

THE ASIAN AGE

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WINDOWS



In this photo uploaded on the official Instagram handle of Anushka Sharma on Monday, the actress is seen with her husband and cricket team captain Virat Kohli in Bhutan. Kohli turned 31 on Tuesday. — PTI

5 cops, civilian injured in IED blast in Imphal

Imphal: Six people — five police commandos and a civilian — were injured in an IED blast at Imphal town of Manipur on Tuesday, the police said. The explosion that occurred at Thangal Bazaar also damaged some vehicles. Manipur CM N. Biren Singh said detonation of the IED was an "act of cowardice". The condition of the six injured people is reportedly stable. — PTI
Full report on Page 3

Cheating case filed against OYO founder

Gurgaon: A cheating case has been filed against OYO Hotels and Homes founder Ritesh Agarwal and six others based on a complaint by a Bengaluru hotelier. OYO is planning to initiate criminal proceedings against the hotelier for using improper legal means to "sensationalise a civil dispute and get attention".

SC defers women's mosque entry case

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Tuesday adjourned for 10 days hearing on a public interest suit seeking declaration that the prohibition on the entry of women in mosques was illegal and unconstitutional. Full report on Page 4

COUNTERPOINT



No need for campaigning, public meetings, manifesto... we can buy MLAs after polls!

WEATHER

Max: 30°C
Min: 19°C
RH: 43%
Rainfall: Nil
Forecast: Sunny

ASTROGUIDE

Vikari: Dakshinayana
Tithi: Kartika Shudda Navami till 7.21 am
Star: Satabhisam (full day)
Varjyam: 2.20 pm to 4.08 pm
Durmuhurtam: 11.37 am to 12.22 pm
Rahukalam: 12 noon to 1.30 pm
SUNSET TODAY 5.32 PM
SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.36 AM
MOONRISE TOMORROW 2.23 PM
MOONSET TODAY 12.53 AM

Khaki revolt rattles Delhi

In unprecedented protest, cops lay siege to police HQ against attacks by lawyers | Call of 11-hr stir after assurances; Bar Council asks 'hooligans' to be identified

BHASKAR HARI SHARMA and SANJAY KAW
NEW DELHI, NOV. 5

For the first time ever, the national capital witnessed the wrath of police personnel on Tuesday who took to the streets to protest against two attacks on their colleagues by lawyers, throwing the city's traffic out of gear. Their rage was not merely confined to lawyers but was also directed at the apathy of the government and the top echelons of the force, including police commissioner Amulya Patnaik who had taken action against some police personnel on the directions of a court.

The surging crowd of protesting cops, some in uniform and others in civvies, had gathered outside Police Headquarters in the morning and were unrelenting in their demand that the licences of lawyers who assaulted their colleagues be revoked and the transfer of police officers involved in the Tis Hazari clash last week be rescinded. Picking the BJP government's cheery rhetorical question, "How's the Josh?" they held up placards that read: "How's the Josh?... It's low, Sir."

The 11-hour long agitation, mostly by constables, assistant sub-inspectors and inspectors, was called off late evening after some of their demands were met. While Lieutenant Governor Anil Bajjal assured action, special commissioner of police (crime) assured them that a review petition will be filed against the Delhi high court order in connection with the clash between cops and lawyers at the Tis Hazari Courts Complex. Mr Golcha also said that the injured policemen will get an ex-gratia of at least ₹25,000. The unprecedented protest also had the Centre on its toes, especially after police from Haryana and Bihar extended support to their colleagues in Delhi. A review petition was filed and the Delhi high court issued a notice to the top lawyers' body — the Bar Councils of India. The home ministry also called for a report on the Tis Hazari incident.

The virtual revolt by Delhi Police's foot soldiers was triggered by two successive attacks on cops. On Saturday, a parking dispute



Delhi police personnel display pictures of former IPS officer Kiran Bedi during a protest on Tuesday. Delhi police commissioner Amulya Patnaik's appeals to pacify the cops were drowned by jeers of "Go back, Go back". And in a show of lack of faith in his leadership, the agitating police personnel held up the poster of one of India's super cops, Kiran Bedi, with the slogan, "We Need You". In 1988, Ms Bedi had famously clashed with lawyers and had stood her ground. — BIPLAB BANERJEE

By resorting to violence we're losing sympathy: Bar Council

New Delhi, Nov. 5: After a series of tense events following clashes between lawyers and the police at Tis Hazari courts here, the Bar Council of India has asked various bar bodies to identify lawyers "indulging in hooliganism" and requested advocates to end their protests, which are "bringing bad name to the institution".

BCI chairman Manan Kumar Mishra said in a letter that sparing such "rowdy elements" is tarnishing the image of the institution and it is the inaction

and tolerance of bar bodies that encourage these advocates, which would ultimately result in "contempt proceedings by the high courts or Supreme Court". "Yesterday's (November 4) behaviour of few lawyers has disturbed us... Abstaining from court or resort to violence will not help us, rather by doing this we are losing the sympathy of courts... Even general public's opinion is going adverse to us. Result may be dangerous," Mr Mishra said. — PTI

between an on-duty policeman and a lawyer at the Tis Hazari Court complex flared up into a clash in which police opened fire and ordered lathi-charge on lawyers. Two lawyers received bullet injuries, while several others were injured. At least 20 police personnel also received injuries.

Chirag Paswan is LJP's new chief

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, NOV. 5

Marking yet another generational shift and dynastic succession in a regional party, Chirag Paswan on Tuesday took charge as head of the Lok Janashakti Party from his father, Union minister Ram Vilas Paswan.

The senior Paswan said the decision was taken at the party's national executive meeting here on Tuesday. "Chirag Paswan unanimously elected as LJP president by the party's national executive," Mr Ram Vilas Paswan said. The LJP, one of the offshoots of the erstwhile socialist Janata Dal, pri-



Newly-elected LJP chief Chirag Paswan in New Delhi on Tuesday. — PTI

marily draws support from a section of dalits in Bihar. It was founded by Ram Vilas Paswan in 2000. ■ More on Page 2

PM reviews pollution situation in North India

New Delhi, Nov. 5: As the air quality in Delhi-NCR hovered between "severe" and "very poor" category, a top agriculture ministry official on Tuesday mooted crop diversification and shift to a short duration paddy crop to reduce stubble burning in northern states that has been primarily blamed for pollution during winter months.

The pollution situation in northern India was also reviewed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, a day after the Supreme Court ordered an immediate and complete stop to stubble burning in Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh blamed for 46 per cent of the pollution in Delhi-National Capital Region(NCR). The top court did some tough-talking and had warned that the administration at large will be made accountable even if there is a single incident of stubble burning henceforth. It issued a slew of directions that also included stopping all construction and demolition activities as well as garbage and waste burning in Delhi-NCR till further orders. — PTI
■ More on Page 13

Ahead of verdict, RSS urges top Muslim figures to keep peace

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, NOV. 5

Ahead of the Supreme Court's impending verdict on the sensitive Ram Mandir-Babri Masjid title suit, the RSS roped in Muslim religious leaders, scholars, intellectuals and influencers for its efforts to maintain peace and social harmony over the verdict. At a meeting at minority affairs minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi's house here, Muslim community leaders stressed "unity in diversity" is India's "cultural commitment" and it is the responsibility of all sections of society to pre-

AYODHYA CASE

serve this. The RSS has said that whatever the verdict, it should be "accepted wholeheartedly by everyone". The RSS also issued "do's and don'ts" to its pracharaks and office-bearers over the impending verdict. From the RSS, its leaders Krishna Gopal and Ram Lal attended the meeting with Muslim religious leaders, scholars, intellectuals and influencers. Last week, the RSS top brass, including chief Mohan Bhagwat, had held a meeting with representatives of the

Sangh's affiliates, including the VHP and BJP, over the issue. The BJP top brass, including president Amit Shah, working president J.P. Nadda and general secretary (organisation) B.L. Santosh attended the meet. The RSS leaders also held a separate meeting with Mr Naqvi, after which the RSS reached out to Muslim religious leaders and others. BJP national spokesperson Shah Nawaz Hussain also attended the meeting. Participants asked the community leaders to beware of those trying to create animosity and unrest in the name of ■ Turn to Page 4

RBI raises PMC withdrawal limit to ₹50,000

Mumbai, Nov. 5: The RBI on Tuesday enhanced the cash withdrawal from the scam-hit PMC Bank to ₹50,000 per account.

This is the fourth increase in withdrawal limit since the bank was placed under its direct control with an administrator on September 23. Since then as many as nine depositors have lost their lives including a 74-year-old man from Thane on Monday. The RBI also allowed the depositors of the bank to withdraw from the bank's own ATMs within the prescribed limit of ₹50,000. ■ More on Page 9

CM swearing-in to be a subdued affair in Maha

AGE CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI, NOV. 5

With the cloud of uncertainty continuing to hover over the new government in Maharashtra and mounting fear that the BJP may fail to get the support of its alliance partner, Shiv Sena, the swearing-in ceremony of the BJP government is likely to be a low-key affair.

The party, which earlier wanted to hold a mega event at Wankhede stadium, is now going for a subdued swearing-in at Vidhan Bhavan lawns.

On Tuesday, the Shiv Sena termed Devendra Fadnavis as the "outgoing chief minister", while the BJP reiterated that Mr Fadnavis would lead the next state government.

Late Tuesday evening, Mr Fadnavis visited RSS headquarter in Nagpur to meet Mohan Bhagwat.

According to sources, Mr Fadnavis reached RSS headquarter at around 9.30pm and left at around 11 pm. RSS functionaries in Nagpur remained tight-lipped about what transpired at the meeting.

If the saffron party

► The Shiv Sena on Tuesday termed Devendra Fadnavis as the 'outgoing chief minister'

► Late Tuesday evening, Mr Fadnavis visited RSS headquarter in Nagpur to meet Mohan Bhagwat

stakes claim to form the next government, the governor will ask it to prove its majority within a stipulated period. If the Sena decides against supporting its alliance partner, the BJP-led government will fail the floor test, which will open a string of possibilities. Shiv Sena, the second-largest party in the House, can get the chance to form the next government if it manages to get support from the Congress and NCP.

Shiv Sena has 56 MLAs and has the support of seven Independent MLAs in the 288-member Assembly. If the NCP (54 MLAs) and Congress (44

■ Turn to Page 4

SC: Will decide fate of 17 disqualified MLAs 'soon'

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, NOV. 5

The Supreme Court on Tuesday said that it would "soon" pronounce its verdict on a plea by 17 disqualified law makers of Karnataka Assembly seeking the quashing of then Speaker K.R. Ramesh Kumar's order unseating them from the state Assembly for the rest of the term of the current House. A bench of Justice N.V.

Ramana, Justice Sanjiv Khanna and Justice Krishna Murari added that the verdict would be based on the submissions made before the court in the course of the hearing. The bench said this as senior counsel Kapil Sibal urged the court to take on record an application stating that the resignations by the 17 now-disqualified law makers came at the insistence of Union home minister Amit Shah. ■ More on Page 2

Confusion lingers on Kartarpur opening

VINEETA PANDEY
NEW DELHI, NOV. 5

Confusion and lack of coordination between India and Pakistan is evident five days before the inauguration of the Kartarpur Corridor, with sources in the Indian government claiming Pakistan hasn't let any Indian advance team visit Kartarpur Sahib to confirm the arrangements made. Islamabad also hasn't sent any confirmation on the list of dignitaries sent by New Delhi, they said.



Devotees leave for Pakistan via the Attari-Wagah border on Tuesday. — PTI

"India has all along remained strongly committed to expeditiously realise the Kartarpur Corridor on time, keeping in mind the sentiments of

pilgrims. The infrastructure work on our side has been completed on time. We even agreed to go ahead with the MoU despite Pakistan's insistence on levying a \$20 service fee on pilgrims," the sources said. They added that despite India's commitment and efforts, "Pakistan refuses to extend full cooperation, which is against the spirit of the pilgrimage".

India is also upset Pakistan has not yet responded to the list of prominent Sikh leaders ■ Turn to Page 4



Politics

MP govt failed to give bonus to milk producers, says BJP national general secretary Kailash Vijayvargiya



Republican Party of India (A) should get a Cabinet berth in new Maharashtra govt

—Ramdas Athawale, Union minister

SHORT TAKES

CAB detrimental to Northeast: Cong

Agartala: Senior Congress leader Jairam Ramesh on Tuesday said the Citizenship Amendment Bill (CAB), if enacted, could be detrimental to the Northeastern region and the party would strongly oppose it. Ramesh said the CAB contradicts the very spirit of the Constitutional provisions that there should not be any discrimination against any citizen on the ground of religion, race, caste, sex and place of birth. "If the Citizenship Amendment Bill is passed, there will be adverse impact in the NE states. More so, the Northeast India has got destabilized after the BJP came to power," claimed Ramesh, who is heading an AICC team set up to study the pulse of NE states on various contentious issues. —PTI

Ghoonghat practice must go: Gehlot

Jaipur: Stressing on the importance of women empowerment for nation-building, Rajasthan chief minister Ashok Gehlot on Tuesday said the custom of 'ghoonghat' must be eradicated at the earliest. Expressing displeasure at the practice of covering women's faces with a 'ghoonghat' or veil in some rural areas, Gehlot said the custom belongs to a bygone era. "Time has changed now but the practice of 'ghoonghat' is still there in villages. What is right in confining a woman to ghoonghat? Women cannot progress till the ghoonghat exists," he said. —PTI

Ajmer's Pushkar Mela begins

Ajmer: The much-awaited Pushkar Mela 2019 kicked off on Monday in the district of Ajmer, which witnessed an overwhelming number of enthusiastic participants and devotees. The mela was started by District Collector Vishwamohan Sharma, who started the ceremony with Sarovar Pujan and flag hoisting, along with the officers of all departments in Rajasthan. A number of different cultural dance and music performances took place in the mela. Foreigners too enthusiastically participated in all the performances. —ANI

NADDA MEETS PARTY'S BIHAR UNIT LEADERS

NAYEAR AZAD PATNA, NOV. 5

Ahead of Bihar assembly polls, BJP national working President J.P. Nadda held meetings with the party's state unit leaders here on Tuesday. Mr Nadda was in the city to attend the seventh death anniversary of former Gujarat governor and BJP patriarch late Kailashpati Mishra. Addressing the masses and party workers during the event he criticized the Congress party for its policies. During his speech, Mr Nadda also spoke about the achievements India made under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, "Remember that India has taken a centre stage in international diplomacy. Our country is developing in every field. In the defense sector, our strength has also increased. The Modi government has the ability to take decisions. India is changing and picture of Bihar is also changing". This was his first visit to the state after his appointment as the working president. Mr Nadda later held meetings with the party's state core committee and legislators where he discussed strategies for the upcoming Bihar assembly elections.

After backlash, Jagan scraps controversial govt order AP won't rename Kalam award

Amaravati, Nov. 5: Facing flak from opposition parties including the Telugu Desam Party, the Andhra Pradesh government on Tuesday cancelled a controversial order renaming an award named after former President A.P.J. Abdul Kalam and replacing it with that of late Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy, chief minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy's father. It also issued a new order renaming the award as APJ Abdul Kalam Vidya Puraskar. Principal Secretary, School Education, B. Rajasekhara Reddy issued the fresh order on Tuesday evening. The cancellation GO issued on Tuesday merely said Monday's order was



Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy

being cancelled on administrative grounds. "The chief minister has taken a strong view of the GO, issued by School Education Principal Secretary B. Rajasekhara Reddy without informing him about the change of name of the awards. Accordingly, he asked that the GO, issued on Monday, be revoked and Dr Kalam's

The Andhra Pradesh School Education department had issued orders on Monday, renaming the Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Pratibha Puraskar as YSR Vidya Puraskar.

name retained for the awards," municipal administration minister Botsa Satyanarayana told reporters here. The School Education department had issued orders on Monday, renaming the Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Pratibha Puraskar as YSR Vidya Puraskar. The awards, instituted in 2015, are presented to mer-

itorious students of government schools who excel in the SSC (class X) public examinations. The award carries merit certificate, memento and scholarships to meet the cost of higher education. It was earlier known as Prathibha Awards but the then Chandrababu Naidu government changed the name to APJ Abdul Kalam Pratibha Puraskar in 2017 to honour the former president. This year, the School Education department decided to present the awards on National Education Day, the birth anniversary of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, on November 11. The opposition Telugu Desam Party and the Jana Sena criticised the move. —PTI

SC verdict on rebel Karnataka MLAs soon

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, NOV. 5

The Supreme Court on Tuesday said that its verdict on a plea filed by 17 disqualified lawmakers of Karnataka assembly seeking the quashing of then-Speaker K.R. Ramesh Kumar's order unseating them from the State assembly for the rest of the term of the current House.

Saying that the verdict on the fate of 17 disqualified lawmakers of Karnataka assembly would be out "soon", a bench of Justices N.V. Ramana, Sanjiv Khanna and Krishna Murari said that the verdict would be based on the submissions made before the court in the course of the hearing.

The bench said this as senior counsel Kapil Sibal urged the court to take on record an application stating that the resignation by the 17, now disqualified, lawmakers were at the instance of the Union home minister Amit Shah.

Refusing to take the application on record, Justice Ramana wrapped up the brief hearing telling Sibal, "You have brought it to our notice..."

Appearing for Karnataka Congress leader Siddaramaiah, Mr Sibal told the court about an audiotape wherein the chief minister B.S. Yeddyurappa is heard saying that he had no role in the resignation of 17 disqualified lawmakers and everything was done at the instance of Union home minister and our government was there because of their resignations and they even went to Supreme Court for the acceptance of their resignations and now they could not be left in lurch. The Supreme Court had on October 25 reserved its verdict on a plea by 17 Congress and Janata Dal (Secular) rebel lawmakers.



Defence minister Rajnath Singh paying tributes to Mahatma Gandhi at the premises of Embassy of India in Moscow, Russia on Tuesday. — ANI

SC seeks CBI report on Rajiv's murder plot MDMA given 4-weeks' time to file report

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, NOV. 5

The Supreme Court on Tuesday sought a status report on the investigation by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) headed Multi-Disciplinary Monitoring Agency (MDMA) into the larger conspiracy behind the assassination of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

Pointing out that the last status report by the MDMA was year old and at that time the agency was awaiting response to Letter Rogatories that were sent to several countries including Sri Lanka, and Thailand, a bench of Justice L. Nageswara Rao and Justice Hemant Gupta sought the status of the Letter Rogatory that were sent overseas.

The MDMA comprising the officials of Intelligence Bureau, RAW, Revenue Intelligence and other agencies are headed by the CBI. The MDMA was set up in 1998 on the recommendation of Justice M.C. Jain Commission of Inquiry which had probed the conspiracy aspect of Gandhi's assassination.

The top court gave four weeks to MDMA to file the



Rajiv Gandhi

report.

Besides the larger conspiracy behind the assassination of Rajiv Gandhi, the MDMA was to investigate the origin and make of the IED that was used in the assassination.

One of the accused in Rajiv Gandhi assassination conspiracy case A.G. Perarivalan had moved the top court in 2016 seeking the suspension of his sentence contending that investigation into the origin and making of IED has yet to conclude.

Perarivalan was convicted for supplying two 9 volts batteries that were used to for the making of the IED for the assassination of the former Prime Minister on May 21, 1991, at Sriperumbudur by a human bomb Dhanu.

He has contended that one of the primary purposes of constituting the

Apex court order

■ SC bench of Justice L. Nageswara Rao and Justice Hemant Gupta sought the status of the Letter Rogatory that were sent to several countries including Sri Lanka, and Thailand.

MDMA was to investigate the larger conspiracy, trace the origin and make of the IED, but even after 18 years, CBI has not been able to conclude its investigation.

Perarivalan has already spent 26 years in jail. He was awarded death sentence which was commuted by the top court on February 18, 2014, on the grounds of the long delay in deciding his and other death row convicts mercy petition by the President.

Former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi was assassinated on the night of May 21, 1991 at Sriperumbudur in Tamil Nadu by a woman suicide bomber, identified as Dhanu, at a poll rally. Gandhi's assassination was perhaps the first case of suicide bombing which had claimed the life of a high-profile leader.

Maha tussle: NCP mulls forming govt

State chief says people won't tolerate Prez's Rule

AGE CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI, NOV. 5

In a U-turn from its earlier stand that it will sit in the Opposition, the NCP has said that it might think of an alternative if the BJP-Shiv Sena alliance fails to form the government. However, the party is learned to have asked the Sena to snap its ties with the BJP-led NDA, including forfeiting the minister's post in the Union cabinet. Jayant Patil, who is also the NCP state chief, said, "The NCP will be forced to think about an alternative if the BJP-Shiv Sena combine fails to form the government in the state. There was no need to impose President's Rule in the state, as people will not tolerate it. We will be forced to think seriously about an alternative if the BJP and Sena fail to offer any solution together."

Mr Patil said that for the NCP, there is no question of supporting the BJP-Shiv Sena. He also said that the party does not have the numbers to put up a candidate for the Assembly speaker's post.

The NCP had earlier said that it will sit in the Opposition as it did not have the required numbers to form the government. However, with the deadlock between the BJP and Sena showing no signs of ending, there is a possibility that President's Rule may be imposed in the state. This has forced the party to rethink its stand on gov-

Cong-Sena partnership dates back to 1977

AGE CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI, NOV. 5

If the Congress does decide to support the government led by the Shiv Sena, it will not be the first time that the two parties, which are the exact opposites in terms of ideology, will be hobnobbing with each other. In the past, the Sena has supported the Congress on several occasions, including the presidential elections of Pratibha Patil and Pranab Mukherjee.

The Shiv Sena, which was formed in 1966, is known as a staunch critic of the Congress with party founder late Bal Thackeray making a scathing attack on former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi through his cartoons.

Later, however, he supported the emergency imposed by Ms Gandhi in 1975. In the 1977 general elections, too, the Sena decided to support the Congress. But the decision

of supporting the government formation. According to sources, the NCP will join hands with the Sena to form the government with outside support from the Congress. In the Vidhan Sabha polls, the Sena won 56 seats, whereas the NCP and Congress won 54 and 44 seats, respectively. The BJP and Shiv Sena have been bickering over

backfired as the Sena suffered heavy losses in the Vidhan Sabha polls held in 1978 and also in the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) elections.

Jolted by this defeat, Mr Thackeray offered to resign as the Sena chief, but later withdrew his decision upon party workers' insistence. In the 1980 Lok Sabha polls, Mr Thackeray continued to support Ms Gandhi by not fielding any candidates against the Congress.

The close relations he shared with Congress leader and former chief minister A.R. Antulay were believed to be the reason behind this decision. In the presidential elections, Sena supported Congress candidates like Pratibha Patil and Pranab Mukherjee. In 1989, the Sena and the BJP decided to form an alliance, which has since continued barring the Vidhan Sabha polls.

sharing the chief minister's post. The Sena wants the CM's post to be shared for two-and-half years on a rotational basis, but the BJP has rejected such an arrangement.

Senior BJP leader Sudhir Mungantiwar recently said that the state may see President's Rule if there is no government in place by November 7.

Paswan's Chirag becomes new LJP president

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, NOV. 5

Marking yet another generational shift and dynastic succession in a regional party, Chirag Paswan on Tuesday took over the reins of the Lok Janshakti Party (LJP) from his father and Union minister Ram Vilas Paswan. The senior Paswan said the decision was taken in the meeting of the national executive in Delhi held on Tuesday.

"Chirag Paswan has been unanimously elected as LJP president by party's national executive," Ram Vilas said.

The LJP, one of the offshoots of the erstwhile socialist Janata Dal, primarily draws its support from a section of Dalits in Bihar. It was founded by Ram Vilas in 2000.

Along with Chirag, his brother Ram Chandra Paswan, Capt. Jai Narain Prasad Nishad and Ramesh Jigajinagi also joined the party.

The first polls contested by the LJP was in alliance with the Indian National Congress and the Rashtriya Janata Dal and



Newly-elected president of Lok Janshakti Party Chirag Paswan being offered sweets. — PTI

it won four Lok Sabha seats from Bihar. Ram Vilas remained a Union minister in the ministry of chemicals and fertilizers and ministry of steel. Through the later years till now, Ram Vilas has steered it through changing political scenarios by joining hands with parties with contrasting ideologies and support groups. He is currently with the NDA and remains a Union Minister.

The first task for Chirag Paswan, who is a second-term Lok Sabha member from Jamui, would be to secure a respectable tally of at least six seats to fight in the coming Assembly polls in Jharkhand.

SIT to file chargesheet in extortion case today

Shahjahanpur (UP), Nov. 5: The Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing sexual harassment allegations against former Union minister Swami Chinmayanand will file a chargesheet in court in the related extortion case on Wednesday against six accused, including two BJP leaders, a senior police official said.

"The probe into the case has been completed and chargesheet will be filed in the court tomorrow. The pen drive which was snatched from the victim law student in Dausa (Rajasthan), has been recovered from BJP leaders DPS Rathore and Ajit Singh," IG-rank officer Naveen Arora, heading the SIT, told reporters on Tuesday.

Mr Rathore is the younger brother of Uttar Pradesh BJP vice-president JPS Rathore.

"These leaders had snatched the pen drive from the law student in Dausa, Rajasthan, and had viewed the contents on their laptop. They had later deleted the pictures and demanded ₹1.25 crore from Chinmayanand and to help ensure disposal of the matter. Both have been found guilty on this count," Mr Arora said on the probe.

With this, the number of those accused of trying to extort money from Chinmayanand has gone up to six.

The other four accused are the law student, who had charged Chinmayanand with sexual harassment, Sanjay Vikram and Sachin. Chinmayanand was arrested on September 21. Police had on August 27 booked him under sections 364 (kidnapping or abducting in order to murder) and 506 (criminal intimidation) of the IPC based on the father's complaint. —PTI



Swami Chinmayanand



West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee with Calcutta University Vice-Chancellor Sonali Chakravarti-Banerjee during a meeting with teachers of colleges and universities in Kolkata on Tuesday. — PTI

Cong leaders Kharge, Ramesh, Karan Singh dropped Centre recasts Nehru memorial society

New Delhi, Nov. 5: The government has reconstituted the NMML society removing Congressmen Mallikarjun Kharge, Jairam Ramesh and Karan Singh as its members and inducting television journalist Rajat Sharma and adman Prasoos Joshi among others.

According to an order issued on Tuesday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is the president of the society and defence minister Rajnath Singh its vice president.

"The central government has reconstituted the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library (NMML) Society under rule 3 of the memorandum of association and rules and regulations of NMML society with Prime Minister



Mallikarjun Kharge



Jairam Ramesh



Rajat Sharma



Prasoos Joshi

Narendra Modi as the president and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh as vice president of the society," the order said.

Union ministers Amit Shah, Nirmala Sitharaman, Ramesh Pokhriyal, Prakash Javadekar, V. Muraleedharan and Prahlad Singh Patel, ICCR chairman Vinay Sahasrabudhe, Prasar Bharti chairman A Surya Prakash, secretaries of Expenditure, Culture

and Housing and Urban Affairs, are its members.

Besides, the chairman of the UGC, representative of Jawaharlal Nehru Memorial fund, Raghvendra Singh, director of NMML and journalist Sharma are also the new members.

According to the order, the other members include Anirban Ganguly, policy researcher and author, Sachchidananda Joshi, Member Secretary,

IGNCA, academic Kapil Kapoor, Lokesh Chandra, Vedic and Buddhist scholar, Makarand Pranjevi, academic, writer, Kishore Makwana, academic Kamlesh Josphura, researcher Rizwan Kadri along with Sahasrabudhe and Rai. "The term of the members is for a period of five years or until further orders, whichever is earlier," the order further said.

