

DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA

VIJAYAWADA | WEDNESDAY | 6 NOVEMBER 2019

WEATHER



Max: 33°C
Min: 23°C
RH: 79%
Rainfall: Nil

Forecast: Generally cloudy sky. Max/Min temp. 33/34°C

ASTROGUIDE

Vikari: Dakshinayana
Tithi: Kartika Shudda Navami till 7.21 am

Star: Satabhisham
Varjyam: 2.20 pm to 4.08 pm
Durmuhurtam: 11.37 am to 12.22 pm

Rahukalam: 12 noon to 1.30 pm

HIJRI CALENDAR

Rabbi-ul-Awwal 8, 1441 AH

PRAYERS(SHAHI MASJID)

Fajar: 5.40 am

Zohar: 1.30 pm

Asar: 4.30 pm

Maghrib: 5.44 pm

Isha: 8.15 pm

SUNSET TODAY 5.35 PM

SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.06 AM

MOONSET TOMORROW 1.44 AM

MOONRISE TODAY 1.44 PM

PILOTS REJECT AI STAKE SALE, PLAN STRIKE

New Delhi: Opposing the privatisation of Air India, an airline pilots' union has threatened to go on strike unless their long-pending demands related to salaries are addressed, according to a communication. The nearly 800-member strong Indian Commercial Pilots' Association (ICPA), whose members fly narrow-body planes, has decided to work towards bringing all the unions at the airline under a common platform to oppose the privatisation of the airline. The government is working on the final contours of disinvestment of loss-making Air India, which has a debt worth over ₹58,000 crore.

CM writes to PM for coal block

Vijayawada: Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy on Tuesday wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, requesting him to allocate a Mandakani coal block in Odisha to APGenco thermal power plants. In his letter, Mr. Jagan wrote: "Prior to state bifurcation, the linkage quantities particularly the supplies from SCCL were being adjusted between all the thermal stations of erstwhile AP. After the state was split, the SCCL mines were given to Telangana and new AP was not given a share in the coal reserves."

Deekshitulu returns to TTD

Tirumala: The TTD Board has appointed former Tirumala temple chief priest, Dr A.V. Ramana Deekshitulu, as *Agama* adviser. He was forced to retire as the chief priest during the Telugu Desam regime after he accused the temple administrators of being corrupt. Dr Deekshitulu has been given additional responsibility to train the young *archakas*. The TTD board has also reinstated his two sons as *archakas* of the Tirumala temple. During the TD rule, they were transferred to Govindaraja Swamy temple in downhill Tirupati.

COUNTER POINT



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



WORLD | 10

Columnist sues Trump for defamation



SPORTS | 16

P.V. Sindhu suffers an exit at China Open

TABLOID

Plus size model is Sabya's latest muse



Protectors seek protection in Delhi



Police personnel gather outside the Delhi police headquarters to protest against the repeated incidents of violence against them by lawyers at the Tis Hazari court complex in New Delhi on Tuesday. After 11 hours of a virtual revolt, the police personnel ended their protest following an assurance by senior officers that their grievances would be addressed. ■ **Report on Page 7**

RELIANCE TO BACK OUT OF EMC IN TIRUPATI

AVINASH P. SUBRAMANYAM | DC TIRUPATI, NOV. 5

The Reliance group, which had proposed setting up an electronics manufacturing facility at the Electronic Manufacturing Cluster near the temple city of Tirupati, is reportedly backing out of the proposal due to alleged delay in handing over the land promised by the state government.

The Reliance group had entered into an agreement with the state government in February last to invest around ₹15,000 crore in an electronics manufacturing facility near Tirupati to manufacture Jio phones, TVs, and set-top boxes among others. The manufacturing plant was to be developed in two phases — one on around 125 acres and the second on 50 acres.

The company had entered into an MoU with the then Telugu Desam government which reportedly promised to allot nearly 150 acres to the Reliance group in 2018. Sources said that, so far, only 75 acres have been cleared by the present state government.

The deal became controversial after 15 farmers, who together held nearly 50 acres of land, reportedly approached the AP High Court and got a stay on the government buying their land. Since then, the procurement of land for the project has hit a road block.

However, after the land procurement faced legal hurdles in the middle of the project, the company is learnt to have withdrawn from EMC project in Tirupati, sources say.

Tahsildar's driver too dies of severe burns

JAYENDRA T. CHAITHANYA | DC HYDERABAD, NOV. 5

Kamalla Gurunatham, the 27-year-old private driver of Abdullahpurmet tahsildar, Ch Vijaya Reddy, who suffered burn injuries in his valiant attempt to rescue her, also got engulfed in flames, succumbed after battling for 20 hours at the Apollo DRDO Hospital in Kanchanbagh on Tuesday.

Gurunatham, a native of Velidanda village in Suryapet district, was the eldest of three sons of K. Brahmaiah. Gurunatham discontinued education while pursuing graduation. After quitting college, he moved to Hyderabad and started working as a driver with Tahsildar Ch Vijaya Reddy. He was residing in a rented house at the Weaker Section Colony in Mansoorabad of LB Nagar for last nine years.

Three years ago, he got married to Soundarya. The couple was blessed with a boy, who is around one-and-a-half years. Soundarya is currently eight months pregnant.

On Monday, K. Suresh set Vijaya Reddy ablaze inside her chamber. Suresh, who also suffered burn injuries, ran away, leaving behind Vijaya, who was engulfed in flames. Hearing her screams, Gurunatham tried to rescue her, but the fire engulfed him too. He suffered about 80 per cent burn injuries.

Brahmaiah, deceased man's father, said, "My son was working with the Tahsildar for last nine

Revenue staff flay CM during funeral

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, NOV. 5

The final rites of Ch. Vijaya Reddy, the woman tahsildar who was murdered in her office in Abdullahpurmet, were performed with state honours, watched mournfully by scores of her colleagues from the revenue department, family and friends at Nagole on Tuesday.

The 37-year-old woman was set ablaze in her office in Abdullahpurmet by Kura Suresh on Monday. She died on the spot. She was posted as the first tahsildar after the Abdullahpurmet mandal was formed in 2016. Huge numbers of

revenue department employees visited her house and bid her a tearful adieu. Employees, who participated in the funeral procession from her house to the crematorium at Nagole, raised slogans hailing her, and then, as the sad mood turned into anger, slogans were raised against Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao.

The employees condemned the policies introduced by the CM, alleging that he was responsible for instigating public's anger against revenue employees.

■ **Page 5: Employees stage rasta roko at Nagole**

have lost him too, now." Prabhakar handed ₹1 lakh cash on behalf of revenue department officials as an immediate relief for the family to perform final rites. "He died while undergoing treatment at Apollo DRDO Hospital at about 10.27 am. After autopsy at the Osmania General Hospital, the body was handed over to family members," said S Devender, Abdullahpurmet inspector.

Meanwhile, the accused, Kura Suresh, continues to be in a critical condition at the OGH. Two others who sustained minor burns and are being treated at different hospitals.

J-mafia got LVS axed, alleges BJP

Claims tough stand of former CS against evangelism could have earned him transfer

PATHRI RAJASEKHAR | DC NELLORE, NOV. 5

The Bharatiya Janata Party state spokesperson K. Anjaneya Reddy alleged that the Jerusalem mafia — a euphemism for the alleged communal slant of Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy in favour of fellow Christians — is behind the sudden transfer of chief secretary L.V. Subbramanyam. Speaking to mediapersons at Nellore on Tuesday, Anjaneya Reddy said that steps taken by Mr Subbramanyam against people from other religions working in the TTD and other Hindu temples, and his tough stand against evangelism, was the probable reason for his being shunted out. Commending the senior-most IAS officer for taking steps to protect the sanctity of Hindu temples, Mr Reddy expressed doubts over the intentions of the YSRC government.

Referring to the row between former chief secretary LV Subbramanyam and principal secretary Praveen Prakash, he questioned the rationale behind taking action against the CS.

He also said that RSS and VHP cadres were warned by the Visakapatnam police recently over some baseless allegations over communal issues.

DESAM CHIEF TO PROTEST AGAINST SAND POLICY

MD ILYAS | DC VIJAYAWADA, NOV. 5

Telugu Desam supremo N Chandrababu Naidu on Tuesday announced his decision to conduct a deeksha against sand crisis for 12 hours on November 14.

Earlier, his son and TD national secretary, N Lokesh, conducted a half-day deeksha at Guntur on October 30.

Speaking on the issue of sand scarcity, Vakati Narayana Reddy, MLC, alleged that all development activities in Andhra Pradesh had come to a standstill, following sand scarcity. Demanding that the Jagan Mohan Reddy government disclose its plans to overcome the situation, he underlined need to ensure supply of sand without hassles.

Later, the Jana Sena party led by actor Pawan Kalyan conducted a long march on November 3 at Visakhapatnam, while the BJP conducted a satyagraha against sand crisis on November 4 at Vijayawada.

After the success of the Jana Sena long march, TD has decided to con-

duct deeksha from led by Mr Naidu, in which TD leaders and cadres will participate. Mr Naidu said that Jana Sena asked for TD support, hence their party had joined the protest. He said the TD would give its support to everyone fighting for the public's welfare.

Mr Naidu said that 40 people had committed suicides in 10 days in AP due to sand crisis but the YSRC government was non-responsive. This shows the inhuman attitude of the YSRC government, he said.

He said that his party had first started protests against sand crisis on August 30 and had continued state-wide protests till October 25. Mr Naidu said that if the YSRC government cannot dig out sand within reach, it is surely incapable of ruling the state. He said that reverting to the free sand policy of his government was the resolution possible here. He demanded a compensation of ₹10,000 for every construction worker who lost work and ₹25 lakh ex gratia to kin.

Ayodhya is tense but remains calm

VIKRAM SHARMA | DC AYODHYA, NOV. 5

Temple spires, masjid domes and billboards with photographs of a smiling Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, are what dominate the 11-km stretch from Faizabad to Ayodhya.

With drones above, armed policemen on flag marches, barricades, checkpoints and CCTVs everywhere, the twin towns are bracing for judgment day.

Ahead of the Ayodhya title suit judgment by the Supreme Court this epicentre is full chatter about peace and harmony by both communities. But that does little to alleviate the tension in the air engulfing the twin towns.

Entering Faizabad, it seems to be business as usual. Though section 144 is in place, the town is abuzz with activity and the rush at markets. A majority of the crowd are

■ **DISTRICT** administration has created nearly 60 WhatsApp groups involving police, locals, social media watchers, religious leaders etc.

■ **A QUICK** Reaction Team comprising armed women police is formed.

■ **THE 3,000-strong** Ayodhya police force is deployed with the Rapid Action Force. A large paramilitary contingent will arrive soon.

policemen.

Though sloganeering is banned, some groups were seen randomly chanting "Jai Shri Ram" but went silent the moment they spotted policemen around.

"The massive security does bother us," says Muhammed Adil, 48, of Ghosiana.

■ **Page 6: It's good the issue is ending now: Locals**

STATE REVOKES G.O. TO RENAME KALAM AWARDS

DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA, NOV. 5

After facing pressure from various quarters, Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy on Tuesday ordered his officials to revoke a GO issued by the education department re-naming the A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Pratibha Awards after the late Chief Minister and Mr Reddy's father Y.S. Rajasekhara Rao.

Later in the evening, the government issued an order restoring the name of the former President to the awards.

The government's move to rename awards given to meritorious school children had drawn flak from various quarters. The erstwhile Chandrababu Naidu government in 2017 that had named the Pratibha awards after Abdul Kalam.

While a GO renaming the awards was issued on Monday night, it is learnt that the Chief Minister was miffed with officials on Tuesday issuing it without his clearance. He ordered them to withdraw the GO.

"The government hereby order to re-designate the Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Pratibha Puraskar Awards" as the 'Y.S.R. Vidya Puraskars' from 2019 onwards for distribution on the occasion of birth anniversary of Mahatma Abul Kalam Azad as National Education Day on 11th November," said GO N. 78.

To this, Mr Naidu said on Twitter: "Dr Kalam has accomplished much for the nation with his inspiring life. @ysjagan's govt changing 'APJ Abdul Kalam Pratibha Puraskar' to 'YSR Vidya Puraskar' is a shocking method of self-aggrandisement (sic)."

MONEY | POWER

VADREU SRINIVAS | DC KAKINADA, NOV. 5

West Godavari police nabbed one Vellanki Simhadri alias Siva, 38, of Venkatapuram Panchayat in Eluru, who in the past 20 months allegedly robbed and killed 10 persons. He offered his victims what he called *prasadam* and Ayurvedic medicine, but which was actually cyanide.

The police also arrested Sheikh Ameenullah alias Babu alias Shankar, 60, of Vijayawada who supplied the cyanide to the killer.

