the toxic air pollution in national capital. Alarmed by the dipping air quality, the state government had ordered shutting down of schools till November 5 but students were present in large numbers to watch their cricketing heroes in action. There were a few wearing anti-pollution masks but the number was insignificant compared to the ones who didn't feel it necessary to use them. Former India player and current East Delhi MP Gautam Gambhir has been critical of BCCI's decision to hold the match despite pollution levels hitting the peak. The sentiment was also echoed by Test specialist Ravichandran Ashwin, who voiced his concerns on health issues for the players. Just before the start of the match at 7 pm, the average Air Quality Index (AQI) level stood at 281 (average) at the ITO, which is near the stadium

The CPCB figures available on their website revealed that the average AQI was 487, which was in 'severe' category. However it was business as usual for the cricket fans even though there was no Virat Kohli, Jasprit Bumrah or Hardik Pandya and the opposition was Bangladesh. "There is no cricket match in Delhi before next year's IPL, so we wanted to come and watch. Yes, pollution is an issue but life has not stopped. We are doing everything that is in routine," said Aditya Narula, who came from West Delhi with his kids to watch the match. Delhi woke up to light shower this morning and perhaps it helped in improving the visibility with DDCA heaving a sigh of relief. Mask-wearing Bangladeshi players and support staff had grabbed the front-page headlines in build up to the match but the visiting players never complained about the poor air quality. However, the conditions did not improve drastically and smog, which had settled low, may have made sighting the ball difficult. — PTI

## Fans should be provided top class facilities



Hemant Kenkre  
Silly Point

"We'll drink a drink a drink To Lily the pink the pink the pink The saviour of our human race For she invented, medicinal compound Most efficacious in every case"

The lyrics of the 'Pink song' by The Scaffold's which hit the top of the UK Singles Chart in end 1968 are likely to repeat its purpose again. On November 22, India will finally play a day-night Test match at the iconic Eden Gardens in Kolkata with a Pink ball. To relate the lyrics of the famous song with cricket, one needs to replace the words 'Lily' with the 'Board of Control for Cricket in India' (BCCI), the 'human race' with 'Test cricket' and the 'medicinal compound' with the 'pink ball'. The reasoning becomes clearer: BCCI finally decided to host its first Pinky (if one can call it that) Test after refusing to play the format under lights ever since this version was tried and tested from 2015. The new BCCI President, Sourav Ganguly got India skipper Virat Kohli (in two seconds as media reports suggest) and the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) to agree and proudly

announced the Test which will be India's and Bangladesh's first ever, playing with the pink ball. In a media interview, Ganguly said that the decision was prompted by lesser footfalls in the stadiums for Test matches played in India over the past few years. It is a risk he and the new team at BCCI have taken in the direction of reviving Test cricket which has been buried under the weight of popular shorter formats like Twenty20 (T20) and One Day Internationals (ODI). The Kolkata crowd have been known to be ardent followers of all sports with football and cricket topping the list and their response to this match will decide whether future Test matches in the City of Joy will be played under lights with a pink ball. While there is excitement all around as far as cricket crazy fans are concerned, there certainly will be trepidation as far as the participating cricketers are concerned. Barring a few, most players have not played the longer format with the pink ball. That apart, there are other factors like the longevity and behaviour of the pink ball (as compared to the red one) and the dew factor that must be on the



To resuscitate Test cricket, BCCI needs to ensure top class facilities for the die-hards to attend five days of real cricket. — BCCI

minds of the players. Apart from the ones listed above a crucial factor is the paying spectators who follow the game, particularly Test cricket. World over, there are two distinct type of spectators who come to watch cricket live. The first being the die-hard fan of what my generation calls 'true cricket' where the approach and grammar of the game continues to be what it was ever since the invention of, what we refer to, the noble game. Then there is the other kind which thrives on boundaries and sixers, entertainment and cheerleaders with pom poms. The first would consider a tight, five day Test match to be riveting and adrenalin pumping while the other would be happier as more boundaries and sixes are

peppered across the stadium. While the second type shun Test cricket and throng stadiums to watch T20s and ODIs what stops the first breed (and there are many) from coming to Test venues in India? The answer is simple. The facilities, right from the time one approaches the stadium, are pathetic. While attending a Test match I saw 'live' in Pune, few weeks ago, there were many reasons for a cricket romantic like me not to watch a Test match in a stadium again. To reach the venue, one had to trek a few kilometres in topsy-turvy terrain and go through security which would make airport officials blush. The seating area where a spectator had to sit in humid conditions under the baking sun, with

no roof over his head was disheartening to see. If BCCI has to increase attendance at stadiums to resuscitate Test cricket, they will primarily need to ensure top class facilities for the die-hards to attend five days of real cricket. They could take lessons from the film fraternity which still does roaring business by giving the audience top class facilities in terms of state-of-the-art multiplexes and survive the onslaught of Television and OTT platforms. One does hope 'Pinky' will work and all will be well with the world of Test cricket. For the BCCI it does look like a 'nothing ventured, nothing gained' scenario. Having said that, one does hope they start factoring spectator comfort, as a priority.