Earlier, the Centre had appointed television journalist Arnab Goswami, former foreign secretary S Jaishankar, BJP lawmaker Vinay Sahasrabudhe and IGNSA chairman Ram Bahadur Rai as members of NMML Society, replacing four members who had opposed the move to build a museum for all PMs. —PTI



Restraint

Sri Sri Ravi Shankar calls for restraint ahead of Ayodhya verdict



We would strive to conclude the entire Naga peace-process at the earliest

— R.N. Ravi
PM's envoy for Naga peace talks

SHORT TAKES

Drugs, ammunition seized in Baramulla

Srinagar: Two suspected drug peddlers were arrested on Monday with six kilograms of brown sugar and a large quantity of AK ammunition and magazines in Uri sector of north Kashmir's Baramulla district, police said. The police also seized ₹3.28 lakh cash during the operation which was conducted on a specific input about illegal smuggling of drugs and arms from across the border at village Dulanga in Kamalkote area near the Line of Control, a police official said. He said the police arrested two drug peddlers, including a woman, along with some quantity of brown sugar. On questioning they revealed that the woman had concealed some drugs in a cow shed near her house. Four more packets of brown sugar were recovered during the search of the place, he said. — PTI

Mentally challenged person kills mother

Bhubaneswar: A mentally challenged man on Tuesday allegedly thrashed his mother to death at Makuakateni village under Kankadahada police limits in Odisha's Dhenkanal district. The deceased was identified as Baidai Sahu (75). The elderly woman tried to stop his son Bishnuprasad Sahu when he was attempting to leave the house around 3 AM. Bishnuprasad thrashed his mother with a stick, following which the woman died on the spot. On being informed by villagers, who detained Bishnuprasad, police reached the spot and started investigation.

Missing Odisha school teacher found dead

Bhubaneswar: Body of a school headmaster was on Tuesday found under mysterious circumstances on the bank of Mahanadi river at Khamaranga in Banki of Cuttack district. The deceased identified as Nimai Charan Mohapatra was reportedly missing since Sunday. According to sources, Mohapatra hailed from Sahadapadar village and was posted at Singhanathpur UGME School at Patapur. Some locals spotted his body today morning and informed police. Later, the police seized the body and sent it for post-mortem.

CM FOR 75% PVT JOBS TO HARYANA YOUTH

Chandigarh: Haryana deputy chief minister Dushyant Chautala on Tuesday told the state Assembly that chief minister M.L. Khattar-led BJP-JJP coalition government would bring a bill in the next session of the House to provide 75 per cent of private sector jobs to local youths. Mr Chautala made the announcement on the floor of the House even as chief minister Khattar talked of evolving an institutional mechanism to provide 75 percent reservation in private sector jobs to Haryana youths. He also said that a new policy would be framed to accord special incentives to the private industries, willing to provide 95% jobs to the state youths. The chief minister also promised to set up a panel to monitor the implementation of the Common Minimum Programme of the two parties, the BJP and JJP, which together formed the coalition government in the state. The chief minister and his deputy made the announcement while replying to the debate on Governor Satyadeo Narain Arya's address to the Assembly. The deputy chief minister told the House that youths will be focus area for the new government. — PTI

Apex court asks JJ panel of HC on veracity of allegations SC seeks report on detention of children in J&K

PARMOD KUMAR
NEW DELHI, NOV. 5

The Supreme Court on Tuesday sought an elaborate report by the Jammu and Kashmir high court juvenile justice committee on the veracity of the allegations relating to the detention of children by the state police following the abrogation of Article 370 and the bifurcation of the state into two Union Territories.

A bench of Justice N.V. Ramana, Justice R. Subhash Reddy and Justice B.R. Gawai sought fresh report from the J&K high court JJ committee comprising four judges of the high court as it noted that earlier report was not entirely in consonance with the spirit of the September 20, 2019 order of the top court.

"As the issues highlighted pertain to alleged detention of children, we direct the juvenile justice committee of the high court of Jammu & Kashmir to undertake an exercise with regard to the facts stated in the writ petition and revert to us within a week from today," said the top court by its September 20, 2019, order.

The court on Tuesday observed that the earlier report could not be entirely in accord with its directions as one week time given to it was not enough for a detailed findings of the facts of each case.

This time court did not bind the JJ committee with any time line asking it to submit the report expeditiously.

In the course of the hear-

J&K high court's juvenile justice committee comprises four judges and its previous report on the subject was not found in consonance with the spirit of the apex court's September order

ing, the court made it clear that it was not satisfied with the report as the juvenile justice committee has not appreciated the spirit of the top court's order. Seeking that the matter should now be sent to J&K high court, solicitor general Tushar Mehta said that the petitioner Ganguly should approach the statutorily constituted juvenile justice committee and avail of the available remedies.

As the top court made some observation not appreciating the report, Mr Mehta urged the court to hold its observations as it has its ramifications.

The court sought report from the JJ committee after senior counsel Huzefa Ahmadi told the court "How can there be preventive detention of children? The preventive detention of the children is not allowed."

Pointing to the flaws in the report submitted by the HC's JJ committee, Mr Ahmadi took the court through the details of the each case of detention of children brought before the court by the child right activist Enakshi Ganguly.

CBI raids bank defaulters in 16 states

Searches 187 locations in 42 cases pertaining to bank fraud worth ₹7,200cr

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, NOV. 5

In a nation-wide operation, the CBI on Tuesday conducted searches at over 187 locations in 16 states in the country after registering 42 fresh cases pertaining to bank frauds involving ₹7,200 crore.

According to sources the exercise, launched early in the morning, was carried out throughout the day, with CBI teams knocking the doors of the accused to collect evidence and question them. Maximum searches were reported from Maharashtra where

the agency's teams swooped down at 58 locations followed by Punjab, where 32 locations were searched, sources said. Twelve locations were searched in the national capital, 17 each in Tamil Nadu and Madhya Pradesh, 15 in Uttar Pradesh, five in Andhra Pradesh, two in Chandigarh, four each in Kerala, Telangana and Dadra and Nagar Haveli, five each in Gujarat and Haryana, six in Karnataka and two each in Uttarakhand and West Bengal, they added. The operation was spread

LARGEST OPERATION

The operation was spread across 16 states and Union Territories with as many as 1,000 officers of the agency involved in it making it one of the largest coordinated search this year

across 16 states and Union Territories with as many as 1,000 officers of the agency involved in it making it one of the largest coordinated search this year. Sources in the CBI said in at least four cases, the siphoned off

funds are over ₹1000 crore. Among major cases, the CBI has booked promoters and directors of Advantage Overseas Pvt Ltd Shrikant Bhasi. Dinesh Arkot Selvaraj, Manish Kumar Singh, Gagan Sharma and Jiyo John for allegedly cheating State Bank of India, Bhopal, by falsifying records to avail credit facilities of ₹6000 crore. The company involved in bulk trading of agro commodities defaulted on payments causing a loss of ₹1266 crore to the bank, sources said. A separate case has been registered against Energo

Engineering Projects Ltd and its directors — chairman Sujit Das, Dinesh V Singh managing director Jaya Singh — for availing credit facilities to the tune of ₹1290 crore on forged documents. Later payment defaults caused a loss of ₹1266 crore to the bank. Surana Industries in Chennai and its directors Dinesh Chand Surana, Shanti Lal Surana, Gautham Lal Surana, Vijayraj Surana, and others have been named in CBI FIR for allegedly causing a loss of ₹1083 crore to a consortium of 12 banks led by IDBI, sources said.

Imphal blast injures 5 cops

Imphal, Nov. 5: Six people — five police commandos and a civilian — were injured in an IED blast at Imphal town of Manipur on Tuesday, police said.

The explosion that occurred at Thangal Bazaar at 9.30 AM also damaged some vehicles. Manipur chief minister N. Biren Singh said detonation of the improvised explosive device (IED) was an

"act of cowardice". He said, "It is a reaction by people who are frustrated and disappointed over the visible changes in the state in the past two-and-half years towards bringing peace."

Mr Singh who became the chief minister in the BJP-ruled state in March 2017 inspected the blast site and visited the injured people in a hospital. — PTI

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///SAVE ELECTRICITY///



Vehicles move slowly after the snow was cleared from Rohtang Pass and opening of the Manali-Keylong road for vehicular traffic in Manali on Tuesday. — PTI

'Foreign cows are aunties, Indian cows produce gold'

Bengal BJP chief also lashes out at beef-eaters

RAJIB CHOWDHURI
KOLKATA, NOV. 5

Triggering controversy yet again, West Bengal BJP president Dilip Ghosh has claimed that the Indian cow milk contains "gold" which makes its colour "yellow". According to him, the foreign cows are not "mothers" to the Indian people but they are "aunties".

Lashing out at the intellectuals, Mr Ghosh also asked them to eat dog meat too when they can have beef. "The characteristics of Indian cows is that its milk has gold which is why its colour is yellow to some extent. "The Indian cows have hump. But the foreign cows do not have it," he said while addressing a gathering at an event Gopa Ashtami Karyakram organised by Ghosh and Gavikalyan Samity at Burdwan Town on Monday.

Justifying his argument, the BJP MP of Midnapore reasoned, "Their back is horizontal like that of buffalos. The hump has a vessel which is called Swarna Nari (gold nerve). When it gets



Dilip Ghosh

sunlight, gold is produced making the colour of milk yellow. It looks golden. The milk with such characteristic carry antidotes. A human being can survive drinking it. Nothing else will be required. It is a total diet."

Sharing his wisdom, he pointed out, "The breeds of cows which we bring from abroad are not cows. They are rather a kind of beast. These foreign breeds do not look like cows at all. They are not our Gau Mata (mother) but our aunties. It is also not good for the country if we worship such aunties."

Mr Ghosh added, "Our mother is cow. We survive drinking cow milk.

So if anyone misbehaves with my mother, I will treat them the way they should be treated.

"On the holy soil of India, cow slaughter and eating beef is a grave offence." He then turned the heat on the intellectuals over beef-love.

Issuing a warning to them, the state BJP chief said, "There are some educated people who eat beef on the road side. I ask them: Why only cow? They can have dog meat too. Eat other animals too. It is good for health. But please eat at home. Our mother is cow. India is the place of Gopal (Lord Krishna) and the respect for Gau (cow) will remain here forever. We see cow slaughter as an anti-social activity."

This was not for the first time that he made controversial comments. On August 27 this year, Mr Ghosh threatened a senior police officer at Mecheda in East Midnapore that his body would not be traced and his family members would not be able to perform his last rites if he would continue to harass the BJP workers in the district.

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Sikh valour

History of Sikh community is tale of valour, sacrifice: President Kovind



100 days in office as CM were like trial by fire

— B.S. Yediyurappa
Karnataka CM

SHORT TAKES

Man killed after bike hits dead cow

Nagpur: A 60-year-old motorcyclist was killed after his two-wheeler hit a dead cow lying on Nagpur-Jabalpur Highway near Khapri here, police said on Tuesday. The incident occurred at around 6 pm on Monday when Bhanudas Ramrao Jangle, a resident of Sudarshan Nagar, was riding towards Multi-modal International Cargo Hub and Airport (MIHAN) in Maharashtra's Nagpur district, an official said. Jangle, a technician with a private company, failed to notice a dead cow lying on the bypass, as it was dark. He hit the carcass, fell on the road and sustained severe head injuries, he added. "Although Jangle was wearing a helmet, it wasn't buckled properly, causing severe head trauma," said a police official.

6 kids hurt after school buses collide

Gorakhpur (UP): Six children were injured after two school buses collided head on near Hariya village in Sant Kabir Nagar district on Tuesday morning, the police said. The buses belonged to Ramnath Subhawati Devi Inter College, Totha area in Sant Kabir Nagar district and Bombay Cambridge School in Siddharthnagar district. Nitya (11), Umang (10), Nitish (11), Krishnamohan (12), Neha (13) and Pুষpa (17) had minor injuries in the accident. While five children have been discharged after first aid, one girl is undergoing treatment. — PTI

College student dies of bullet injury

Chennai: A 20-year-old student of a polytechnic college died of a bullet injury in nearby Kancheepuram district on Tuesday, police said. The incident happened at Venkatamangalam in the district when Mukesh was found with a head injury at his house by local people after they heard a gunshot. He was taken to a nearby hospital and later shifted to a city hospital where he died, they said. The role of a local person was suspected in the death and a search was on for him, the police added. — PTI

CM-SWEARING-IN TO BE LOW KEY...

Continued from Page 1
MLAs) join, they will together hit the majority number of 145. While there are indications that the NCP is ready to join the Sena in the government, Congress is non-committal even on the outside support.

NCP leader Nawab Malik on Tuesday said his party will think of providing an alternative government if Shiv Sena declares that it has snapped its ties with the BJP-led NDA. "Under no circumstances, we will allow the President's rule to be imposed in the state," he said.

Earlier in the day the BJP core committee held a meeting at the chief minister's official residence "Varsha".

RSS ON AYODHYA

Continued from Page 1
religion. The Muslim leaders expressed their commitment to strengthening and protecting the fabric of the country's socio-communal harmony, brotherhood and unity under all circumstances.

Among those who attended the meeting were Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind's Maulana Mahmood Madani, Anjuman Ajmer Sharif president Syed Moinuddin Chishti, Justice Zakiullah (Retired), Maulana Athar Dehnavi, film director Muzaffar Ali, All India Muslim Personal Law Board member Kamal Faruqui among others.

'Housing project close to sanctuary' SC quashes project by Tata near Sukhna

New Delhi, Nov. 5: The Supreme Court on Tuesday quashed the clearance granted to an ambitious housing project of the Tata Group in Chandigarh on the ground that it was very close to a "wildlife sanctuary", saying the Punjab government acted arbitrarily and failed to uphold the "doctrine of public trust".

CHANDIGARH

The bench, after dealing with factual and legal issues pertaining to the case, said the Punjab government had failed to act on the basis of "doctrine of public trust"

The top court upheld a Delhi high court verdict that had revoked sanctions given to CAMELOT, a project of Tata Housing Development Company Ltd (THDCL) spread over 52.66 acres near Sukhna lake in Chandigarh.

Observing that "the earth and human civilization" are facing "the most potent threat" in the form of environmental and wildlife degradation, a bench headed by justice Arun Mishra slammed the Punjab government for according sanction to the project in which the state MLAs were to get an apartment each.

"The entire exercise of obtaining clearance relating to the project is quashed. We regret that such a scenario has emerged in the matter and

that it involved a large number of MLAs of Punjab legislative Assembly. The entire exercise smacks of arbitrariness on the part of the government, including functionaries. Thus, we dismiss the appeals with the directions mentioned above," the bench, also comprising justices M.R. Shah and B.R. Gava, said. The apex court's verdict came on the appeal of THDCL against a 2017 judgement of the Delhi HC in which it had said that the project site was "found to be a part of the area of Sukhna Lake" and the permission granted to the project by the Nagar Panchayat was set aside.

The bench said that the court "has to perform its duty" when authorities

have failed to protect the wildlife sanctuary and its eco-sensitive zone as there was a need to stop "environmental degradation and wildlife degeneration" to protect the Earth and civilisation.

"The need to protect flora and fauna which constitutes a major portion of our ecosystem is immediate. Development and urbanization coming at the cost of adversely affecting our natural surroundings will in turn impact and be the cause of human devastation as was seen in the 2013 floods in Uttarakhand and in 2018 in Kerala," it said.

The total 'CAMELOT' housing project area, located in Mohali district, was 52.66 acres out of which 41.54 acres was to be developed for group housing. The parking facility was being designed to accommodate 3,645 vehicles and proposed maximum height of the building was to be 92.65 metres. The bench, after dealing with factual and legal issues pertaining to the case, said the Punjab government had failed to act on the basis of the "doctrine of public trust". — PTI

Moon mission generated curiosity among youth, says PM

Kolkata, Nov. 5: Hailing the achievements of the country's scientists, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said Chandrayaan-2 was a successful mission and it had generated curiosity about science among the youth.

Noting that no country in the world would progress without science and technology, he insisted that scientific discoveries might not be of immediate help to the present generation but could be beneficial in the future.

"Our scientists worked hard on Chandrayaan 2 (mission to the moon). Everything didn't go as planned but the mission was successful. If you look at the broader perspective, you will see it is a major feat in India's list of scientific achievements," Mr Modi said, while addressing India International Science Festival in Kolkata via video conferencing.

Communications with Chandrayaan-2's Vikram lander to ISRO's ground station were lost just before its soft landing on the hitherto unexplored lunar south pole in the early hours of September 7.

If the lander had pulled off the historic touchdown, the country could have joined the US, Russia and China in soft landing on the lunar surface.

The Prime Minister said the Chandrayaan-2 mission had generated curiosity among the young and the old alike.

"Scientific research cannot be like preparing noodles or buying instant pizza, it requires patience and the outcome of such research can provide long term solution to people," Mr Modi stated.

There is no failure in science and there are only efforts, experiments and success, he said. — PTI



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Himachal Pradesh governor Bandaru Dattatreya during a meeting in New Delhi on Tuesday. — PTI

DHFL crisis spreads, UP discom's ex-MD arrested

Officer was sacked from post on March 24, 2017

Lucknow, Nov. 5: Former managing director of Uttar Pradesh Power Corporation Limited A.P. Mishra was arrested on Tuesday in connection with the investment of over ₹2,600 crore of the state power employees' provident fund in the scam-hit DHFL.

His arrest came days after the state government recommended a CBI probe into the matter and Uttar Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath directed the director general of the economic offences wing to investigate the case till the CBI took over the matter. "Mr Mishra has been arrested. The economic offences wing of the state police is probing the matter and strict action will be taken against those involved in this case," Uttar Pradesh director general of police O.P. Singh told PTI.

An official spokesman said Mr Mishra, who was close to former CM Akhilesh Yadav and known as "arab pati Mishra", was "sacked" from his post on March 24, 2017, after the Yogi Adityanath government came to power.

EPF scam: Akhilesh holds Yogi responsible, seeks resignation

Lucknow, Nov. 5: Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav on Tuesday trashed allegations that the EPF money of UP power employees was transferred to the scam-hit DHFL in his regime and demanded the resignation of chief minister Yogi Adityanath, holding him responsible for the "mess".

Making a fresh demand for a probe by a sitting Supreme Court or high court judge into the alleged EPF scam, Mr Yadav said the FIR in the EPF matter clearly states when the money was transferred to DHFL.

"No EPF money of power employees was transferred to the Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Limited dur-



Akhilesh Yogi

ing the previous SP regime," the former chief minister asserted at a hurriedly convened press conference here.

"Adityanath should step down. The CM is so weak that he cannot even ask state power minister Shrikant Sharma to resign," Mr Yadav said.

Over ₹2,600 crore of the state power employees' provident fund was allegedly invested in scam-hit housing finance firm DHFL. — PTI

"Apprehending his termination, Mr Mishra took away many important files. He was the first engineer to be promoted as the MD of the UPPCL and was given extension thrice by

Akhilesh after his retirement," he said, alleging that Mr Mishra had sought the Samajwadi ticket to contest the Lok Sabha polls and was involved in scams. — PTI

Rain damage: 10 farmer suicides in 4 days in Maha

Aurangabad, Nov. 5: At least ten cases of farmer suicides were reported from Marathwada region of Maharashtra in the last four days as unseasonal rains damaged crops, officials said on Tuesday. In all these cases, reasons for the suicide were yet to be ascertained.

Heavy unseasonal showers have laid waste to Kharif crops such as soybean, jowar, maize and cotton in this central Maharashtra region.

Three incidents of farmer suicide were reported in Nanded district since November 1, a senior district official told PTI. In Beed district, two farmers committed suicide in the last three days, said a senior district official. "We cannot comment on whether those deaths were due to damage caused to the crops by the rain or indebtedness," he said. In Latur district, three incidents of farmer suicides were reported. — PTI

In MP, crumbling 'Great Wall of India' craves attention

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY BHOPAL, NOV. 5

An 80 km-long fortification crisscrossing through teakwood forests and Vindhya range of mountains in Madhya Pradesh's Raisen district has remained an enigma for archaeologists and historians, denying the ancient gigantic wall a place among prominent heritage sites of India.

Originating from a forest near Gorakhpur village, nearly 150 km from Bhopal, and ending at Chowkigarh, the fortification stands as high as 15 ft at some places and lies in ruins in some other places. A stretch of the

wall also lies unfinished. "Physical verification of the fortification clearly establishes that it is a continuous structure, at least at the planning level. A vast stretch of wall is exposed prominently, while a portion of it lies in ruins.

There are heaps of evenly cut stone bricks found at some place along its route indicating that the particular stretch could not be completed due to some reasons," Rajiv Choubey, who along with retired archaeologist of Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) Narayan Vyas and historian Vinod Tiwari has recently completed physical verification of the fortification,



The fortification stands as high as 15 ft at some places but lies in ruins in some other places.

told this newspaper on Tuesday.

Mr Choubey, conservation enthusiastic, has literally made physical veri-

fication of "every inch" of the "ancient" fortification. This would be the longest wall of India after Kumbalgarh in Rajasthan



(36 km), he said.

"Preliminary examination of the structure suggests that the fortification may be 1000-year-old, built

during the rule of Parmar dynasty that ruled West-Central India in 9th-13th century. But, more archaeological studies are needed to ascertain the exact period when it was built", Mr Vyas told this newspaper. The wall is made of sandstones, evenly cut and interlocked.

"Remains of temples found near the wall at some places matches with Parmar style of temples. Moreover, the fortification's interlocked technique matches the building design of Bhojswar temple, built during Parmar period, near Bhopal," he said. "Parmar dynasty had a history of hostility with Kalchuri kingdom," Mr Vyas said.

Confusion over Kartarpur Khaki revolt rattles capital city

Continued from Page 1
and other dignitaries who will be part of the inaugural jatha to Kartarpur Sahib on November 9. Sources said the list was sent much in advance to Pakistan, but no confirmation has been received on that.

Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, Punjab chief minister Amarinder Singh, and Union ministers Harsimrat Kaur Badal and Hardeep Singh Puri are among the dignitaries who will be travelling through the Kartarpur Corridor on the inauguration day. It has been made clear that Dr Manmohan Singh and others will travel as pilgrims and not as invitees for the inauguration planned by the Pakistan government.

Besides, there is also lot of confusion on the Indian side after Pakistan PM Imran Khan's tweet on Friday where he announced waiver of the mandatory 10-day registration process for Indian Sikh pilgrims needed to visit Kartarpur Sahib Gurdwara, and carrying of passports as identity proof. Mr Khan also announced waiver of the \$20 service fee for all Indian pilgrims coming on the inauguration day, November 9, and on Guru Nanak's 550th birth anniversary, November 12.

"For Sikhs coming for pilgrimage to Kartarpur from India, I have waived off 2 requirements: i) They want need a passport — just a valid ID; ii) They no longer have to register 10 days in advance. Also, no fee will be charged on day of inauguration & on Gurji's 550th birthday", Mr Khan had tweeted on Friday.

However, sources in the Indian government said so far no official communication has reached them. They added that any change, as announced by the Pakistan PM, would mean modification of the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the two countries on October 24. In such a scenario, a fresh MoU will have to be signed.

"There is absolute confusion created by Pakistan PM Imran Khan's tweet that no passports will be required to undertake the pilgrimage. This requirement is, however, mentioned in the MOU. There has been no offer from Pakistan to amend the MoU in light of Mr Khan's tweet. Pilgrims are, therefore, unclear on the documents they need to carry," the sources added.

The Indian side is also upset that Pakistan unilaterally decided on the programme and timing of the inaugural jatha without taking the Indian government's inputs in this matter into account. "Critical information such as medical facilities available and security arrangements for pilgrims were also not shared," the sources said.

A large number of Indian Sikhs on Tuesday visited the Kartarpur Sahib Gurdwara and installed a golden palanquin at the shrine. Pakistan had on Monday released the photographs of the illuminated Gurdwara Kartarpur Sahib and the corridor along with the official song of the opening ceremony. On Sunday, Pakistan released a commemorative stamp on the occasion of the 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak. It was announced Pakistan Post will set up a post office at the Kartarpur complex to help Sikh pilgrims, while another post office will be opened at Nankana Sahib.

Pakistan has, meanwhile, made it mandatory for tour operators to obtain a No Objection Certificate from its interior ministry before taking foreign Sikhs, besides Indians, to Kartarpur Sahib.

Continued from Page 1
six district courts — Tis Hazari, Karkardooma, Saket, Dwarka, Rohini and Patiala House — have been protesting against police brutality and not attending court since Monday.

Police's prompt action against its own personnel, and the viral video of Monday's seemingly unprovoked attack on a cop at Saket district court, led to the outrage and protests by cops on Tuesday.

Though service rules bar police personnel from holding protests, on Tuesday, 2,000-odd personnel laid siege outside the Police Headquarters, rejecting their chief's pleas. The protestors blocked traffic at ITO, one of Delhi's major traffic intersections, while their families, including women and children, held a candle light march at India Gate.

The policemen said they were upset over what they perceived as lack of concern about their well-being, and they feared being targeted when in uniform. Yet, taking care not to disrupt the functioning of police

stations in the city, the cops were protesting in shifts. Police personnel joined the protest after finishing their respective duties. Faced with angry cops wearing black bands, the police commissioner came out of his office to assure the agitators that their concerns will be addressed.

"We have to behave like a disciplined force. The government and the people expect us to uphold the law, it is our big responsibility. I urge you to resume duty," Mr Patnaik told the police personnel. "The last few days have been testing for us. A judicial inquiry is underway and I request you to have faith in the process."

Mr Patnaik's appeals to pacify the cops, however, were drowned by jeers of "Go back, Go back". In a show of lack of faith in their leadership, the agitating police personnel also held up the poster of one of India's super cops, Kiran Bedi, with the slogan, "We Need You". They also shouted, "Humara Commissioner kaisa ho, Kiran Bedi jaisa ho". In 1988, Ms Bedi had famously

clashed with lawyers and had stood her ground.

Holding up placards with slogans such as "We are human in police uniforms", "We are not punching bags" and "Protectors Need Protection", some police-women urged their seniors to stand with them to save the honour of the uniform. The wife of a constable, protesting at India Gate, said, "Our men are on duty around the clock so that the people can celebrate every festival without fear. But while making those sacrifices, they get thrashed on the roads. Don't we have feelings or any rights?" As the agitation gained momentum with police associations from several states extending support and threatening to march to Delhi, home ministry stepped in to take stock of the situation. The Centre rushed to the Delhi high court on Tuesday, urging that its order for "no coercive action against advocates", passed on Sunday following the lawyers-police clash at Tis Hazari complex, should not be applicable on the subsequent incident, specifi-

cally the Saket incident.

A bench of Chief Justice D.N. Patel and Justice C. Hari Shankar issued a notice to the Bar Councils to get their members to exercise restraint and sought the response of the Bar Council of India and several other bar associations of national capital on the Centre's plea.

The Bar Council of India on Tuesday wrote to bar bodies asking them to identify lawyers "indulging in hooliganism" and requested advocates to end their protest, which is "bringing bad name to the institution".

BCI chairman Manan Kumar Mishra in his letter said sparing such "rowdy elements" is tarnishing the image of the institution.

"The incidents of beating policemen on bike by some of Saket lawyers, assault of an auto driver, manhandling general public are most unfortunate and Bar Council of India is not going to tolerate it. These are acts of grave misconduct," the letter said.

Lawyers, however, said they would continue to boycott work.

Recapturing in Sanskrit, Pali and Hindi the old vibes of India's total theatre

Based on Kalidasa's world-famous play, *Rasa-Kirti, the Natakam*, was an exceptional experiment which mesmerised audiences at JNU as did the *Natya Shastra*-style enactment of *Karna Gatha* by NSD students. A review of both performances.