Mr Grawel said that Siva would tell his victims that

■ **The accused used to buy the chemical from Chennai pretending as bike repairer**

Robber uses cyanide to turn serial killer

■ **THE ACCUSED** used to lure credulous persons by promising to double their money by performing a *pooja*.

■ **AFTER GAINING** their trust, he would take the victim to an isolated place and administer cyanide in the *prasadam*.

he would arrange for "rice pulling coins", which is touted to bring the owner great wealth and told them to get money for the same. He would then take them to an isolated place, give them cyanide by claiming it was *prasadam*.

He would then rob them of any cash, gold or silver jewellery. He would even tell the credulous persons that he would double their money by performing a *pooja* and the cyanide was administered in the *prasadam*. Sometimes the cyanide was administered in what he called Ayurvedic medicine. He

electro nickel plating unit for nickel-coat polishing of motorcycle spare parts.

Cyanide was one of the ingredients used in this process and was obtained together with the other ingredients from the licensed shop of one T.S. Selvam of Venkatachalam Modilari Street in Chennai.

Babu would accompany his brother Asad when he went to purchase the items but he bought the cyanide himself, without the knowledge of his brother, and supplied to Siva for a huge sum of money.

The crime came to light

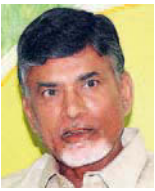
after the killing of 49-year-old teacher Kati Nagaraju in Eluru on October 16.

West Godavari superintendent of police Navdeep Singh Grawel told reporters on Tuesday that around 5.50 pm on October 16, Nagaraju received a call from his killer to say he had arranged for the 'rice pulling coin', and left home with ₹2 lakh in cash, and gold ornaments, informing his wife that he was going on some bank work and was showing the gold ornaments to an LIC agent. He was found unconscious by the roadside at Mini Bypass road

near CRR Polytechnic College and taken to Andhra Hospital in Eluru, where doctors declared him dead on arrival.

Nagaraju's brother Kati Venkata Ramana suspected two persons who were the last to be contacted by his brother on his mobile - Siva and Babu.

Altogether, Siva robbed ₹24.60 lakh in cash and 35.25 sovereigns of gold ornaments from the 10 deceased persons. The police recovered ₹1,63,400 and 23.1/4 sovereigns of gold ornaments and also a plastic tin containing a small quantity of cyanide.



Pointing fingers

Naidu says the YSRC government treated former chief secretary L.V. Subrahmanyam worse than a clerk



L.V. Subrahmanyam was transferred for administrative purposes

— Botsa Satyanarayana
AP minister

OTHER STORIES

Raghava Reddy TTD panel V-P

Tirupati: Mr Konda Raghava Reddy has been appointed vice-president for the local advisory committee (LAC) for the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) temple and information centre in Hyderabad for two years. Mr Raghava Reddy and Mr Prabhakar Reddy of Chennai had been earlier appointed as members of the LAC and were on Tuesday upgraded as vice-presidents. The TTD cancelled the appointment of Subhash Naidu in Bhubaneswar and replaced him with Mr Venkateswara Rao.

Indo-US forces exercise between Vizag & Kakinada

DC CORRESPONDENT
VISAKHAPATNAM, NOV. 5

A first-ever tri-services India-US amphibious exercise, Tiger Triumph, will be held from November 13 to 21 in the area between Visakhapatnam and Kakinada. The exercise will include field training that simulates the shifting of humanitarian assistance and disaster relief force from ship to shore. This exercise helps build the capacity of the participants while improving their ability to operate together.

About 1,200 Indian soldiers, sailors and airmen and 500 US marines, army men and airmen will participate in the exercise where members of the participants would exchange knowledge and learn from each other while establishing personal and professional relationships.

Indian and US forces will become familiar with each other's aviation support capabilities while conducting cross deck landings by Indian Air Force on *USS Germantown's* flight deck. 'Tiger Triumph' training pertains to developing counterterrorism or humanitarian assistance and disaster relief capabilities. The training incorporates surface movements from ship-to-shore where US and Indian forces will demonstrate naval integration, advance interoperability and exchange best practices. *UNS Jalashua*, *USS Germantown*, *INS Airavat* and a survey vessel in a hospital ship role will participate in 'Tiger Triumph.'

CM urged to curb graft, protect Wakf lands

DC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, NOV. 5

Members of Muslim United Front (MUF) and Muslim Welfare Joint Action Committee (MWJIC) demanded Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy to initiate measures to eliminate corruption and to protect the land under Wakf Board control.

The MUF and MWJAC alleged that majority of Wakf lands were in the clutches of encroachers and sought action from the Chief Minister to initiate measures to get back those lands.

MWJAC chairman Md Kaleem stated that recently the state government ordered a probe into the corruption and anomalies at the Urdu Academy which shows the need of reform the minority institutions.

He alleged that thousands of acres of Wakf land in Reddypalem, Guntur, Nellore, Vijayawada and other areas of the state were in the clutches of encroachers for years but there has been no action from the government to get them back.

He claimed that according to norms, Wakf lands should be used for the welfare of the minorities but some officials and Mutawallis violate the norms and are silent on encroachments. He and other leaders of MUF and MWJAC sought appointing of an officer to Wakf Board, the formation of a special commissionerate to protect Wakf lands and appointment of State Haj Committee.

Babu agreed to supply cyanide for large sum

Poisoning of PET master got accused caught by cops

VADREVU SRINIVAS | DC
ELURU, NOV. 5

Serial killer Vellanki Simhadri alias Siva met Sheik Ameenullah alias Babu alias Shankar in Vijayawada and discussed his idea for making money by feeding cyanide to his victims pretending it was sacred food, leaving behind no trace. Babu agreed to supply the cyanide to Siva for a large sum of money.

Siva's first victim was Vallabhaneni Uma Maheswara Rao of Nuzvid whom he persuaded into believing that he will arrange supply of 'rice pulling coin' and took him to a garden where he gave him cyanide as prasadam and robbed him of ₹4 lakh and a silver ring.

He trapped Pulapa Tavitaiah of Marribandam village, telling him he could double what money he had, poisoned him and took ₹8 lakh from him.

Gandikota Bhaskara Rao of Agiripalli (Singh Road) of Vijayawada was killed and robbed of ₹1.7 lakh in the same way. Chodavarapu Suryanarayana alias Suribabu, a clerk in Manikanta Finance Company in Eluru in Vangayagudem village was also given the poisoned prasadam and robbed of ₹5 lakh and two gold rings.

Siva killed Swamiji Sri Sri Sri Ramakrishnananda of Purushotapatnam Ashram in Rajahmundry by giving him 'ayurvedic medicine' but did not succeed in getting any cash or gold from him.

In the same manner he trapped his relative Kothapalli Rahavamma and robbed her of a gold chain.

He also killed and robbed his distant relative Samantakurthi Nagam-

SIERIAL KILLER'S VICTIMS

■ Siva also killed and robbed his distant relative Samantakurthi Nagamani, after promising to double her money.

■ His ninth victim was his landlady Ramulamma at Hanuma Nagar in Eluru.

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Siva became a killer to recoup his losses

DC CORRESPONDENT
ELURU, NOV. 5

Kati Nagaraju, the tenth victim of Vellanki Simhadri alias Siva, was acquainted known to his alleged killer, Siva.

West Godavari superintendent of police Navdeep Singh Grawel said that the two were involved in searching for 'rice pulling coins' which are touted to bring wealth to their owners. In this way, Siva got acquainted with some others who were crazy about the Rice Pulling Coins and dreamed of becoming rich overnight.

Besides, Siva invested in gupta nidhulu (secret

ani, after promising to double her money.

His ninth victim was his landlady Ramulamma at Hanuma Nagar in Eluru.

treasurer) and rangu rallu (precious stones) and fancy schemes to double his wealth but lost money. He was in the real estate business but lost money and was in debt.

The plan to murder and rob people was a way to recoup his losses.

Mr Grawel said that after Nagaraju's death, CCTV footage along the route taken by the deceased prior to his death, traced him to the entrance of Siddhartha College, where he was seen conversing with Siva. The footage shows he was followed by Siva at some distance.

After he was arrested

Siva confessed that he had killed 10 persons and robbed them of cash and gold to sustain his luxurious life and expenses.

Mr Grawel said that Siva had used some of the money to purchase a house site at NTR Colony in Eluru, constructed a house on it and moved his family into the new house two months ago.

Eluru DSP O. Dilip Kiran, circle inspectors A. Srinivasa Rao, sub-inspector Ch. Suresh, assistant sub-inspector B. Purnachandra Rao were among the officers who investigated the crime.

■ KILLER Siva also trapped his relative Kothapalli Rahavamma and robbed her of a gold chain.

Treasure hunters gang held for triple murders

NAGABHUSHAN
HOSKOTE | DC
ANANTAPUR, NOV. 5

Police arrested five persons of a gang of treasure hunters for the murders of three aged persons at a Shiva temple on Korthikota hill four months ago under the Tanakal police station limits in the district on Tuesday. Another person related to the gang is absconding.

A police official said the gang believed that there were precious stones hidden in the Shiva lingam and that it was protected by snakes. They used blood to ostensibly prevent the snake snakes from entering the temple when they dug up the place.

Kadiri Rural circle inspector Thammisetty Madhu and his team said they had travelled 7,000 kilometres since the murders took place on July 14 and interrogated 300 suspects including those belonging to 30 treasure hunting gangs from AP, Telangana state, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala before they made the arrests.

The victims were S. Shivarami Reddy, 66, of Kondakinda Mekalavarpalle in Tamballapalli in Chittoor district, a retired employee who had spent his own money to maintain the temple and was serving as the priest, devotees Vankadara Satyalakshamma, 70, of Andrahalli in Bengaluru, and Kadapala Kamalamma, 75, of Uppuravandlapalli in Tanakal mandal in Anantapur district. Their blood was smeared on a snake pit.

■ The culprits killed the three at the temple and doused their blood at the snake pit. The gang then tried to remove the Shiva lingam which they believed contained precious stones.

■ Kadiri Rural circle inspector Thammisetty Madhu and his team said they had travelled 7,000 km since the murders took place on July 14 and interrogated 300 suspects including those belonging to 30 treasure hunting gangs from AP, Telangana state, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala before they made the arrests.

The culprits killed the three at the temple and doused their blood at the snake pit. The gang then tried to remove the Shiva lingam which they believed contained precious stones.

Police registered a case based on a complaint by Shivarami Reddy's wife Prabhavati. The murders were a challenge for the police because there was little by way of evidence.

"Our teams covered more than 7,000 kilometres and questioned 300 persons who were involved in treasure-hunting and locally from

Tamballapalle after we got reports that Shivarami Reddy had lent money to locals," superintendent of police Satya Esubabu said. They also investigated in nearby villages surrounding the temple.

The police finally zeroed in upon the five-member gang of treasure hunters for involvement in the triple murder. Mr Esubabu said that the accused Srikanth Naik, Hanumantha Naik, C. Ganesh of Puttaparthi, Musalikunta Srinivasulu and Vasudeva Reddy, a real estate trader of Puttaparthi were friends. All these five have been arrested. Their associate, Subramanyam, is absconding.

Srinivasulu told his friends about precious stones hidden in the Korthikota temple Shiva lingam, and about his guru Subramanyam Naidu's claims about diamonds being there.

Hanumantha Naik, Srikanth Naik and Ganesh conducted a recce of the temple on March 17 and firmed up their plan the next day. They collected the required material, including a knife along with the blood of an animal. The trio attacked the temple and killed Shivarami Reddy and two women by stabbing and hitting them with hammers on July 14. Their bodies were found the next day.

Soon after killing the trio, they sprinkled blood in the temple surroundings to prevent snakes from coming there. They tried to break the Shiva lingam but fled in the dark after failing to do so, Mr Easbabu said.

EXCESS NITRATE CAUSED DEATHS OF 86 COWS, SAYS SIT

DC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, NOV. 5

A Special Investigation Team has found that excess nitrate had caused the death of 86 cows in the gosala at Kothuru Tadepalli in Krishna district on August 10.

The cows had died after eating grass and drinking water at the gosala.

Following protests and allegations that the cows may have been poisoned, the state government appointed an SIT to probe the incident.

The SIT was headed by CCS ACP P. Srinivasa Rao.

Investigators collected samples of grass and water, as also viscera of the dead cows and sent them to a forensic laboratory for tests. Forensic examination revealed no traces of poison, whether in the grass, water or the viscera samples. However, the nitrate content in the grass was found to be between 3.79 per cent and 4.47 per cent, when it should actually be below 1.6 per cent.

Investigators thus determined that excess nitrate content was the cause for death of the 86 cows. The grass that was supplied is stated to come from Prakasam, Guntur and Krishna districts.