## WBO title

Saul ‘Canelo’ Alvarez knocked out Sergey Kovalev with a vicious combination in the 11th round to win the WBO light heavyweight title on Saturday



The pressure feels similar and I'm not someone who pressure gets to.

— Great Britain driver Lewis Hamilton on wait for his sixth Formula One title

## SHORT TAKES

### Bottas takes Pole in Austin

**Austin:** Lewis Hamilton's hopes of clinching his sixth drivers' world championship with a stylish American triumph were rocked on Saturday when his Mercedes team-mate Valtteri Bottas grabbed a surprise pole position at the United States Grand Prix. Bottas, the only man who can delay Hamilton's celebrations, kept alive his own faint and unlikely statistical hopes, produced a stunning lap that broke Hamilton's qualifying record at the Circuit of the Americas set last year. "I'm really happy about that — it was a nice lap," said Bottas. "To get those kind of laps on a track like this is a good feeling. "On my last lap, I was losing grip overall so I am glad nobody improved in the end on the second runs." The Finn clocked a best lap in one minute and 32.029 seconds to outpace second-placed Sebastian Vettel of Ferrari by 0.012 seconds. Max Verstappen was third for Red Bull ahead of Charles Leclerc in the second Ferrari and Hamilton, who was fifth. It was the champion-elect's equal-worst qualifying on American soil. — *AFP*

### Korda wins golf title in Taiwan

**Taipei:** America's Nelly Korda claimed back-to-back victory in the LPGA Taiwan Championship in a playoff against two players on Sunday to clinch her second win this year. Korda, 21, successfully defended her title in the playoff against Australia's Minjee Lee and Germany's Caroline Masson after they all finished with an aggregate score of 18-under-par 270. Korda had a three-shot lead over Lee, who was also runner-up to her last year, after the third round but struggled in the final day hitting five birdies and five bogeys to go into the playoff. It was "very dramatic, a little bit harder than I wanted it to be but I am happy I got it done... I was very nervous actually because it was my first playoff," she said. Korda claimed her maiden LPGA Tour victory at this event last year to join her elder sister Jessica as a winner on the circuit, extending a family sporting resume which also boasts a Grand Slam tennis title via father Petr. Currently ranked eighth in the world, Korda won the LPGA Australian Open in February for her first victory in 2019. — *AFP*

## CELTIC EASE INTO LEAGUE CUP FINAL

**Glasgow:** Celtic eased into a fourth straight Scottish League Cup final as Mohamed Elyounoussi and Scott Brown each scored twice in a 5-2 win over Hibernian at Hampden. On-loan Southampton winger Elyounoussi is enjoying a new lease of life with the Glasgow giants and opened the scoring with a powerful header from James Forrest's cross before Callum McGregor tapped into an empty net from Odsonne Edouard's chip over Hibs goalkeeper Chris Maxwell. Melker Hallberg briefly cut the Edinburgh side's deficit in half before Edouard was the creator again for Elyounoussi to smash home his seventh goal in seven games. "I thought he was outstanding. His best performance since he's come in," said Celtic manager Neil Lennon. Forrest and Elyounoussi then hit the woodwork early in the second half as Celtic threatened to run riot. But when the fourth goal did arrive, Hibs were masters of their own downfall as Maxwell flapped at a corner and Celtic captain Brown swept home the first of a rare double. Hibs responded quickly through Florian Kamber, but it was too late with the pressure on manager Heckingbottom ramped up once more with his side just a point off the bottom of the Scottish Premiership. — *AFP*

# It's Barty time!

## ■ Aussie ends jinx against Svitolina to win WTA Finals

**Shenzhen (China), Nov. 3:** World number one Ashleigh Barty spectacularly ended her jinx against defending champion Elina Svitolina to win the WTA Finals on Sunday and scoop the richest prize in tennis history.

Barty, who had never beaten Svitolina in five previous attempts, won 6-4, 6-3 in one hour and 26 minutes at the Shenzhen Bay Sports Centre. The Australian claimed a record-setting US\$4.42 million paycheck — the largest sum ever awarded in men's and women's tennis. Barty's only loss was to late replacement Kiki Bertens and she became the fifth debutant to win the lucrative round-robin tournament.