Leela Venkataraman focus

While great western minds like Goethe and Forster have eulogised Kalidasa's *Abhijnanasakuntalam* as a jewel in the world of drama literature — "kavyesu natakam ramyam tatra ramya sakuntala", for some of the lofty minded in India who scoff at Sanskrit for being a dead language which few Indians can relate to, the evening at the Convention Hall of the Jawahar Lal University, where Kalidasa's *Abhijnanasakuntalam Natakam* in its Sanskrit and Prakrit version was staged, would have proved an eye-opener. Titled *Rasa-Kirti, The Natakam*, a joint venture by the Jawaharlal Nehru University and Satraranga (a Trust for Cultural Relations) celebrating the golden jubilee year of JNU, it was an exceptional experiment at several levels.

The presentation was based on the Kashmiri Shaarada script (the first descendent of the Brahmi script of Ashokan inscriptions) ascribed to the seventh century and the oldest of the known recensions of the work in other scripts like the Maithili, the Bengali, the South Indian and the Devanagari (the last being the shortest and the most popular was created in as late as the 16th century). The entire credit for discovering and procuring this script after years of search, and critically editing it, goes to Prof. Vasankumar M. Bhatt whose herculean task apart from tracing recensions from the script written on birch bark preserved in the Bodleian University and one at Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute at Poona amidst others finally succeeded in procuring the Shaarada version referred to by ancient Kashmiri scholars like Vaamana, Aanandavardhan and Abhinavagupta of Kashmir, Bhojaraja of Madhya Pradesh and Hemchandra Acharya of Gujarat. That this most authentic script of *Abhijnanasakuntala Natakam* should be staged in the Satriya form in the typical Ankia-Nat performance tradition created by Sankaradeva and followed in the Sattras, under the direction of Dr Bhabananda Barbayan of Uttar Kamalabari Sattra, made this a unique occasion. The Satraranga is also introducing *Citrabhadragavata* through a panel of paintings by Rajib Kakoti in *Abhijnanasakuntalam*.



Sankaradeva being primarily a preacher whose literary works spread his ekasaran dharma, a play like *Abhijnanasakuntalam* needed some adjustments, its literary Sanskrit excellence different from the Vrajaboli (with the *sutradhar* using Sanskrit) language used by Sankaradeva in what he called his *natakas*, based on Krishna episodes from the *Bhagavata Purana*.

The play in the traditional Ankia Bhaona pattern in Vrajaboli and Assamese had its Purva Ranga in the typical Sattra tradition with Dhemali — with the Gayan-Bayan troupe comprising rhythm keepers, six playing the Khol with two keeping time on the Khartal in the rear — all artists from the Uttar Kamalabari Sattra, being led by Prof. Bhabananda Barbayan. The absorbing rendition simultaneously combining Khol playing with specified foot movements and chalis with hands held in hastas was charged with vivacity, while exuding an all-pervading inner serenity.

After the Purva ranga the *shloka* in Sanskrit followed with the *sutradhar* or *sutradhari* in this case, entering, explaining the *shloka* and the situation in the play. *Sutradhari Naach* had typical Satriya dance movements, though in original Sanskrit *natakam*, the *sutradhar's* introduction is largely through gestures or *hastas*. The narrative began with hero Dushyanta, while hunting, straying into an ashram in the process of chasing a deer — to be firmly told that on this non-violent soil, killing animals was prohibited.

The dance in the narrative as one of the main components was of a muted character — with foot movements, and gaits for different characters, postural changes,

hand gestures and facial expressions — and less of vigorous sweeping over stage space with intricate footwork, barring occasions.

The language teaching experts did a wonderful job with the spoken Sanskrit diction. Abhay Singh as Dushyanta was impressive as was Pragma in the role of Sakuntala. Jhilmil Pathak and Sumanya Kashyap as Anusuya and Praiyambada and the other two maids, also excellent singers, impressed. Actors as the deer and the lion were quaint. But above all in the sheer expertise of enactment was Sanjay Yadav as Vidhusaka, his malleable face mapping every moment beautifully (in original Ankia Nat plays, a regular character like the jester, so typical of Sanskrit theatre, was absent — though post Sankaradeva particularly, some regular characters were given a comic dimension.)

The familiar theme — and the scene of Sakuntala, trying to convince Dushyanta in a state of amnesia, that she is his wedded wife, was very moving. After involved circumstances result in the ring that had slipped from Sakuntala's finger reaching Dushyanta, recollection sets in with deep remorse at the harm done. Once again on the Ashram territory, he sees young Bharat playing with a lion cub — and finally comes the recognition that this is his son — and reconciliation. Simple props like a movable tree, round which so much action takes place, flower pots, elegant white arches formed by pleated white cloth strung between two poles suggesting the palace interior, were very imaginatively conceived.

Most impressive and contributing handsomely to the performance tone was the music — in the typical Assamese style with words in Vrajaboli — even while the spoken dialogue was in Sanskrit and Prakrit. And right from the start after *Hari Bol*, starting with raga Saranga, music it was that evoked the required mood

and state of mind. Vocalists Dibakar Das, Dr.Rishiraj Pathak, Rinja Risa Kaushik, Sumaya Kashyap, led by Bhabananda Barbayan on Khol assisted by Mridanga and Khol by Niranjana Saikia Bayan, Govinda Kalita bayan and Manto Baruah providing soft cymbal *taal*, and the very melodious flute and violin interventions by Bitual Duwari and Dwipendra Sarma made for a truly sensitive combine.

Barring the odd whistle and catcall, which one puts down to an exuberance of animal spirits of youth, the complete attention in which the proceedings were watched by the packed hall of students, was a feather in the cap of the actors, and kudos to the JNU authorities for thinking of an effort of this nature for the centenary celebrations!

The week's similar aesthetic continuum in the *Natya Shastra* style of enactment based on "Karna Gatha" in Hindi by playwright Asif Ali Haider Khan, saw a power-packed presentation at Abhimanch by the second year students of NSD — the play designed by Rita Ganguly with her visualisation, choreography, music, design and direction.

Sanskrit theatre combining the heard (*sravya*) and the seen (*drishya*) was described by Bharata in his oft quoted statement in the *Natya Shastra* "Na tajaana natakchilpa na sa vidya na sakala (There is no wise maxims, no learning, no art or craft, no device, no action that is not found reflected in drama)". *Natyam* as *bhavanukirtanam* is not reality but an aestheticised concept, and an art construct of universalised mental states of being. The idea of *sadharanikarana* or a process of universalisation and becoming one with this (*tanmayibhavana*) is what acting is all about, involving *abhinaya* which has four expressional modes — through the body (*angika*) through speech (*vachika*), true expression (*sattvika*) and through the costumed body with ornaments (*aharya*) setting in motion an entire process enabling the actor's alienation — becoming one with the role stepping away from his persona. *Abhinaya* through hand gestures plays a very important role. Rita Ganguly's imaginative choreography, in the excellent movement visualisation had a minimalism — like a few Chhau Hathyadhara steps accompanied by Kunhiraman's Chenda rhythm evoking the feel of a whole edifice of a bitterly fought war. Along with wonderfully designed costumes by Dolly Aluwalia Tiwari carried with easy grace by the actors, and Kajal Ghosh's superb music arrangement with the *bhav*-soaked singing and percussive interludes creating mood, and above all Souti Chakraborty's light designing — all came together to create magical feel of a bygone era.

The entire auditorium ambience with Ajanta paintings on the wall and delightfully envisioned set executed by Sagnik Chakraborty set the tone for the *Natya Sastra* mode of Purvaranga, Nandi with the important character's Praveshika with Jarjara Sthapana to ward off all evil with Rita Ganguly's voice on the sound tape singing Saraswati Vandana "Ya kundendu" in Shivaranjani, followed by Ravana's "Prachanda Tandavam Shivam" slokam. Prerna Joshi as *sutradhar* introduced the characters.

Characters appearing hidden behind the *tiraisheela* (screen held on both sides) made for some indelible images like the feet underneath moving in excellent rhythmic coordination, or just hand gestures and mimetic faces above the curtain telling the story. Actor Vikas as Karn, with his perfect *ardhamandali* stance many dancers would be proud of, evocatively underlined the melancholia and aloneness of his existence. In a uniformly well-directed cast, one specially appreciates Bhushan Sanjay Patil who as Karn's horse was out of the ordinary. Quivering nostrils, with feet shuffling or in a canter or a gallop, he became one with his character.

The tempo never sagged in a smoothly moving narrative — so painstakingly rehearsed were the actors in what was not their usual theatre form. Kudos to the entire team!

The writer is an eminent dance critic



Scenes from *Karna Gatha* (above) and *Abhijnanasakuntalam*

Saluting Mother Earth, song by song, to save the planet



Shailaja Khanna meanwhile

During her recent concert in Delhi, "Nightingale of the South" Bombay Jayashri, who is an ambassador for the US-based Earth Day Network, spoke of the song she has composed and sung for the network, a salutation to Mother Earth "Dharti Ma". (The other artiste ambassadors are Kaushiki Chakravorty and Ricky Kej.)

The simple yet poignant lyrics of the under-two-minute song are "Dharti Ma pranaam, tujh par nirbhar hum, sadeeyon se tumne sabhi ko dee jeevan". As the video opens, there is a stark message "The Earth can outlive us, we need it more than it needs us."

The haunting strains of the *sarangi* played by Ustad Murad Ali Khan, accompanying the song in music

inspired by Raga Kalyani (or Aiman in the North) combined with the beautiful visuals of the green trees, raindrops falling, a sunset, a turtle swimming add to the power of Bombay Jayashri's molten, unusually timbered voice. Jayashri shared "M.T. Aditya played the percussion and mixed and mastered the song., Chetana Shrikant wrote the lyrics, Rathna compiled the video and Amrit arranged the music. The inclusion of the chorus sung by children from a choir put together by Sudha Raja of Chennai was important to awaken awareness on environmental issues amongst the young. The entire team was young, under 25 years."

Continuing, Jayashri said, "I feel very strongly about the misuse of materials in our world — we live in a society that uses and throws away without thinking through the consequences of that misuse. Nothing goes away ever; it just adds to the waste Mother Earth is collecting. We need to do this right now; we have already done too much damage, and every day each one of us needs to do something, even if it's within a 5 km radius



Bombay Jayashri

around us. I saw lots of audio and video presentations from all over the world, done by musicians and dancers on the issue of preservation, and it

was inspiring, but it's not enough. Each one of us has to be conscious and act responsible every day."

I asked what led to the song. Jayashri replied: "The Earth Day Network representatives in India asked me to compose and sing a song that could be used as a rallying chorus at all the events the Network holds all over India. We all feel the same way about needing to conserve, and protect but maybe I have a louder voice that is heard more often, they said. So I agreed. For me it's a way of igniting people's consciousness to the cause musically. I feel it's my duty to whatever I can to contribute to a cause as important as this. It took me time to work out how to structure the song — it needed to be very simple and easy to remember and sing to. Yet the melody needed to be something that would not be forgotten. I also wanted to create something that reflects my personality as the composer and singer. I tried out 2-3 options before zoning in on this tune."

Continuing her memories of making the song, the diva said "then the lyrics were the next issue — the suggestions

Earth Day Network sent me in English did not lend themselves to easy translation. Though I have grown up in Bombay and am no stranger to Hindi, I don't really think in Hindi, if you know what I mean! So for me to compose in Hindi was a challenge. Finally after several trials and errors I asked a friend with whom I have grown up in Bombay, Chetana Shrikant to compose the lyrics for me, and I think they convey what I wanted."

Jayashri added earnestly, "I believe this ancient land of ours with all its wisdom needs to be preserved. I sing all the time on "bhakti", but this subject is as important. We should plant more trees, use less water — all these little things add up. I hope "Dharti Ma" acts as a reminder to everyone who listens to it to be caring of each species on our planet, to avoid using single use plastic, and to consume less. We will formally be launching it soon." ("Dharti Ma" is now available on all the usual platforms.)

Shailaja Khanna writes on music, musicians and matters of music



Welfare is bad is because it is at odds with the way human beings come to live satisfying lives

Love is what you've been through with somebody

THE ASIAN AGE

6 NOVEMBER 2019

Prudence wins as govt stays out of RCEP

The debate between free trade and protection for the domestic economy is not a new one. Its shadow loomed over India as it declined at the last minute to become a party to the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership agreement, which 15 other leading nations subscribed to on Monday.

India participated in the negotiation, but Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who was at the regional summit in Bangkok where the RCEP was deliberated, pulled out at the last minute, arguing that India's concerns had not been met.

Signatures are to be affixed to the agreement in 2020 and many among the participants, notably Australia, expressed the hope that when India comes on board, the RCEP will be a richer partnership.

There is a lurking fear among many of the "10 plus 6" — the 10 Asean countries and six of their partners — that China will seek to dominate RCEP. With the burgeoning trade dispute between the United States and China, there is concern that China would try to cut itself some slack by seeking to take advantage of RCEP to the detriment of others. If India were in, it might help balance the equation.

The discussions around globalisation at the turn of the century brought home the reality that if a developing nation opted for globalisation, it should prepare itself by improving its export capacity and infrastructure, else it will suffer over balance of payments, and this will have a widening negative impact, hurting domestic producers and consumers. Such a situation would be ready-made for political discontent.

After dithering, it's just as well that India chose to stay out of RCEP, billed as the world's most significant trade deal. The 16 participating nations made up nearly half the world's population and 30 per cent of its GDP. Such a large free trade area is likely to confer economic benefits all around, provided the participants

export with as much vigour as they import to meet the requirements of an expanding economy.

However, the picture the Indian economy now, following a series of mis-conceived policy steps in the past five years, didn't place it in the right frame to take advantage of the free trade area. Manufacturing and export data have been plunging for two years. The banking sector is in turmoil. Agricultural productivity and wages are down. At such a time, joining a free trade area comprising some of the world's boldest economies is to invite trouble.

No wonder, the Congress Party campaigned against India's entry into RCEP, and rallied other Opposition parties which had planned a nationwide campaign against the economic situation from Tuesday. A PMO statement Monday morning said the PM "sought to dispel the notion that India is reluctant to join the RCEP trade deal". Two days earlier, commerce minister Piyush Goyal targeted Congress president Sonia Gandhi on Twitter for opposing India joining RCEP. Just as well, though, that bravado took a backseat.

Manufacturing and export data are plunging. The banking sector is in turmoil. Agricultural productivity and wages are down. At such a time, joining a free trade area comprising some of the world's boldest economies is to invite trouble.

Can KCR kill revenue graft?

One of the biggest continuous concerns of most citizens of India across all regions, strata and political inclinations has been corruption. Seasons of sudden hope for a fightback came sporadically, turning an unknown person into an icon, but they faded without delivering much. Institutionalised corruption only became stronger, rent seeking a given.

In Telangana, chief minister K. Chandrashekar Rao, emerging stronger from his stern, no-nonsense response, airing a politically incorrect reply to the arm-twisting tactics of RTC trade unions, is now on the cusp of making history by seeming firmly to go ahead and break the most corrupt of systems in any state government — land revenue.

The tragic incident, in which Ch. Vijaya Reddy, mandal revenue officer of Abdullahpurmet in Telangana, was burnt to death in her office on Monday, has our heartfelt condolences, but the accused, who suffered partial burns, was apprehended by police within less than an hour. The three-day bandh call by revenue officials is prompted not by any love for the memory of their colleague but is a disguised resort to putting pressure on the government to not bring in the new Land Revenue Act.

No citizen has yet recorded her or his name in history for having got land registered, bought or sold it, or had grievances settled, without having to pay a bribe. Let an inhuman murder not distract us from the tragedy that is corruption by MROs, VROs and the like.

Mr Rao, who has long ago etched history by successfully leading an agitation for a separate Telangana, must now storm ahead and stamp out corruption in revenue. Mr Rao can, and should, revolutionise our revenue system; land records must be digitised, buying, selling, managing, owning and renting land or property in Telangana must be made a 21st century experience. We can learn from the Indian passport issuance experience.

"Kill Corruption in Revenue" — that should be the new identity for KCR. Other Indian states would be grateful to Telangana for leading the way.

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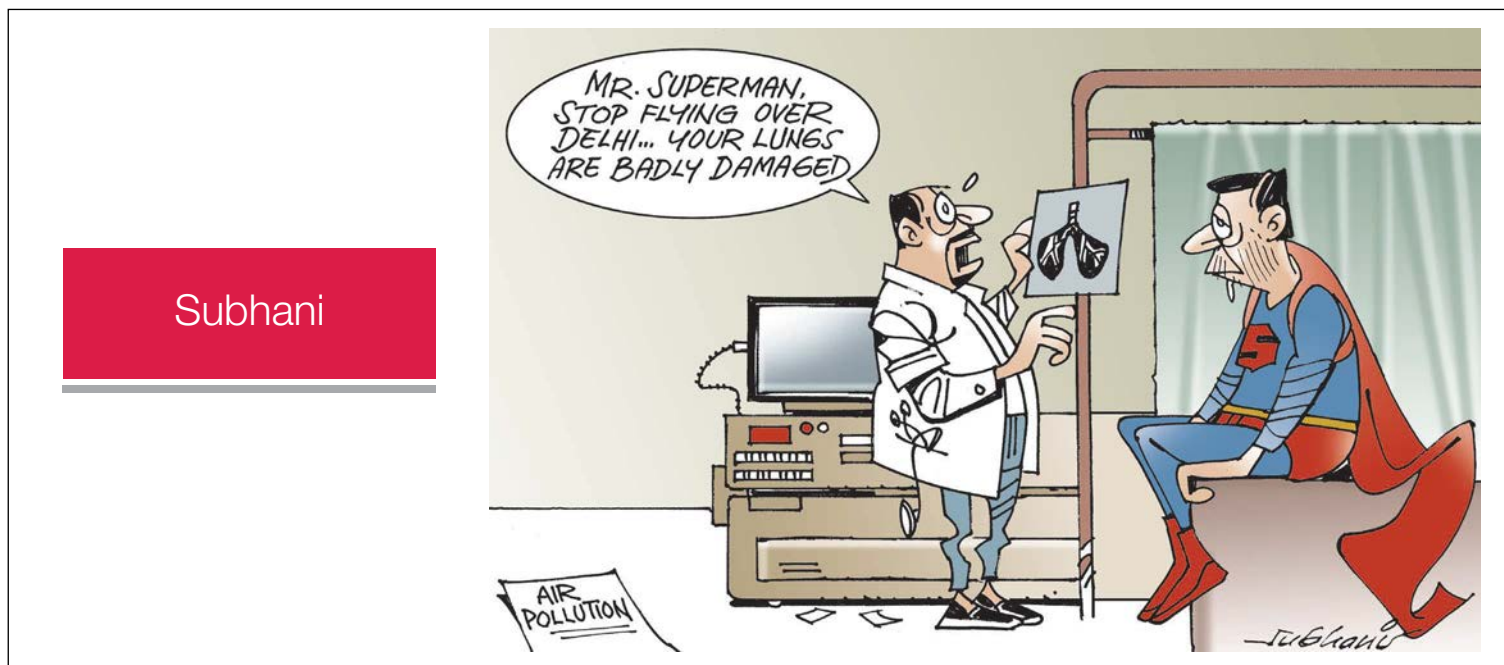
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Subhani

Toxic air, hungry kids: Divisive politics rules



Patralekha Chatterjee

Dev 360

Delhi has recently had a burst of unseasonal rain — a big relief amid the dangerous air pollution, officially labelled a public health emergency. Perhaps, folks in other cities with blue skies will take a temporary break from trolling its residents. The real worry is that despite all the hand-wringing and non-stop coughing, Delhiites and residents of all the other cities in the country with dangerous levels of air pollution will settle down once again to a familiar angst-laced resignation.

The story is the same every year.

Malnutrition and air pollution are among the top health risks facing India. But in this country, sadly, both are at risk of being turned into sectarian, "us and them", either/or, binary issues.

Listening to some of the public discourse around these issues, you would not think that they pose such a grave threat to India's present and future.

Take air pollution, which has been a top headline grabber. India has some of the world's most polluted cities but every Diwali, in recent years, there is a template response from a section of the populace who see bursting crackers as an essential part of being a good Hindu. This year was no different, despite the Supreme Court's ruling about "green firecrackers" and mandated times for bursting them.

Many people violated the rules. Some were even triumphant. The argument is that it is not only firecrackers that contribute to poisonous air. The problem with this argument is that no one ever said firecrackers alone were responsible for foul air.

Different factors at different times of the year

cumulatively contribute to making Delhi and so many other Indian cities smokestacks, shaving off years of the lives of their residents. There is crop burning, currently a key reason for the noxious air in much of north India; there is vehicular emission, road dust, and other factors. Together they make life and the air we breathe hellish.

There has been endless discussion on what should be done but the discussions come to nothing because each contributory factor is pitted against the other, and in the politically polarised milieu in India today, this also means that the Central government and governments of the affected states are unable to brainstorm together meaningfully.

Polluted air has wide-ranging health impacts — an elevated risk for heart attacks and strokes, a higher risk of asthma, reduced foetal growth, stunted development of children's lungs, and cognitive impairment which can impact one's life chances.

Twenty-two of world's 30 most polluted cities are in India, according to a recent report by Greenpeace.

"In 2016, a World Health Organisation (WHO) study found that 14 of the 20 world's most polluted cities belonged to India. Kanpur, in Uttar Pradesh, emerged as the city with the highest PM2.5 level, standing at 173 (17 times higher than the limit set for safety). It is estimated that in 2016, over nine lakh deaths were caused due to air pollution in India. Some other cities with high PM 2.5 levels include Faridabad, Varanasi, Gaya, Patna, Delhi, Lucknow and Agra. Delhi, as the capital of the country, too gained notorious reputation as a result of its severely poor air quality," a report by Observer

Research Foundation, a think tank, noted. Delhi grabs the headlines but the poor air quality affects residents of the other cities just as much.

The other big issue which is critical to India's future is child under-nutrition.

The latest Global Hunger Index ranked India at the 102nd position, trailing its South Asian neighbours. The index is a weighted average of stunting and wasting rate, and the index noted that the percentage of wasted children in India increased from 16.5 to 20.8 between 2008-12 and 2014-18.

Poor nutrition in early life is extremely damaging and leads to stunting and loss of IQ, which has consequences for the individual, the community and the country. A recent nutrition survey by the health and family welfare ministry has also found that 35 per cent of children under the age of five years in India are stunted, while 17 per cent are wasted and 33 per cent are underweight.

But guess what is the big controversy in Madhya Pradesh, which has a large number of undernourished children, especially in the tribal areas?

The Madhya Pradesh government's plan to provide eggs to children in anganwadis is being slammed by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), currently in the Opposition in the state.

Madhya Pradesh BJP leader Gopal Bhargava is in the news for his statement that making children eat eggs and meat can turn them into "cannibals later in life". Mr Bhargava also says eating non-vegetarian food is against Indian culture, a statement that is both absurd and totally

How do eggs in the diet of children at anganwadis become a political issue? Once again, it is the same template — a serious issue being framed as a sectarian one, stoking divisive passions.

inaccurate. "What else can you expect from this malnourished government? They are now feeding children eggs... force them to eat chicken, mutton. Indian culture doesn't allow eating non-vegetarian food. If they begin to eat eggs and meat from childhood... they may become cannibals later," Mr Bhargava told reporters.

Eggs are universally recognised as a source of cheap protein. How do eggs in the diet of children at anganwadis become a political issue? Once again, it is the same template — a serious issue being framed as a sectarian one, stoking divisive passions.

Unsurprisingly, those pitching politics against nutrition and rooting for only vegetarian food don't actually go down and see the quality of vegetarian food that the poor children typically eat. More often than not, they don't get the necessary nutrients.

The losers are the children. The BJP state unit has described the MP government's move as "interfering with the faith and religious beliefs of the people" and has sworn to oppose the proposal.

Under the previous BJP government, a similar scheme was proposed in 2015. But Shivraj Singh Chouhan, the then chief minister, junked it.

Which brings me to the moot point. In which other country do polluted air and eggs become polarising issues with political parties and interest groups engaged in perennial finger-pointing at each other while the people continue to suffer?

It's time to say "stop" and not let anyone get away with a diversionary narrative or with thwarting public health goals in the name of religion and culture and party politics. Our lives and livelihoods are at stake.

The writer focuses on development issues in India and emerging economies. She can be reached at patralekha.chatterjee@gmail.com

LETTERS SHOW OF SPINE

India declining to sign the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) pact is definitely a bold move on the part of the Narendra Modi government. At a time of downturn and distress, it has come as the greatest of relief to Indian industry and the rain- and drought-hit farmers. Pulling out of the deal despite the presence of China and Australia was a tough call to make. But good sense seems to have prevailed on the Modi government and no compromise on core interests now seems to be its new motive.

Kavya Shah
Ujjain

WHITHER FEMINISM?

IN A HEART-WRENCHING incident, a woman in a Madhya Pradesh village was allegedly starved for delivering her second daughter, leading to her death. For all those who once presumed that post-feminism has arrived, perhaps at the start of the last decade of the previous millennium when society stood on the cusp of the second and the third waves, such a case 30 years hence is a rude eye-opener. The courts are our last resort, but first let us boycott these bigots who feel called upon to commit such inhuman crimes.

M. Hasan Qasmi
Bengaluru

BREATHE EASY

THE SUPREME COURT'S directions to the state administration and the police of Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh to end stubble burning or face the consequences have not come a moment too soon. The court has rightly pointed out that the state governments are responsible for creating the "gas chamber" in Delhi, and no visible steps have been taken to rein in the pollution. Meanwhile, the "odd-even" scheme seems to be having a salubrious effect on Delhi's atmosphere. Finally, it is time for the citizens of the national capital to breathe easy.

N.J. Ravi Chander
Bengaluru

Every Monday the best letter of the week wins ₹500. Email: letters@asianage.com Else, send to Jawaharlal Nehru National Youth Centre, 219 Deen Dayal Upadhyay Marg, New Delhi 110002



Arifa Noor
View from Pakistan

The dharna began and seems to be ending just as inexplicably if maulana's garbled Sunday night speech is any indication. The 'long march' or dharna has now become a part of post-2008 politics. From the PPP government in 2009 to the PML-N in 2014 and now the PTI, each government has faced an onslaught of protesters roughly a year after coming into being.

Each dharna, sadly, is triggered by a false sense of overconfidence on the part of the newly elected; the PPP went back on its promise to restore the judiciary and aggravated the problem by sacking the PML-N government in Punjab; the PML-N ignored the PTI's rona dhona (lamentations) over the four constituencies and the PTI's short-sightedness has been its unwarranted aggression towards the opposition. If it wasn't enough to imprison the major leadership, it added to the problem by name-calling, threatening to withdraw facilities in jail, refusing to

issue production orders, etc. Of course, it has to be said that a march is also triggered by what is happening behind the scenes — for instance, it is now widely believed that the 2014 march/dharna was used to pressure the then PML-N government and weaken its resolve to try Gen Musharraf. The dharna ended in the beginning of 2015, and a year later, the former dictator left the country. Similarly, the 2009 march also weakened the PPP government considerably and there are chances the fate of the present government will be no different.

But despite the behind-the-scenes machinations, one is tempted to ask if each government would have faced a less uncomfortable position if it had not been so dismissive of other political parties and opponents initially. But, one also needs to see the other side. Compared to 2009 and 2014, there is definitely less uncertainty and panic in the air. Fewer people are predicting the end of a govern-

ment. Indeed, glancing back, it seems as if the uncertainty was at its height in 2009 when the march was about to begin. Back then, it wasn't just Islamabad but also Lahore which was under siege and the government did its best to stop the charge on Islamabad. The fear of the government being sent home was palpable.