The SIT report has been submitted to the state government for further action.

National Jr Athletics: Day-2



Lizbeth Karoline Joseph of Kerala leaps to a distance of 12.99 metres to win the event in the Under-19 Girls Triple Jump final on the fourth day of 35th National Junior Athletics Championships 2019 at Acharya Nagarjuna University, Guntur city, on Tuesday. — TEJO ROY ELETI

Ramana Deekshithulu back as Agama adviser

DC CORRESPONDENT
TIRUMALA, NOV. 5

The Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam (TTD) Board as decided to appoint retired chief priest Dr A.V. Ramana Deekshithulu as Agama adviser and has allowed him to re-enter the shrine along with the three other hereditary priests who were retired from service last year as they had crossed the age of superannuation.

In a press release, the temple management said it decided to take Dr Ramana Deekshithulu back into service by appointing him Agama adviser. He has been given additional responsibility to train the young archakas.

The TTD also announced that the retired chief priests can enter the temple at any time on par with the regular archakas. The release by the TTD stated that the temple management has decided to reinstate as archakas in the Tirumala temple the two sons of Dr Deekshithulu who were transferred to Lord Govindaraja Swamy temple in Tirupati last year.

The previous TTD board set up by the then Telugu Desam government had taken a decision to retire Dr Deekshutulu and three hereditary chief priests,

■ Ramana Deekshitulu has also been given additional responsibility to train the young archakas.

Narasimha Deekshitulu, Srinivas Deekshithulu and Seshachala Deekshuthulu. Later, the board retired three more priests working in the Sri Padmavathi Ammavari temple in Tiruchanoor who had attained 65 years of age.

The YSRC, which was in the Opposition at that time, opposed the decision and demanded the reinstatement of the retired priests. Party president and Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy in his election campaign had declared that the party will restore the rights of hereditary priests after coming to power.

Following developments, TTD chairman Y.V. Subba Reddy after the second board meeting held recently announced that a committee will be constituted to decide the guidelines on the hereditary priests' issue. TTD is learnt to have received directions from the state government and the committee that led to the appointment of Dr Ramana Deekshithulu as agama adviser, it is learnt.

Vacant lands become breeding grounds for dengue-carrying mosquitoes

VIRAL | DISEASE

Dengue deaths unreported in Vizag

N.S. CHOWDARY | DC
VISAKHAPATNAM, NOV. 5

A young mother who died at King George Hospital (KGH) on Tuesday was yet another victim of dengue.

Gantyada Sindhu Priya, 29, a resident of Doggavipalem Colony, was admitted to a private hospital with symptoms of fever. She was later shifted to KGH where she gave birth to a baby boy, but died due to dengue fever-induced complications.

District medical and health officials have not confirmed it as a dengue death. Though the viral disease has claimed many

lives across the city, the authorities have not reported all such cases. Recently, Emami Vandana, 52, an assistant professor of microbiology at KGH died of dengue but it was not registered as a dengue death.

According to district medical and health officer (DMHO) S. Tirupathi Rao, the blood samples of deceased patients are sent for the confirmatory Elisa (enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay) test. Both the above cases tested positive for dengue in the Elisa test. The prevalence of chronic comorbid conditions could have resulted in

Disease	No of cases up to Oct
Malaria	1,058
Chikungunya	21
Dengue	681

their death, Mr Rao said.

Dengue cases proliferate after the monsoon season according to some experts. With continuous rains in the city, open lands where water collects have become breeding places for disease-carrying mosquitoes, causing mosquito-transmitted diseases such as dengue, malaria and chikungunya to proliferate in the

city. Citizens are doing what they can to increase public awareness about keeping one's environment clean and free of stagnant water but there's not much they can do about vacant public sites, which GVMC must attend to.

Himani Bhatt, a resident of Panorama Hills and brand ambassador of Swachha Abhiyaan, said: "We have educated fellow people on the measures to be taken in every home to prevent the breeding of the Aedes mosquito, which is the carrier of dengue. But in spite of repeated complaints, civic officials have not cleared stagnant water

in open lands."

Asked to comment on this, GVMC chief medical officer Dr A. Hemanth claims the municipality has been draining out rain water from vacant government and private land.

"We have hired 5-10 vacuum tankers to suck rain water from vacant sites on a monthly basis. However, the efficiency may not be 100 per cent," he says.

The fact is that the GVMC is draining out rainwater in selected areas of Zone-4, Zone-5 and Zone-6. As a result, dengue-carrying mosquitoes are spreading viral diseases in Zone-1 and other areas of city.



More agitation

Pawan Kalyan says Jana Sena will take up more agitations from January next year to highlight various issues



Everyone should cooperate to build a society that is without pollution

— Biswa Bhushan Harichandan
Governor

RYTHU BHAROSA SCHEME FAILS TO PLEASE FARMERS

DC CORRESPONDENT
KURNOOL, NOV. 5

YSR Rythu Bharosa scheme intended to provide input subsidy of Rs 13,500, a promise made by Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy during his Padayatra, turns out to be a mere promise for most of those who were eliminated from being beneficiaries citing several reasons.

Kurnool district has 6,94,410 farmers including lease holders. Proposals were sent to the government in respect of 5.09 lakhs farmers. Of these, a list of 4,15,000 farmers was readied. Some were eliminated by administrators because they did not have a passbook.

Royalaseema Saguneeti Sadhana Samithi (RSSS) President Bojja Dasarath Reddy said that Rythu Bharosa under Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy is a scheme of elimination that was confined to a miniscule of SCs/STs and other minorities.

Reeling under the pathetic condition of farmers, he said that farmers in Kurnool demand minimum support price (MSP) to their produce.

Vizag gears up for Navy Marathon

DC CORRESPONDENT
VISAKHAPATNAM, NOV. 5

Eco-friendly Vizag Navy Marathon is all set to happen at Beach Road on November 17.

The event is an initiative by the Eastern Naval Command and promoted by Sports Arena with a motto 'Reduce-Reuse-Recycle', thereby reducing the carbon footprint generated during the event.

The organisers pledged to reuse and recycle any elements used for the event to ensure that no harm will be done to Beach Road. Thrust will be to use environmentally-friendly alternatives along with new initiatives such as the distribution of race T-shirt, without plastic cover, and banning use of any pollutants.

The finisher's medal has been inspired by the steering wheel of the ships.

Registrations for the marathon can be done online and offline. The sixth edition of Vizag Navy Marathon is being conducted in four categories – Courage Run (Full Marathon), Destiny Run (Half Marathon), Friendship Run (10 km) and Run for Run (5 km).

Over 18,000 runners of various nationalities and different states are expected to participate in the marathon, which is a qualifying race for 'World Major Marathons'.

All runs will be flagged off and finished near Vishwapiya Hall at Beach Road with the race route running parallel to the scenic seashore of the city towards Gitam University and beyond.

LEOPARD CUB ATTACKS WOMAN

DC CORRESPONDENT
TIRUPATI, NOV. 5

A woman shepherd suffered injuries when a leopard cub attacked her in the forest area near Vengampalli village in Thavanampalli mandal of Chittoor district on Tuesday.

According to the sources, Saraswathamma, 55, from this village took her sheep

and goats into the fields near the forest area outside the village. A leopard cub came to the field in search of prey and attacked her when she went to collect water from a pond.

She screamed for help and the villagers immediately gathered in large within no time. In the attack, she sustained deep scratches on her body.

Freedom fighter Karnati Narasaiah passes away at 95

DC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, NOV. 5

Freedom fighter and famous folk artist Karnati Lakshmi Narasaiah passed away at the age 95 years in his house at Vijayawada on Tuesday.

Lakshmi Narasaiah was a native of Tunikipadu village of Gampalagudem of Krishna District.

Lakshmi Narasaiah actively participated in various protests in the freedom struggle. Later he joined Burrakatha troupe of famous Burrakatha artist S. Nazar and got accolades for his Burrakatha narration. He further acted in various plays.

Lakshmi Narasaiah acted in various Telugu films and got several awards for his performance. He started folk arts center at Vijayawada. Leaders of various political parties and cultural organizations paid tributes the folk artist.

VMC plans to make use of flower waste

Officials plan to set up aromatic industry under zero waste concept

DC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, NOV. 5

Vijayawada Municipal Corporation Commissioner Prasanna Venkatesh stated that VMC is planning to begin an aromatic industry to make good use of waste flowers under the zero-waste concept of the city.

The United Nations Development Organisation (UNIDO) conducted a seminar on Sustainable cities at the VMC office in Vijayawada on Tuesday.

Prasanna Venkatesh said that the VMC is recycling dry and wet waste collected from every house and targets to turn the city as zero waste in the coming days by using all the waste in compost.



United Nations Development organisation (UNIDO) representative addresses the employees at the seminar on Sustainable cities at VMC council hall in Vijayawada on Tuesday.

Prasanna Venkatesh said that the VMC is supervising administration through three offices in the city and has been giving good results to offer good governance to citizens. He said that VMC has been collecting dry and wet waste from every house every day and seg-

regating the waste into dry and waste during collection. He said that the VMC has been recycling the waste through wind-ow compost and vermin compost where all segregated waste like plastic and others would be recycled to achieve zero waste in the city.

Aquaculture skill centre in AU to train fishermen

DC CORRESPONDENT
VISAKHAPATNAM, NOV. 5

Andhra University and Avanthi Aqua Culture Foundation (AACF) will jointly set up aquaculture skill development centre to train thousands of fishermen in aquaculture and shrimp farming, a first of its kind in the country.

AU registrar Prof. V. Krishnamohan and AACF joint managing

director C. Ramachandra Rao exchanged memorandum of understanding in the presence of AU vice-chancellor Prof. P.V.G.D. Prasad Reddy on Tuesday.

Prof. Prasada Reddy said that the proposed aquaculture skill development centre to be established at AU would cost ₹2.34 crore. It would help in training fishermen and students of department marine living

resources. In addition to this, Avanthi foundation will spend ₹35 lakh every year on the training programmes.

He said that the skill centre would provide training to thousands of fishermen from AP coast. The centre would provide employment opportunities to students of marine living resources from AU through campus placements by Avanthi foundation.

GREATER CHENNAI CORPORATION
BRIDGES DEPARTMENT
Br.D.C.No.83/1005/2018
e-SHORT TERM RE-TENDER NOTICE (6th Call)
e-Tenders are invited for the following work in Two Cover System as per details furnished below.
Smart City Work
Construction of Skywalk with Escalators from Mambalam Railway Station to T. Nagar Bus Terminus in Dn- 136, Zone - X.
Bid document will be available in website <http://tntenders.gov.in> till 3.00 PM on 19.11.2019 for online bidding. The bidders must possess Digital Signature Certificate for submission of bids through online in the above website.

EMD Amount - Rs. 26,25,000/-
Last Date and Time of Tender submission: 19.11.2019 up to 3.00 P.M.
Tender Opening Date and Time: 20.11.2019 at 3.30 P.M

Superintending Engineer (Bridges)

DIPR/4070/Tender/2019

CAN FIN HOMES LIMITED
Branch Address: # 40-5/19/17, 1st Floor, Near Siddhartha College Bus Stop, Mogalrajapuram, Vijayawada - 520010. Tel : 0866-2474781, 2481731.
Mob: 7625079119. E-mail: vijayawada@canfinhomes.com, CIN: L85110KA1987PCLC008699
POSSESSION NOTICE
[Rule 8 (1)] [For Immovable Property]
The undersigned being the Authorized Officer Can Fin Homes Ltd., under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of the powers under the said Act and Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued a demand notice dated 01.06.2019 calling upon the borrowers **Smt. Chintha Manisha & Sri. Chintha Rakesh Roshan** to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being **Rs.19,95,434/-** with further interest at contractual rates, till date of realization within 60 days from the date of the said notice.
The borrower 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 herein 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 CFHL for an amount of **Rs.19,95,434/-** and interest thereon.
Schedule of the Mortgaged Property
All that the Part Land measuring 30 sq yards of USD in an extent of 3146.4 Sq yards of total site along with Residential Flat bearing F.No.102, Ground Floor, Ram's Sneha Avenue consisting 1232 SFT (876 SFT of plinth area, 256 SFT of common area & 100 SFT of parking area) situated at Sy No. 9/3 and 9/2, Kuncharapalli, Tadepalli Mandal, Guntur District within the limits of Mangalagiri SRO, being bounded by: **Site boundaries: North:** Property belongs to Devabhatuni Harshavardhana Rao and Others, **South:** Property belongs to Goria Subbarayudu, **East:** Road and Kallam Anji Reddy and Others, **West:** Road and Property belongs to Reddibhatula Eswara Reddy. **Flat boundaries: North:** Open to Sky and Flat No: 101, **South:** Open to Sky, **East:** Open to Sky, **West:** Corridor and Flat No: 113.
Date: 05-11-2019 **Sd/- Authorised Officer**
Place: Vijayawada **CAN FIN HOMES LTD**

GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT / BUILDINGS ORGANIZATION
PRE QUALIFICATION APPLICATION TENDER
FORM OF CONTRACT : LUMP SUM / ITEM WISE RATE TENDER (TWO COVER SYSTEM)
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTICE No.08/2019-20/BCM/TRY/ Dated : 04.11.2019
For and on behalf of the Governor of Tamilnadu, sealed Tenders are invited from the PWD Registered contractors in the field, for the following work and the same time will be received up to 3.00 PM on the respective date mentioned by the Superintending Engineer, PWD, Buildings Construction and Maintenance Circle, Trichy-1 and will be opened on the same day at 3.30 PM in the presence of those tenderers or their representatives who choose to be present.