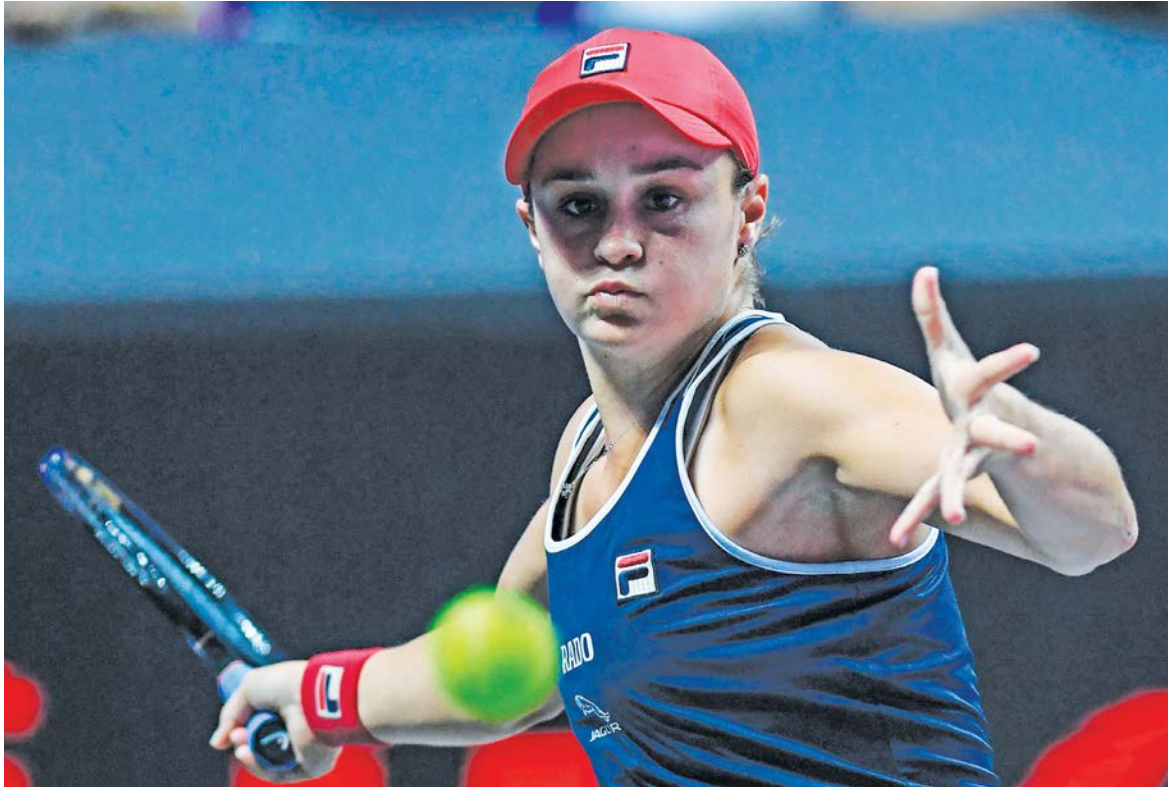
"It's been the most incredible year for me," Barty said after the match.

Svitolina has not won a trophy since claiming the WTA Finals in Singapore last year, which remains the biggest title of her career. She had lost just one set before the final to be on track to claim a maximum prize of \$4.725 million before falling short in the decider.

The Ukrainian had taken a liking to the slow indoor hard court, which has been criticised by other players, with her methodical counterpunching overwhelming opponents — but she was thwarted by an irresistible Barty.

"It definitely was a great week for me," Svitolina said. "(Barty) had a great tournament and an amazing year."

Both players, who served strongly in Shenzhen,



Ashleigh Barty of Australia hits a return against Elina Svitolina of Ukraine during their women's singles in the WTA Finals tennis tournament in Shenzhen on Sunday. — *AFP*

comfortably held service until Barty faced trouble in the ninth game, but she saved a break point and dug deep when it mattered most to fend off Svitolina's relentless defensive prowess.

An increasingly confident Barty then attacked Svitolina's serve in the 10th game and claimed the set with a sizzling forehand winner.

The Ukrainian hit back early in the second set and was gifted a break in the third game through a Barty double fault but could not consolidate on

serve. Svitolina's title defence appeared in tatters when she double faulted to lose serve in the sixth game but courageously broke back.

The see-saw continued when Barty captured another break in a gruelling eighth game before serving it out to cap off a momentous season, which also includes a French Open crown and the year-end number one ranking.