In 2014, there was a similar sense of uncertainty but it was less so than in 2009. In contrast to the PPP case, however, the PML-N government seemed to have learnt from 2009 and didn't put up much resistance. Protesters from Lahore as well as Khyber Pakhtunkhwa reached Islamabad quite smoothly. There was fear of the government being sent packing but somehow it seemed less probable than in 2009.

This time around, the uncertainty is even less so. Partly, this is due to smoother civil-military ties — hence some are arguing that the uncertainty was higher in 2009 and 2014 because the civilian govern-

ment wasn't facing an invisible enemy. However, it is also because it is now easier to assume that governments will complete their terms. This could not be said with any certainty back in 2008. It is the proverbial silver lining.

But this is not to say that we, as a society, should now consider routine protesters demanding a government's end. Apart from being wrong in principle, this should be a reason for worry, regardless of the crowds or the government. Accidents can happen and any government should be wary of loss of life or injuries to the innocent, which are possible if the state has to control or stop a crowd. It should never come to this. After Sunday night, it seems it will not.

Perhaps the maulana blinked on Sunday because he is a politician; and politicians, however much they may rant and threaten, will always find a way out. Politics is about compromise and not a war to an end.

Despite his thundering, no politician with stakes in the electoral system can blithely lead his supporters towards a confrontation which can cost lives. Every voter matters; every life matters. And similarly, a government (even if it is led by a seemingly uncompromising Imran Khan) will opt for negotiations and hopefully provide face-saving to the protesters. Indeed, we should never underestimate the innate common sense of our politicians, however much they may disappoint us. And there has been much to disappoint us in the recent past.

Postscript: In all the chaos of the past few days, the maulana may have impressed many with his political acumen but he has also revealed his bigoted views on religion and gender, which prove why he will never be a mainstream leader. Such views do not gel with the idea of democracy, however, much one harps on civilian supremacy.

By arrangement with Dawn



A person who practises or advocates letting babies cry themselves to sleep
The erroneous belief that one has trouble sleeping, which leads to symptoms experienced by true insomniacs

THE ASIAN AGE WEDNESDAY | 6 NOVEMBER 2019 | NEW DELHI

It's high time to push UN's democratisation



Mohan Guruswamy

America's war on Iraq signalled the end of the United Nations as the main international peacekeeping mechanism. It's not that nations have not defied the United Nations before. Israel has been doing it for decades. Even India has, from time to time, cocked a snook at the UN. But this was the first time that a permanent member of the UN Security Council had so blatantly and wantonly disregarded the prevailing world sentiment and opinion.

Even though the UN was fashioned by the victors of World War II, its birth had its origins in the darkest days of that period when leaders of nine occupied countries in Europe — Belgium, Czechoslovakia, France, Greece, Luxembourg, Holland, Norway, Poland, and Yugoslavia — met representatives of Britain and the Commonwealth nations in London on June 12, 1941, and signed a declaration pledging to work for a free world, where all nations could live in peace and security. This was called the Inter-Allied Declaration and was the first step towards the establishment of the UN. Two

months later, US President Franklin D. Roosevelt and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill announced the Atlantic Charter, not only expressing similar hopes, but also eventual disarmament and full economic cooperation. On January 1, 1942 they signed what came to be known as the Declaration of the United Nations, approving the aims of the Atlantic Charter.

More interestingly, this was the first time the phrase "United Nations" was used. But the creation of the United Nations Organisation for preserving world peace had to wait till October 30, 1943, when Britain, China, the Soviet Union and the United States signed the Moscow Declaration on General Security. The signatories to the Moscow Declaration then met continuously from August to October 1944 in Washington D.C. and fashioned a basic plan for an international peace-keeping organisation. The centrepiece of this plan was a Security Council, in which the US, the Soviet Union, Britain, China and France would be permanent members. Fifty nations then met in San Francisco on April 25, 1945, 12 days before Germany surrendered and four months before Japan was

defeated, to consider this plan. After much deliberation the differences, mostly over the veto power demanded by the Big Three — US, USSR and UK — were papered over and on June 26, 1945 all the 50 nations present signed the charter and the UN formally came into being.

The UN has grown much since then, reflecting the changes in the world mostly due to decolonisation, fragmentation of the USSR, and the division of some founder member states like Yugoslavia. The UN now has 191 members, and Switzerland was the last to join on September 10, 2002. The world has also changed in other significant ways. But most significant of all was the demise of the USSR and the end of the Cold War. The Cold War and the balance of power between the two super-powers ironically enough served as a guarantor of the peace and security of nations that came under accepted spheres of influence. With the world poised a button push away from Armageddon, the UN, and especially the Security Council, became a ready forum to facilitate constant dialogue between the superpowers, and it admirably served this purpose.

True, it did not prevent regional wars from erupting constantly, but it did prevent a general war of ruinous dimensions. Both superpowers usually heeded the UN because the other was there. The veto powers ensured that one bloc could not override the interests of the other one. The veto thus came to be used 252 times since 1946. It was used the maximum in the first decade of the UN, between

Our leaders are so desperate for some international recognition that they are willing to accept even a second-class permanent membership. This would be unfortunate, as rather than making the UN more democratic; it will make it even more stratified.

1946 and 1955, when it was exercised 83 times, with the USSR alone using it 80 times. This dropped off to 31 and 26 respectively between 1956-65. The West, led by the US, came to use the veto more often since 1966, using it 115 times as opposed to 15 by the USSR. Since 1996, Russia has not exercised the veto even once, while the US has used it six times and China twice. This presumably reflects the shape of the world order to come!

As an immediate response to a destructive world war, the UN reflected the reality and ethos of that age. Nothing reflected this more than the composition of the permanent members of the Security Council. Four out of the five were "white" nations. Two, China and France, were defeated nations. Two, Britain and France, were colonial powers. The other 10 members of the Security Council are elected members from the various regions. These are members are without the veto and with little voice or clout. Their plight is best illustrated by the admission of the Colombian representative, Ambassador Jaramillo, that

even as president of the Security Council he was "forced to stand outside the chamber where the Permanent Five were meeting, and beg for pieces of information as a personal favour from the permanent representatives as they were leaving".

Thus, it is very ironic that while the Cold War assured relevance of the UN and masked the basically flawed nature of the Security Council, its end seems to have made the UN increasingly irrelevant. The latest decision of the US and Britain to bypass the Security Council and seek the disarmament of Iraq on their own underscores this irrelevance. It is even more ironic that France's threat to use its veto has forced the US and Britain to bypass the Security Council, where it is most likely that the US even now has majority support for its increasingly unpopular course of action.

Most members of the UN, including long-time American hangers-on like Australia and New Zealand, would like to see the veto go. On the other hand, by doing so and by equating tiny countries like Seychelles (pop. 79,000) with India (pop. 1.03 billion), it will end up making the unequal equal, which is as undesirable as making the equal unequal. While the single veto does not reflect a desirable democratisation, to have a Security Council of elected equals will only render it more ineffective and irrelevant. The richer countries, for one, will find themselves even more represented than now. A few years ago, Japan defeated India's bid to become an elected member of

the Security Council by offering Toyota limousines to foreign ministers and ambassadors of voting countries. Many accepted. Even within the Security Council, the ability of some countries to have their way will make it vulnerable to unwise choices. More recently, the US ambassador to the UN snarled over an open mike to the Yemeni ambassador that his vote just cost that country \$100 million. The following week the US suspended its aid package to Yemen.

Thus, while a Security Council of a smaller number of countries is desirable to make the UN effective, it must also reflect world realities and be more representative of its diversity. For instance, Africa and Latin America are not represented in the Permanent Five. Likewise, the Islamic world does not find a place. India, which has a fifth of the world's population, does not find a place. The biggest economy in Europe, Germany, does not find a place. On the other hand, with two members, Britain and France, Western Europe is over-represented. With Russia added, Europe has three members. Clearly this is not a satisfactory arrangement.

Indian diplomacy in the past few years has centred more on securing the permanent membership of the UN Security Council. Partly in response to this and similar pressures from Japan, Brazil and Germany, we often hear of a proposal to make some larger nations permanent members, but without veto powers. It seems that our leaders are so desperate for some international recognition that

they are quite willing to accept even a second-class permanent membership. This would be unfortunate, as rather than making the UN more democratic; it will make it even more stratified. What we need to seek is the reform of the UN, by eliminating the single veto, while at the same time ensuring that the Security Council does not become a victim to the tyranny of a simple majority.

The first step will be to make the Security Council more representative by accommodating nations, reflecting the economic, geographical and cultural diversity of the United Nations, as well as relative power and size. Thus, major political and economic groupings such as the European Union, the North American Free Trade Association (NAFTA), the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean), South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (Saarc), the Organisation of American States (OAS), the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) or Asia Pacific Union (APU) could each choose a member in the Security Council. Instead of a single veto being able to derail its intentions, a certain minimum threshold, say of three or four members, should only thwart the Security Council's majority. This will prevent the Permanent Five from insisting that world affairs are shaped only according to their wishes.

The writer, a policy analyst studying economic and security issues, held senior positions in government and industry. He also specialises in the Chinese economy.

Don't question my identity! Setting the record straight in dismal times



Nilofar Suhrawardy

Wait, this does not refer to any confusion entertained by me over my identity but that which has followed me literally like a shadow for the greater part of my life. Yes, this refers to the perplexed impression entertained by most persons over the information they gather from me, regarding A to Z about me, after literally bombarding me with series of questions. The only issue which they don't refer to is gender. Nowadays, most have ceased posing questions about age. I guess the trend is not to do so, lest their own is asked. Of course, this scribe has learnt through the experience of taking interviews of elderly Indian generation is that yes, there is a set of questions one must be prepared to answer before posing those that one is all prepared to ask the interviewee. Well, this refers to one-to-one interviews and not press-conferences or other gatherings. But that era of refined, homely interviews of those gentlemen, posing questions with a fatherly air, seems to have been lost to history. Now,

these carry a little professional and also commercial air about them. Not all, but the business-like air about them, despite their appearing not to be so, cannot be missed.

Well, here, my concern is not professional interviews but the apparently socio-friendly ones, with the put-on, half or literally frozen smiles. Of course, memories of a few still bring a genuine smile, but most still leave me fairly perplexed. One, which still leaves me laughing, is the awed expression on the face of a computer-techie. I had taken his services for then desk-tops in use, when laptops had not entered the field. The young man was fairly delighted to have come across, in his opinion, such a "high-caste Brahmin". His understanding was based on his pronunciation of my surname. He thought of it as not Dwedi, Trivedi, Chaturvedi but as Solavedi. Oh dear, he took quite some time in understanding and accepting that Suhrawardy was not Solavedi. He assumed Solavedi to be a Brahminical caste nominally linked with 16 Vedas as Dwedis are with two,

The young man was fairly delighted to have come across, in his opinion, such a 'high-caste Brahmin'. His understanding was based on his pronunciation of my surname. He thought of it as not Dwedi, Trivedi, Chaturvedi but as Solavedi.

Trivedi three and Chaturvedi with four.

My parents and sister ran into a similar experience during their brief visit to Odisha. The religious priests assumed that they were there for religious purposes and not for tourism. Oh dear, they refused to believe that they were Muslims. The priests claimed that they had all "records" of their religious background. In those priests' opinion, my family was "hiding" its religious identity to avoid paying them any money for religious purposes.

Interestingly, this scribe has also come across persons, largely from semi-literate classes, who view Muslims as another caste within Hinduism. Of course, in the present phase, this confusion has been considerably eroded owing to anti-Muslim phobia raised by right-wing elements. This has, incidentally, enhanced not mine, but others' confusion about my "identity." Now and then, we do have

bearded men coming to our homes. But down four generations, from my grandfather, father, brother to his son, nobody has kept a beard. Of course, we are in touch with quite a few veiled ladies but again, for several generations, the veil and/or *burkha* has not been the dress-code of ladies in our family. Of course, we all are as religious as we can be, but the dress and appearance can hardly be viewed as reflective of most Indians' religious identity in general, at least in the present era.

It is possible, not having a common Muslim surname has made most confused about my religious identity, at least the ones not familiar with this name's linkage with a Sufi order. Nevertheless, one does remain perplexed about people deliberating on my religious identity, posing questions on its linkage with Pakistan, Kashmir, Bangladesh, all the places but to my native roots, that is Uttar Pradesh. Of late, fear is being spread questioning national identity of Indian Muslims and their patriotism. There is sudden increase in nature of communal "messages" being spread through WhatsApp and other outlets of communication blaming Muslims for plundering the country, increasing their population to become majority here, not paying income tax and so forth. I presume, other Indian Muslims are facing a similar situation.

Being a journalist, at times, I

have also had to answer foreign media for communal missions targeting Indian Muslims. Let others be as perplexed as they wish to be about my identity. I am not. I was and I remain an Indian Muslim. With respect to communal "messages," rather than remain quiet, I have responded politely by asking for names of "Muslims" assumed to be "plundering" the country so that action is taken against them. I don't need to explain my patriotism to any person. I am descendants of those who preferred partition of their families to stay behind here as Indian Muslims. Wherein foreign media is concerned, my answer is, each and every Hindu cannot be blamed for being anti-Muslim and/or participating in anti-Muslim activities. If he/she were, my family, me and other Muslims would not have been living here amidst a secular atmosphere. Secular Hindus outnumber Muslims in demonstrations against anti-Muslim communal activities. Yes, secularism still retains its roots here. Besides, bias of some nature is raising its head in other parts of the world too. Let the world remain perplexed about my identity. I am doing my job as an Indian Muslim and so should every Indian!

The writer is a journalist with specialisation in communication studies and nuclear diplomacy. She is also the author of several books.

Savour life, relish the moments



Moin Qazi



"I wish that life should not be cheap, but sacred. I wish the days to be as centuries, loaded, fragrant."

— Ralph Waldo Emerson

Have you ever looked around and wondered why every individual is glued to his social gadget? You may dismiss it as a normal routine, but it signifies a great behavioural aberration. We're all missing out on a life that is unfolding in front of us, one that is so wonderful and yet won't be there later on.

It's not that digital communication is bad — it's just that it can't replace the

bustling, lively in-person interactions. Once in a moment of privacy, I looked to see whether anyone else realised the sun's golden glow, but everyone seemed to be shuffling in great hurry, most with their eyes fixed on the ground, confused and dazed, immersed in the smartphones. They were all oblivious of the beauty and trance of that wondrous hour.

Life's gifts are precious and abundant — but we are too heedless of them. In the bustle of our everyday strife, we fail to understand the world when it beckons us to savour its wonders. Referring to the whole paradox, Thomas Merton describes the rush and pressure of modern life as a form of contemporary violence. He says, "... to be surrendering to too many demands, too many concerns, is to succumb to the violence."

At times like this we must remember this old advice: Never be too busy to

deprive yourself of the wonder and the awe of life. Be reverent to each moment. Embrace each wonderful hour. Seize each golden minute. Even ordinary things have the power to touch and elevate our heart. We are here on earth as voyagers — we must relish every moment of our journey.

The next time you're on a bus, try watching people who are sitting beside you on your commute. Strike up a conversation with them. Who knows — they might say something that you'll remember for the rest of your life.

Don't cocoon yourself like most vanilla people. Develop diversity in feelings and emotions. Don't spend your time double tapping a picture of friends laughing together when you could be laughing with someone in real life. It's not that we enjoy the enormous time-suck that digital life has become. It's not that we prefer to look down at a three-inch screen instead of at the world around us. It's just that the compulsion to stay connected is a habit that's become hard and awe must learn to break it!

Life is pulsating all around you. Don't

look down — you might miss it. And remember, you will never get it back. Don't allow our life to get automated through chips and controlled by bits and bytes.

Pause for a moment beside a tree and savour its verdant leafy munificence. Look at the humble serenity of a flower, the vibrant rainbow of a butterfly. Spare them some moments of silent thought. Try to be in love with your life and with the present moment so deeply that you make complete peace with whatever is unfolding. Open your heart so deeply to where you are that you truly feel you don't want to be anywhere but here. This is true living. This is where you find all you are seeking. These moments reassure us that the world is in harmony with its denizens. It is only humans who have lost their rhythm. As the Buddha proclaimed, "As you walk and eat and travel, be where you are. Otherwise, you will miss most of your life."

Moin Qazi is a well-known banker, author and Islamic researcher. He can be reached at moinqazi123@gmail.com.



Genuine data

Adobe, Twitter, and *The New York Times* have announced a new system for adding attribution to photos, which provides for verifying authenticity online

SHORT TAKES



GOOGLERS CALL FOR CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION

San Francisco, Nov. 5: Google employees are demanding the company issue a climate plan that commits it to zero emissions by 2030.

An online petition bears signatures from more than a thousand Google employees. It also calls on Google to decline contracts that would support the extraction of fossil fuels and to avoid collaborating with organisations involved with the oppression of refugees.

Amazon and Microsoft employees have similarly called on their employers to take steps for climate change action. Workers from both companies joined climate marches in September.

Google employees have been especially vocal in issuing demands and calling for change within the company. Employees have protested sexual misconduct and forced arbitration practices within the company and Google's treatment of contract workers.



PHOTOSHOP RELEASES AI SELECTION TOOL

Washington, Nov. 5: The latest Photoshop Creative Cloud update is expected to have exciting new features. Adobe is likely to release a new subject selection tool which now takes the top spot under the magic wand tool, lets you drag a box around an object, and Photoshop will automatically create a selection around the borders of the object it thinks you're highlighting.

The tool will be of great help as users won't have to spend time mousing around the edges of an object.

Another highlight of the latest update is that the home screen will get faster.

The gradients and pre-sets interface wears a completely new look, with dozens of new pre-set gradients. The app also supports live previews of pre-sets, which let you quickly apply a number of color adjustments to a photo.

Photoshop for iPad is finally released. The tablet app is far from complete but it includes many of the core features on which users rely.

The iPad app also introduces cloud PSD files, which sync between the tablet and desktop. This updated version of Photoshop includes support for those too. Users can sync a PSD file between multiple desktops in the same Creative Cloud account, making working across multiple devices simpler.

Lasers can hack Amazon Echo, Google Home

Researchers observed that it was possible to make microphones respond to light as if it were sound

San Francisco, Nov. 5: Researchers at the University of Michigan and Japan's University of Electro-Communications have discovered they can use lasers to silently 'speak' to any computer that receives voice commands, which included smartphones, smart speakers like Amazon Echo, and Google Home, and Facebook's Portal video chat devices, according to media reports. Revealing results of a shocking experiment, the researchers noted it was possible to make microphones respond to light as if it were sound, which essentially means that anything that acts on sound commands will act on light commands.

Cybersecurity researcher, Takeshi Sugawara, visiting from the Tokyo-based University of Electro-

Communications, along with Kevin Fuand, from University of Michigan have found a spy trick lets them send light commands from hundreds of feet away; they can open garages, make online purchases, and cause all manner of mischief or malevolence.

The attack can easily pass through a window, when the device's owner isn't home to notice a telltale flashing speck of light or the target device's responses, *Wired* reported on Monday.

According to the researchers, the experiment was conducted on Google Home, Google Nest Cam IQ, multiple Amazon Echo, Echo Dot, and Echo Show devices, Facebook's Portal Mini, the iPhone XR, and the sixth-generation iPad, and the mentioned devices were found to be vulnerable too.

— Agencies



FITBIT ACQUISITION WORRIES USERS

AMID RISING CONCERNS OVER DATA SECURITY AND USAGE OF PERSONAL DATA BY TECH COMPANIES, THE NEWS OF GOOGLE'S ACQUISITION OF FITBIT HAS BECOME A CAUSE OF WORRY FOR USERS OF THE FITNESS TRACKING DEVICE.

We will never sell personal information to anyone. Fitbit health and wellness data will not be used for Google ads. And we will give Fitbit users the choice to review, move, or delete their data

RICK OSTERLOH, Google's senior V-P, devices & services

However, Google is making all efforts to allay fears of data misuse even as scores of Fitbit users are planning to move to Apple Watch, which comes across as one of the most reliable products in the health monitoring range.

Experts say it is highly advisable to delete Fitbit accounts to erase their data before moving on to another health tracker.

It is always a good idea to download existing data before deleting accounts. The 'Data Export' option in Settings on the Fitbit desktop dashboard allows users to download fitness data.

Columbia launches urban works event

Mumbai, Nov. 5: Columbia Global Centres, Mumbai announces the launch of the Urban Works Innovation Challenge 2019-2020 for transforming India's cities into safe and sustainable places through technical innovation.

The challenge, which is part of a three-year program the inaugurated in 2018 and supported by the RMZ Foundation, gives young innovators a globally competitive opportunity to receive mentorship from faculty and alumni of Columbia University's prestigious Fu Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Science as well as from distinguished entrepreneurs and academics in India.

Winning teams can also avail of unrestricted capital from a total annual fund of ₹1.2 crores, and peer networks and infrastructural support from a tech-first collaborative workspace at The CoWrks Foundry for a six-month period.

Patricia J. Culligan, professor of civil engineering at Columbia University, noted, "There is a huge opportunity in

this country to harness the imagination, invigoration, and forward-looking vision of the youth in India to think about how Indian cities can be at the foundation of a global economy that advances human development."

Almost 600 million Indians will live in cities by 2030. Rapid urbanisation poses serious environmental and societal challenges, including degrading air quality, rising plastic waste, hindered mobility, mental health problems, and reduced safety for women.

In this evolving landscape, there is growing recognition that the country's urban workforce requires workplaces and city-wide ecosystems to become more productive, innovative, and inclusive.

According to Dr. Ravina Aggarwal, Director of Columbia's Mumbai Centre, solutions making use of contemporary technology can play a critical role in addressing these needs, making our cities and work environments sustainable and safe for all.

— PTI

SoftBank to pay a price for betting on startups

Tokyo, Nov. 5: SoftBank Group Corp and its founder, Masayoshi Son, face a day of reckoning when the investment juggernaut is likely to post weak quarterly results, hit by hefty falls in the valuation of some of its biggest tech bets.

SoftBank has come under renewed investor scrutiny after it was forced to bail out one of its best known portfolio companies — the cash-burning, office-sharing firm WeWork — for \$10 billion.

That has deepened concern about Son's strategy of pouring billions of dollars into unproven, money-losing startups at a time it is getting squeezed by a sell-off in most of its listed bets.

Uber Technologies Inc. posted a wide quarterly loss, sending its shares sliding in after-hours trading. SoftBank's \$100 billion Vision Fund has a \$7.7 billion investment in the US ride-hailing firm.

SoftBank's quarterly results come at a crucial time for Son, when he is trying to raise capital for a successor to the Saudi Arabia-backed Vision

- SOFTBANK is set to book a massive writedown on WeWork, Uber
- Masayoshi Son's fortune is down 30% from July to about \$13.8 billion
- Investors are wondering if WeWork is just the tip of the iceberg for SoftBank's trouble

major close in May 2017.

Analysts estimates vary widely, in part because SoftBank provides little detail on how it accounts for those gains or losses on its books.

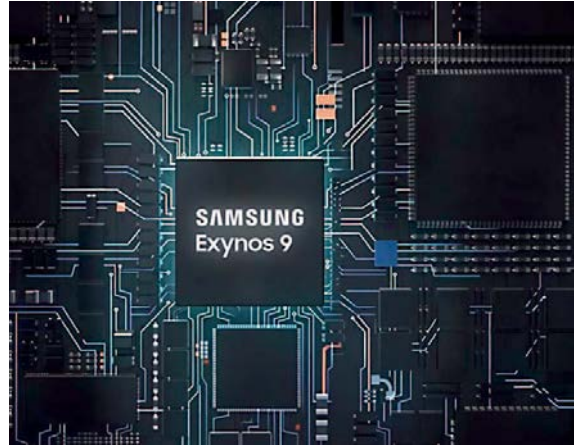
A further lack of disclosure would "risk losing the trust of investors," said Amir Anvarzadeh, market strategist at Asymmetric Advisors.

Given its falling share price — down around 30% since July — the conglomerate may unveil a share buyback of around 500 billion yen to try and stem the slide, Anvarzadeh said. SoftBank announced a 600 billion yen buyback in February.

Investors will be looking closely at how SoftBank accounts for the value of its stake in WeWork, into which it has poured \$13 billion to take a majority stake. WeWork was valued by SoftBank as high as \$47 billion as recently as January but is currently valued at just \$8 billion.

The Japanese company is expected to announce a writedown of at least \$5 billion due to a slump in the values of WeWork and others.

— Reuters



Samsung US CPU R&D to close down

Seoul, Nov. 5: Samsung Electronics Co. Ltd. said on Tuesday that it will shut down a CPU research division at one of its US facilities, a move that analysts said dimmed prospects for the tech giant's Exynos-branded mobile chips.

Exynos mobile processor chips are considered a hallmark of the South Korean firm's attempts to reduce its reliance on memory chips and increase sales of logic chips used to power mobile devices and autonomous vehicles.

But the proprietary chips, found in Samsung's flagship Galaxy series smartphones and competing against Qualcomm Inc's (QCOM.O) marquee mobile processors, have struggled to find external customers.

The decision to shut down the division, which will make some 300 jobs redundant, point to challenges Samsung faces in promoting Exynos chips, analysts said.

"(Exynos) chips are not really used anywhere else and continue to lose ground in the mobile processor market, raising concerns about the company's competitiveness," said Park Sung-soon, an analyst at Cape Investment & Securities.

The move has led to speculation that Samsung will use core designs from ARM or semi-custom designs. Park added that Samsung is not likely to give up the Exynos business entirely.

Samsung said it will continue to develop and

- THE MOVE, analysts say, dims prospects for the tech giant's Exynos-branded mobile chips

produce Exynos chips regardless of the termination of CPU (central processing unit) core projects, and some of the 300 affected employees could be relocated to different projects.

"Based upon a thorough assessment of our System LSI business and the need to stay competitive in the global market, Samsung has decided to transition part of our US-based R&D teams," it said, referring to its logic chip business.

Affected employees will mostly come from its Austin R&D Centre, which had been researching CPU core since 2010, while a small number of employees at its CPU project team at Advanced Computing Lab in San Jose will be let go or relocated to other divisions, a company spokeswoman said.

"Core research brought less value than expected to Samsung's entire logic chip business," said a source with direct knowledge of the matter who was not authorised to speak to the media.

The termination of its CPU core projects comes after Samsung, the world's largest memory chipmaker, said in April that it plans to invest \$116 billion in logic chips through 2030.

— Reuters

TINY ROBOT CAN FLY WITHOUT DAMAGE



- Harvard researchers have developed a tiny robotic flier that uses soft, artificial muscles to fly without getting damaged.
- The robot can smack into walls, crash-land or even collide with a fellow flier without getting hurt.
- Soft-muscle fliers have existed before, but this is the first with enough power density and control to hover — that is, it's not just flying wildly.
- Harvard wants to use the robots for search-and-rescue missions, where a robot might have to navigate dangerous rubble looking for survivors.

ROBOTS TO NAVIGATE USING CLUES

- A team of engineers from MIT and Ford Motor Company have created a technique that allows robots to navigate via clues, rather than maps.
- The technique resolves the challenge in large-scale monitoring of robots amid privacy concerns.
- The clues address small details like navigating the robots through directions within a house, like front door and living room.
- Even if a robot is delivering a package to an environment it's never been to, there might be clues that will be the same as other places it's seen, MIT's researchers say.



FACEBOOK

FACEBOOK LAUNCHES NEW COMPANY LOGO

Washington, Nov. 5: Facebook Inc unveiled a new logo for the company to distinguish it from its apps.

The social media company said it would start using the new brand within its products and marketing materials and would update the Facebook for Business website over the coming weeks.

In June, the company began including 'from Facebook' within its apps that includes Messenger, Instagram and WhatsApp.

— Reuters

DIGITAL | ABUSE Ease of online shopping will cause financial stress for millions of people, suggests research

Online shopping may be an addictive disorder

Bengaluru, Nov. 5: By 2024, the World Health Organisation (WHO) will identify online shopping as an addictive disorder, as millions abuse digital commerce and encounter financial stress, predicts research firm Gartner.