Name of Work : Construction of ware house for proper storage of EVMS & VVPATS in Master Plan Complex at Thanjavur in Thanjavur District.	
Approx. Value of work in Lakhs (including GST @ 12%) :	386.40
Amount of Earnest Money Deposit (in Rupees) :	2,03,200/-
Last Date for receipt of Tender :	28.11.2019
Tender Schedules available from :	07.11.2019 to 28.11.2019 upto 5.45 PM
Period of Contract :	12 Months

Note: (1) Name of Work, Approximate Value of Work, Amount of EMD, Period of Contract, Eligibility of Contractors and other details can be seen & downloaded from the website www.tenders.tn.gov.in & www.tntenders.tn.gov.in (2) The evidences on the minimum qualification criteria mentioned in the Pre Qualification Application should be furnished in Cover/ without any omissions at the time of submission of prequalification tender itself. Any omissions in this regard will be summarily rejected. DIPR/4087/Tender/2019 **Superintending Engineer, PWD, Buildings (C&M) Circle, Trichy-1.**

GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT / BUILDINGS ORGANIZATION
PRE QUALIFICATION APPLICATION & PRICE TENDER
FORM OF CONTRACT : LUMP SUM / ITEM WISE RATE TENDER (TWO COVER SYSTEM)
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTICE No.08/2019-20/BCM/TRY/ Dated : 04.11.2019
For and on behalf of the Governor of Tamilnadu, sealed Tenders are invited from the PWD Registered contractors in Public Works Department in appropriate class.

Tender Schedule Available Date	07.11.2019 to 21.11.2019 up to 5.45 PM
Tender Schedule Receiving Date	22.11.2019 up to 3.00 PM
Tender Opening Date & Time	22.11.2019 at 3.30 PM
Total No. of Works	Package - 1 (4- Slices)

Note: Name of Work, Approximate Value of Work, Amount of EMD, Period of Contract, Eligibility of Contractors and other details can be seen & downloaded from the website www.tenders.tn.gov.in **Superintending Engineer, PWD, Buildings (C&M) Circle, Trichy-1.**

DIPR/4087/Tender/2019

DECCAN CHRONICLE

WEDNESDAY | 6 NOVEMBER 2019 | VIJAYAWADA

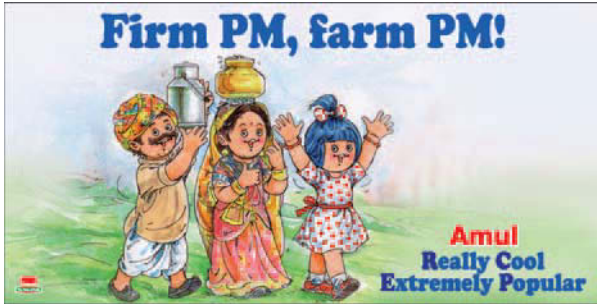
POLICE NAB TWO CHAIN SNATCHERS, RECOVER BOOTY

DC CORRESPONDENT
NELLORE, NOV. 5

Gudur police along with Central Crime Station sleuths nabbed two chain snatchers and recovered property worth ₹2 lakh from them. The accused have been identified as M. Sai Krishna, 20, and K. Avinash, 23, of Bitragunta mandal in Nellore.

According to the CCS circle inspector Sk Baji Jon Syeda, the duo are involved in two chain snatching offences in the district. Their first victim was an elderly woman from Kavali town.

They grabbed her gold chain and fled while the woman was walking alone to her home on September 21. The same day, the duo managed to snatch a gold chain from another woman in Gudur. Police nabbed the two accused at Gudur on Tuesday and recovered property from them.



ASSISTANT BC WELFARE OFFICER IN ACB NET

DC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, NOV. 5

ACB sleuths on Tuesday arrested a BC welfare officer and his assistant for accepting bribe at Repalle in Guntur district.

ACB informed that Syed Shajahan, assistant welfare officer working at Repalle, demanded ₹60,000 bribe to sanction diet bills of BC boys hostel of Pallepalem from the hostel welfare officer P. Prabhakar Reddy who submitted bills of August, September and October.

The hostel official expressed his inability to pay the amount but the accused officer was adamant.

The victim lodged complaint with ACB and on the direction of ACB officials, he gave ₹60,000 bribe to Shajahan in his office and accused handed over the amount to his attorney Md Rafi for safe custody.

The ACB officials caught the duo red-handed while taking the money from the hostel welfare officer and registered cases against the duo.

CHHATTISGARH STATE POWER GENERATION COMPANY LIMITED
O-6-C.E.(Renovation), Shed No. 1,
Vidut Seva Bhawan Parisar, Daganai, CSPGCL, Raipur, Ph.No. 0771-2574481,
E-mail - cerenovation.991@gmail.com, Web site: www.cspe.co.in/cspgel
E-Tender Notice
E-tender is invited from Domestic prospective bidders/experienced firms as per following details:-

S.N.	Item	Particular
1	Tender Specification Number	NIT No.- MSTC/CSPGCL RENOVATION FGD/T-58/19-20/E/57
2	Brief Scope of Work	"Installation of Wet Limestone - Gypsum based Flue Gas Desulfurization Plant on total EPC basis for 4X210 MW HTPS Korba West and 1X500 MW Extension HTPS Korba West
3	Earnest Money (Rs.)	Rs. 5,00,00,000/- (Five Crores Only)
4	Commencement of sale of Tender documents on MSTC website against the payment of cost of Tender documents	07.11.2019
5	Last Date of purchase of Tender Documents	21.11.2019
6	Cost of Bidding Document	Rs. 25,000/- + Rs. 4,500 (18% GST) (Total Rs. 29,500/-) payable online at MSTC portal. (Non Refundable)

For the detailed NIT information & Tender Documents, please visit MSTC website <https://www.mstcecommerce.com/eprohome/mstc>
SAVE ELECTRICITY **CE (RENOVATION)**

पावरग्रिड POWERGRID
(A Government of India Enterprise)
POWER GRID CORPORATION OF INDIA LIMITED
Registered Office: B-9, Qutab Institutional Area, Katwaria Sarai, New Delhi 110 016
Corporate Office: Saudamini, Plot No. 2, Sector-29, Gurgaon, Haryana - 122 001
www.powergridindia.com, CIN: L40101DL1989SG038121
1. Approval under regulation-86 of CERC (Conduct of Business) Regulations/1999 and CERC (Terms and Conditions of Tariff) Regulations/2019. i) Truing up of Transmission tariff for 2014-19 tariff block and ii) Determination of Transmission tariff for 2019-24 tariff block for **Petition-1:** Transmission assets under System Strengthening - VIII in Southern Region (Notional DOCO:01.02.2010), **Petition-2:** Transmission assets under System Strengthening - VIII in Southern Region (Notional DOCO:01.02.2010), **Petition-3:** Transmission assets under System Strengthening - X in Southern Region (Notional DOCO:01.06.2012), **Petition-4:** Transmission assets under System Strengthening - XI in Southern Region (Notional DOCO:01.05.2012)
2. The beneficiaries of the above mentioned Transmission system are (a) KPTCL (b) APTRANSCO (c) KSEB (d) TNEB (e) Electricity Dept. of Goa (f) Electricity Dept. of Puducherry (g) APFEDCL (h) APSPDCL (i) APFCDCL (j) APNPDCL (k) BESCOM (l) GESCOM (m) MESCOM (n) MESCOM (o) Charamudewan Electricity Supply Corporation Ltd. (p) Transmission Corporation of Telangana Limited (q) TANGEDCO (r) TNTCC
3. Tariff details: a) 2014-19 block **Rs in Lakh**

Petition No.	Asset	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Petition-1	Asset-1	6243.57	6139.78	6027.63	5814.72
Petition-2	Asset-1	1762.87	1751.09	1741.50	1718.86
Petition-3	Asset-1	3842.32	3921.60	3896.20	3805.17
Petition-4	Asset-1	3578.29	3546.80	3505.08	3461.27

True up Transmission Tariff for 2014-19
b) 2019-24 Block **Rs in Lakh**

Petition No.	Asset	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Petition-1	Asset-1	5248.98	5130.61	5027.29	3874.54	3873.05
Petition-2	Asset-1	1347.47	1315.15	1283.07	1251.30	927.32
Petition-3	Asset-1	3419.75	3326.21	3270.82	3216.23	3160.61
Petition-4	Asset-1	3087.94	3023.49	2966.97	2912.29	2857.06

4. A copy of the applications made for determination of tariff is posted on the website of the applicant at www.powergridindia.com.
5. The suggestions and objections, if any, on the proposals for determination of tariff contained in the application be filed by any person, including the beneficiary before the Secretary, Central Electricity Regulatory Commission, 3 & 4th floor, Chandrakar Building, Janpath, New Delhi - 110 001 (or other address where the office of the Commission is situated), with a copy to the applicant at the address of its corporate office within 30 days of publication of this notice.
Place: Gurgaon **Sd/-**
Date: 31.10.2019 **Dy. General Manager (Commercial)**
A Maharatna PSU

STATE BANK OF INDIA
RETAIL ASSETS CENTRAL PROCESSING CENTRE-II
(SAR WING), DOOR NO.59-13-4, GHANTASALAVARI STREET, GAYATRI NAGAR, VIJAYAWADA-520008, PH: 0866-2469118
NOTICE PRIOR TO SALE
Issued under the provisions of Rule 8(5) & (6) of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules 2002
To
Borrowers: Sri Madem Ratna Prasad, S/o.Mohan Rao, R/o.Flat No.G/ A.1,(B-2), Rajasree Residency, Sindhu Bhavan Road, Brundavan Colony, Labbipet, Vijayawada-520010 (HL.A/c. No: 37857369923).
Dear Sir/Madam,
The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of **STATE BANK OF INDIA, R.A.C.P.C-II, Vijayawada** under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 13 (2) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a **Demand Notice dated: 13-03-2019** calling upon you to repay the amount **Rs.33,16,258/-** (Rupees Thirty three lakhs sixteen thousand two hundred and fifty eight only) with future interest thereon from **13-03-2019** + incidental expenses, costs, charges etc.
You have failed to repay the amount, the undersigned took possession of the property mortgaged by you on **24-07-2019** in exercise of the powers under Section 13 (4) of the Act read with Rule 8 (1) of the Rules. The possession notice was also published in the English and Telugu (**New Indian Express** and **Andhra Jyothi**) news papers on **28-07-2019** as required under Rule 8 (2) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.
You are hereby informed that property mortgaged to the Bank as described below will be sold in public auction by inviting tenders/quotations from the public in case the amount due to the bank as **demand in the notice dated : 13-03-2019**, is not repaid within a period of 30 days from the date of this notice. Recoveries made subsequent to serving Demand Notice will be adjusted.
DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY:
All that part and parcel of Residential Flat No.F.3, First Floor, in Classic Homes, having plinth area of Flat 779.0Sq.Feet + 219.0Sq.Feet common area + 80.0Sq.Feet parking along with 28.50 Sq.yards or 23.83Sq.meters undivided share out of 456.5Sq.yards or 381.70 Sq.meters in R.S.No.76, Near Door No.7-100, situated in Prasadampadu,(BMPS Road) Vijayawada Rural within the limits of Gunadala Sub Registry, Vijayawada, Krishna District, belonging to Sri.Madem Ratna Prasad, S/o.Mohan Rao, within the following boundaries. (Covered by Register document no - 5534/2018, dated.28/08/2018) **Boundaries For Site: East:** Property of Chagarlamudi Venkateswara Rao sold to Others, **South:** Property of Chagantipati Koteswara Rao, **West:** Property of Kameni Easwara Rao, **North:** 12.0 wide Bazaar. **Boundaries For Flat:** East: Common Corridor, **South:** Common Corridor, **West:** Open to Sky, **North:** Open to Sky.
Date: 23-10-2019 **Authorised Officer**
Place: Vijayawada **STATE BANK OF INDIA**