Barty is set to spearhead Australia's Fed Cup title hopes against France in the final on November 9-10. — *AFP*

## BABOS & MLADENOVIC WIN DOUBLES TITLE

**Shenzhen (China), Nov. 3:** Timea Babos and Kristina Mladenovic played a masterclass against Barbora Strycova and Hsieh Su-Wei to defend their WTA Finals doubles title on Sunday.

In a lopsided final, the world number three completed an unbeaten campaign in Shenzhen with a 6-1, 6-3 rout in 64 minutes.

The French Open champions were the first team since 2008 to defend their crown. It was a third straight triumph for Babos, who won in 2017 when paired with Andrea Sestini-Hlavackova.

"We really stood up and believed in our mental strength," Mladenovic said after the match. — *AFP*

## GERMAN FOOTBALL

## Kovac admits future in doubt after heavy loss

**Berlin, Nov. 3:** Niko Kovac admitted his future as Bayern Munich coach hung in the balance on Saturday after suffering a 5-1 thrashing at Eintracht Frankfurt — the club's heaviest Bundesliga defeat in a decade.

Bayern are now four points behind leaders Muenchengladbach after their biggest league loss since a humiliating drubbing at Wolfsburg by the same scoreline in April 2009.

That defeat a decade ago eventually cost Jurgen Klinsmann his job as boss and Kovac



Niko Kovac

could face a similar fate as Frankfurt shredded 10-man Bayern after defender Jerome Boateng was sent off in the ninth minute.

Kovac has been in charge since June 2018, winning the league and cup double last season,

but could only offer a glum "I don't know" when asked about his gut feeling over the future.

"I know how this business works — I am not naive," he said, with club president Uli Hoeness and chairman Karl-Heinz Rummenigge sure to discuss his future.

"My feeling is not important, the ones who make the decisions are the ones you have to ask at the end of the day.

The 48-year-old also weathered a difficult opening few months of last season to eventually win the league and cup double. — *AFP*

## Union win derby as tempers boil

**Berlin, Nov. 3:** Fireworks brought play to a halt and tempers threatened to boil over as FC Union defeated city rivals Hertha Berlin 1-0 on Saturday in their first Bundesliga derby since German reunification.

A 90th-minute penalty, converted by home striker Sebastian Polter, sealed the hosts' third league win this season on an emotional night at Union's sold-out Alten Foerster stadium.

However, the referee had to march both teams off for six minutes at the start of the second-half after fireworks launched from the terraces landed on the pitch.

After the final whistle, a group of Union 'Ultras' — masked hardcore fans — invaded the pitch seemingly intent on confronting their Hertha rivals, before Union players persuaded them to return to the stands.

"It's a city derby and there was a lot of emotion," said Polter.

"We, as players, wanted to make sure the club wasn't harmed and we had a responsibility to prevent our fans from doing anything stupid."

Union now enjoy bragging rights after an historic night for football in Germany's capital. — *AFP*

## CHAMPIONS GOLF

## Father Time fuels McIlroy win

**Shanghai, Nov. 3:** World number two Rory McIlroy said his recent return to top form was motivated by the realisation that at 30 he faces a ticking career clock, after he won his fourth event of the year at the WGC-HSBC Champions Sunday.

McIlroy was the class of the field throughout the tournament in Shanghai, which ended when he defeated defending champion Xander Schauffele in a sudden-death playoff.

It was the Northern Irishman's first win in east Asia's premier event and keeps him on course in a personal quest to retake the world's top golf ranking that he last held in 2015.

McIlroy went a rock-solid 67-67-67-68 for the tournament and said his resurgence was fuelled by the fact that "I don't have as much time left as I used to when I was 20."

"Even if I'm having a bad day, I'm trying over every single shot. My concentration is better and my mental capacity on the golf course is much better than it ever has been," he said.

"I think that's a big key to why I'm able to play consistently week-in,



Rory McIlroy of Northern Ireland raises the trophy after winning the Champions golf tournament. — *AP*

week-out."

He had a one-stroke lead stepping to the 18th tee of regulation play but nearly put his drive into the imposing lake that hugs the long par-5 hole at Sheshan International Golf Club.

He could only salvage a par, leaving him tied with Schauffele after the American carded a birdie.

But the Northern Irishman shrugged off the mistake to split the fairway in the play-off replay on 18 as Schauffele's tee shot missed left.

McIlroy went on to win the hole and the \$1.745 million winner's purse.

He is coming off a strong 2019 that saw him secure the FedEx Cup, win PGA Tour Player of the Year honours, and climb the world golf rankings.