Consumer spending via digital commerce platforms will continue to grow over 10 per cent year after year through 2022, according to its top strategic predictions for 2020 and beyond.

The ease of online shopping will cause financial stress for millions of people, as online retailers increasingly use artificial intelligence (AI) and personalisation to effectively

target consumers and prompt them to spend discretionary income that they do not have, it said.

The resulting debt and personal bankruptcies will cause depression and other health concerns caused by stress, which is capturing the attention of the WHO, Gartner said.

By 2023, the number of people with disabilities employed will triple due to AI and emerging technologies, reducing barriers to access, Gartner predicted.

"People with disabilities constitute an untapped pool of critically skilled talent," said distinguished vice-president and Gartner Fellow, Daryl Plummer.



- THE resulting debt and personal bankruptcies will cause depression and other health concerns caused by stress, which is capturing the attention of the WHO
- Consumer spending via digital commerce platforms will continue to grow over 10 per cent year after year through 2022

"AI, augmented reality (AR), virtual reality (VR) and other emerging technologies have made work more accessible for employees with disabilities. For example, select

restaurants are starting to pilot AI robotics technology that enables paralysed employees to control robotic waiters remotely," he said.

By 2024, AI identification of emotions will influence more than half of the online advertisements you see.

Artificial emotional intelligence (AEI) is the next frontier for AI development, especially for companies hoping to detect emotions in order to influence buying decisions. By 2025, 50 per cent of people with a smartphone but without a bank account will use a mobile-accessible cryptocurrency account, and by 2023, a self-regulating association for oversight of AI and machine learning designers will be established in at least four of the G7 countries, Gartner said.

By 2023, up to 30 per cent of world news and video content will be authenticated as real by blockchain, countering deep fake technology. By 2023, individual activities will be tracked digi-

tally by an 'Internet of Behaviour' to influence benefit and service eligibility for 40 per cent of people worldwide.

Through facial recognition, location tracking and big data, organisations are starting to monitor individual behaviour and link that behavior to other digital actions, like buying a train ticket, the firm said.

The Internet of Things (IoT), where physical things are directed to do a certain thing based on a set of observed operating parameters relative to a desired set of operating parameters, is now being extended to people, known as the Internet of Behaviour (IoB).

— PTI

Over 1,300
start ups, 7
unicorns
added in
2019Green shoots
visible in
commercial
vehicles

Overleaf

quick
BITES

INDICATORS		%
Sensex	40,248.23	-0.13
Nifty 50	11,917.20	-0.20
S&P 500	3,073.84	-0.14
Dollar (₹)	70.69	-0.11
Pound Sterling (₹)	91.14	-0.05
Euro (₹)	78.51	-0.32
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	39,213.101	-0.25
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	62.91	+1.26
IN 10-Yr bond yield	6.514	+0.665
US 10-Yr T-bill yield	1.818	+1.678

* As of 9:30 pm IST

Sugar output
seen at 3-year
low of 26 mt

Sugar output is estimated to be at a three-year low of 26 million tonnes in the ongoing marketing year on account of possible fall in cane acreage in Maharashtra and Karnataka as well as diversion to ethanol manufacturing, according to industry body Isma. The output projected for current year is lower by 21.5 per cent from 33.16 mt achieved in 2018-19.

Tool-down
strike at HMSI's
Manesar plant

Around 2,500 contractual workers at Honda Motorcycle & Scooter India's (HMSI) Manesar plant observed a tool-down strike against retrenchment of around 400 contract workers. HMSI Employee Union leaders alleged that the company has reduced production of the facility by 50 per cent and is in the process of retrenching more contractual workers.

New base year
for GDP in a few
months: Official

The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation will decide on a new base year for the GDP series in a few months, a senior official said. The ministry is working to bring in a new series of national accounts, which would result in change in the existing base year of 2011-12. The ministry is considering 2017-18 as the new base year.

Chhattisgarh
becoming a
power hub

Chhattisgarh State Power Generation Company Chairman Shailendra Shukla said the state, which contributes 12-13% to the national power pool, is taking shape as a power hub. When the state came into existence 19 years ago, the generation capacity was mere 1360 MW, which has now reached 3424.7 MW. Shukla said surplus power availability helped agricultural and industrial sectors.

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■ Goyal says India hasn't got credible assurance on mkt access, barriers

RCEP door is closed,
but not forever: GovtFC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, NOV. 5

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Tuesday hinted that India could re-consider its decision to keep off the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) trade deal in the future if its demands are suitably accommodated.

Briefing the press here about India's participation in the three-day trade talks in Bangkok that concluded on Monday, Goyal said, "At the moment, our decision to not join (the RCEP) is final. However, in international negotiations, you never close the door. If other countries suitably accommodate our demands, then we will consider it in consultation with the stakeholders."

He said India was firm on its stand in the RCEP negotiations not to join the China-led mega trade deal in the national interest.

The minister also said India did not receive any credible assurance on market access and non-tariff barriers.

Goyal said Prime Minister Narendra Modi took a tough stand to protect the interest of the dairy sector, farmers and domestic industry.

The minister dismissed apprehensions that keeping off the RCEP would jeopardise the country's growth prospects. He said the previous Manmohan Singh government had initiated the discussions for making India a part of the RCEP grouping, ignoring the fact that the country

Will resolve issues: China

Beijing, Nov. 5: China said on Tuesday that it will follow the principle of "mutual understanding and accommodation" to resolve the outstanding issues raised by India for not joining the Beijing-backed RCEP.

China also said it would welcome India joining the deal at an early date.

Chinese Foreign Mini-

stry Spokesman Geng Shuang told the media that China welcomes India. "The RCEP is open. We will follow the principle of mutual understanding and accommodation to negotiate and resolve those outstanding problems raised by India and we welcome an early joining by India," he said.

—PTI

had huge trade deficit with the member nations. The trade deficit with the RCEP grouping soared from \$7 billion in 2004 to \$78 billion in 2014.

He also said the Modi government was reviewing various free trade agreements (FTAs) signed by the

UPA government with South Korea and the Asean with a view to safeguarding the interest of nation and pave the way for making India a \$5-trillion economy.

The government's decision to skip the mega trade deal has been lauded by farmers and businesses.

In a tweet late Monday, the country's largest dairy producer, Amul, applauded Modi's "exemplary leadership and support" to dairy farmers, who would have been exposed to more competition under the RCEP.

"Your vision of supporting their livelihood will help (in) doubling their incomes and make India stronger," it said.

Praveen Khandelwal, Secretary General of the

Confederation of All India Traders (Cait), said a deal would have allowed Chinese manufacturers to overwhelm "the Indian market with Made In China products at very low prices... Thereby creating a disequilibrium".

B. M. Singh, Convenor of the All-India Kisan Sangharsh Coordination Committee, said the rejection of the deal was "a huge victory for farmers", according to an AFP report.

"We should not go for an open agreement like the RCEP simply because we can't compete with other big countries," Singh said.

"It's like throwing someone who is 25 KG into a boxing ring and asking him to compete with an opponent weighing 100 KG."

Some small business owners welcomed the move but said it would not be enough to sustain their industries or make them competitive.

Experts were divided on Modi's decision, with some

Japan seeks to get India in

ISABEL REYNOLDS &
EMI NOBUHIRO
NOV. 5

India's exit from RCEP trade talks appeared to leave China and Japan at odds over whether to press ahead with the remaining members, or to try to find a workaround that includes Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government.

Japanese Trade Minister Hiroshi Kajiyama said on Tuesday that Tokyo would work toward a deal including India. This would keep India within the RCEP framework and be in line with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's policy of bolstering ties with India to balance Beijing's growing power.

"Our country wants to play a leading role toward reaching an early agreement between all 16 countries, including India, with the aim of signing it in 2020," said Kajiyama,

who wasn't present at the latest negotiations in Bangkok, told reporters in Tokyo.

India's exit from negotiations coincided with the most recent meeting of officials from the so-called Quad: Japan, Australia, the US and India, a security-focused grouping seen as a counter to China that has drawn Beijing's ire. The group was upgraded to ministerial level in September.

China has sought to accelerate the RCEP deal as it faces slowing growth from a trade war with the US. A China-led push would not necessarily satisfy the Japanese, who invited India to be a part of the negotiations.

"It's not desirable to have an agreement that suits China's purposes," former Japanese Defence Minister Takeshi Iwaya said in an interview.

—Bloomberg

warning that New Delhi may lose out as it tries to become a more globally competitive economy.

"In an era in which manufacturing requires the ability to become more - not less - integrated into global supply chains, this decision appears for the moment to make it harder to boost manufacturing in India," Council on Foreign Relations' senior fellow Alyssa Ayres wrote.

Others cautioned that India was not ready to cope with the influx of cheaper products amid the downturn.

"India's economy is currently reeling under some stress and it wouldn't have been the right time to take a decision which possibly could have had a large impact on various sectors of the economy," Drip Capital Co-Founder Pushkar Mukewar said.

Services index contracts in Oct.

ANIRBAN NAG
NOV. 5

India's main services index signaled a contraction for a second straight month, the weakest stretch since 2017, amid a prolonged economic slowdown.

The IHS Markit India Services Index rose to 49.2 in October from 48.7 in September, but still below the 50 reading that indicates a contraction. The industry accounts for more than half of the nation's gross domestic product. The composite PMI fell to 49.6 from 49.8, weighed by slowing factory output.

"Anecdotal evidence highlighted subdued demand conditions, competitive pressures and a fragile economic situation," IHS Markit economists led by Pollyanna de Lima said in a statement.

The weak reading in October belies any hope for signs of recovery in India after high-frequency indicators in Q2 suggested a continued lack of growth momentum.

Firms see growth in 2020

Mumbai, Nov. 5: Almost all domestic companies are optimistic about their growth next year, claims a report.

Companies are buoyant about the prospect of entering new markets, getting high-quality suppliers and plans to invest in technologies that will pave the way for new products and services, says an HSBC report released on Tuesday.

The report also claims that nearly all of those polled—as much as 96 per cent—are expecting higher growth next year, markedly higher than global and Asian peers (79 per cent and 77 per cent, respectively).

The report, based on a survey of business leaders from over 9,100 companies across 35 markets globally, gauges business sentiment and growth prospects.

Over the next five years, half of the companies surveyed in the country are expecting sales growth of 15 per cent or more. This optimism extends to export projections as well, with nearly 98 per cent of them with overseas operations expect exports to grow over the next two years, higher than global peers (81 per cent).

—PTI

"It's somewhat worrying to see the Indian service sector stuck in contraction, as firms react to muted demand by lowering business activity," said Lima, Principal Economist at IHS Markit. "Perhaps

even more concerning was the downward revision to future expectations, given the possible detrimental impact of subdued business confidence on investment and job."

—Bloomberg

Kia moves to 5th slot

MICHAEL GONSALVES
PUNE, NOV. 5

With its single product called Kia Seltos, a compact SUV, the new entrant Kia Motors has become the fifth largest car maker in a fiercely competitive car market in the country. It sold 12,850 cars last month.

The first biggest car maker by sales is Maruti Suzuki which sold 1,39,121 units last month, followed by Hyundai 50,010 units, Mahindra 18,460 units and Tata Motors 13,169 units.

With robust sales Kia Seltos is poised to take competition to Maruti Vitara Brezza and the Hyundai Venue, the top

two SUVs in the best-sellers' list.

What is helping the BS VI-ready Kia Seltos make headway in the competitive SUV market is its very aggressive pricing.

The Korean carmaker's pricing strategy for all of 16 variants covers virtually every price point and starts from Rs 9.69 lakh for the entry level petrol model and goes up to Rs 15.99 lakh for the diesel.

With this, it takes on rivals like the Hyundai Creta, MG Hector, Nissan Kicks, Mahindra XUV500 and the Renault Captur in India.

Now to meet the growing demand, Kia Motor has

started the second shift to ramp up production at its factory in Anantapur in Andhra Pradesh. It has an installed production capacity of 3 lakh units annually.

The world's 8th largest Korean car maker sold 12,850 cars last month but averaged 8,880 units a month since August in a prolonged slowing market.

Cumulative sales for the August-October 2019 period add up to 26,640 units, which constitutes a monthly average of 8,880 units.

"There is a great demand for our single product called Kia Seltos," said Manohar Bhat, Head, Marketing and Sales at Kia Motors India.

FM hints at realty booster

Mumbai, Nov. 5: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday said the government and RBI are working to resolve the issues being faced by realty sector.

Admitting that realty sector has been left out of the booster measures, she said the sector has a spillover effect on many sectors, especially the core sector.

"The government is very keen and is working very

clearly together with the RBI to see how best we can, where necessary, tweak the existing norms to help the people who are affected in the realty sector," she said at an NSE event.

After the July budget, the government has rolled back many of the tax measures and also drastically cut corporate tax to 22 per cent. Admitting that the measures have not helped revive the sentiment in the

real estate, she said "one particular sector which I have not touched, but which has a lot of positive impact and also can effect an impact for the stock market, is the real estate sector."

"There are many alternative funds which are now approaching us saying we would like to do something with you all so long as there is some supporting mechanism," she said.

—PTI

Qatar Air teams up with IndiGo

FIONA MACDONALD &
LAYAN ODEH
NOV. 5

Qatar Airways is planning a code-share partnership with IndiGo, a move that will funnel more traffic from the fast-growing Indian air-travel market to the Gulf carrier's network.

"It is not something about buying a stake, it's commercial," Chief Executive Officer Akbar Al Baker

said in an interview in Kuwait on Tuesday, referring to an announcement planned for Nov 7.

Qatar Airways has been looking to expand in the fast-growing Indian market, yet plans to start a new carrier there have been frustrated over rules surrounding foreign ownership. Instead, the airline has asked local authorities to temporarily allow it to add more seats on high-volume routes to fill the gap

left by Jet Airways, a partner of rival Etihad Airways, which went bust in April.

Indigo has emerged as the biggest Indian airline following the collapse of Jet Airways.

Qatar Airways could break even within the next two years, the CEO said, even after full-year losses increased by near ten-fold on higher fuel costs and a weaker regional economy.

—Bloomberg

Annual gold demand set to dip

SANGEETHA G
CHENNAI, NOV. 5

Annual gold demand is likely to fall to 2016 levels as the consumption in Q3 dipped by 32 per cent. The World Gold Council has revised down its demand projection for the year by around 100 tonnes.

At the end of June quarter, WGC had projected the annual demand to be in the range of 750 to 850 tonnes. However, by Q3 the optimism diminished and WGC has brought the projection down to the range of 700-750 tonnes.

In Q3, the demand was down by 32 per cent at 123.9 tonnes and with this the

total demand for the three quarters of 2019 stood at 498 tonnes. "Even if you presume the Q4 demand to be around last year levels of 236 tonnes, the total demand would be in the vicinity of 735 tonnes," said Somasundaram P.R., MD, India, World Gold Council.

"Our full year gold demand estimate is 700-750 tonnes, although more likely at the lower end of the range. This will be a little above the 2016 level, which faced disruptions due to jewellers' strikes, the introduction of PAN and demonetisation," he said.

According to him, Q3 demand weakened due to weak consumer sentiment

and high prices. The increase in custom duty in the July budget from 10 per cent to 12.5 per cent also added to the prices.

Rally in gold prices made customers postpone their purchases. Gold prices breached the Rs 35,000/10g level in mid-July and continued to climb to Rs 38,795/10g by the end of August. It further moved above Rs 39,000 levels in September. Q3 demand drop this year has been significant, making it one of the lowest third quarters since 2005. Overall jewellery demand fell by 32 per cent to 101.6 tonnes and bars and coins by 35 per cent to 22.3 tonnes.

Meanwhile, angry PMC Bank account holders held a dharna outside the central bank's office at Bandra Kurla Complex in Mumbai asking it to apprise them on a daily basis on the developments taking place in the PMC Bank case.

Govt may not waive
\$13 bn telecom duesRAGINI SAXENA
MUMBAI, NOV. 5

India won't back down from collecting \$13 billion of past dues from debt-laden telecom carriers because the industry is not under stress, a government official with knowledge of the matter said, a move that could deepen Bharti Airtel and Vodafone Idea's financial woes.

India expects the carriers to pay up within 90 days as ordered by the Supreme Court last month, the official said, asking not to be identified, as the discussions are private. A panel of top bureaucrats could look at deferred payment plan for some of the dues, the person said.

The government's stand about the health of the industry mirrors comments made by billionaire Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Jio Infocomm, which has said it has a "divergent view" from its rivals. High fees, frequent flip-flops and endless tax demands over the years have driven most operators aground. From over 10 operators few years ago, India has just three non-state players left with two of them saddled with a mountain of debt.

Vodafone Group Plc's Indian venture has \$14 billion worth of obligations, while Bharti Airtel is rated junk by Moody's Investors Service. "All telecom operators have asked for requisite help in reducing" the financial stress, Vodafone Idea said last month.

The "extraordinary scenario" being shown is "just a machination to

extract relief." Reliance Jio said in a letter to the minister of communications on October 31.

In the latest instance, the court ordered operators to pay dues using a disputed method for calculating the annual adjusted gross revenue, a share of which is paid as license and spectrum fees. It upheld the government's method that includes income from non-telecom businesses like dividend from income and capital gains from the sale of assets while rejecting a plea to exclude them.

Still, the official said the government is working on a plan to reduce the licence fee and providing a two-year moratorium on pending spectrum payments. The proposal will be sent to the Finance Ministry before it is taken up by the Cabinet, the official said, adding that this may happen in the current financial year.

The Telecom Ministry spokesman didn't respond to requests for a comment. A panel of officials is examining feasibility of deferring payment for airwaves that are due by March 2021 and March 2022 as demanded by companies, a government official told reporters last week. It will also consider the demand for reduction in spectrum usage levies and the Universal Service Obligation Fund charge.

On the introduction of 5G airwaves, the official said there will be no delay in auction, which is due this financial year, and that the government isn't presuming the telecom sector is under stress.

—Bloomberg

PMC Bank:
Withdrawal
limit raised
to ₹50,000FALAKNAAZ SYED
MUMBAI, NOV. 5

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Tuesday raised the withdrawal limit for account holders of crisis-hit Punjab and Maharashtra Co-Operative Bank (PMC Bank) to Rs 50,000 from the earlier limit of Rs 40,000. With the higher limit, more than 78 per cent of the depositors of the bank will be able to withdraw their entire account balance, the RBI said in a statement.

"The RBI after reviewing the bank's liquidity position and its ability to pay its depositors has decided to further enhance the limit for withdrawal to Rs 50,000 inclusive of Rs 40,000 allowed earlier," the RBI said in a statement.

The RBI has also allowed PMC Bank account holders to withdraw money from the bank's own ATMs within the prescribed limit of Rs 50,000. "This is expected to ease the process of withdrawals," RBI added.

This is the fourth time that the regulator has increased the withdrawal limits since it clamped down on the bank on September 23 and capped withdrawal limit at Rs 1,000 per customer for six months. Meanwhile, angry PMC Bank account holders held a dharna outside the central bank's office at Bandra Kurla Complex in Mumbai asking it to apprise them on a daily basis on the developments taking place in the PMC Bank case.

OPENING BELL
PROJECTION FOR TODAY

Market consolidation likely near-term

The benchmark Sensex snapped its longest winning streak since March as some investors gauged the index has gained too much, too quickly after it closed at a record high on Monday.

The Sensex fell 53.73 points, or 0.13 per cent, to 40,248.23 after swinging between gains and losses at least four times following a seven-day winning streak. The Nifty 50 slipped 24.10 points, or 1.02 per cent, to close at 11,917.20.

On the Sensex chart, top losers included IndusInd Bank, Sun Pharma, Infosys, Tata Steel and M&M, shedding up to 2.40 per cent.

Globally, bourses in Shanghai, Hong Kong, Tokyo and Seoul settled higher on optimism over the US-China trade deal.

The Sensex's 14-day Relative Strength Index rose to 71, above the level of 70 that some investors read as a signal to sell.

The earnings season is turning out to be good, with 20 out of 31 Nifty firms reporting quarterly earnings that have either beaten or matched the average analyst estimates.

Technical View

"The ongoing corporate-earnings season and global developments are likely to dictate the market trend in the coming sessions," said Ajit Mishra, Vice President of Research at Religare Broking Ltd. "After a decent run-up over the last few sessions, some consolidation cannot be ruled out in the near-term," he said.

Analysts see an important support level for the Nifty at 11,859.73 points, after which 11,802.27 could be another support zone. Key resistance levels seen are 11,976.83 and 12,036.47 points.

Market View

Shrikant Chouhan, Senior Vice-President, Equity Technical Research, Kotak Securities, said: "The market has taken a breather and this happens whenever we see profit-taking in auto stocks. In fact it's most sensitive sector for any economy and now a days along with market experts even retailers are tracking it closely."

He said that excitement is missing in the market as majority of the index participants have already declared their Q2 numbers and now traders will wait for either domestic developments or global development on the trade tariff front.

—FC BUREAU

—Reuters

Over 1,300 start ups, 7 unicorns added in 2019



FC BUREAU
CHENNAI, NOV. 5

Over 1,300 startups were added to the tech startup ecosystem so far in 2019. India also witnessed emergence of seven unicorns this year.

With the addition of 1,300 ventures, the total number of tech startups in the country has grown to 8,900-9,300. By the emergence of 7 unicorns, India now has a total of 24 unicorns. In terms of startups as well as unicorns, India continued to hold the third position in the globe, according to Nasscom. These startups have created an estimated 60,000 direct jobs and 1.3-1.8 lakh indirect jobs.

Around 450 startups received investments valued \$4.4 billion between January-September this year — up 5 per cent year-on-year (YoY). Early stage funding saw 70 per cent spike to \$1.6 billion. This year, investments have been flowing largely into B2B space and almost half of the coun-

try's start-ups are offering enterprise focused services, it said.

Over 18 per cent or 1,600 startups are now leveraging deep-tech and this has grown from 8 per cent in 2014 and has seen a 40 per cent CAGR over the past five years, the report said.

According to Nasscom President Debjani Ghosh, the start-up ecosystem is innovating and bringing out solutions for locally relevant issues. "However, to simulate innovation, government and corporates need to focus on increasing their role as prominent stakeholders playing the part of venture capitalists and providing the appropriate market access, funding, and guidance to seed stage start-ups," she said.

Nasscom aims to accelerate the startup ecosystem in India significantly by 2025. This includes increasing the number of unicorns to 95-105 potentially and the cumulative valuation to \$350-390 billion.

ing Euro-VI engines manufactured at its factory in Pithampur, near Indore to the Volvo Group in Europe and Asia would come in handy while producing BS-VI vehicles for the local market.

"As far as BS-VI is concerned, we are in an advantageous position compared to rivals," he said, adding that the company had produced and delivered more than 1 lakh Euro-VI engines to Volvo globally for more than six years.

"We understand the nuances of the BS-VI technology. We have a lot of learning and experience from the Volvo Group and those have been incorporated in our development for BS-VI in India," Aggarwal said.

He said VE Commercial Vehicles was the first company in India to unveil India's first BS-VI compliant CV range, in June this year, with the introduction of Pro2000 series trucks.

The company is already testing these vehicles across the country.

"Once the BS-VI fuel is made available, we are all ready to sell these vehicles," Aggarwal said.

While this fuel is available in Delhi from Oct 1 to curb pollution, Union Minister Prakash Javadekar had announced in September that the BS-VI fuel will be made available in the country from April 1 next year.

Green shoots visible in commercial vehicles

MICHAEL GONSALVES
PUNE, NOV. 5

VE Commercial Vehicles, India's third big player, is upbeat with overall sales improving this festive season, saying that the green shoots in the market are visible.

"We have seen some uptick in sales this festive season and the green shoots in the market are now showing," Vinod Aggarwal, MD & CEO at VE Commercial Vehicles told *Financial Chronicle*.

He said Q3 and Q4 of this fiscal would be certainly better compared to the sales in the Q1 and Q2.

VE Commercial is a joint venture between the Volvo Group and Eicher Motors.

The slowdown blues had hit hard the commercial vehicle industry, the barometer of economic activity in the country, as a whole dragged down by Tata Motors, the top player, and Ashok Leyland, the second biggest, which together command about 70 per cent of market.

Overall, sales of the commercial vehicles, the barometer of economic activity, in the 5-tonne and above range in the first six months of this fiscal had dropped 36 per cent, while VE Commercial Vehicles was better off at 30 per cent decline.

"We have performed better than the industry. With sales now picking up from September right from Navratri,



Vinod Aggarwal

Dussera and Diwali, we expect that Q3 and Q4 will be better than Q1 and Q2," Aggarwal pointed out.

According to him sales would also pick up because of the pre-buying of the BS-IV vehicles would have to be sold before the March 31, 2020 deadline. These vehicles cannot be sold in India once the stringent BS-VI fuel emission norm kicks in from April 1, 2020.

The major difference between the existing BS-IV and forthcoming BS-VI norm is the presence of sulphur in the fuel. These emission standards were set by the government to keep a check on the pollutant levels emitted by vehicles that use combustion engines.

The BS-VI compliant vehicles are expected to reduce pollution in the air by 80-90 per cent.

"We expect pre-buying of BS-IV vehicles by fleet own-

ers and other to pick up as BS-VI compliant commercial vehicles will cost more in the range of 7-15 per cent of the cost of the vehicle depending on the tonnage model," Aggarwal said.

Also, there are other positives in the market like interest on loans going down, liquidity being available and an excess monsoon rains by over 10 per cent which would lift up market sentiment and boost sales even as floods had impacted mining activity at present, he said.

"Though transportation is idle at about 35 per cent, we expect gradual pick up as e-commerce, FMCG, steel and cement industry was picking up boosting sales of commercial vehicles," Aggarwal said. However, car and two-wheeler transportation was down by about 20 per cent, he said.

Aggarwal said his company's experience in supply-

PERFORMANCE STREET

Suzuki Motor Q2 operating profit down 32%

Japanese auto major Suzuki Motor Corporation reported 31.83 per cent decline in operating profit at 55.90 billion yen (around Rs 3,630 crore) in the second quarter ended September 30, mainly hit by slowdown in India.

The company had posted an operating profit of 82 billion yen (around Rs 5,330

crore) in the same period last fiscal. Net sales stood at 847.9 billion (around Rs 55,110 crore) yen as against 941.9 billion yen (about Rs 94,190 crore) in the year-ago period.

"Slowdown since 2Q of FY2018, owing to production decrease in Japan, in addition to slowdown in Indian automobile (is) continu-

ing from previous year," the company said in a presentation on its website.

SMC said its global sales declined 17.2 per cent to 14.08 lakh units owing to decrease in India and Japan.

Sales in India, where MSI has nearly 50 per cent market share, were down 26.5 per cent at 6.75 lakh units.

TechM Q2 net rises 5.6%

Tech Mahindra posted 5.6 per cent increase in consolidated net profit at Rs 1,124 crore for the September quarter, and said it will acquire US-based Born Group at an enterprise value of \$95 million (approximately Rs 671 crore).

The company had registered a net profit of Rs 1,064.3 crore in the July-September 2018 quarter, Tech Mahindra said.

Its revenue from operations grew 5.1 per cent to Rs 9,070 crore from Rs 8,629.8 crore in the year-ago period, it added.

Apollo Tyres net falls 43%

Apollo Tyres reported 43.15 per cent decline in its consolidated net profit at Rs 83 crore for the second quarter ended September 30, hit by weak performance in the domestic market.

The company had posted a net profit of Rs 146 crore for Q2 of 2018-19. Net sales declined to Rs 3,926 crore as against Rs 4,192 crore in 2018, Apollo Tyres said.