ANDHRA BANK
(A Govt. of India Undertaking)
HINDU COLLEGE CAMPUS BRANCH, GUNTUR, PH: 0863-2221970
NOTICE TO THE BORROWER INFORMING ABOUT THE SALE (30 DAYS NOTICE) (RULE 6(2) / 8(6) OF SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES 2002)
From : K V Ravi Krishna Kumar, Hindu College Campus Branch, Guntur, Authorised Officer, Andhra Bank under ACT 54 of 2002
To : Borrower: M/s ANS Traders, Plot No.1, Block No.30, Phase IV, Auto Nagar, Guntur - 522001.
Proprietor : Abdul Azees, S/o. Ahmad Nabi, D.No.15-8-192, 3rd Lane, Zakeer Hussain Nagar, Old Guntur, Guntur - 522001.
Co-Obligant : Shaik Samdani, S/o. Ahmad Nabi, D.No.15-8-192, 3rd Lane, Zakeer Hussain Nagar, Old Guntur, Guntur - 522001.
Sub: Sale of Property belonging to you for realization of amount due to Andhra Bank under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act (Act 54 of 2002).
Whereas you have defaulted to pay the amount due from you inspite of demand made by me / Bank through Demand Notice U/s. 13(2) Dated **03-03-2017**.
I, in exercise of the powers conferred under the above Act, took Possession of the below mentioned Property on **20-12-2017**.
Even after taking Possession of the Property, you have not paid the amount due from you to **Andhra Bank, Hindu College Campus Branch, Guntur**. As such, it has become necessary to sell the below mentioned Property above the Reserve Price of **Rs.23,53,000/- (Rupees Twenty Three Lakhs Fifty Three Thousand only)** by inviting Tenders / by Public Auction / E-auction/ by Private treaty after 30 days from the date of this notice.
The date and time of Auction and the details of the service provider shall be informed through a Sale Notice which shall be issued separately, and the Property would be sold to the person who offers highest price.
Since, the Property may be sold by Private Sale also or obtaining quotations from the persons also, subject to terms and conditions acceptable to Bank.
If you have any such proposal of selling the Property to any person by private sale or by getting quotation, the same may be communicated to me within 7 days from date of receipt of this letter/Notice.
Failing which it will be construed that you have no such proposal and I will proceed forthwith, with sale of Property by inviting Tenders/Public Auction / E-auction/ Private treaty.
Please take notice that if you pay the amount due as specified in the **Demand Notice Dated 03-03-2017** with subsequent interest thereon along with cost and expenses incurred by the Bank till date before the date of publication of notice for Public Auction or inviting quotations or tender from public or private treaty for transfer by way of lease, assignment or sale of secured assets, no further action shall be taken for sale of the Property mentioned in the schedule.
SCHEDULE OF THE PROPERTY
IMMOVABLE PROPERTY : All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Land and Building - Godown belonging to **Mr.Abdul Azees** situated at Industrial Land and Building situated at Plot No.1, Door No. 15-17-45, D.No183 of Agatavarappadu Village, Auto Nagar Phase 4, Guntur admeasuring approximately 169.41 Sqyds. **bounded by: East:** Plot No. 5, **West:** 40 Ft. wide Road, **North:** Plot No. 2, **South:** Property belongs to M/s. Bhajarang Industries.
Place: Guntur **Sd/- (KV Ravi Krishna Kumar) Chief Manager & Authorised Officer**
Date: 24-10-2019 **Andhra Bank, Hindu College Campus Branch, Guntur.**



Women's ire
Minister Kodali Nani says women taught Naidu a lesson in the polls for cheating them in the name of Pasupu-Kumkuma



Pawan Kalyan has not stopped acting even after leaving films

— K. Kannababu
AP minister

LOKESH: MY TEAM DIDN'T CAUSE LOSS

DC CORRESPONDENT
KAKINADA, NOV 5

TD leader Nara Lokesh criticized Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy on the sudden transfer of Mr L.V. Subrahmanyam as Chief Secretary. He told the media that the transfer was “very strange”. He asked if it was possible to make a special secretary order the transfer of the Chief Secretary.

Asked whether his team was the reason for the TD's Mr Lokesh said, “It's not true.” The TD state president K. Kala Venkat Rao, Kakinada Mayor Sunkara Pavani, Mandapet MLA V. Jogeswara Rao, former MLAs Jyothula Nehru, V. Venkateswara Rao, S.V.S.N. Varma, N. Ramakrishna Reddy and others were at present.

APOLOGY TO BRAHMIN DEMANDED

DC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, NOV. 5

The Brahmana Chaitanya Vedika (BCV) objected to the transfer of Mr L.V. Subrahmanyam from the post of Chief Secretary to an unimportant post and alleged that Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy had insulted the Brahmin community with the transfer.

BCV state co-convenor S. Sridhar Sharma alleged that Mr Reddy had conspired to give temple lands to his supporters under the AP Buildup programme but Mr Subrahmanyam had objected and Mr Reddy had transferred him in an objectionable manner.

He warned that selling of temple lands is against norms and Brahmins of AP would gherao the CM's office if Mr Reddy failed to cancel the proposal. Mr Sarma and other leaders of BCV said that the YSRC government will suffer due to the ill-treatment of Mr Subrahmanyam and demanded Mr Reddy express unconditional apology to the Brahmin community for insulting an honest Brahmin IAS officer.

VIZAG LAND SIT GETS 101 PETITIONS

DC CORRESPONDENT
VISAKHAPATNAM, NOV 5

The number of petitions related to the land irregularities, land grabbing cases, changing of survey numbers without intimating to the concerned landowners and tampering of the land records increasing.

The Special Investigating Team (SIT) constituted to probe allegations levelled on various people has received 131 the petitions from November 1. It was alleged during the TD government that politicians and officials had benefited from land deals. The government appointed the SIT to probe into the allegations. It received 500 petitions and submitted a report which has been kept under wraps.

HYD TO BE 2ND CAPITAL: VIDYASAGAR

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 5

An off-the-cuff remark by senior BJP leader Ch Vidyasagar Rao is likely to become a hot topic in political circles.

Participating in a book release function late on Monday night, the former Governor of Maharashtra observed, “Hyderabad may become the second capital of the country as espoused by the Father of Indian Constitution Dr B.R. Ambedkar.”

ITIs to be renovated under ‘Nadu-Nedu’

CM says next stage to cover all colleges and hospitals

DC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, NOV. 5

After schools, hospitals, intermediate and degree colleges, ITIs and Gurukul schools will be taken up for renovation under ‘Nadu Nedu’ which begins on November 14.

During a review meeting on Tuesday, Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy said that around 45,000 schools are being renovated under the ‘Nadu-Nedu’ programme.

“In the next stage, we will renovate junior colleges, degree colleges, polytechnics, ITIs, Gurukul schools and hostels spending a large amount on it. Every school in the state will be provided with the required infrastructure, including toilets, compound walls, furniture, fans and blackboards,” the CM said.

He instructed the officials concerned to prepare a checklist for the

■ EACH SCHOOL will be given ₹15,000 per month for three months starting from December. The amount will be used to spruce up the schools. The required funds are expected to be released a day before the launch of the programme

works to be done in every school. Around nine types of works are being undertaken under this programme.

Jagan said that the ‘Nadu-Nedu’ programme will be partnered with the educational committees and it will include parents not only from academic-related issues but also from the management.

“Next year, we will implement English medium from Class I to VIII,” the Chief Minister said and asked to prepare an academic curriculum for the same.

He instructed the officials concerned to give uniforms, shoes, and books to children at the beginning of the academic year. The CM instructed

the officials that there should be no instance of children not receiving books until September or October. “Next year, English medium will be introduced in Class IX,” the Chief Minister said. Under ‘Nadu-Nedu’ the government is renovating all government hospitals, sub-centres, PHCs, CHCs, area hospitals, district hospitals, and teaching hospitals. All these will be renovated. There should be no shortage of drugs in hospitals. More than 510 medicines will be available in hospitals from December 15,” he added.

The AP CM said that Network Hospitals and Government Hospitals must be equal in quality standards.

ENGLISH MEDIUM SCHOOLS FROM NEXT YEAR

DC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, NOV 5

The YSRC government on Tuesday issued orders to convert all government, MPP schools and Zilla Parishad schools into English medium from Classes I to VIII from the academic year 2020-21 and for Classes IX & X from academic year 2021-22.

As per the GO, required teachers should be deployed in school as per the staffing pattern prescribed by the government from time to time and as per pupil teacher ratio for single medium.

SCERT will take necessary action to train teachers in English medium teaching skills and knowledge of the same.

Party leaders blame Jagan for construction worker's death

DC CORRESPONDENT
KAKINADA, NOV 5

The suicide of a construction worker, Koyya Veerababu of Kakinada, has generated a political storm in the state as among all political parties including Telugu Desam, CPM and Jana Sena.

Their leaders visited the deceased's house to console the family members. They blamed the state government led by Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, alleging that he created artificial scarcity of sand.

TD leader Nara Lokesh visited Kakinada and consoled the family members of Veerababu. He said that suicide of construction workers should be treated as ‘murder’ by the government and demanded the government to provide ex gratia of ₹25 lakh to the deceased's family and also give ₹50,000 to construction workers who have

■ Leaders from different political parties visit the family members of Koyya Veerababu, demand compensation.

lost their livelihood for the past five months. He said that the government policy of supplying sand free of cost should be implemented for welfare of the people.

He said that the TD would raise the issue during the coming Assembly session.

He questioned Jagan how the government can organize sand week celebrations without availability of sand. He said that the YSRC looted sand on the lines of bandicoots.

He said that 38 construction workers have committed suicide due to lack of work but the Chief Minister has not responded properly and provide justice to workers. He said

that floods were reported not only in Andhra Pradesh but also in many other states in the country. These states, however, states have no scarcity of sand.

The Jana Sena leader Pantham Venkateswara Rao (Nanaji) visited the family of Koyya Veerababu and alleged that Jagan should take responsibility for the incident. He urged the government to save the lives of construction workers.

He gave ₹10,000 for the deceased's family members on behalf of Jana Sena leadership.

The CITU staged dharna in front of Collector's office, demanding ₹25 lakhs compensation to the Veerababu's family members and provide employment to his wife and give education to his children. CITU leaders D. Seshu Babji, P.Ramakrishna, P.Veerababu and others were at present.

Botsa blames Naidu for capital issue

DC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, NOV. 5

Minister for municipal administration Botsa Satyanarana blamed Opposition leader N. Chandrababu Naidu for Andhra Pradesh being depicted without a capital city in the map published by Survey of India.

Speaking to mediapersons here on Tuesday, the minister said that Mr Naidu is responsible for the state not having a capital city as no gazette notification was issued during his five-year term which was wasted on unproductive things.

The minister asked why Mr Naidu did not issue a gazette notification to the Centre during his tenure that Amaravati is the Capital of the state. He said that even Mr Naidu's confidants, including Sujana Chowdhary, who is

in the BJP did not bring up the issue of the Capital of the state.

He asked how such people can blame the present Chief Minister on the issue. He said that the present state of the economy is in doldrums because Mr Naidu and his henchmen had plundered the state's economy. The minister wondered whether Mr Naidu had lost his mind to announce that he would go on a fast on November 14 in support of the construction workers.

Botsa Satyanarana said it is foolish of Mr Naidu to choose an auspicious day like the Children's Day to go on a fast. He said that in 2004, the then Chief Minister Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy took up a programme for distribution of 40,000 houses in combined Andhra Pradesh. He said that several construc-

AGRICULTURE MINISTER MOCKS JANA SENA CHIEF

DC CORRESPONDENT
KAKINADA, NOV. 5

Agricultural minister Kurasala Kannababu lashed out at Jana Sena Chief Pawan Kalyan at a Press Meet on Tuesday.

“Pawan Kalyan seems to be a hysterical patient as he is shivering at the meetings without any stability for even two minutes also. Pawan has

lost all sense of balance and proportion and is indulging in a vilification campaign against the YSRC Government at the behest of former Chief Minister N.Chandrababu Naidu,” alleged Minister Kurasala Kannababu.

He said that Pawan Kalyan is becoming hysterical and talking nonsense.

Jagan Mohan Reddy Government are testimony to the work being done by the government. Not a single work was taken up during Mr Naidu's regime from 2014 to 2019 and now, Naidu is shedding crocodile tears for the construction workers, he said.

The minister said that he do not have to boast like Chandrababu Naidu that he had constructed the International Airport and the Outer Ring Road. He said that the schemes being implemented by

development corporation (APMDC) is given one coal block in the state of Madhya Pradesh and one in Chhattisgarh of 5 MMTA each for commercial purposes. The logistical costs from these blocks make the coal cost unviable for use by AP.