### Recapturing top rank

McIlroy burst onto the stage a decade ago as a shaggy-haired youngster widely predicted to dominate golf for years but was overtaken by a succession of other young

stars. He said this week that next on his list was recapturing the world's top rank, currently held by American golfer Brooks Koepka.

As the sport buzzes with the return of Tiger Woods — who achieved a record-tying 82nd PGA Tour win this past week in Japan — McIlroy showed that he also remains a potent force.

He did not drop a shot over his final 38 regulation holes and finished at 19 under par.

"I'm excited for the future. I feel like this year compares to 2014, 2015, but I don't see any reason why I can't go ahead and have an even better year next year," he said.

The gutsiest performance of the week was put in by world number nine Schauffele.

The American won in a similar 18th-hole playoff last year against Tony Finau and was gunning to become the first back-to-back victor.

But he arrived in Shanghai battling a bad case of flu that had him nipping on a nasal inhaler on the course, and occasionally backing off shots to let out a hoarse cough. — *AFP*

## MALAYSIAN MOTOGP

## Maverick Vinales storms to victory

**Sepang (Malaysia), Nov. 3:** Spain's Maverick Vinales stormed to a dominant victory in the Malaysian MotoGP Sunday as world champion Marc Marquez fought his way from near the back of the starting grid to finish second.

Ducati rider Andrea Dovizioso came in third but there was disappointment for French rookie Fabio Quartararo, who only managed a lacklustre seventh-place after starting from pole.

Vinales's second win of the season was a major boost following last week's Australian MotoGP where he crashed out after leading for much of the race — and compatriot Marquez went on to win.

The Monster Energy Yamaha rider said the victory felt "amazing" after his disappointing performance in Phillip Island.

"In Phillip Island, I felt like I had the victory in my hands but I made a mistake and I crashed," he told reporters at the Sepang circuit following the penultimate race of the season. "Here all weekend I've

## NBA SEASON

## Sixers rally late to beat Blazers

**Los Angeles, Nov. 3:** Furkan Korkmaz drained a three pointer with less than a second on the clock as the Philadelphia 76ers rallied late to edge Portland 129-128 and remain the only unbeaten team in the new NBA season.

The 76ers are the last undefeated team in the league, going 5-0 to start the season for the first time since 2000-01.

Anfernee Simons made a corner three-pointer with two seconds left to put the Trail Blazers in front but the Sixers got the ball back after a timeout. That set the stage for Korkmaz's heroics as the Turkish shooting guard nailed a falling-down, 24-footer for the win.

"I didn't know how to feel or how to act. It was the biggest shot of my career," he said. "We were working on that in practice. I knew that if I was open I would take the shot".

The 76ers were playing without star Joel Embiid who was serving the first game of a two-game ban for fighting.

The Blazers led by as many as 21 points in the third quarter but the Sixers closed the gap to 103-100 with just over 10

minutes left. Damian Lillard's three-pointer with five minutes to go put Portland up 121-113 but the Sixers wouldn't go away.

Al Horford finished with 25 points and Tobias Harris added 23. Ben Simmons had 18 points and 11 rebounds. Lillard had 33 points, including eight of Portland's 19 three pointers.

### Bucks beat Raptors

Giannis Antetokounmpo flirted with a triple double as the Milwaukee Bucks beat the defending champion Toronto Raptors 115-105 in the first meeting between the clubs since last season's Eastern Conference finals.

Antetokounmpo scored 36 points, grabbed 15 rebounds and added eight assists for the Bucks, who built up a 26 point lead then held on for the victory. Eric Bledsoe added 14 points and nine rebounds for the Bucks, while Khris Middleton and Brook Lopez each had 11 points.

Kyle Lowry led Toronto with 36 points and Pascal Siakam had 16 points before fouling out late in the fourth quarter. — *AFP*



Philadelphia forward Matisse Thybulle (front) attempts a shot over Portland forward Mario Hezonja. — *AP*

## RECORD POINTS FOR BRILLIANT MARC MARQUEZ

**Sepang (Malaysia), Nov. 3:** Comeback-king Marc Marquez continued to break records in Sepang, his 395 points after finishing second becomes the highest points scored in a single MotoGP season. Jorge Lorenzo, the previous holder of the record, returned to the points with 14th.

After the unfortunate loss of Idemitsu Asia Talent Cup rider Afridza Munandar on Saturday, the MotoGP Championship rallied together to remember him with fantastic racing at the Sepang International Circuit.

There was no stopping Marquez who bounced back from his biggest crash of the year to put in a champion's performance. Lightning off the line, the 55-time MotoGP race winner gained six positions in the first two corners alone and ended the first lap in second place. With nine places gained, the reigning World Champion muscled past the Australian and later began to work on closing the 1.6 second gap to Viñales. — *Agencies*



Maverick Vinales

been very consistent. I knew if I got first place I had a chance to push, push and push."