The tyre major said its European operations reported single-digit growth in revenue, both in the second quarter and in first half of the fiscal.

Titan Q2 net rises to ₹312 cr

Tata Group firm Titan posted a 3.5 per cent increase in its consolidated net profit at Rs 311.65 crore for the second quarter compared to Rs 301.11 crore for the July-September period of 2018-19. Its total income rose to Rs 4,693.34 crore from Rs 4,595.13 crore.

"The company has done well across all its businesses in the second quarter given the subdued market and consumer sentiments. The jewellery business has done better than most players in the industry," MD C. K. Venkataraman said.

Godrej Properties Q2 profit up 66% to ₹34 cr

Godrej Properties reported a 66 per cent increase in its consolidated net profit at Rs 34.19 crore for the second quarter of this fiscal. Its net profit stood at Rs 20.57 crore in the year-ago period, the company said.

Total income declined to Rs 395.11 crore in the July-September period of this fiscal from Rs 487.07 crore in the corresponding quarter of the previous year.

Divi's Lab Q2 net dips 12% to ₹357 crore

Divi's Laboratories reported an 11.62 per cent dip in its consolidated net profit at Rs 356.78 crore for the second quarter versus Rs 403.72 crore a year ago. Revenue from operations rose to Rs 1,445.57 crore as compared with Rs 1,323.93 in the year-ago period. The firm said its capex programmes in Hyderabad and Visakhapatnam were going as per schedule.

—AGENCIES

M&A deals to shrink further in 2020

SANGEETHA G
CHENNAI, NOV. 5

Merger and acquisition deals have witnessed significant erosion of value this year. Deal value will further shrink in 2020 as global deal space will continue to slowdown.

In 2018, M&A deals had touched a high of \$81.6 billion. Global law firm Baker McKenzie expects the deal value to come down to \$52.1 billion by the end of 2019. Even in September quarter, the deal value had dropped by half against the year-ago quarter.

By 2020, the total deal value can further come down to \$44.6 billion as the global deal making will continue to slow down because of ongoing worldwide economic uncertainty and the risk of global recession. M&A will decline globally from \$2.8 trillion in 2019 to \$2.1 trillion in 2020, finds Baker McKenzie.

In India, domestic deals will dip from \$36.4 billion in 2019 to \$29.4 billion in 2020. In 2018, domestic deals accounted for \$37.2 billion. Cross-border deals will continue to be subdued.

Adani seeks HC nod to close Bidvest deal

Mumbai, Nov. 5: Two days before the deadline, the Adani Group on Tuesday sought the Bombay High Court's nod to complete its offer to buy the 13.5 per cent stake held by South African company Bidvest in Mumbai airport, saying the GVK Group has failed to deposit the money in the court-ordered escrow account on time.

With the third extension, the GVK group has time till on November 7 to pay Bidvest and complete the deal.

The Adanis' bid to enter the country's second busiest airport by buying out Bid Services Division Mauritius from the MIAL was stalled after the airport operator MIAL controlled by the GVK Group chose to exercise its first right of refusal, and matched the Rs 1,248-crore or Rs 77 a share, offer that Adanis made to the South African company in March, valuing MIAL at Rs 9,500 crore. According to the agreement, the final payment and transfer of shares was September 30 which was later extended twice by consent to November 7.

—PTI

Anushka to endorse Godrej hair colour

RITWIK MUKHERJEE
KOLKATA, NOV. 5



Anushka Sharma

Godrej Expert Rich Creme, from the stable of Godrej Consumer Products (GCPL), one of India's largest selling hair colour, has roped in Bollywood diva Anushka Sharma as the new face for the brand. This move is in line with making the brand more contemporary and relevant in consonance with today's lifestyle while infusing a youthful appeal. With \$23.4 million brand value as per Celebrity Brand Valuation 2018 Rankings by Duff & Phelps (D&P), Anushka is one of the most celebrated actresses in the country.

Sunil Kataria CEO — India and SAARC, Godrej Consumer Products, said Godrej Expert Rich Creme has been an expert of accessible hair transformation. They are thrilled to partner with the leading superstar Anushka Sharma to chart our future growth roadmap.

Asia's big trade pact will hurt the global economy

DAVID FICKLING

From a political perspective, India's decision overnight to walk away from immediate involvement in a trade zone encompassing half the world's population and a third of its economy is good for almost everyone.

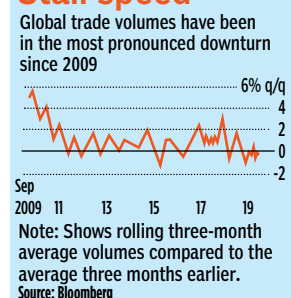
The Prime Minister Narendra Modi government no longer needs to make difficult concessions on agricultural trade. Other members of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership group, or RCEP, won't need to open their home markets to India's thriving, and low-cost, services sector. China, the linchpin of a zone that also includes the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, Japan, South Korea, Australia and New

Zealand, will be able to move forward faster with an agreement that was at risk of being jeopardized by India's foot-dragging.

The US, meanwhile, can take satisfaction from the fact that its key regional ally in New Delhi is remaining outside of Beijing's orbit. A stronger RCEP that included India would almost certainly have revived politically fraught question of whether Washington should rejoin the rival Trans-Pacific Partnership agreement or TPP, which died in Congress under the Obama administration and was formally killed off by President Donald Trump.

That's precisely the problem, though. Trade agreements are hard precisely because deals that are worthwhile economically tend to be politically haz-

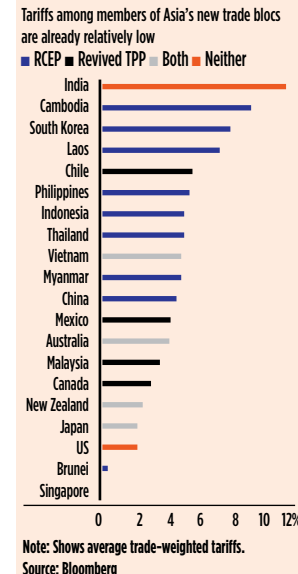
Stall speed



ardous, and vice versa. India's pause on the RCEP isn't the cause of the parlous state of international commerce in 2019, but it's another telling symptom of a global trading system where volumes are now falling at the fastest pace since the 2009 financial crisis.

Both the RCEP and the pared-down, US-free ver-

Over the borderline



sion of the TPP are better

understood as attempts to harmonize trading standards than reduce tariff barriers.

In part this is a result of the success of previous trade agreements, which have lowered border levies to the point where the more potent restraint on commerce is often non-tariff barriers, governing areas such as food safety, licensing, and rules of origin. Even within the more protectionist RCEP zone, the median trade-weighted tariff had fallen in 2017 to about 5.15 per cent, a lower average rate than Australia or Canada imposed in the mid-1990s.

Still, the effect of harmonizing standards at the regional-agreement rather than global level is the opposite of an opening of

trade. The objection to the original TPP — that it resulted in the US imposing its standards on other economies within the bloc — comes with the territory in such deals.

The standards that are established across the zone inevitably resemble those of its largest member. That would be fine in a global agreement, but in a regional deal the effect is to raise barriers to nations outside the bloc with different rules.

In the case of RCEP, that means smaller and lower-income countries in Southeast Asia are likely to become more closely entwined with China, while their links with potential partners outside the zone will fall behind. The reformed TPP, like-

wise, will bind those nations closer to each other than to the rest of the world. Only the handful of countries in both blocs — Japan, Australia, New Zealand and Singapore — stand a chance of benefiting as much as China.

The result suggests that trade is moving in a similar direction to tech, with the world bifurcating into separate zones as tensions between China and the US force nations to take sides. It's a path that's grimly reminiscent of the aftermath of World War II, when the US-led Marshall Plan and Soviet-centered Comecon developed into rival trading blocs. That division split the global economy for the duration of the Cold War. We shouldn't welcome its revival.

—Bloomberg

Column



Protest at hospital

Former Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif refuses to be discharged from Lahore hospital in protest against daughter Maryam not being released despite granted bail

US envoy was told to endorse Prez

First transcript of Trump impeachment provides interesting insights into inquiry

Washington, Nov. 5: House investigators released the first transcripts from the closed-door impeachment hearings into President Donald Trump, providing new details about events at the centre of the inquiry.

In hundreds of pages, Marie Yovanovitch, the ousted US ambassador to Ukraine, and Michael McKinley, a former top aide to secretary of state Mike Pompeo, recounted mounting concerns about the administration's actions toward Ukraine, including Trump's call with President Volodymyr Zelenskiy. Democrats plan to release more transcripts in the coming days.

Yovanovitch told investigators she first became aware of Rudy Giuliani's involvement in Ukraine in December 2018. The ambassador knew the president's personal lawyer was interested in investigating Burisma and Joe Biden, but "it wasn't entirely clear to me what was going on."

In the months that followed, she began to understand Giuliani's work outside official diplomatic channels with Yuriy Lutsenko, who at the time was Ukraine's prosecutor general.

The core of Giuliani's involvement appears to revolve around his work with two businessmen, Lev Parnas and Igor

● **AT THE TIME, SOME CONSERVATIVES were saying that Yovanovitch had been badmouthing Trump in Ukraine, which she emphatically denied.**

Fruman, arrested and charged last month with making improper US campaign contributions. She testified that she was informed by an official in Ukraine that Giuliani and Lutsenko were planning to "do things, including to me." The businessmen, she came to understand, "needed a better ambassador" to facilitate their interests.

She was told Lutsenko "was looking to hurt me in the US," adding, "I couldn't imagine what that was."

Yovanovitch said she raised concerns about the Trump administration's actions in Ukraine and the media reports against her with Gordon Sondland, the US ambassador to the EU. In response, he encouraged her to tweet her support for Trump. "He said, 'You know, you need to go big or go home,'" she recalled. "You need to, you know, tweet out there that you support the president." It was advice, she said, as a non-

Scribe sues Trump for defamation

Washington, Nov. 5: A woman who accuses Donald Trump of raping her more than 23 years ago in a New York department store sued the US president over statements he made in June denying that the attack occurred and criticising her for coming forward.

E. Jean Carroll, a long-time *Elle* magazine advice columnist, said in a complaint filed in a New York state court in Manhattan that Trump lied about attacking her, and "smeared integrity, honesty, and dignity" by concocting a "swarm of related lies" to explain why she would make the incident up.

White House Press Secretary, Stephanie Grisham, said that "the lawsuit is frivolous and the story is a fraud — just



E. Jean Carroll

like the author."

Carroll's account of the alleged rape at Bergdorf Goodman on Fifth Avenue, which she said occurred between the autumn of 1995 and spring of 1996, had been published in *New York* magazine in

June, excerpted from her memoir released the next month.

After the account was published, Trump made statements that he did not rape Carroll and had never met her. He said she was 'totally lying' as part of an effort to boost book sales. "I'll say it with great respect: Number one, she's not my type. Number two, it never happened. It never happened, OK?" he told *The Hill* newspaper.

In her complaint, Carroll said the attack lasted two to three minutes, before she ran out of the dressing room and onto Fifth Avenue. Carroll said in the lawsuit she soon confided in two friends, author Lisa Birnbach and former *WCBS* news anchor, Carol Martin, about the alleged attack, but did not report Trump to authorities

because she feared retribution.

She said she went public after accounts in 2017 of alleged sexual misconduct by Hollywood producer Harvey Weinstein, which he has denied, spawned the #MeToo movement.

"No person in this country should be above the law — including the President," Carroll said in a statement provided by her lawyers.

Trump has denied accusations by more than one dozen women who said he made unwanted sexual advances against them years before he entered politics. He also faces a defamation lawsuit by Summer Zervos, who claimed he kissed her against her will in 2007 in New York and later groped her at a Beverly Hills hotel. — Reuters

DON PLUGS SON'S BOOK WHILE ACCUSING BIDENS OF SELF-DEALING

Washington, Nov. 5: President Donald Trump has accused former vice-president Joe Biden of major ethical lapses and rallied against Biden's son for allegedly profiting off his father's office.

But on Monday, Trump used his Twitter feed to publicize a new book by his eldest son, Donald Trump Jr., telling his 66.5 million followers that they should "Go order it today!"

"My son, @DonaldJTrumpJr is coming out with a new book, 'Triggered: How the Left Thrives on Hate and Wants to Silence Us' - available tomorrow, November 5th!" Trump wrote on Monday, calling it a "great new book that I highly recommend for ALL to read."

That kind of promotional tweet would be a violation of ethics rules if it had come from any federal employee other than the president, said Liz Hempowicz, the director of public policy at the Project on Government Oversight, a nonpartisan government watchdog group.

"Frankly he's using his Twitter account to try to financially benefit his son," she said on Monday. — AP

Ending violence and chaos and restoring order remain priority for Hong Kong

— Xi Jinping after meeting Carrie Lam

Johnson dares Corbyn on Brexit

London: British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, pressed opposition Labour Party leader, Jeremy Corbyn, on Tuesday to tell voters in next month's election whether he backs leaving the EU. Johnson's main rival in the snap December 12 poll has struggled with defining his position on Brexit ever since Britons narrowly triggered the divorce in a 2016 referendum. Labour's new official stance is to negotiate a more EU-friendly withdrawal agreement with Brussels and then let voters decide whether to back it or simply stay in the EU.

But Corbyn refuses to say whether he would then campaign for his own deal.

Russian smuggles gold in shoes, held

Moscow: Russian customs officers have detained a woman at the Chinese border with nearly 2kg of gold in her shoes after she appeared to be walking strangely, authorities said. The Russian was detained at a customs post in eastern Siberia after officials noticed that she "was nervous and acted in a suspicious manner," said Marina Boiko, a spokeswoman for the regional customs authorities. "The young woman unnaturally placed one foot in front of the other," she said. A search led to the discovery of eight pieces of gold weighing a total of nearly 1.9kg. "The ingots had been attached to the insoles of her shoes with duct tape," it said, putting the value of the find at \$79,000.

'Baghdadi's sister arrested in Syria'

Beirut: Turkey captured the elder sister of the slain leader of the Islamic State in northwestern Syria, according to a senior Turkish official, who called the arrest an intelligence 'gold mine'. Little is known about the sister of Al-Baghdadi. The official said the woman, known as Rasmiya Awad, is suspected of being affiliated with the extremist group. He did not elaborate. Awad was captured in a raid on a trailer container she was living in with her family near the town of Azaz in Aleppo. The area is part of the region administered by Turkey after it carried out a military incursion to chase away IS militants and Kurdish fighters starting 2016.

MEXICO: FIVE OF FAMILY SHOT DEAD

Mexico: At least five members of a family in northern Mexico, including two infants, were killed in an attack by unknown gunmen, in the latest case of grisly violence to hit the country. Mexican media reported that the victims belonged to the LeBaron family, associated with a break-away Mormon community that settled in northern Mexico decades ago, and that the dead as well as additional missing family members may all be US citizens. The governments of Chihuahua and Sonora states, both of which border the United States, issued a brief, joint statement saying an investigation into the incident had been launched and that some people were presumed dead and others missing. The statement, which noted that additional federal and local security forces were being sent into the area near the border between the two Mexican states, did not provide further details. Local TV showed images of a burnt vehicle that may have belonged to the family, and local activist and family member Julian LeBaron was quoted as describing the incident as a "massacre." — AFP

Pak asks cleric to end protests

Islamabad, Nov. 5: The Pakistan government has reached out to firebrand cleric-cum-politician, Maulana Fazlur Rehman, who is leading the first major bid to oust Prime Minister Imran Khan, to end the massive protest, which entered the fifth day on Tuesday.

The right-wing Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Fazl leader is leading the protest, dubbed as 'Azadi March', in Islamabad, demanding Khan's resignation, accusing him of "rigging" the 2018 general elections. Opposition parties, including Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz and Pakistan Peoples Party have also thrown their weight behind the anti-government rally.

Two different negotiating teams of the government reached out to the JUI-F in Islamabad.

A delegation led by former prime minister Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain met the cleric, hours

● **The movement to oust the Prime Minister will continue to move ahead and will never be on the back foot**

— MAULANA REHMAN, Pakistan cleric

after the government's negotiating team led by defence minister, Pervaiz Khattak, held talks with the Rehbar Committee headed by JUI-F leader, Akram Khan Durrani, and discussed their demands, it said.

However, neither of the sides showed any sign of conceding any ground, the report said. Khattak and the Rehbar Committee will resume talks.

Rehman asked his supporters to continue their anti-government protest with perseverance and courage, after the 48-hour deadline set by him for PM Khan's resignation expired. — PTI

XI MEETS LAM TO DISCUSS PROTESTS IN HONG KONG

Hong Kong, Nov. 5: Chinese President Xi Jinping's surprise meeting with Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam was a "vote of confidence" in her government's ability to tackle five months of anti-government protests that have rocked the semi-autonomous Chinese territory, a senior official said Tuesday.

Xi met Lam on the sidelines of a trade event in

Shanghai on Monday night amid signals from China's central government that it may tighten its grip on Hong Kong to quell the unrest that has at times challenged Chinese rule.

When asked if the meeting reflected Xi's worry about Lam's handling of the unrest, Hong Kong chief secretary Matthew Cheung said, "The reverse is true." — AFP

FLIRTING WITH DANGER



A demonstrator jumps over a barricade during a protest against the economic policies of the government of President Sebastian Pinera in Santiago, Chile. — AFP

Iran vows to enrich more uranium

Tehran, Nov. 5: President Hassan Rouhani said on Tuesday that Iran would resume uranium enrichment at an underground plant south of Tehran in its latest step back from a troubled 2015 agreement with major powers.

The suspension of all enrichment at the Fordow plant in the mountains near the Shiite holy city of Qom was one of the restrictions on its nuclear activities that Iran accepted in return for the lifting of international sanctions. But Washington's aban-



Hassan Rouhani

donment of the deal in May last year followed by its re-imposition of crippling sanctions prompted Iran to begin a phased suspension of its own commitments in May this year.

Rouhani recalled that under the terms of the agreement Iran had retained more than 1,000 centrifuges at the plant which had been running empty since it went into effect.

"Starting from tomorrow (Wednesday), we will begin injecting (uranium hexafluoride) gas at Fordo," Rouhani said.

Iran said the whole process would be carried out transparently, witnessed by inspectors from the UN nuclear watchdog, the International Atomic

Energy Agency.

The move is the fourth announced by Iran since it began responding to Washington's abandonment of its commitments.

Iran has repeatedly warned the remaining parties to the deal — Britain, China, France, Germany and Russia — that the agreement can only be rescued if they help it circumvent US sanctions. — AP

Singer, who threatened Modi, quits showbiz

Islamabad, Nov. 5: Two months after Rabi Pirzada threatened Prime Minister Narendra Modi with dire consequences for scrapping the special status of Jammu and Kashmir, the Pakistani singer has announced that she is "quitting showbiz".



► **Rabi Pirzada had in September posted a video on her Twitter account where she was seen holding snakes and sitting around a crocodile while warning India and Narendra Modi of dire consequences in the aftermath of India's resolution to end the special status given to J&K under Article 370**

favour. Allah honours those he is pleased with and disgraces those he is not happy with." "This comes a week after some private videos and

photos of Rabi were leaked online and went viral. The singer, who soon became a victim of trolls, had reportedly also filed a complaint with Pakistan's

Federal Investigation Agency. Rabi Pirzada had in September posted a video on her Twitter account where she was seen hold-

ing snakes and sitting around a crocodile while warning India and Narendra Modi of dire consequences in the aftermath of India's resolution to end the special status given to J&K under Article 370.

Rabi had tweeted the video with the caption, "All these are gifts for PM Modi. My friends will feast on you." She had also posted a video of herself wearing a suicide jacket and wrote, "#ModiHitler I just wish huh. #kashmirkibeti."

Owing to her bizarre social media posts, Rabi Pirzada was often trolled by netizens. — Agencies



Mike Pompeo

U.S. PULLING OUT OF PARIS CLIMATE DEAL

Washington, Nov. 5: The United States has begun the process of pulling out of the landmark 2015 Paris climate agreement.

Secretary of state Mike Pompeo said that he submitted a formal notice to the United Nations. That starts a withdrawal process that does not become official for a year. His statement touted America's carbon pollution cuts and called the Paris deal an 'unfair economic burden' to the US economy.

Nearly 200 nations signed the climate deal in which each country provides its own goals to curb emissions of heat-trapping gases that lead to climate change.

In international climate discussions, we will continue to offer a realistic and pragmatic model — backed by a record of real world results — showing innovation and open markets lead to greater prosperity, fewer emissions, and more secure sources of energy, Pompeo said in a statement.

The US started the process with a hand-delivered letter, becoming the only country to withdraw. — AP

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POSSESSION NOTICE [Rule 8 (1)]

The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of Can Fin Homes Ltd. under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of the powers under section 13 (2) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice dated 01.06.2019 calling upon the borrower Mrs. Jyoti Chauhan and Mr. Dilip Singh Chauhan to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs. 15,98,134/- and interest from 01.06.2019 to till date of final payment within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described here in below in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002 on this 01st Day of November, 2019.

The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of CPHL for an amount of Rs. 15,98,134/- and interest thereon.

DESCRIPTION OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

Flat No-TF-2, Third floor(RHS Side), Khasra No-1472, Plot No-K-17, Balaji Enclave, Raipur, Dasna, Ghaziabad-201009.

Bonded : North : Plot No-K-16, South : Plot No-K-18,
West : Rasta 25ft Wide, East : Other Plot

Date : 05.11.2019
Place: Greater Noida

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Authorised Officer
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New projects

Actor Bella Thorne is soon to step into director's shoes to helm a thriller written by Zander Cote



Happy to become a mom in my 20s. We (daughter Suri) kind of grew up together.

— Katie Holmes, Actor

IN BRIEF

After France, S'pore bans e-scooters

Singapore City: Singapore banned the riding of e-scooters on sidewalks in the city-state from Monday, November 4 after a growing number of accidents involving the motorised devices. Senior minister of state for transport Lam Pin Min said in Parliament Sunday that there would be an advisory period until Dec. 31, involving warnings for riders, CNN reported. But after January 1, 2020, there would be "strict enforcement" of laws. Those caught riding on e-scooter on footpaths will be liable for a fine of \$1,472. — Agencies

Martin once thought of making Joker

Los Angeles: Veteran filmmaker Martin Scorsese was once actively considering to direct Warner Bros blockbuster *Joker* but he admits that he couldn't take the final leap. It was reported in 2017 that Scorsese was set to produce the film, which was described as a character study of *The Joker*, the most notorious villain in DC Comics and archenemy of superhero Batman. At one point, it was rumoured that filmmaker might direct the project as well but it did not turn out to be true. — PTI



Pilot in a soup over woman cockpit photo

Beijing: The captain of a Chinese airliner who allegedly allowed a young woman passenger into the cockpit during a flight has been suspended for life after her photo went viral, according to state media reports. A photo of the woman sitting in the cockpit of the airplane with her fingers making a V-shaped sign and cups of drinks on her knees has been circulating on social media since Sunday, the *Global Times* reported. While the pilot was not named, the report said the other crew members of Air Gullin who were involved in the incident have been suspended indefinitely. — PTI

KEANU REEVES AND ALEXANDRA GRANT DATING

Los Angeles: Internet can rest now as Keanu Reeves has found love in business partner Alexandra Grant. The 55-year-old actor recently stepped out with Grant for Los Angeles County Museum of Art's Art + Film Gala. The rumoured couple were all smiles while holding hands as they made their way down the carpet. They happily posed for the shutterbugs. For the occasion, Reeves opted for an all-black suit, while Grant, 46, looked resplendent in a navy blue gown with a plunging neckline. Reeves and Grant have known each other for quite some time. In 2011, the two collaborated for Reeves' book *Ode to Happiness*, that the actor had penned while the illustration was done by Grant. Five years later, they again worked together on Keanu's follow-up book *Shadows* and later launched the publishing house X Artists' Books. Reeves has mostly been coy about his private life and has never talked about his relationships in the press. — PTI



Keanu Reeves & Alexandra Grant

HK protest cake barred from UK baking contest

Creator says cake victim of political censorship

London: A Hong Kong protest-themed cake has become the latest cause célèbre of the city's five-month political crisis after it was disqualified from a cake decorating competition in the UK. The three-tiered cake features a mini black-clad protester in a yellow hard hat, a large Guy Fawkes mask, tiny umbrellas and mini political slogans — all symbols of the ongoing protests. It even has a miniature black LP record playing the unofficial anthem of the protest, *Glory to Hong Kong*, and emits a vapour designed to look like tear gas.



A cake featuring HK protesters, disqualified from the Cake International 2019 contest in Birmingham, UK.

Its creator, 3rd Space cafe, believes the cake was the victim of political censorship. The cafe, in Hong Kong's Sheung Wan district, said it received an

email from Cake International saying "the content and message behind the cake has been viewed as offensive and led to complaints from attendees", the *Guardian* reported. The organisers

of the contest said in a FB post dated Sunday that the removal of the piece from the competition area "was due to complaints about its content with some threatening to damage the piece". — Agencies

Nigeria film out of Oscar for too much English

Los Angeles: Nigeria's submission for best international feature category of the Oscar, *Lionheart*, has been disqualified by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences over its excessive English dialogues.



LIONHEART

According to the *Wrap*, the film, directed by and featuring Genevieve Nnaji, does not adhere to Academy's rule that a sub-

mission for international feature film category must have "a predominantly non-English dialogue track". The film is about a woman trying

to keep her family's transportation business afloat after her father suffers a heart attack. It has just under 12 minutes of dialogue that is in the Igbo language, while the rest of the 95-minute feature is in English. *Lionheart* was one of 10 African films officially submitted for Oscar consideration this year, a record for the continent. — PTI

Geisha selfies banned in Kyoto amid complaints of harassment

Kyoto City: Authorities in Kyoto have banned photography in parts of the city's main geisha neighbourhood, amid a flurry of complaints about harassment and bad behaviour by foreign tourists in the quest for the perfect selfie.

The ban, introduced recently on private roads in the city's Gion district, includes a fine of up to 10,000 yen (£70), as Kyoto and other sightseeing spots in Japan grapple with the downside of a boom in visitors that is expected to last long after next summer's Tokyo Olympics. "Tourism pollution" is a growing problem in Kyoto, where tourists flock to ancient shrines and temples and, in Gion, catch sight of the female entertainers — known locally as geiko — and maiko apprentices dressed in elaborate kimono on their way to evening appointments, the *Guardian* reported.

In response to complaints by residents and businesses, the local ward has put up signs warning visitors not to take snapshots.

The neighbourhood is home to exclusive restaurants where geiko and maiko entertain customers on tatami floors and over multiple course kaiseki dinners. — Agencies

IIT-Madras launches 'Arise', India's 1st standing wheelchair

Chennai: Premier technical varsity, Indian Institute of Technology, Madras, on Tuesday launched the country's "first indigenously designed standing wheelchair, which will enable a differently abled person shift from sitting to standing position."



The launch of a standing wheelchair at an event in Chennai on Tuesday. — PTI

Named 'Arise', the standing wheelchair was launched in the presence of union minister of social justice and empowerment Thawarchand Gehlot at the institute here. IIT Madras "in collaboration with Phoenix Medical Systems has launched India's first indigenously designed standing wheelchair," it said.

"It enables a differently-abled person requiring a wheelchair to shift from sitting to standing position, and vice versa, inde-

pendently and in a controlled manner," a release from the university said.

It was designed and developed by the institute's TTK Centre for Rehabilitation Research and Device Development, headed by Prof Sujatha Srinivasan in the department of mechanical engi-

Drug suspects shoot and stab their way out of Thai court

Bangkok: Three drug suspects — including an American — shot and stabbed their way out of a Thai court before brazenly fleeing in a pick-up truck, police said Tuesday.