He further wrote: “The ministry of coal, GOI has notified coal blocks Tranche VI for allotment of coal mines to government companies for the purpose of consumption

Vishnu complains of fake social media posts

DC CORRESPONDENT
ANANTAPUR, NOV. 5

AP BJP vice-president S. Vishnuvardhan Reddy on Tuesday complained to Union minister of state for home G. Kishan Reddy that morphed pictures and content were being circulated on social media in his name to create social disharmony.

Mr Reddy, who is also vice-chairman of Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan, stated that he is in no way connected to these media posts, which were aimed at creating disharmony between two groups of people.

In the process, attempts were being made to defame him as also the NYKS.

In his complaint to Mr Kishan Reddy, the BJP leader demanded that action be initiated against twitter accounts – @Telugug360, @Andhrapolitica, @ThenamIsBalu, @dora-



AP BJP vice-president S. Vishnuvardhan Reddy complains to Union minister of state for home G. Kishan Reddy about social media posts on Tuesday.

gaaru, @AjayThonti, @Nani77824543, @tehsATHYAGRAHI, @Undertake4999, @Himakarkonda3, @lakki tweets and also www.Telug360.com website and Take One Media youtube.

Vishnuvardhan Reddy

told *Deccan Chronicle*, “The twitter handles, website and youtube channel are creating and circulating morphed pictures and news in my name to promote enmity between different groups in the society and disturb harmony within the country.”

TD role in Jana Sena stir trolled

DC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, NOV. 5

Netizens trolled Jana Sena chief K. Pawan Kalyan for his threat to lodge complaints with Prime Minister Narendra Modi against the YSRC government on the sand crisis. They said his actions pointed to a tie-up between the BJP and the Telugu Desam.

JS supporters and followers also took to the Internet to express fear that the involvement of the Telugu Desam in JS meetings could damage the party reputation. It would create the wrong image that the Jana Sena was the ‘B’ team of the TD. Many Jana Sena activists wanted the TD to be kept away from the Jana Sena meetings.

Users on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, Telegram, WhatsApp, WeChat and other social media platforms asked why Mr Kalyan was silent on the other issues facing Andhra Pradesh, including Amaravati not being notified as capital for the past five years despite having access to Mr Modi and other leaders at Delhi.

They stated that despite

losing elections YSRC leader Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy did not strike alliances with other political parties and stayed in the public and fought on people's issues after 2014. This helped him win power, they said.

They opined that Mr Kalyan should similarly stand with the public on their issues and mingle in the masses and shunning cinematic strategies.

R. Uday, K. Bhaskar, J. Parthu and P. Raju said that the people had rejected the TD due to its corruption and the party had also failed to gather the support of the public.

Those supporting Mr Kalyan said that the JS had first started a protest on the sand shortage. He had conducted meetings with construction workers who announced their support and made long march successful.

They claimed that after the success of long march Mr Reddy conducted a review meeting on the crisis and officials started measures to increase sand supply and the credit goes to Mr Kalyan.

In this scenario, the involvement of Mr Naidu would only serve to steal the credit.

PK remarks on HC shifting churlish: Botsa

DC CORRESPONDENT
KURNOOL, NOV. 5

Disparaging remarks made by Jana Sena chief Pawan Kalyan on the proposed move to shift AP High Court to Kurnool that “it is only to facilitate AP Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy to make his appearances in High Court easy from Pulivendula” evoked strong reaction from leaders and advocates.

Municipal administration minister Botsa Satyanarayana termed Pawan Kalyan's remarks as childish, churlish and unbecoming of a leader who wants to be in public life.

Reacting on the demand of advocates to shift AP High Court to Kurnool, Mr Kalyan said that it would help Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy to travel from his home town Pulivendula as Kurnool is nearer to his home.

Finance minister Buggana Rajendranath Reddy took serious objection to Mr Kalyan's comments on Kurnool High Court proposal and said, “It is not befitting on Pawan Kalyan who heads a political party.”

Eluru MP meets US delegation

DC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, NOV. 5

Eluru MP Sridhar Kotagiri and State Government's Special Representative to North America Rathnakar Pandugayala met a delegation of Alliance for US India Business (AUSIB) in Washington to develop

prolific relations with industry and business leaders in the United States and to invite them to invest in Andhra Pradesh.

AUSIB is a leading non-profit trade association founded in 2004 where governments and companies meet to take care of business.

AUSIB president and Founder Sanjay Puri hosted the delegation. “Andhra Pradesh holds great business potential. Right collaboration with US business and investors can put the state on the global business map. AUSIB is committed to work closely with the AP Chief Minister to make this happen, and channel business leaders in the state as well,” Sanjay Puri said.

The Eluru MP emphasised on the potential for industrial sectors such as infrastructure, technology, Defence and smart cities.

Andhra Pradesh has already announced the Smart City initiatives for Vijayawada, Visakhapatnam, Kakinada,

Tirupati and Amaravati, he added.

Rathnakar Pandugayala stressed on the investment priorities in agriculture, fisheries, smart cities, renewable energy, and healthcare sectors.

AUSIB COO Manish Chauhan presented the potential opportunities in high-technology Defence Exports, Commercial and Defence unmanned vehicles and education. AUSIB Senior Consultant Jeremy Spaulding elaborated how India is viewed as a priority market in view of its emergence as one of the fastest-growing economies in the world.

AUSIB presented the industry collaboration potential and laid out plans for a roadmap to put Andhra Pradesh on the international business map. The two parties would work towards a programme that would create an example from Andhra Pradesh for other Indian states to follow, Rathnakar said.

AUSIB offers a pathway to help business initiatives succeed in the US and India and continues to be instrumental in building bridges of business and educational cooperation. AUSIB has played a key role in expanding bilateral trade in Technology, pharmaceuticals and life sciences, media and entertainment, and renewable energy.



Future positive

Education minister Adimulam Suresh says modernisation of schools will be taken up in three phases

Region

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DECCAN CHRONICLE

WEDNESDAY | 6 NOVEMBER 2019 | VIJAYAWADA

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Pawan Kalyan is carrying on the agenda of Naidu

— Ambati Rambabu
YSRC MLA

IN BRIEF EMPLOYEES STAGE RASTA ROKO AT NAGOLE CIRCLE

FROM PAGE 1

The revenue department employees who participated in the funeral procession staged a road block on the Nagole main road, demanding an assurance from the state government to provide a safe working environment. However, the police intervened and brought the situation under control and ended the rasta roko.

Before the funeral procession started, a group of employees gathered at a neighbouring building to discuss the issues to be raised before the government and seeking an immediate resolution.

Subhash Reddy, Vijaya's husband, opined that revenue employees have been suffering due to policies implemented by the TRS government.

Speaking to media, Mr Reddy said, "My wife was a workaholic and committed. I demand an in-depth investigation into the incident by central agencies to establish facts. We were planning to seek a transfer away from here."

"Politicians of the ruling party are taking bribes and building pressure on employees to get work done. If employees act against interests of the politicians, they are made to suffer," said A. Revanth Reddy, Congress MP, Malkajgiri who is also working president of TS Congress.

BP readings depend on the surroundings

White coat and masked BP give different data: Study

DC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, NOV. 5

Findings of the India Heart Study (IHS) show that 27.8 per cent of respondents from AP were 'white coat hypertensive', meaning that their BP increased in hospital surroundings.

Another 14.4 per cent were found to have masked hypertension, thereby putting almost 42.2 per cent people at the risk of misdiagnosis and 'missed' diagnosis. There were 769 participants from the state, with 542 men and 227 women.

Masked hypertension is a phenomenon when an individual's blood pressure reading is normal at the doctor's office but high at home and white coat hypertension is defined as a condition in which people exhibit a

Indians have higher BP in the evenings than in the mornings. This may affect the way medicines are given.

blood pressure-level above the normal range in a clinical setting only. White coat hypertensives, who are misdiagnosed and put on drugs, have to take unnecessary medication. Masked hypertensive may go undiagnosed, running the risk of complications of the heart, kidneys, and the brain.

The IHS findings highlight a high prevalence of masked hypertension and white coat hypertension in Indians at 42 per cent on first office visit (doctor's clinic). It was also found that Indians

Indians have an average resting heart rate of 80 beats per minute, higher than the desired 72 beats.

have an average resting heart rate of 80 beats per minute, higher than the desired rate of 72 beats per minute.

Another striking finding is that unlike in other countries, Indians have higher BP in the evenings than in mornings which should guide doctors to rethink the timing of drug dosage.

According to Dr A. Purnanand, cardiologist from the city who was part of IHS: "High resting heart rate, along with high blood pressure-levels, badly affects key organs of our body lead-

ing to heart and kidney damage. Since hypertension doesn't have any symptoms, the only way to keep it under check and for timely diagnosis is by monitoring the pressure regularly and seeking a doctor's advice. Add to these, healthy eating, sleeping and exercising habits to mitigate the risks associated with hypertension."

He added that what sets this study apart is that it was conducted on 'drug-naive' set — people not on anti-BP drug.

The investigators examined the blood pressure of 18,918 participants (male and female) through 1,233 doctors, across 15 states, over nine months. The participants' blood pressure was monitored at home four times in a day for seven consecutive days.

400 KG GANJA IN CAR, DRIVER FOUND DEAD

DC CORRESPONDENT
KHAMMAM, NOV. 5

A car carrying ganja overturned at Manchukonda under Raghunathapalem on Tuesday. Police who reached the spot on receiving information recovered four bags of ganja from the vehicle. Car driver Banothu Surender was found dead in the vehicle. There is no other person in the car when the police reached there, an official said.

Peddler nabbed with 4.5K sleeping tablets

KANIZA GARARI | DC
HYDERABAD, NOV 5

Illegal supply of sleeping pills and other narcotic drugs to drug addicts was detected by the Task Force police in the city. Police nabbed Mohammed Osman, 23, of Bhavaninagar with 5,400 Nitratrav 10 mg tablets.

Nitratrav is a Schedule H drug which can be given under prescription only. The police found that

Osman got these tablets from a person named Dastagir from Karnataka at ₹40 for 10 tablets. He would then sell it to the addicts at ₹400 per strip.

A tip-off to the Task Force helped them nab him. The abuse of sleeping pills is highly documented and for that reason these are to be given under prescription only. These medicines are used for treating insomnia. Telangana Pharma-cists

Association president Sanjaya Reddy explained, "Nitratrav belongs to a group of medicines called benzodiazepine. The abuse of these group of medicines is estimated to be 8 per cent. It is common amongst teenagers and women."

Studies in various hospitals have found that people who have a history of drug and alcohol abuse are most likely to develop addiction to these drugs.

SUVIDHA SPL TRAINS TO CLEAR RUSH

DC CORRESPONDENT
VISAKHAPATNAM, NOV. 5

With a view to clear extra rush of passengers, Railway has decided to run weekly Suvidha special trains for four trips between Santragachi and Coimbatore from Wednesday to November-end.

The train no 80823 Santragachi-Coimbatore Suvidha special will leave Santragachi at 9.50 pm every Wednesday to reach Duvvada on Thursday at 4.03 pm.

It will depart at 4.05 pm to reach Coimbatore at 2.25 pm on Friday.

In return direction, the train no 80824 Coimbatore-Santragachi Weekly Suvidha special leave Coimbatore at 9.45 pm every Friday to reach Duvvada on Saturday at 6.03 pm. It will depart at 6.05 pm and arrive Santragachi at 8.45 am on Sunday.

The special trains consist of twelve AC-3 tier and four sleeper class coaches.

It will stop at Kharagpur, Balasore, Bhadrak, Naraj Marthapur, Bhubaneswar, Khurda Road, Brahmapur, Sompet, Palasa, Srikakulam Road, Vizianagaram, Kottavalasa, Simhachalam North, Duvvada, Tuni, Samalkot, Rajahmundry, Eluru, Vijayawada, Tenali, Ongole, Nellore, Gudur, Sullurupeta, Perambur, Katpadi, Salem, Erode and Tiruppur stations in enroute.

AP AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION LAUDS CENTRE'S MOVE ON RCEP

DC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, NOV. 5:

Andhra Pradesh Agricultural Commission Vice-Chairman M.V.S. Nagi Reddy said that agriculture is a state subject while agriculture-related policies fall under the Centre's jurisdiction and welcomed India's exit from Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP).

Speaking at the YSR Congress party's central office in Tadepalli on Tuesday, he said that minimum support price for agricultural produce, agricultural loans, imports and exports and other important issues fall under the jurisdiction of the Centre.

Subsiding farmers and others cultivating pulses are facing a crisis due to bulk imports. Groundnut crop is the largest cultivated crop in the state after paddy. So there is a crisis in the oilseeds sector too due to imports, he said.

Nagi Reddy said that RCEP was formed in 2012.