The 24-year-old surged into an early lead at Sepang after starting second on the grid and never looked threatened.

By the halfway mark, he had opened up a two second lead over second-placed Marquez, and was over three seconds ahead of him when he crossed the finish line.

There was a tough fight for third place between Italy's Dovizioso and nine-time world champion Valentino Rossi. Dovizioso finished just ahead of his compatriot. — *AFP*





Double delight

South Africa flanker Pieter-Steph du Toit named World Rugby Player of the Year as the World Cup-winning Springboks swept the main awards

# Liverpool Manege to win

## Mane's 94th minute goal helps Reds beat Aston Villa

London, Nov. 3: Liverpool staged a thrilling fightback to beat Aston Villa 2-1 thanks to Sadio Mane's last-gasp winner, while Manchester City kept in touch with the Premier League leaders after their own escape act in a 2-1 victory against Southampton on Saturday.

Jurgen Klopp's side trailed to Trezeguet's first-half goal at Villa Park, but hit back to preserve their unbeaten league record this season in dramatic fashion.

Andy Robertson equalised with four minutes left before Senegal winger Mane's stoppage-time goal gave Liverpool their 10th win from 11 league games.



Liverpool's Sadio Mane (right) celebrates scoring against Aston Villa on Saturday. — AFP

The Reds, chasing their first English title since 1990, are six points ahead of second-placed City.

### CITY ESCAPE

Pep Guardiola's champions fell behind to James Ward-Prowse's early goal at the Etihad Stadium.

But Sergio Aguero levelled for City with 20 minutes left and Kyle Walker snatched the winner in the 86th minute to keep Liverpool in their sights.

Elsewhere, Chelsea climbed to third place as Tammy Abraham and Christian Pulisic sealed a 2-1 win at Watford.

Aguero struck in the 70th minute when the club's record goalscorer converted Walker's low cross. With the momen-

● **Pep Guardiola's champions fell behind to James Ward-Prowse's early goal. But Sergio Aguero levelled for City with 20 minutes left and Kyle Walker snatched the winner in the 86th minute to keep Liverpool in their sights.**

tum finally on their side, City won it in the 86th minute as Walker pounced after goalkeeper Alex McCarthy failed to deal with Angelino's cross.

Unai Emery's problems mounted as Raul Jimenez gave Wolves a 1-1 draw as fifth-placed Arsenal sur-

rendered the lead for the third time in a week.

The Gunners appeared to have put the issues surrounding Granit Xhaka to one side, the midfielder watching from home after swearing at supporters last week, when Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang struck in the 21st minute.

But Emery has now overseen a run of two wins from the last nine league games after Jimenez rose to header in an equaliser with 14 minutes remaining.

At Vicarage Road, Chelsea's fifth successive league win was earned thanks to Abraham's fifth minute strike and Pulisic's 55th minute tap-in. — AFP



Manchester City's Sergio Aguero (second from right) in action against Southampton in their English Premier League match at the Etihad Stadium in Manchester on Saturday. — AFP

# 7-minute blitz floors Barcelona

Valencia (Spain), Nov. 3: Real Madrid and Atletico Madrid each passed up the chance to go top of La Liga on Saturday after Barcelona conceded three goals in seven minutes during a surprise 3-1 defeat by Levante.

Lionel Messi converted a first-half penalty at the City of Valencia Stadium for his sixth goal in five games only for Levante to stun the defending champions with an incredible treble shortly after the hour.

Yet Atletico and Sevilla played out a 1-1 draw at the Ramon Sanchez Pizjuan, where Diego Costa missed a penalty, before Real squandered a string of opportunities at the Santiago Bernabeu in a goalless draw against Real Betis.

It means Barca will be relieved to stay at the summit — ahead of Atletico by a point with a game in hand and in front of Real on goal difference — even if their collapse against Levante should offer encouragement to their title rivals.

Meanwhile, Granada will overtake them all if they beat Real Sociedad on Sunday.

“Everything unravelled,” said Barcelona coach Ernesto Valverde.

“We didn't start the second half well, we weren't creating chances and although they weren't either they suddenly scored two goals. The third one hurt us a lot.”

Jose Campana and Borja Mayoral scored in the 61st and 63rd minutes before Nemanja Radoja added a third in the 68th to leave their disheveled opponents with too much to do.