The three were still on the loose more than 24 hours after breaking out of a Pattaya court holding room on Monday, police said.

Officers were combing the seedy beach resort city, located two hours southeast of Bangkok. "If they resist... Officials have to carry out decisive measures," said Krissana Pattanachroen, national police office spokesman.

The escapees are an American and his Thai wife, and a male Thai suspect. The couple was facing death penalty charges for drug trafficking, although sentences are rarely carried out.

Krissana said their relatives had been contacted to try and urge them to surrender and avoid a violent showdown.

Authorities said the Thai man somehow got hold of a gun and knife that he used to attack a police officer allowing the trio to escape. The officer was recovering, Krissana said. Thailand is both a producer and major transit hub for drugs. — AFP

Wine in space: 12 bottles arrive for year of aging

Cape Canaveral, Florida: A dozen bottles of fine French wine have arrived at the space station, not for the astronauts, but for science.

The red Bordeaux wine will age for a year up there before returning to earth. Researchers will study how weightlessness and space radiation affect the aging process.

The goal is to develop new flavors and properties for the food industry. The bottles flew up aboard a Northrop Grumman capsule that launched from Virginia on Saturday and arrived at the International Space Station on Monday. Each bottle was packed in a metal canister to prevent breakage. Universities in Bordeaux, France, and Bavaria are taking part in the experiment from Space Cargo Unlimited, a Luxembourg startup.

Nasa is opening the space station to more business opportunities like this and, eventually, even private astronaut missions

Winemaking uses both yeast and bacteria, and involves chemical processes, making wine ideal for space study, said University of Erlangen-Nuremberg's Michael Lebert. The space-aged wine will be compared to Bordeaux wine aged on Earth.

This is the first of six space missions planned by the company over the next three years touching on the future of agricul-

ture given our changing world.

"This is a once-in-a-lifetime adventure," Nicolas Gaume, chief executive and co-founder of Space Cargo Unlimited, said in a statement. Nasa is opening the space station to more business opportunities like this and, eventually, even private astronaut missions. The Cygnus capsule that pulled up to the space station on Monday contains multiple commercial ventures. Also on board: an oven for baking chocolate chip cookies, as well as samples of carbon fiber used by Italy's Lamborghini. — AP



Birds may have complex societies: Research

Berlin: Birds can keep track of social associations with hundreds of other individuals, according to a study which raises doubts if large brains are needed to form complex societies.

The researchers, including those from the Max Planck Institute of Animal Behaviour in Germany, found the existence of a multilevel soci-

ety in a small-brained bird called the vulturine guineafowl found in parts of Northeast Africa such as Ethiopia and Kenya.

The study, published in the journal *Current Biology*, provides a clue as to how these complex organisations may have evolved. The researchers tracked the social relationships of over 400 adult birds in a field site in Kenya over the course of multiple seasons. They found that the population comprised 18 distinct social groups — with 13 to 65 individuals in each — that remained stable despite regular intermingling. — PTI



Valentina Sampaio at a special screening of *Ford v Ferrari* in Los Angeles on Monday. — AP

Zosia Marnet (left) and Katie Holmes at an event in New York on Monday. — AP

Kiernan Shipka at the LA premiere of *Let it Snow* in Los Angeles on Monday. — AP



Women perform a traditional dance at Taunggyi in Myanmar on Monday. — AFP

Cheddar cheese row chef named an 'immortal' of French cuisine

Paris: A French celebrity chef who is suing the Michelin guide for suggesting he used cheddar cheese in a soufflé was named as one of the 10 immortals of haute cuisine by the rival Gault & Millau guide.



Marc Veyrat

Marc Veyrat was on Monday given a permanent place in the new academy of the "Golden Toque" alongside Guy Savoy, Alain Passard, Alain Ducasse and other legends of French cuisine. The news was seen as a swipe at its arch rival Michelin, who Veyrat accused of "dishonouring" him by stripping him of his coveted third star in January.

The chef — a larger than life figure instantly recognisable for his wide-brimmed black Savoyard

hat and dark glasses — is taking the guide to court later this month to try to force Michelin to hand over its inspectors' notes. Gault & Millau announced its new academy featuring the 10 pillars of French cooking as it named Arnaud Donckele as its chef of the year.

They described his cooking at La Vague d'Or restaurant in the chic French Riviera resort of Saint Tropez as poetry on

a plate. While the prize is usually given to emerging chefs, the 42-year-old is already a big name, holding the maximum three Michelin stars.

"Even though he is extremely well known, he merits further praise," Gault & Millau chief Jacques Bally told AFP. Bally said that in a divided and splintered culinary world "with Arnaud Donckele you will find the essence of taste that everyone can agree on." Donckele, who is set to open Le Cheval Blanc restaurant in Paris next year, said that his was designed to please everyone. Famous for his exquisite reductions and sauces, Donckele's signature dish was inspired by a sandwich that a fisherman once gave him. — AFP



An Indian camel (left) performs during a "dance competition" and traders with their camels at fair in Pushkar, in Rajasthan, on Tuesday. The annual livestock fair is one of the largest camel fairs in the world. — AFP, PTI

Why shouldn't we get Phoebe onto Bond, asks Craig

London: Daniel Craig dismissed a reporter's suggestion that *Fleabag* creator-star Phoebe Waller-Bridge was hired to punch up the script of the new Bond movie *No Time to Die* and make it more inclusive. The actor, who is return-

ing as James Bond for the fifth and final time, got furious during an interview with the *Sunday Times* when the question was posed to him. "Look, we're having a

conversation about Phoebe's gender here, which is a really ridiculous great writer. Why shouldn't we get Phoebe onto Bond?" he asked. It was reported that

Craig was the one who brought Waller-Bridge onboard the film. *No Time to Die* script was penned by director Cary Fukunaga and screenwriter Scott Z. Burns. They expanded from a draft written by former Bond writers. — PTI

DELHI SPECIAL

NEW DELHI WEDNESDAY 6 NOVEMBER 2019

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Matinee
Rakul in
awe of
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Devin Booker helps
Suns end Sixers'
unbeaten run

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GUIDE TO FORTUNE

Tick the answer and check them below.

1 James Bond was searching for what kind of airplane in 'Thunderball'?

- 707
- Piper Cub
- Vulkan

2 Who wrote "don't count your chickens before they are hatched"?

- Aesop
- Shakespeare
- Ben Franklin

3 Which kind of animal did Florence Nightingale often carry around in her pocket?

- Kitten
- Puppy
- Owl

SHORT TAKES

Man kills self; wife, in-laws booked

New Delhi: The wife and in-laws of Gagan Gautam (39), who committed suicide by jumping from his 10th floor flat here, were booked on Tuesday for alleged suicide abetment based on a complaint by the father of the deceased, the police said. "A complaint was made by Gagan's father, who accused the wife and the in-laws of his son of pushing him to a situation where he ended his life. An FIR has been registered under relevant section," SHO (Expressway police station) Bhuvnesh Kumar said. "Gagan had come to meet us at Shahdara a day before he took the extreme step and told us that he was scared and tensed because of his wife and in-laws. On Monday, his building's security guard us to inform that Gagan had been rushed to a hospital. When we reached there, we found that he had jumped from his balcony and killed himself," the police said. — PTI

Illicit liquor worth ₹1cr seized, 5 held

Noida: Over 18,000 litres of illicit foreign-made liquor worth over ₹1 crore was seized and five people arrested in Noida and Greater Noida in one of the biggest such seizures in the region, officials said on Tuesday. The recovery was made during an operation carried out by the Sector 58 police station in Noida and those in Dadri and Jarcha in Greater Noida on Monday, the officials said. "It was a massive operation during the past 24 hours against illicit liquor. Three trucks transporting over 18,000 litres of illicit foreign-made liquor were impounded and five accused arrested."

DM fines self, staff for water wastage

Ghaziabad: How often do you hear an official imposing a fine on himself? It has happened in Uttar Pradesh's Ghaziabad district. Ghaziabad district magistrate Ajay Shankar Pandey imposed a fine of ₹10,000 on himself and other staff members after he found that water was overflowing from an overhead tank of the collectorate building, his personal assistant Gaurav Singh said. Mr Pandey warned all the officers and the collectorate staff that such wastage of water would not be tolerated in future as water conservation is the prime need of the country, Mr Singh said. "The entire staff was 'held guilty' for the overflowing of water from the overhead tank. The fine will be shared by all the officers and staff, and would be deposited in the treasury, Mr Singh added. — PTI

THE ANSWERS TO TODAY'S GUIDE TO FORTUNE

- 1. Vulkan
- 2. Aesop
- 3. Owl

Law and order in city was not affected due to protest: Cops

Most police personnel who participated in stir were off duty

BHASKAR HARI SHARMA
NEW DELHI, NOV. 5

Despite holding an 11-hour protest on Tuesday in the national capital, the police personnel ensured smooth functioning of their respective police stations across the city. The police personnel turned up in shifts outside the police headquarters at ITO to lodge their protest against the lawyers for assaulting their colleagues. They were also protesting against the action taken against their officers and colleagues following a recent clash at Tis Hazari court complex. Most of the cops participated in the protest were off-duty.

Despite the massive protest, the police personnel ensured there was adequate security provided to the VVIPs in the city. "There was no compromise on security at all the vital establishments all across the city," a senior police officer said. "There was no security lapse reported from any part of the national capital," he added.

As far as the functioning of the police control rooms was concerned, all its vehicles were on the roads to attend emergency situations. On average, the PCR receives about 10,000 calls every day. "Today, we attended and took action on each call," DCP Sharat Kumar Sinha (PCR) told this newspaper.

"I joined the protest only after completing my shift," said a constable posted at a South Delhi police station. "Some of my colleagues, who were not on duty, joined the protest with us."

With the odd-even scheme in the city, traffic police personnel ensured that violators of the scheme were penalized. "In all, we fined 213 traffic violators all through the day," joint commissioner of police (traffic) N.S. Bundela said. The traffic police personnel also claimed that they ensured free flow of traffic on a 10 km stretch on which a major religious procession was carried out.

The traffic cops also formed a 31-km green corridor from Gurgaon to Fortis Hospital in New Friends Colony for a heart transplant emergency.



Police personnel gather outside the police headquarter at ITO during a protest against the alleged repeated incidents of alleged violence against them by lawyers in New Delhi, on Tuesday. — PTI
BIPLAB BANERJEE/

Cong, AAP: Police on streets 'new low', shows BJP's failure

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, NOV. 5

While unprecedented police protest on Tuesday created a massive chaos in the national capital, political parties, particularly AAP and Congress, attacked the BJP-ruled Centre for the prevailing situation.

Congress said that the police protesting on the roads was a "new low" for India since Independence.

Congress chief spokesperson Randeep Singh Surjewala asked whether this is BJP's 'New India' and wondered where the ruling party is taking the country to.

"A new low in 72 years — Police on protest in 'National Capital of Delhi.' Is this BJP's 'New India'?" Where will BJP take the country? Where is Amit Shah?" he posted on Twitter. The party's spokesman, R.P.N. Singh, said: "This is unprece-



Randeep Singh Surjewala



Manish Sisodia

dent. If law enforcement agencies are on the streets, what will happen to the common man?"

He alleged that such things take place whenever BJP is in power.

Terming the prevailing situation "unfortunate," deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia said the issue should have been handled at the appropriate time to avoid conflict.

Aam Aadmi Party spokesperson Saurabh Bharadwaj said that the force has been converted into a "political entity" and works like an "armed wing of the BJP" while its basic duty of maintaining

law and order takes back seat.

He said, "The police is least concerned about basic law & order issues in Delhi. Police officers are so arrogant. Delhi police has been converted into political entity and works like an armed wing of BJP."

Mr Bharadwaj also attacked BJP chief Amit Shah. "Mr Amit Shah has completely failed the law and order situation in Delhi. Law and order situation in Delhi is at its worst in the last 70 years. Mr Shah is busy making and breaking state governments," he said.

Trend may continue for next few days Strong wind speed brings down pollution levels in city

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, NOV. 5

Delhi's air quality improved further on Tuesday, giving respite to people suffering from acute pollution for a week. The trend is likely to continue for a couple of days.

The air quality index (AQI) dropped from 365 at 9.45 am to 331 at 3.45 pm, according to the Central Pollution Control Board.

The National Capital Region (NCR), Greater Noida (348), Noida (358), Ghaziabad (351), Faridabad (311), and Gurgaon (328) also recorded improvement in air quality.

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

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) said that winds gusting up to 25 kmph are flushing out pollutants faster.

"There are good chances of rain in Northwest India on Wednesday night and Thursday due to a western disturbance. The precipitation will cover Delhi-NCR, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, and western Uttar Pradesh," said Kuldeep Srivastava, the head of IMD's regional weather forecasting centre.

He said the situation will not be similar to that of Sunday, when high humidity due to light rains led to the formation of more potent secondary particles.



Vehicles wait for a signal as the city enveloped in smog in New Delhi on Tuesday. — AP

'Cases of stubble burning continue in Punjab, Haryana'

New Delhi, Nov. 5: As people in Delhi and surrounding areas continue to breathe toxic air, a review of air pollution in North India by cabinet secretary Rajiv Gauba on Tuesday found that crop stubble burning in Punjab and Haryana still continues.

The states have been asked to take violators to task by imposing penalties. During the daily review, "It was observed that the cases of crop stubble burning in Punjab and Haryana still continues and that there is a need for more focussed action," a statement from the Prime Minister's Office said.

The states have now been directed that more

monitoring teams should be deployed on the field to ensure that the "violators are taken to task by imposing suitable penalties", it said.

The situation in the national capital where different agencies are coordinating was also discussed and it was felt that there was a need for enhanced efforts to control the situation.

The states have also been directed to ensure that they are fully prepared for meeting any exigency in the future, it said.

Earlier in the day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired a meeting to discuss the pollution situation in northern India. — PTI

Secondary particles are products of complicated atmospheric reactions between primary particles—such as particulate matter, sulphur dioxide, and nitrogen dioxide

directly emitted by stubble burning and vehicles—in the presence of other factors such as sunlight and moisture.

Examples of secondary particles include sul-

562 challans issued on 2nd day of odd-even

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, NOV. 5

People were "religiously" following the odd-even rule, Delhi deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia claimed on Tuesday, even as the number of challans issued for violating the road rationing scheme increased on the second day. He said the number of challans issued went up on Tuesday as many were let off with a warning on the first day of rule.

According to official data, 562 challans were issued on Tuesday. Traffic police, transport department and revenue department fined 213, 157 and 192 violators, respectively.

Party slams Goel, Jaju's for violation of odd-even

SHASHI BHUSHAN
NEW DELHI, NOV. 5

Sharp differences have emerged in the Delhi BJP with party media panelist Nighat Abbas openly criticising BJP Rajya Sabha member Vijay Goel and party national vice president and city unit in-charge Shyam Jaju for violating the odd-even car rationing scheme to mark their protest against the Aam Aadmi Party government's failure to curb air pollution in the city.

Mr Goel, who earlier led the Delhi Bharatiya Janata Party along with Mr Jaju on Monday violated the odd-even scheme by driving an SUV with an odd last digit in its registration number. They

termed the scheme as a political stunt of chief minister Arvind Kejriwal to woo voters ahead of the Assembly election which is due early next year.

Criticising the move, Ms Abbas sought clarification, on BJP's WhatsApp group, on the party's stand on the road rationing scheme.

On Monday evening, she wrote, "It is getting really difficult to defend what Vijay Goel ji and Shyam Jaju ji did today. If that's the party line, please tell us how to defend."

Defending Ms Abbas' stand, a BJP MP told this newspaper that they (Mr Goel and Mr Jaju) should have followed public sentiments on the odd-even scheme.

Prez rejects petition demanding disqualification of 11 AAP MLAs

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, NOV. 5

In a relief for the AAP, President Ram Nath Kovind has rejected a petition demanding disqualification of 11 party MLAs for allegedly holding office of profit.

The October 28 decision of the President rejecting the plea is based on an opinion rendered by the Election Commission, the poll panel said.

In March, 2017, a man named Vivek Garg had filed a petition before the President seeking disqualification of 11 AAP lawmakers, including transport minister Kailash Gahlot, claiming that they were enjoying office of profit by being co-chairpersons of district disaster manage-

ment authorities in 11 Delhi districts.

The issue was referred to the EC which gave an opinion in August that holding the office of co-chairperson of a district disaster management authority does not attract disqualification as MLA as there is no remuneration by way of salary, allowances, sitting fee.

Nor is there any other facility such as staff car, office space, supporting staff, telephone or residence provided.

As per law, the President accepts the opinion of the Election Commission in cases of office of profit.

The Commission held that "item 14 of the Schedule to Delhi Members of Legislative Assembly (Removal of Disqualification Act),

1997 provides for exemption for the office of chairman, director or member of a statutory or non-statutory body or committee constituted by Government of NCT, provided that the said chairman, director or member are not entitled to any remuneration.

The petitioner had sought the disqualification of MLAs Sanjeev Jha (Burari), Nitin Tyagi (Laxmi Nagar), Praveen Kumar (Janpura), Pawan

Kumar Sharma (Adarsh Nagar), Shri Dutt Sharma (Ghonda), Rajesh Gupta (Wazirpur), Sarita Singh (Rohtas Nagar), Dinesh Mohania (Sangam Vihar), Amanatullah Khan (Okhla), Kailash Gahlot (Najafgarh) and Jarnail Singh (Tilak Nagar).

Centre can amend its CGHS scheme: HC

New Delhi, Nov. 5: The Delhi high court on Tuesday declined to interfere with the modified Central government health services (CGHS) scheme, saying it is for the Centre to decide how to give health benefits and supply medicines to its serving and retired employees.

A bench of chief justice D.N. Patel and justice C. Hari Shankar said that prima facie the modified policy creates no hurdles in supply of medicines to the Central government employees and also curbs misuse of the scheme as was being allegedly done in the past.

The observation came while dismissing a PIL challenging an e-tender issued for empanelment of authorised local chemists under the modified CGHS scheme for the national capital area. The petition

Under the new scheme, it said, if medicine was not available at the dispensary, the local empanelled chemist supplies it to the wellness centre, which in turn provides it to the patient.

The Central government further said that the scheme was modified as earlier patients used to use the authorisation slip for buying toothbrushes, toothpaste, Horlicks and cosmetics from the chemist shop.

Noting the submission of the ministry, the bench said under the new scheme requirement of issuance of authorisation slip has been given a go-bye and "therefore, chance to buy toothbrushes, toothpaste, Horlicks and cosmetics has been brought down to zero as now medicines will come to wellness centre and patients need not go to the chemists".

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The court noted the ministry's claim that subsequent to the modification in the scheme, partici-

tion by chemists has increased and they were offering better discounts than in the past, and said, "We see no reason to interfere with the modified CGHS policy."

"The government has to be given free movement in the joints. The government should be given the freedom to amend the schemes. More the misuse of a scheme, tighter would be the procedural aspect in grant of benefits. Sometimes government may also close down the scheme if it is being misused," the bench said.

It noted under the new scheme there was no contact between the beneficiary and the local chemist, due to which "loss may have been caused to chemists as they can no longer sell toothpaste, toothbrushes, Horlicks and cosmetics instead of medicines". — PTI



Past & present

Former India batsman Yuvraj Singh will be among a hosts of past and present stars who will feature in the 'Ultimate Cricket Challenge' tournament in February next year



SCA stadium Rajkot is scheduled to host the second T20 on Thursday.

— BCCI



PM Modi, please give your time to this and guide us how we can make India clean as well as healthy.

— Harbhajan Singh, former India cricketer on pollution

SHORT TAKES

Exclusive 'no ball umpire' for IPL

Mumbai: The IPL Governing Council is planning to have an umpire assigned specifically to check "no balls" after a number of howlers in the past few seasons led to heightened concerns about quality of Indian match officials. It was also learnt that the much-hyped 'Power Player' concept of substitutions during IPL games was shelved for the time being as the project can't be piloted during upcoming Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy (National T20), starting later this week. The GC chaired by former Test batsman Brijesh Patel met at the cricket headquarters to discuss a slew of issues including FTP window, availability of foreign players, FTP of Indian team and possibility of franchises playing friendlies abroad. However the talking point was having an exclusive umpire to check on the contentious front-foot and height no balls. "If all goes well, during the next Indian Premier League, you could see another umpire apart from the regular umpires just to "observe" no-balls. The concept sounds weird, but this was among the issues discussed in the first IPL Governing Council meeting which was held here," a senior GC member told reporters after the meet. "We want to use the technology. We are having another umpire for only observing no-balls. There will be an umpire, who will be focused on no-balls only. And he will not be third or fourth umpire," the influential member said. — PTI

IPL 2020 auction on Dec.19

Mumbai: The players' auction for the next Indian Premier League (IPL) will be held on December 19 in Kolkata, the event's Governing Council decided in a meeting here on Tuesday. The glitzy league is usually held in April-May every year and players' auction is being conducted in Kolkata for the first time. The city is the home ground of the Shah Rukh Khan co-owned Kolkata Knight Riders franchise. "The IPL auction will be in Kolkata on December 19. It's a departure from the traditional venue of Bengaluru," an IPL Governing Council member said on conditions of anonymity after the meeting here. While the franchises were allotted ₹ 82 crore each for IPL 2019, ₹ 85 crore per team has been earmarked for the 2020 season. Every franchise will also have an additional purse of ₹ 3 crore in addition to the balance in their kitty from the last auction. Delhi Capitals have the biggest balance — ₹ 8.2 crore, followed by Rajasthan Royals at ₹ 7.15 crore and Kolkata Knight Riders at ₹ 6.05 crore. This year's auction is the last one before the franchises disband and prepare to assemble fresh squads from 2021 at a mega auction. — PTI

Cyclone threat to T20

The cyclone Maha is expected to make a landfall on the day of the match at Rajkot

Rajkot, Nov 5: After a smog-hit series opener in Delhi, there is a cyclonic threat to the second T20 International between India and Bangladesh here on Thursday. The cyclone Maha is expected to make a landfall on the Gujarat coast on the day of the match, which could lead to heavy rains. As per the India Meteorological Department's (IMD) latest forecast, Maha would hit the Gujarat coast as a 'cyclonic storm' between Porbandar and Diu during the early hours of Thursday. The match is scheduled to commence at 7 pm at the Saurashtra Cricket Association Stadium on the outskirts of the city. As of now, Maha is an 'extremely severe cyclonic storm' over the Arabian sea and situated around 660 kilometres away from Porbandar. It is predicted that it would weaken into a cyclonic storm before hitting the Gujarat coast. The IMD, in a release, stated that light to moderate rain or thunder-showers would occur "at most places in all districts of Gujarat", including Rajkot, on November 6 and 7. The Saurashtra Cricket Association is keeping a tab on the weather forecasts. "We are fully prepared to host the game but at the same time we are keeping a close tab on the weather. It is expected that it may rain in the morning on the 7th but the game is in the evening," a senior Saurashtra Cricket Association official said from Rajkot. There was sunshine on Tuesday morning in the city. The two teams had reached here on Monday. The first T20 international was played despite smog and air pollution in the national capital, prompting BCCI president Sourav Ganguly to thank both the teams. Bangladesh, who beat India by seven wickets, lead the three match series 1-0. The final match of the series will be played in Nagpur on Sunday, November 10. — PTI

Rishabh Pant reacts after being dismissed during the first T20 against Bangladesh on Sunday.

— AFP



Gilchrist advises Pant to not try to be next Dhoni

New Delhi, Nov. 5: Australian wicket-keeping great Adam Gilchrist on Tuesday had just one advice for the embattled Rishabh Pant — don't try to be the next Mahendra Singh Dhoni just as he didn't try to be Ian Healy 2.0. Pant has been struggling to hold on to his place in the Indian team despite a resounding start to his career with Test hundreds on debut in England and Australia. In Sunday's T20 match against Bangladesh, Pant also coped criticism for bad DRS calls, something that Dhoni had mastered at his peak. Gilchrist reiterated that the 22-year-old Pant should only focus on being his own best version instead of trying to ape the iconic former captain, who is on a sabbatical.



I expect D/N Test between India and Australia next year: Gilchrist

New Delhi, Nov. 5: Adam Gilchrist is hopeful of India agreeing to play a Day/Night Test in his country next year after Virat Kohli and his men were convinced to compete in their maiden pink ball match by new BCCI chief Sourav Ganguly. India were requested to play a Day/Night Test in Australia during the 2018-19 tour but the visitors had declined the offer. A year later, India will be playing their maiden Test with pink ball against Bangladesh from November 22 in Kolkata. "They would be here next summer after the T20 World Cup. I expect there will be a Day/Night Test there. I haven't heard from Cricket Australia but I expect there would be one," Gilchrist said. — PTI

"My number one suggestion to Indian fans and journalists would be: Don't attempt to compare him with MS Dhoni. The mould that they used to make Dhoni, they have mashed it up once he was made. So that they make sure that there is not another one," he quipped. "I know from personal experience, I went after Ian Healy, who was picked in the best ever Test cricket team in Australia. I just didn't want to try to be Ian Healy. I wanted to learn from Adam Gilchrist and that would be my advice to Rishabh." he said. Gilchrist, however, did urge the youngster to learn from Dhoni's phenomenal career during which he led India to two world titles. — PTI

I just didn't want to try to be Ian Healy. I wanted to learn from him but I wanted to be Adam Gilchrist and that would be my advice to Rishabh. — ADAM GILCHRIST, former Australia wicket-keeper

No pressure from management: Chahal

Rajkot, Nov. 5: Expectations will be high from youngsters ahead of next year's T20 World Cup but India leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal on Tuesday said there is no pressure from the management and they just need to ensure that mistakes are not repeated. India have fielded a lot of youngsters for the T20 series against Bangladesh keeping in mind the World T20 in Australia. "The 11 that is playing now, and the players who are there in the 15-member squad they know their roles, it is not like someone is going out after playing one or two matches," Chahal told reporters ahead of the second T20 International against Bangladesh. "A couple of matches can go wrong but there is no pressure from the management. The only thing is that we shouldn't repeat the mistakes that we commit in any particular match." India suffered a seven-wicket loss against a new-look Bangladesh in the opening match of the three-game T20I series in New Delhi on Sunday and Chahal insisted that the team will look to start afresh.