The final meeting of all the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) member countries was held on November 4, in which our country exited from the trade forum of the RCEP, without entering into an agreement, taking the stand that an indigenous farmer should not face crisis due to imports.

"We congratulate Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Central Government for the move," he said. Indian agricultural sector would face severe crisis if the country allows import of processed foods, pulses and other agricultural products from countries such as China.

The aim of the Free Trade Agreement is to impose no tax on any export or import between the countries.

Hence, it is right on the part the Centre to step out of the agreement, Nagi Reddy said and added that the Centre should consider the views of the states when such major decisions are taken, regarding agriculture and trade.

Man kills wife and ends life

DC CORRESPONDENT
KOTHAGUDEM, NOV. 5

A man killed his wife and committed suicide by hanging himself in Manchikantnagar, in Paloncha on Tuesday following a quarrel.

Police said Kollipaka Ashok, 45, argued with his wife Rajeswari and hit her on the head with an iron rod on Monday night. She fell unconscious and later recovered.

On Tuesday, Rajeswari's sister Sumalatha, who lives in Mahbubabad, called in the morning on the phone. Rajeswari invited her sister along with her husband to discuss the quarrel and

resolve matters.

Sumalatha later told the police that she called Rajeswari again but there was no response. Suspecting something amiss, she called the neighbours to check on Rajeswari.

The people who went to the house, noticed Rajeswari lying in a pool of blood and the body of Ashok hanging from a fan. They informed Sumalatha who called the police.

Rajeswari was found breathing and was shifted to hospital where she was declared dead while undergoing treatment. The couple had two sons one 13 year old and the other 12,

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Don't budge

Puducherry Lieutenant Governor Kiran Bedi said that Delhi police must remain firm on its stand on police-lawyers clash at Tis Hazari court



We are looking at support mechanism to revive real estate sector.

— Nirmala Sitharaman
Finance minister

IN BRIEF

PASWAN Jr. TAKES OVER FROM FATHER

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, NOV. 5

Marking yet another generational shift and dynastic succession in a regional party, Chirag Paswan on Tuesday took over the reigns of the Lok Janashakti Party (LJP) from his father and union minister, Ram Vilas Paswan.

The senior Paswan said the decision was taken at the meeting of the national executive in Delhi held on Tuesday.

“Chirag Paswan was unanimously elected as LJP president by the party’s national executive,” the senior Paswan 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 Paswan in 2000. Along with Paswan, his brother, late Ram Chandra Paswan, Capt. Jai Narain Prasad Nishad and Ramesh Jigajinagi had also joined the party.

The first polls contested by the LJP was in alliance with the Congress and the Rashtriya Janata Dal and it won four Lok Sabha seats from Bihar. Ram Vilas Paswan is currently with the NDA.

SC REFUSES TO PASS ORDER ON BSY VIDEO

New Delhi, Nov. 5: The Supreme Court on Tuesday refused to pass order on the request of Karnataka Congress regarding a fresh audio clip in which state Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa is purportedly referring to the 17 rebel Cong-JDS MLAs who were disqualified as Assembly members.

A 3-judge bench headed by Justice N.V. Ramana said that since it has already reserved its verdict on a batch of petitions, filed by the MLAs challenging the decision of the then Assembly Speaker, K.R. Ramesh Kumar to disqualify them, no further order was required to be passed at present.

“As judgment in these matters has already been reserved on October 25, 2019, no further orders are required at present,” said the bench, also comprising justices Sanjiv Khanna and Krishna Murari. The apex court said the issue raised regarding hospitality provided to the rebel MLAs in Mumbai, allegedly by the BJP, was already brought before it during the hearing on the pleas filed by these disqualified lawmakers.

A purported audio clip of Yediyurappa, expressing anguish against his party leaders at a recent party meeting in Hubballi over their opposition to giving tickets to the disqualified MLAs for the by-polls, had surfaced last Friday. In the audio, he is purportedly saying that the MLAs were kept in Mumbai under BJP national president, Amit Shah’s watch.

Ayodhya to get Black Cat snipers to shoot terrorists

Threat from terror module that sneaked in from Nepal the reason

VIKRAM SHARMA | DC
AYODHYA, NOV. 5

Snipers from the elite National Security Guard (NSG) are being deployed at vantage points in the temple town of Ayodhya to prevent terror attacks — the threat of which are looming large ahead of the Supreme Court verdict in the Ayodhya title suit.

The decision to have snipers was taken at the last minute in view of the inputs trickling in about a terror module which is believed to have sneaked in from Nepal. Sources in Uttar Pradesh police confirmed to *Deccan Chronicle* that a sniper team from NSG will be arriving here shortly. Though the sources did not give the exact number of snipers, there could be at least five snipers who will keep an eye on the ground from atop rooftops.

Over the past two years, the NSG has procured new sniping weapons and have trained their men who are now part of ‘sniper squads.’

This is perhaps the first time that snipers from the force are being deployed in a situation like this in Uttar Pradesh and sources say that specific inputs about a terror module is what prompted them to require the NSG snipers. Till now, a sniper squad was reportedly stationed only in the Kashmir valley. Sources said that a terror module comprising seven Pakistani nationals had sneaked into UP from Nepal some time ago. Five of the seven terrorists have also been identified — Mohammed Shahbaz, Nisar Ahmed, Abu Hamza, Mohammed Yakub and Mohammed Qami. Senior officers in UP police said that it was an ‘old input’ and was not actionable. “However, the Ayodhya police is working in close coordination with the anti-terrorism squad,” a senior official said.

In 2005, a group of five heavily armed Lashkar-e-Tayyaba terrorists had stormed the makeshift



Amid security measures being taken ahead of the Ayodhya verdict, police officers check a drone, in Faizabad on Tuesday.

It is good that the issue is ending finally, say locals

From Page 1

“But for us locals, Hindus or Muslims, no one wants trouble. All want to carry on with our lives. It does not matter whether a temple is built there or a mosque. It’s good that the matter is finally coming to an end.”

Adil was witness to the violence on December 6, 1992. “It was a nightmare and both communities suffered. But times have changed and so have people’s mindsets. The only problem now could be provocative statements from politicians,” he smiles. “People of all communities talk only of development and jobs,” says Ramnath Pandey, priest at a local temple.

“In the end, politicians

will try to make the most of it.”

For the administration, it is not the locals but outsiders who might enter the temple town to foment trouble.

“We have had meetings with community members and religious leaders,” assures Ayodhya senior superintendent of police (SSP), Ashish Tiwari.

Mosques across UP have called for peace and brotherhood, and for respecting the judgment. Both communities have also asked people not to celebrate or raise slogans, whatever the judgment. Similarly, there are social media curbs in place. People have been asked not to defame any god.

added that besides the sniper squad, another

The district administration has deployed social media monitoring teams. Though Ayodhya has remained peaceful for the last couple of years, it was in 2012 that large-scale clashes took place between two groups during Durga puja.

For the administration though, it is not the verdict alone that has forced massive security measures. Just today, about 25 lakh participated in the ‘chaudah kosi parikrama,’ an annual event.

On November 7 and 8, there is the ‘panchkosi parikrama’ which will see lakhs on the streets.

Thereafter is Milad Un Nabi on November 10. On November 11 and 12, it will be ‘Kartik poornima snan,’ a grand affair.

team of NSG commandos is also being stationed in

RSS APPEALS FOR PEACE OVER SC RULING

DC 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 in its efforts to maintain peace and social harmony over the verdict.

At a meeting at minority affairs minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi’s residence here, Muslim community leaders stressed that ‘unity in diversity’ is India’s ‘cultural commitment’ and it is the responsibility of all sections of society to preserve 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, on 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 Naqvi, after which the RSS reached out to Muslim religious leaders and others. BJP national spokesperson, Shah Nawaz Hussain also attended the meeting.

the temple town, as part of security measures.

SHIFT MOM TO GUEST HOUSE IN HARSH WINTER: MUFTI’S DAUGHTER

DC CORRESPONDENT
SRINAGAR, NOV. 5

Former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Mehbooba Mufti’s daughter has asked the administration to shift her mother, under detention at a guest-house here for the last three months, to a place equipped

to deal with the valley’s harsh winter.

“The centre will be responsible if anything happens to Mehbooba, the president of the PDP, Itija Mufti has written in a letter to the Srinagar deputy commissioner. I’ve repeatedly raised concerns about the well being of my mother.”

DHFL crisis spreads, UP discom’s ex-MD held

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. “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 during the previous regime.

Reacting to the allegations, Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav held chief minister Yogi Adityanath responsible for the transfer of the employees’ provident fund to scam-hit Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Limited and demanded his resignation.

At a hurriedly convened press conference here, the former CM trashed the allegations that the EPF was transferred to the DHFL

during his regime and demanded a probe by a sitting Supreme Court or high court judge.

“No EPF money of power employees was transferred to the DHFL during the previous SP regime,” he asserted.

The state government had on Sunday claimed that the “dubious” decision was taken by the previous Samajwadi Party government headed by Akhilesh Yadav in April 2014 and the process of investment was further carried forward in 2016.

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

The SP chief claimed, “The government is afraid and hiding the truth. There is infighting within the government...Over 300 MLAs (of BJP) do not like the CM”.

Terminating the present regime “nathuram raj”, Yadav claimed that in his tenure, maximum power was generated in the state whereas consumers were now paying high power bills.

“No new transmission line was started in this regime. The present government is ruining the power department,” he alleged.

On the other hand, the chief minister’s office attacked the Samajwadi Party chief on Twitter.

“The attack on corruption by zero tolerance sword of Yogi Adityanath has made those involved in corrupt practices run for a cover. Former UPPCL MD AP Mishra, the blue-eyed boy of Akhilesh Yadav, has been taken into custody,” it tweeted, claiming that the present government was committed to ensure the security of the employees’ money.

“Apki baar bhrashtar par prahar (this time, an attack on corruption),” it said.

— PTI

Promoters falsified records to avail credit, says CBI

From Page 1

Singh, Gagan Sharma and Jijo John for allegedly cheating State Bank of India, Bhopal, by falsifying records to avail credit facilities of ₹6,000 crore. The company involved in bulk trading of agro commodities defaulted on payments causing a loss of ₹1,266 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 ₹1,290 crore on forged documents. Later payment defaults caused a loss of ₹1,266 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 ₹1,083 crore to a consortium of 12 banks led by IDBI, sources said. It is alleged that they utilised credit facilities, books of accounts and diverted loan funds to different accounts, they said.

Varanasi-based JBL Agro Industries, its chairman D.N. Jhunjhunwala and directors SN Jhunjhunwala, Adarsh Jhunjhunwala and Anju Jhunjhunwala had allegedly submitted forged stock statements and balance sheets to induce Bank of Baroda and Punjab National Bank by taking ₹518 crore worth of credit facilities from each of them which turned into losses for the PSBs. Delhi-based Lal Sons Jewellers in Karol Bagh and its direc-

tors allegedly caused a loss of ₹222.96 crore to Oriental Bank of Commerce, they said. The directors Rajiv Paul Singh Verma, Sanjay Paul Verma and Poonam Verma allegedly entered in criminal conspiracy to avail credit facilities. Their import letters of credit started devolving as company failed to receive payments from Dubai-based Passi Jewellers LLC, the officials said. The company allegedly diverted funds by fraudulent activities and falsification of records of payment to creditors without any genuine business transaction, they said. The agency also booked Shree Nathjee Roller Flour Mills and its directors Amarchand Gupta, Ramlal Gupta, Rajkumar Gupta and Shakuntala Devi for allegedly misappropriating ₹149.76 crore of loan funds from Andhra Bank.

SC SEEKS FRESH REPORT ON CHILD DETENTION IN J&K

PARMOD KUMAR | DC
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.

The bench sought a fresh report from the J&K High Court’s JJ committee comprising four judges of the high court as it noted that the 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 to undertake an exercise with regard to the facts stated in the writ petition and get back to us within a week from today,” said the top court.

‘Modi govt allowed EU MPs, internationalised J&K issue’

Hyderabad, Nov. 5: Senior Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad on Tuesday slammed the BJP-led NDA government’s handling of the Jammu and Kashmir issue saying even now political leaders and MPS and media were not allowed to visit the newly created union territory.

Mr Azad, a former Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir, said even he could visit J&K only with the permission of Supreme Court, recalling his first visit after the Centre scrapped special status to it under Art 370.

“This government has internationalised Kashmir issue, they don’t allow their own MPs, media and NGOs and tell MPs of foreign countries to go. That too, right wing MPs...,” he told reporters here.

If someone still says that situation in J&K was alright, then “treatment is required” for such a person, he said asking the media to be alert about such people.

“As long as BJP is there (in power), the situation would not improve,” he claimed.

Mr Azad said the nation-wide protests announced by the Congress from November 5 to 15 were against the ‘wrong’ policies of NDA government and its ‘failures’.