After seven wins on the bounce in all competitions, Barca arrived in Valencia as overwhelming favourites, particularly given the irresistible form of Messi, whose goal was the 500th of his career with his left foot. — AFP



Levante's Nemanja Radoja (right) celebrates with Borja Mayoral after scoring against Barcelona in their La Liga match in Valencia on Saturday. — AP

# DE LIGT KEEPS JUVE ON TOP AND INTER AT BAY

Turin (Italy), Nov. 3: Matthijs de Ligt made sure Juventus kept hold of top spot in Serie A on Saturday after his first goal for the club saw off local rivals Torino, leaving Inter Milan in second despite Romelu Lukaku taking his league tally to nine with a brace in a 2-1 win at Bologna.

Inter had briefly led in Italy after Lukaku slotted home a 92nd-minute penalty to snatch the

three points at Bologna, but Juve retook first place thanks to De Ligt, who smashed home the only goal of the game in Turin with 20 minutes remaining.

Maurizio Sarri's side stay a point ahead of Inter thanks to a hard-fought derby win that saw both sides exchange blows in a bruising contest.

“We won 1-0 and it was my goal, so really spe-

cial,” De Ligt said.

De Ligt has had a shaky start to life in Italy and could well have given away an early penalty when he touched the ball with his arm early in the first half, but was let off by referee Daniele Doveri and the VAR officials.

However, the Netherlands international, who had already been denied by a superb Salvatore Sirigu stop just before the break, came up

# VILLAS-BOAS RELIEVED AFTER MARSEILLE WIN

Paris, Nov. 3: Marseille took advantage of two comical defensive mix-ups to secure a 2-1 win at home to Lille on Saturday that sent them up to fourth in Ligue 1 and alleviated some of the pressure on coach Andre Villas-Boas.

Morgan Sanson stroked home the opening goal on 48 minutes.

The Brazilian centre-back Gabriel unwittingly gifted Marseille a second goal 11 minutes from time when Valentin Rongier's tame shot struck Dario Benedetto before Adama Soumaoro's attempted headed clearance struck Gabriel and looped in off the post.

Lille captain Soumaoro rose magnificently to nod in a corner to give the visitors hope but Marseille held on to move level with third-placed Nantes on 19 points. It was just a second win in seven league outings for Marseille and the ideal tonic for a team dumped out the League Cup in midweek following a display branded “shameful” by Villas-Boas. — AFP

trumps in the 70th minute when he met substitute Gonzalo Higuain's pull back just after the Argentine had forced a corner with a sizzling volley. The win maintains Juve's unbeaten start to the season and keeps them on course for a ninth straight league title, while Inter have to content themselves with second despite Lukaku's match-winning display. — AFP

### INDIAN | SUPER LEAGUE

# Blues play out dull draw against JFC

Jamshedpur, Nov. 3: Bengaluru FC's search for a first win in the 2019-20 Indian Super League campaign continued after a 0-0 draw against Jamshedpur FC at the JRD Tata Sports Complex here on Sunday.

Carles Cuadrat's side had as many as nine shots on target, but valiant goalkeeping by the Miners' number one, Subrata Paul, meant that the points were shared at the final whistle.

Earlier, Ashique Kuruniyan made way for defender Albert Serran in Cuadrat's starting eleven as Bengaluru FC picked a 3-4-3 to begin the game with. Antonio Iriondio made two changes of his own to Jamshedpur's line up as Bikash Jairu and Aniket Jadhav started ahead of Keegan Pereira and Isaac Vannalsawma.

Needing a little help from the woodwork to deny Sergio Castel what looked like being Jamshedpur's opener in the 7th minute, Bengaluru took the game to the hosts with a frenetic

passage of attacking play. In a five-minute spell, Cuadrat's side saw Juanan Gonzalez fire a header straight at Subrata Paul, Raphael Augusto nod one agonisingly wide from close, and the Jamshedpur 'keeper pull off a blinder to deny Harmanjot Khabra from a set-piece routine that the Miners had absolutely no clue about.

Just when Bengaluru began dictating possession and play, they were pegged back by an injury to Albert Serran who had to be stretchered off the pitch in the 25th minute, as Cuadrat turned to Ashique on the bench to replace the Spaniard.

It took all of five minutes after the restart for Paul to be drawn into a save yet again.

Beating Jamshedpur's high line at the back, Manu Onwu did well to bring down Ashique's lofted pass and drive into the box, only to see 'keeper come in time to smother the shot. — Agencies



Bengaluru FC's Sunil Chhetri (left) vies for the ball with Jamshedpur FC defenders in their ISL match at the JRD Tata Sports Complex in Jamshedpur on Sunday.