Yuzvendra Chahal during the first T20 against Bangladesh on Sunday.

match is done, if you think about last match then negatives will come into mind," Chahal said. "Before we came here, we have forgotten about that loss and we are making a fresh start and the entire 15 are focussed and positive, and hopefully, we will win tomorrow," he added. The victory was Bangladesh's first over India in the shortest format. Asked if there was pressure on the team ahead of the second T20I, Chahal said: "It is not about pressure. It is a three-game series, not a knockout game, so obviously one will win one will lose, and that day they played better than us." — PTI

Kohli writes a letter to himself on 31st birthday

New Delhi, Nov. 5: Going back in time on his 31st birthday, Virat Kohli told his 15-year-old self to shower his late dad with lots of love, giving his warm hugs precedence over his refusal to buy the dreamy-eyed son a pair of shoes. And Kohli also tells the same West Delhi boy to savour those "parathas", for he knows they will become "quite a luxury" in the years to come. And luxury they did become. These were among a plethora of thoughts that crossed his mind as Kohli turned 31 on Tuesday. The batting maestro penned a letter addressed to his 15-year-old version, dedicating quite a bit of its content to his late father Prem Kohli. "I know you



Virat Kohli celebrated his birthday with wife Anushka Sharma.

his social media page. On his father, the India captain continued, "I know he can seem strict at times. But that's because he wants the best for you. "Tell Dad you love him. A lot. Tell him today. Tell him tomorrow. Tell him more often." Prem Kohli was 54 when he died following a stroke, and his son, who would one day become the world's best batsman, was 18. It is well documented that a day after performing the last rites, Kohli turned up to score 90 odd runs and save his state team Delhi in a Ranji Trophy game. "You will fail. Everyone does. Just promise yourself that you will never forget to rise. And if at first you don't, try again." — PTI

England collapse to give Black Caps T20 series lead

Nelson, Nov. 5: A dramatic England collapse which saw five wickets fall for only 10 runs allowed New Zealand to snatch a 14-run victory in their Twenty20 international in Nelson Tuesday. It also put New Zealand 2-1 ahead in the series with two games to play. England were on track to overhaul New Zealand's 180 when they reached 139 for two in the 15th over, with captain Eoin Morgan in full flight as he cracked sixes off consecutive Mitchell Santner deliveries. But with England needing 42 off the remaining 31 deliveries Santner turned the match when he had Morgan caught by Colin Munro off the final ball of the over. David Malan (55) and James Vince (49) had laid a solid foundation for England at the top of the innings. "But Morgan's dismissal started a collapse which saw Munro run out Sam Billings for one in the following over before Blair Ticker removed Vince. In the space of two deliveries Lockie Ferguson bowled Lewis Gregory without scoring and had Sam Curran caught for two leaving Tom Curran and Saqib Mahmood to struggle through to the end. "That's one that got away," England captain Morgan said, pointing to the lack of experience in his squad. "We were in control for the whole chase until we were three or four down, probably that's a lack of experience. The guys need to get more games into them at this level." — AFP

Smith steers Australia to comfortable win over Pak

Canberra, Nov. 5: Master batsman Steve Smith on Sunday was abandoned due to rain. The final game is in Perth on Friday. "Very pleasing. I thought we were pretty good all day," said skipper Finch. "To get wickets consistently was key. Everyone is playing their roles really well, and we've got guys like Steve, who does what he does best." But their bowling attack was no match for Smith, who brought up his fourth 50 in the short format off 36 balls, with six fours and one big six, as Australia reached 151 for three with nine balls to spare. It put them 1-0 up after the



Australia is on a hot T20 streak, having not been beaten in their last seven matches. "Credit goes to Smith," said Azam. "He took the game away with a magnificent innings. We are very disappointed." David Warner had been in fantastic touch after scoring 219 without losing his wicket in four previous innings, and he ominously smashed 16 off Imad Wasim's opening over. However, the explosive opener was clean bowled by Mohammad Amir for 20, missing a drive, and when Finch fell for 17 to veteran Irfan, Pakistan's hopes were up. — AFP



Lucky Neymar

Neymar escapes prosecution for an altercation with an opposition supporter after Paris Saint-Germain's surprise defeat in the French Cup final in April

RACISM | ROW

Verona plans to charge Balotelli

Milan, Nov. 5: Verona's city government has been asked by a group of local councillors to take action against footballer Mario Balotelli after he complained about racist insults from the crowd during a match at the Bentegodi stadium on Sunday.

Balotelli, playing for visiting side Brescia, kicked the ball into the crowd and threatened to walk off the pitch early in the second half because he said some fans were making monkey noises. The referee stopped play for around five minutes while announcements were made to the crowd.

The 29-year-old, who was born in Sicily to Ghanaian parents and given up for adoption when he was three, has faced racist abuse throughout his career in Italy. He was backed by Napoli coach Carlo Ancelotti and by rival club AS Roma, among others, for his action on Sunday.

But the Verona club and the city's mayor Federico Sboarina, who said he was at the game, denied the racist insults took place. On Tuesday, the *Gazzetta dello Sport* published a motion sent to the Verona council by four councillors

● The Verona club and the city's mayor Federico Sboarina, who said he was at the game, denied any racist insults against Mario Balotelli in their Brescia game.

● The mayor and the legal offices of the municipality are contemplating legal action against the footballer and all those who attack Verona by unjustly defaming it.

proposing that "the mayor and the legal offices of the municipality should take legal action against the footballer and all those who attack Verona by unjustly defaming it."

The motion added: "It is no longer fair that Verona is put in the dock when, as in this case, nothing happened."

Italian League's disciplinary tribunal was due to announce its decision — the latest in a long line of alleged racist incidents to mar Italian football — later on Tuesday. — Reuters

Phoenix Suns too hot

Hosts halt Philadelphia's unbeaten run this NBA season

New York, Nov. 5: Phoenix's Devin Booker scored 40 points to lead the Suns over visiting Philadelphia 114-109 on Monday, delivering the first loss of the season to the NBA's last unbeaten team.

Spanish guard Ricky Rubio added 21 points and 10 assists for the Suns while Phoenix poured in 23 points off 20 Philadelphia turnovers. Booker, who turned 23 last week, became the eighth-youngest player in NBA history to crack the 6,000 career points mark. The fifth-season guard was greeted by chants of "M.V.P" for Most Valuable Player as he walked off the court.

The Suns, who haven't made the playoffs since 2010, improved to 5-2 while the 76ers slid to 5-1. It took Phoenix 29 games last season to reach a fifth victory. "You can play with anybody in the freaking league. Great job guys," Suns coach Monty Williams told his team after the game.

Al Horford led the 76ers with 32 points while Tobias Harris added 24 points and 10 rebounds.

The Sixers played without Cameroon star big man Joel Embiid, who was serving the second game of a two-game ban after a brawl with Minnesota's Karl-Anthony Towns, also suspended for two games.

ANTETOKOUNMPO LEADS MILWAUKEE CHARGE

Greek star Giannis Antetokounmpo scored 34 points and grabbed 15 rebounds to power Milwaukee over host Minnesota 134-106 after a 49-minute delay at the start to fix a faulty basket. Khris Middleton added 26 points and Eric Bledsoe 22 for the Bucks (5-2) while Andrew Wiggins led Minnesota (4-2) for 25 points.

HOUSTON ROCKETS FLY PAST MEMPHIS

Houston's James Harden and Brooklyn's Kyrie Irving had big nights in wins. One night after an embarrassing 29-point loss at Miami, the Houston Rockets bounced back to beat host Memphis



Eric Paschall (right) of the Golden State Warriors is guarded by Anthony Tolliver of the Portland Trail Blazers during their NBA game at the Chase Centre in San Francisco, California, on Monday. The Warriors won 127-118. — AFP

107-100 behind NBA scoring leader Harden's 44 points on 12-of-28 shooting and 10 rebounds in a game where Russell Westbrook was benched for a rest.

It was Harden's 80th career game with 40 or more points.

Irving scored 39 points on 13-of-21 shooting and added nine assists to lead the Brooklyn Nets over visiting New Orleans 135-125.

"This is my playground out here. I just love to be playing basketball and playing aggressive," Irving said.

A 14-6 run to end the game lifted the Nets over the Pelicans, who were led by Brandon Ingram's career-high 40 points on

17-of-24 shooting. Caris LeVert added 23 points, Joe Harris scored 19 and Jarrett Allen had 18 points and 10 rebounds for the Nets.

PASCHALL PROPELS WARRIORS TO WIN

Rookie forward Eric Paschall scored 36 points and grabbed 13 rebounds on his 23rd birthday to lead injury-hit Golden State over Portland 127-118 for the Warriors' first win at their new \$1 billion home arena in San Francisco.

"Great birthday gift. We did a hell of a job with the group of guys we have. We didn't back down. This is special. We did a great job," Paschall said. — AFP

ONE MATCH SUSPENSION FOR CLEVELAND GUARD

New York, Nov. 5: Cleveland Cavaliers guard Kevin Porter Jr. Was suspended one game without pay by the NBA on Monday for improperly making contact with a game official, the league announced.

The incident took place at the end of the third quarter of Sunday's 131-111 victory by the Dallas Mavericks at Cleveland. Porter will miss the Cavaliers' Tuesday home game against Boston.

The Cavaliers are off to a 2-4 start to the 2019-20 campaign while the Mavericks are 4-2.

Porter, a 19-year-old guard, was the 30th and final pick of the first round in this year's NBA Draft by Milwaukee but was traded to Cleveland via Detroit.

The Seattle left-hander made his NBA debut in a start 12 days ago in a loss to Orlando. Porter's father was fatally shot in July 2004 while trying to help someone being attacked. Kevin Jr. only four at the time, was raised by his mother. — AFP

GIOVINAZZI WILL RETURN TO ALFA ROMEO IN 2020

Austin, Nov. 5: Italian driver Antonio Giovinazzi will be back in the Alfa Romeo cockpit for the 2020 season, the Formula One outfit revealed on Monday.

The 25-year-old has collected just four points so far in 2019 but his maturity, enthusiasm and potential have convinced the team to extend his deal.

"We learned a lot this year and I am confident we can make a big step forward next season. I won't be a rookie anymore so there won't be any excuses for me," said Giovinazzi.

"I want to be competitive right from the start of the championship and repay the confidence the team has shown in me." Team principal Frederic Vasseur said he was extremely pleased with Giovinazzi, whom he described as a very fast driver.

"The way he has integrated into the team and has consistently improved throughout his first full season in the sport are very promising," Vasseur said. — AFP



Antonio Giovinazzi

Wales name Bale in Euro qualifier

London, Nov. 5: Gareth Bale, who is struggling with a calf problem, has been included by Ryan Giggs in the Wales squad for their must-win final two Euro 2020 qualifiers against Azerbaijan and Hungary.

The 30-year-old Real Madrid star — who has not played since scoring for Wales in their 1-1 draw with World Cup finalists Croatia on October 13 — is nevertheless considered a doubt for both the game in Azerbaijan on November 16 and at home to Hungary on the 19.

The Welsh — surprise semifinalists at Euro 2016 — are presently fourth in their group, six points adrift of table-topping Croatia and four shy of second-placed Hungary.

Both Croatia and Hungary have just one game remaining. Bale returned to light training with Real Madrid last week after a visit to London sparked more speculation about his future. This accelerated on Monday with claims Real Madrid were preparing a £70m (£90 million) bid plus Bale to lure England striker Raheem Sterling away from Manchester City. Giggs has also called up Juventus midfielder Aaron Ramsey, who could make his first appearance in the qualifiers after recovering from a thigh injury. Another midfielder Joe Allen, like Bale and Ramsey a pivotal figure in the 2016 team, is named in the squad. The 29-year-old — presently playing for second tier strugglers Stoke City — will return for the Hungary game in Cardiff. — AFP

Alluring Ashleigh



Women's tennis player Ashleigh Barty poses with the year-ending Chris Evert WTA World No.1 Trophy. — WTA

INJURY-HIT NADAL WILL TRAVEL FOR ATP FINALS

London, Nov. 5: Rafael Nadal has said he will travel to the ATP finals in London after undergoing a scan on an abdominal injury that forced him to retire from last week's Paris Masters at the semi-final stage.

"Yesterday I had a scan in Mallorca and despite having a small strain in my right abdominal, I will travel to London," the world number one said in a statement on his official Twitter account on Tuesday.

"On Thursday or Friday I will start training on my serve and my aim is to be able to play the ATP Finals in London. Thanks for your support," he added.

The ATP finals take place between Nov. 10-17. Nadal has never won the tournament, losing in the final to Roger Federer in 2010 and Djokovic in 2013, when it was known as the ATP World Tour finals. — Reuters



One swallow does not make a spring. It's a win that re-ignites our season.

— Claudio Ranieri, Sampdoria coach, after his first win

SHORT TAKES

Hurdler Dawn eyes Tokyo return

Washington: American 100m hurdler Dawn Harper-Nelson, the 2008 Olympic champion and 2012 Olympic runner-up who retired to have a baby, said on Monday that she is training for next year's Tokyo Olympics.

The 35-year-old was second to Australia's Sally Pearson at the 2017 World Championships but missed this year's meet after giving birth to a baby girl last April.

Harper Nelson stepped away from the sport in September 2018 but worked out during her pregnancy and returned to the track a month after giving birth.

"I still think I have it and I can kill it," Harper Nelson said in a posting on the US Olympic website.

"All the women in my life had said when they were moms they stopped their dream. Once I had my daughter, I looked at her and I remember thinking, 'I still have this year to run.' And I refuse for her to say, when she looked at my career, 'My mom always said she wanted to keep running, but she stopped because she had me.'" she added. — AFP

Olympian jailed for drug-trafficking

Amsterdam: Dutch Olympic athlete Madiea Ghafoor has been sentenced to eight-and-a-half years in jail after 2 million pounds (\$2.58 million) worth of ecstasy tablets and crystal meth were found in the boot of her car in Germany, as per reports.

Ghafoor, 27, was stopped at a border check in Elten in June where 50kg of ecstasy, 2kg of crystal meth and 11,950 euros in cash were seized by police, the report said.

The athlete, who ran for the Netherlands in the 4x400m relay at the 2016 Olympic Games, pleaded not guilty to the charges at Kleve District Court and said she thought she was carrying doping materials, the German news agency said.

The Dutch Athletics Union said it was shocked by the case and would investigate Ghafoor's claim concerning doping materials to ascertain who else might have been involved.

"We are stunned by the judgement. With the ruling of the German court, the Athletics Union rejects the actions of Ghafoor," a statement on the organisation's website said. — Reuters

SHUTTLE ON COURSE FOR OLYMPICS

Taipei: Chou Tien-chen is taking the unusual step of gearing up for the 2020 Olympics without a coach, with his longtime physio and confidante shepherding him towards Tokyo gold.

The soft-spoken and boyish 29-year-old, known for pointing to heaven to thank God at the end of a match, parted ways with his trainer early this year. Since then the world number two has been on a hot streak, winning the men's singles at July's Indonesia Open to claim his first title in a Super 1000 level event.

"I do a lot of homework a coach does before a game and spend more time analysing opponents and what I should do under what circumstances," he said after a practice session in Taipei.

Cheering him on from the sidelines has been physiotherapist Victoria Kao, who has shouldered some of the traditional roles of a coach by acting as Chou's mentor, cheerleader and chief critic.

Kao accompanies her charge on and off the court, handing him drinks during match intervals and chaperoning him at charity events.

She says her main job is to "maintain his health and character" in a training regimen. — AFP

Happy Hamilton clan on roll

Austin, Nov. 5: Lewis Hamilton was still celebrating with family and friends in New York on Monday after clinching his sixth Formula One world title and opening his heart at the United States Grand Prix.

The 34-year-old Briton, now the second most successful driver of all time behind seven-time champion Michael Schumacher, flew to New York with his party after Sunday's race and an admission that he had been "battling certain demons".

"Each and every single one of us is struggling with something in life. I

I am struggling with lots of different things. When you look in the mirror each day, whether you feel good or you feel bad, there is always the darker side that's trying to pull you down — and you constantly have to wake up.

— LEWIS HAMILTON, six-time F1 champion

try to show people that, from the outside, things always look great, but it's not always the case," he said.

"I am struggling with lots of different things and battling certain demons. When you look in the mirror each day, whether you feel good or you feel bad, there is always the darker side that's trying to pull you

champion who was Mercedes non-executive chairman and died in May.

"I would say that I didn't think it would hit me so hard, losing Niki. I miss him dearly. I didn't realise how much I loved the guy," said Hamilton.

Hamilton, now within reach of Schumacher's records of seven championship wins and 91 Grand Prix victories, is due back in Britain for a team celebration at Mercedes headquarters at Brackley on Wednesday. The team this year won a record sixth consecutive drivers' and constructors' championship double. — AFP





Future planning

Bayern Munich president Uli Hoeness says the German giants will take their time to find Niko Kovac's successor, but expects them to be able to name a new head coach within three weeks

CHINA OPEN | BADMINTON

Another early exit for Sindhu

Fuzhou (China), Nov. 5: World Champion P.V. Sindhu suffered a shock defeat to lower-ranked Pai Yu Po of Chinese Taipei in the opening round to be ousted but India's doubles campaign was off to a good start in the \$700,000 China Open here on Tuesday.

● However, Satwiksairaj Rankireddy gave the Indian camp reason to be cheerful with twin victories in the men's and mixed doubles categories

World No.6 Sindhu, who made early exits in China, Korea and Denmark, lost 13-21, 21-18, 19-21 to world No. 42 Pai in a 74-minute women's singles match here.

However, Satwiksairaj Rankireddy gave the Indian camp reason to be cheerful with twin victories in the men's and mixed doubles categories.

Thailand Open champions Satwik and Chirag Shetty, who had reached the French Open finals last month, defeated the American pair of Phillip Chew and Ryan Chew 21-9, 21-15 to set up a second-round meeting with sixth seeds Japanese Hiroyuki Endo and Yuta Watanabe.

Earlier, Satwik and Ashwini Ponnappa, ranked 30th, defeated Canada's Joshua Hurlburt-Yu and Josephine Wu 21-19, 21-19 to make a positive start in the mixed doubles competition.

They will face fifth-seeded Korean pair of Seo Seung Jae and Chae Yujung next.

In the men's singles, H.S. Prannoy, who has recently

recovered from dengue, faltered in the opening round, losing 17-21, 18-21 to Denmark's Rasmus Gemke.

The women's doubles pair of Ashwini Ponnappa and N Sikki Reddy was blown away 9-21, 8-21 by world No.10 Chinese pair of Li Wen Mei and Zheng Yu in 30 minutes.

In the women's singles match, Sindhu, who had reached the quarterfinals at French Open in her last outing, came into the match with a 3-0 head-to-head record against Pai but it was the 28-year-old Taiwanese, who took the initiative early, opening up a 3-0 lead in the opening game.

Though Sindhu made it 4-4, Pai was 8-4 ahead before making it 11-5 at the break. The Taiwanese didn't take her foot off the pedal and moved to 12-8 before reeling off eighth straight points to zoom to 20-8.

Sindhu saved five game points before Pai earned the bragging rights after sealing the opening game.

— PTI



ASIAN SHOOTING

Deepak bags quota spot, gold for Manu

Doha, Nov. 5: Birthday boy Deepak Kumar secured India's 10th Olympic quota in shooting while Manu Bhaker claimed the women's 10m air pistol gold medal in the 14th Asian Championship here on Tuesday.

Deepak gifted himself a bronze medal in men's 10m air rifle on the opening day of the championship.

The Jakarta Asian Games silver medalist shot 227.8 in the eight-man final to finish third on the podium and add to India's quotas for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

Later in the day, 17-year-old Bhaker shot 244.3 to win the top prize in her event. The Haryana sensation, though, had already secured an Olympic quota at the Munich World Cup in May.

China's Qian wang and Ranxin Jiang won the silver and bronze respectively in Bhaker's event.

The other Indian competing in the event, Yashaswini Singh Deswal finished sixth in the final.

The third Indian in the fray, Annu Raj Singh shot 569 for a 20th place finish.

The Indian trio claimed the team bronze with a total of 1731, behind Korea and China respectively. Deepak, who turned 32 on Tuesday, qualified for the final in third place after registering a sequence of scores that read 103.1 104.8 104.6 105.0 105.6 103.7, giving him an aggregate of 626.8.

Deepak is the second Indian shooter to earn an Olympic quota in the



Manu Bhaker poses with her gold medal. Below: Deepak Kumar with his bronze medal.



men's 10m air rifle event after Divyansh Singh Panwar, who secured it in April. In the women's 10m Air Rifle, the Indian trio of Elavenil Valarivan, Anjum Moudgil and Apurvi Chandela won the team silver with a combined effort of 1883.2, finishing behind Korea (1891.7). Iran won the bronze. The tournament is the last chance for shooters to earn quotas for the Tokyo Olympics, slated for next July-August.

— PTI

David vs Goliath

City look to seal their ticket to KO rounds with a win over Atalanta



Milan, Nov. 5: Gian Piero Gasperini warned that psychology will be key as Italian newcomers Atalanta look to avoid another huge defeat at the hands of Champions League rivals Manchester City in Milan on Wednesday.

The Premier League champions can seal their ticket to the knockout rounds with a win over Atalanta, who have lost all three Group C games in their first ever foray into the elite European competition.

Man City are top of their group with maximum nine points and 10 goals scored, with the Bergamo side bottom after conceding 11 goals conceded and scoring just two.

Five of those came last time out, when an 11-minute Raheem Sterling hat-trick helped City to a 5-1 win in Manchester.

"The psychological aspect will be fundamental," said Gasperini. "It's a tight turnaround, but we'll prepare as best we can."

Atalanta hit back in Serie A days later with a 7-1 demolition of lowly Udinese, but they have felt the absence of star Colombian striker Duvan Zapata, who has been out with a high injury picked up on international duty last month.

Without him Atalanta have slipped from third to fifth in Serie A, eight points behind leaders Juventus after a 2-0 defeat to Cagliari at the weekend.

Juventus, Inter Milan and Napoli are used to measuring themselves against the European elite, but Atalanta's only trophy was the Italian Cup back in 1963.

Live on TV

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE	
Bayern vs Olympiacos	from 11.25pm on SONY ESPN, HD
Lokomotiv Moscow vs Juventus	from 11.25pm on SONY TEN 2, HD
Crvena Zvezda vs Tottenham	from 1.30am (Thursday) on SONY ESPN, HD
Bayer vs Atletico Madrid	from 1.30am (Thursday) on SONY SIX, HD
PSG vs Club Brugge	from 1.30am (Thursday) on SONY TEN 3, HD
Atalanta vs Man City	from 1.30am (Thursday) on SONY TEN 2, HD
Real Madrid vs Galatasaray	from 1.30am (Thursday) on SONY TEN 1, HD

The turnaround in their fortunes has been orchestrated by former Genoa and Palermo boss Gasperini who took over in 2016.

The 61-year-old's success at Atalanta came eight years after being sacked by Inter Milan after just three months.

The northerners sprinted to third in Serie A last season ahead of Inter Milan, their best ever finish, with the most goals scored, and reached the Italian Cup final. This season they have continued on the same path leading the way in the scoring charts with 30 goals scored after 11 rounds.

— AFP

SHORT TAKES

Lifter Ravi handed four-year ban

New Delhi: Commonwealth Games weightlifting gold medal winner Ravi Kumar Katulu has been banned for four years after failing a drug test, a top anti-doping official said on Tuesday.

The 31-year-old Kumar, who won the 69kg title at the 2010 Commonwealth Games and a silver in 2014 (77kg), tested positive for Ostarine, media reports said.

Ostarine helps increase muscle mass though is not available to the public.

"Ravi Kumar has been suspended for four years," National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) director general Navin Agarwal said without naming the substance involved.

Ostarine is a "selective androgen receptor modulator", or SARM, which doping experts say has been increasingly used as an alternative to steroids. No country has yet allowed its use as a medicine but it is widely available on the black market. The ban is a new blow for scandal-tainted Indian weightlifting, which has been restricted to only four Olympic places — two men and two women — in Tokyo next year because of its high number of doping cases.

— AFP

Rachna smashes Luka's jr record

Guntur: Haryana's Rachna marked her shift from being a single-lapper to 800m with a memorable victory in the 35th National Junior Athletic Championships, breaking Tintu Luka's 11-year-old under-20 meet record with a 2:06.12 effort here on Tuesday.

Luka had set the meet mark at 2:07.48 in Mysore in 2008. With a bit more challenge and effort, Rachna could have made a crack at Luka's national U-20 record (2:05.21, also set in 2008) but the Haryana girl had to be content with the meet mark.

There were two national marks rewritten in the under-16 age-group. Haryana's Parvej Khan secured the boys 800m record while Uttarkhand's Reshma Patel earned the girls 3000m Race Walk record with gritty efforts.

Parvej Khan tackled the two-lap event with confidence and poise, his time of 1:54.78 improving upon Biren Gogoi's record of 1:55.70 set 28 years ago in Cuttack. He was helped, of course, by the enormous pressure that Madhya Pradesh's Shyam Milan Bind and Uttarakhand's Suraj Yadav exerted on him.

In the girls' 3000m Race Walk, Reshma Patel improved upon A. Kumari's record of 14:28.10 set in Muzzaafarpur in 1990 by clocking 14:14.83.

— PTI

Bayern interim boss to ring in changes

Munich (Germany), Nov. 5: Interim boss Hansi Flick says Thomas Mueller and Javi Martinez will start for Bayern Munich in Wednesday's Champions League tie against Olympiakos as he rings the changes for his first game in charge following Niko Kovac's sacking.

Kovac was dismissed as head coach on Sunday in the wake of Bayern's 5-1 drubbing at Eintracht Frankfurt.

His assistant Flick has been appointed interim coach for Wednesday's European tie at home to Olympiakos and Saturday's league game against Dortmund.

Flick, 54, was called to an emergency meeting by Bayern's bosses on Sunday night and was "honoured" to be asked to take temporary charge.



Real Madrid players at a training session in Madrid on Tuesday.

— AP

HYDERABAD UP FOR NEUFC TEST

Hyderabad, Nov. 5: High on confidence after their first win in their previous game, Hyderabad FC would look to make sure their fortunes have indeed turned around after early struggle when they face NorthEast United in an Indian Super League match here on Wednesday.

All the negativity that surrounded Hyderabad FC's poor start to the season was dispelled by their come-from-behind 2-1 win over Kerala Blasters FC in the previous game.

Phil Brown's side were at the receiving end of two heavy defeats away from home before finding some relief at home. Now, the task for the manager is to build on this result and boost the morale of the squad.

However, his task is still unenviable, given the fact that key players are still missing due to injury and suspensions. The likes of Bobo, Rafael Gomez and Giles Barnes are all injured while Nestor Gordillo is still serving a ban.

The bright spot for Hyderabad FC will be the form of Marcelinho. The



Hyderabad's Robin Singh at a training session on Tuesday.

Brazilian forward struck a brilliant free-kick winner against Kerala Blasters and scored a goal in their 3-1 defeat to Jamsheer FC. He will be Hyderabad's talisman against a solid NorthEast United.

The visiting side's potent attack, led by the irrepressible Asamoah Gyan and Martin Chaves, will pose a huge threat to a fragile

Hyderabad defence which is yet to keep a clean sheet this season. Youngster Redeem Tlang has also impressed and adds to the guile and pace of NorthEast's attack. NorthEast United are undefeated in three matches so far. Though they have only one win, their two draws have come against strong sides in Bengaluru FC and FC Goa.

— PTI

Aita on sticky wicket after shift in venue

New Delhi, Nov. 5: The shift in venue for the Pakistan tie has brought relief as well as headache for the national tennis federation (Aita), the officials of which are now scratching their heads on team selection.

The dynamics of the encounter has changed after the International Tennis Federation shifted the tie out of Islamabad as top Indian players, who had refused to travel to Pakistan, are now interested to compete in the November 29-30 tie.

The All India Tennis Association officials spent the day discussing whether top players should be asked for their availability or not because if they do so, it will amount to dumping the players, who showed their willingness to travel to Pakistan despite safety concerns. The new captain Rohit Rajpal is

INDIA VS PAK DAVIS CUP TIE

● The dynamics of the encounter has changed after the ITF shifted the tie out of Islamabad as top Indian players, who had refused to travel to Pakistan, are now interested to compete in the tie

keen to have a strong side at his disposal but does not want the players, who expressed their willingness to travel to Islamabad, to miss out.

Veteran Leander Paes, Saketh Myneni, Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan and N. Sriram Balaji had all made themselves available for selection.

Save Paes, none of these players would be able to make it to the team because of their low ranking if top player Rohan Bopanna comes in the fray for selection.

Paes is ranked 96th in the world and Bopanna, who refused the trip to Pakistan, is placed 39th. Even if Bopanna and Paes are picked as a spe-

cialist pair as Divij Sharan (47) is taking a break, Jeevan (ranked 110) and Balaji (137) will miss out.

The Aita selection committee largely goes by the rankings while picking the Davis Cup squad, so ignoring Bopanna would be tough if he is willing to play.

"It's a tricky situation. It does not feel good to ditch players who were willing to risk lives and travel to Pakistan. How do you leave them out? But if top players are available, India should field a strong team, so it's a catch 22 situation for Aita," an official, closely monitoring the development, said.

— PTI