### THE RESULTS

#### PREMIER LEAGUE

Arsenal (Aubameyang 21) 1  
Wolves (Jimenez 76) 1

Aston Villa (Trezeguet 21) 1  
Liverpool (Robertson 87, Mane 90+4) 2

Brighton (Trossard 68, Duffy 84) 2  
Norwich 0

Manchester City (Aguero 70, Walker 86) 2  
Southampton (Ward-Prowse 13) 1

Sheffield United (Lundstram 17, 43, Fleck 44) 3  
Burnley 0

Watford (Deulofeu 80-pen) 1  
Chelsea (Abraham 5, Pulisic 55) 2

West Ham (Balbuena 73, Snodgrass 90) 2  
Newcastle (Clark 16, Fernandez 22, Shelvey 51) 3

#### LA LIGA

Espanyol (Roca 31-pen) 1  
Valencia (Parejo 69-pen, Gomez 80) 2

Levante (Campana 60, Mayoral 63, Radoja 68) 3  
Barcelona (Messi 38-pen) 1

Sevilla (Vazquez 28) 1  
Atletico Madrid (Morata 60) 1

Real Madrid 0  
Real Betis 0

#### SERIE A

Torino 0  
Juventus (De Ligt 70) 1

Bologna (Soriano 59) 1  
Inter Milan (Lukaku 75, 90+2-pen) 2

Roma (Zaniolo 19, Veretout 55-pen) 2  
Napoli (Milik 72) 1

Opponents always play us like it is one of the biggest games of the year. You have to have an answer.

— Ernesto Valverde, Barcelona coach after their loss to Levante

### SHORT TAKES

## Wrestler Bhanwal misses bronze

Budapest: Three-time medallist Sajjan Bhanwal (77kg) missed out on a bronze in Greco-Roman category but Ravi (97kg) reached the repechage round at the U-23 Wrestling World Championships here on Sunday.

Turkey's Serkan Akkoyun proved too strong for Bhanwal and won 10-1 by superiority in the bronze medal contest.

Ravi was blanked 8-0 by Georgian grappler Giorgi Melia in the pre-quarter-finals, but, with the latter making it to the final, the Indian was presented with another chance to fight for a medal.

Among other results of the day, Arjun Halakurki lost his 55kg repechage bout 2-10 to Norayr Hakhoyan of Armenia.

In 87kg, Sunil Kumar raised hopes of a bronze when he emerged victorious 5-3 in his first repechage bout against Aleksandar Georgije Stjepanetic of Sweden. However, his hopes were dashed in the second repechage bout when Croatia's Ivan Huklek beat him 6-3. — PTI

## Vietnam blank India in friendly

New Delhi: The Indian women's team suffered a 0-3 defeat against hosts Vietnam in the first of the two Fifa international friendly matches in Hanoi, Vietnam on Sunday.

Thi Nhung (8th minute), Thi Van (82nd) and Thi Thuy Hang (89th) scored a goal apiece for the hosts to secure the comfortable win.

Aditi Chauhan pulled off a terrific save in the 12th minute to deny Vietnam from doubling the lead.

At the stroke of the half-hour mark, Bala Devi unleashed a superb shot from centre only to see it missing the target by a whisker.

Coach Maymol Rocky opted to make an early substitution in the form of Daya, who replaced Sumitra in the 32nd minute.

Aditi was unarguably at the top of her game, as she kept India in the fight till the 80th minute, before Vietnam rammed back-to-back goals to seal the tie. The two sides will face-off once again in their second friendly on Wednesday. — PTI

## LAKSHYA BAGS SAARLORLUX OPEN CROWN

Saarbrücken, Germany: India's Lakshya Sen bagged his second successive BWF World Tour Super 100 title with a thrilling win over China's Weng Hong Yang in an exciting final at the SaarLorLux Open here on Sunday.

Lakshya, seeded eighth, needed 59 minutes to overcome Weng 17-21, 21-18, 21-16 in the summit clash for his third successive singles title of the season.

He had clinched the Belgian International challenge and Dutch Open Super Tour 100 in his last two outings. He had also reached the Polish Open final this year.

The 18-year-old from Uttarakhand had come into the final with a 1-2 head-to-head record against the Chinese but it didn't matter as he rallied his way after squandering the first game to complete a thrilling win here. After this win, Lakshya is set to break into the top 50 when the BWF rankings are released on Tuesday. — PTI

Regd. No. TNENG/2010/35692

Printed & Published by T. Venkateswarlu on behalf of Deccan Chronicle Holdings Limited and Printed at Deccan Chronicle Presses situated at SP 3, Developed Plot, Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai - 600 032. RNI Registration No: TN ENG/2005/14987 Ph Nos: 22254747, 22254748, 22254750, 22254751 Editor: ADITYA SINHA