Ghulam Nabi Azad

■ Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad said the nation-wide protests announced by the Congress from November 5 to 15 were against the ‘wrong’ policies of NDA government and its ‘failures.’

added. The NDA government had failed to realise promises, including bringing back black money from foreign countries, creating two crore jobs every year and providing minimum support price and ensuring 50 per cent profit to the farmers, made by the BJP and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, he added.

Accusing the government of suppressing the report on unemployment by the National Sample Survey Organisation during parliament election, he said the country’s econ-

omy was in a poor shape as seen in the sharp fall in GDP, among other parameters.

Other economic, including growth in manufacturing, exports, sales of passenger vehicles, have also witnessed a downward trend, he said.

The NDA government turned out to be anti-poor and anti-development and the former ended up hurting people instead of benefiting them, he claimed.

The BJP was always in election mood, fighting various polls and “making people fight among themselves”, he charged.

Asked if the Congress was in favour of exploring the possibility of government formation in Maharashtra, he said: “I am not in it. That’s between the local leaders. It’s not something we were very keen...”

The Congress leader condemned the ghastly killing of a woman Tahsildar who was burnt alive here on Monday and said tough punishment should be handed out to the culprit.

He favoured enacting a law to deal with such incidents.

On the ongoing strike by transport corporation employees in Telangana, he claimed Chief Minister K Chandrababhan Rao had promised that they would be treated as government staff and should honour it.

— PTI

MAHA | TUSSLE

Jayant Patil says people of the state won’t tolerate President’s rule

NCP asks Sena to snap ties with NDA

DC 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 Shiv Sena fail to offer any solution together,” he said.

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 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 sharing the chief minister’s post.

The Uddhav Thackeray-led party 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.



Restraint

Spiritual leader Sri Sri Ravi Shankar calls for restraint ahead of Ayodhya verdict



100 days in office as CM were like trial by fire

— B.S. Yediyurappa
Karnataka CM

IN BRIEF

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 Baidei 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.

PMC depositors protest, 9 detained

Mumbai: At least nine depositors of the Punjab and Maharashtra Cooperative (PMC) Bank were detained on Tuesday when they tried to meet finance minister, Nirmala Sitharaman, in Mumbai. Protesters gathered at the Bandra Kurla Complex at 11 am and started raising slogans demanding they be allowed to withdraw money from their accounts above the limit prescribed by the RBI, an official said. "As they were trying to meet the finance minister without permission, police detained at least nine of them on the spot under section 68 of the Mumbai Police Act," the official said.

PM REVIEWS POLLUTION SITUATION

New Delhi, Nov. 5: With the air quality in Delhi and surrounding areas hovering in the 'severe' and 'very poor' categories, Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired a meeting on Tuesday to discuss the pollution situation in northern India.

"PM Narendra Modi chaired a meeting in which the situation arising due to pollution in various parts of northern India was discussed," the Prime Minister's office tweeted. The Prime Minister also reviewed the situation arising due to cyclone conditions in parts of western India.

The meet on pollution comes after back-to-back review meetings held by P.K. Mishra, the principal secretary to the PM, with top officials of Delhi, Punjab and Haryana on Sunday and Monday.

According to the Central Pollution Control Board, Delhi's air quality index dropped from 365 at 9.45 am to 331 at 3.45 pm on Tuesday. In the National Capital Region, 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 'severe.'



Delhi Police personnel shout slogans during a protest against the alleged incidents of violence, in New Delhi, on Tuesday.

— PTI

Agitating Delhi cops end protest after assurances

Review petition in High Court in today; injured cops to get ex gratia

BHASKAR HARI SHARMA & SANJAY KAW | DC
NEW DELHI, NOV. 5

For the first time ever, the national capital on Tuesday witnessed the wrath of police personnel, 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

■ The 11-hour long agitation involved mostly constables, assistant sub-inspectors and inspectors.

commissioner of police (crime) Satish Golcha 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 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.

The heightened tension between Delhi cops and lawyers led to another

shocking incident a day later. On Monday, at the Saket district court, some lawyers beat up a police officer.

The incident, caught on video, showed one lawyer elbowing a policeman on a bike as he was trying to leave the spot. The lawyer then slapped the policeman a few times and threw a helmet at the bike before the officer disappeared.

Taking suo motu cognisance of media reports on the incident, the High Court at a special sitting on Sunday ordered an inquiry by one of its retired judges into the November 3 clash, and asked the police commissioner to suspend a police official and transfer two other senior police officials pending inquiry.

PIL on entry of women into mosques adjourned in SC

PARMOD KUMAR | DC
NEW DELHI, NOV. 5

The Supreme Court on Tuesday adjourned for ten days hearing on a public interest suit seeking declaration that the prohibition on the entry of women in mosques was illegal and unconstitutional.

A Bench comprising Chief Justice designate Justice S.A. Bobde, Justice S. Abdul Nazeer and Justice Krishna Murari adjourned the hearing for ten days, saying, "We are adjourning it for 10 days for a different reason."

Even as parties to the case sought four weeks to file their responses on the plea but court posted it after 10 days.

The court had in an earlier hearing said that it would be hearing the plea for the entry of women in mosques only

■ Earlier, the court said that it would be hearing the plea for the entry of women in mosques only because of its judgment in Sabarimala temple.

because of its judgment in Sabarimala temple. In the last hearing of the matter on October 25, 2019, the top court had given a week's time to the Centre, National Commission for Women (NCW), Central Waqf Council, and All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB) to file their response.

A petitioner, Yasmeen Zuber Ahmed Peerzade, who had moved the top court seeking the declaration that prohibition was illegal and discriminatory has contended that women are permit-

ted in Mecca but not in mosques in India.

The congregation of men and women in Mecca are separate. As the petitioner in the first hearing of the matter on April 16 this year had argued that the practice of not letting women enter the mosques was violative of Article 14 of the constitution guaranteeing equality before law, the top court had asked if it could be invoked by an individual against another individual — a non-state actor.

Pointing out that a violation of Article 14 could only be invoked against the state, Justice Bobde in the first hearing had questioned, "All those present in the mosque are individuals and they are not cast in concrete. Where does the state come here. Is mosque a state, is temple a state, is Church a state?"

'No deadline set for Naga peace process'

MANOJ ANAND | DC
GUWAHATI, NOV. 05

Prime Minister's envoy for Naga talks, Mr R.N. Ravi, has made it clear that there is no time-frame or deadline set to conclude the ongoing Naga peace-process.

Pointing out that October 31 was the deadline to conclude the negotiation on contentious issues between the government of India and Naga rebel groups — NSCN (IM) and working committee of NNPGs — Mr Ravi however said that they would strive to conclude the entire peace-process at the earliest.

Admitting that there has been an attempt to create confusion on many contentious issues, Mr Ravi clarified that Centre was not going to sign any peace-agreement or agreement

with Naga people in isolation.

Mr Ravi, who is also the Governor of Nagaland, reiterated that solution to the Naga issue will not affect the territorial integrity of any north-eastern states.

"Before the final settlement, we need to allay the apprehensions of the neighbours, including the legitimate concerns of the neighbouring states," said Mr Ravi, pointing out that his focus would be now to take the neighbouring states and other stakeholders on board in the peace-process.

Pointing out that all major contentious issues between the Centre and Naga negotiators have been resolved, the Governor attributed it to the maturity of Naga leaders.

NADDA MEETS PARTY'S BIHAR UNIT LEADERS

NAYEAR AZAD | DC
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 late Kailashprati Mishra. Addressing the event, he criticized the Congress party for its policies.

'Great Wall of India' cries for attention'

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY | DC
BHOPAL, NOV. 5

An 80km-long fortification that criss-crosses the amazing teakwood forests and the picturesque Vindhya mountain range in Madhya Pradesh's Raisen district has remained an enigma for archaeologists and historians, who seem oblivious of the splendence.

Unfortunately, with their aloofness, they are denying the ancient gigantic wall a worthy place among prominent heritage sites.

Originating at a forest near Gorakhpur village, around 150 kms from Bhopal, and ending at Chowkigarh, the fortification stands at a height of 15 feet at some places while, in a deplorable contrast, it lies in ruins in other places. A more sombre reality is that a stretch of the wall remains incomplete.

The wall is made of evenly cut sandstones that are interlocked.

"Physical verification of the fortification clearly establishes that at the planning level, it was supposed to be a continuous structure. A vast stretch of wall is visible prominently, while a portion of it lies in tatters. There are heaps of evenly cut stone bricks at some places along

■ Archaeologists who examined the structure suggest that the fortification may be 1,000-year-old and perhaps built by the Parmar dynasty that ruled west-Central India from 9th-13th century.

the route indicating that the particular stretch could not be completed due to unfathomable reasons", conservation enthusiastic Rajiv Choubey told this correspondent on Tuesday.

Mr Choubey recently completed physical verification of the fortification along with former archaeologist of Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), Narayan Vyas and historian, Vinod Tiwari. They literally made physical verification of 'every inch' of the 'ancient' fortification.

This is probably the longest wall in India after the 36 kms long one at Kumbalgarh in Rajasthan he said.

"Preliminary examination of the structure suggests that the fortification may be 1,000-year-old and perhaps built by the Parmar dynasty that ruled west-Central India from 9th-13th century. But, more archaeological studies are needed to ascertain the exact period when it was built," Mr Vyas said.

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 Prason 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 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 Sahasrabudhhe, Prasar Bhatti 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 Memor-

■ The centre has reconstituted the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library Society under rule 3 of the memorandum of association and rules and regulations of NMML society with PM as the president.

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 Pranpe, academic, writer, Kishore Makwana, academic Kamlesh Joshipura, researcher Rizwan Kadri along with Sahasrabudhhe 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 Sahasrabudhhe and IGNCA 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

SC seeks report on Rajiv assassination

DC 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 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 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. Rajiv Gandhi was assassinated on the night of May 21, 1991 at Sriperumbudur in Tamil Nadu.

Uncertainty over Kartarpur pilgrimage

VINEETA PANDEY | DC
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.

"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 as Pakistan has not yet responded to the list of prominent Sikh leaders



Sikh devotees leave for Gurdwara Darbar Sahib Kartarpur, at Attari about 35km from Amritsar on Tuesday.

— PTI

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 front.

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 day of inauguration.

It has been made clear that Dr Manmohan Singh and others accompanying him will travel as pilgrims and not as invitees for the inauguration planned by the Pakistan government.

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

DECCAN Chronicle

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 readymade 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 campaigned against India's entry into RCEP, and rallied other 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.

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. Chandrasekhara 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 Abdullapurmet 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.

DECCAN CHRONICLE

ADITYA SINHA
Editor

DECCAN CHRONICLE offices are located at:

Hyderabad: 36, Sarojini Devi Road, Secunderabad - 500 003, Ph: 040-27803930-4; Fax : 040-27805256
Vijayawada: No.C-3 & 4 Patamata, Industrial Estate, Auto Nagar, Vijayawada (A.P.), Ph: 0866-2555284/2555287; Telefax: 0866-2555234

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

Rajahmundry: Venagiri, Dhawaleswaram Rd, Rajahmundry, Ph: 0883-2417618/2417208; Telefax: 0883-2417208

Anantapur: Thapovan colony, Bangalore By-Pass Road, Anantapur - 515004, Ph: 08554-276903; Fax: 08554-276904

Karimnagar: Survey No.1341, Vavilalapally Colony, Jagityala Road, Karimnagar - 505 001, Ph: 0878-2228908; Telefax: 0878-2220433

Nellore: Survey No.527/2, Burranpur Village, Venkatachalam (M), Chennudugunta Panchayat, Nellore, Ph: 0861-2348581/82; Telefax: 0861-2348580

Chennai: SP-3 Developed Plot, Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai - 600 032, Ph: 044-22254747/48/50/51; Advt Fax: 22254765/22254766/42305325

Bengaluru: 5th Floor, BMTC Commercial Complex, 80 Feet Road, Koramangala, Bengaluru-560 095 Ph: 080-43460500; Fax: 080-22960552.

Coimbatore: 77, Vivekananda Road, Ramnagar, Coimbatore - 641 009, Ph: 0422 2231255

Kochi: No.3-B, 3rd Floor of DD TRADE TOWER, Kaloor-Kadavanthara Road, Emakulam, Ph: 0484-4039408

Thiruvananthapuram: St Joseph's Press, TC 15/1040, Cotton Hill, Thycaud (PO), Thiruvananthapuram 695 014

Kozhikode: Door No 6/1002 E, First Floor of City Mall, Opp. YMCA, Kannur Road, Kozhikode - 673 001, Ph: 0495 4019 018

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Arifa Noor
View from Pakistan

Dharna politics: Push come to shove, politicians certain to blink

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 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.

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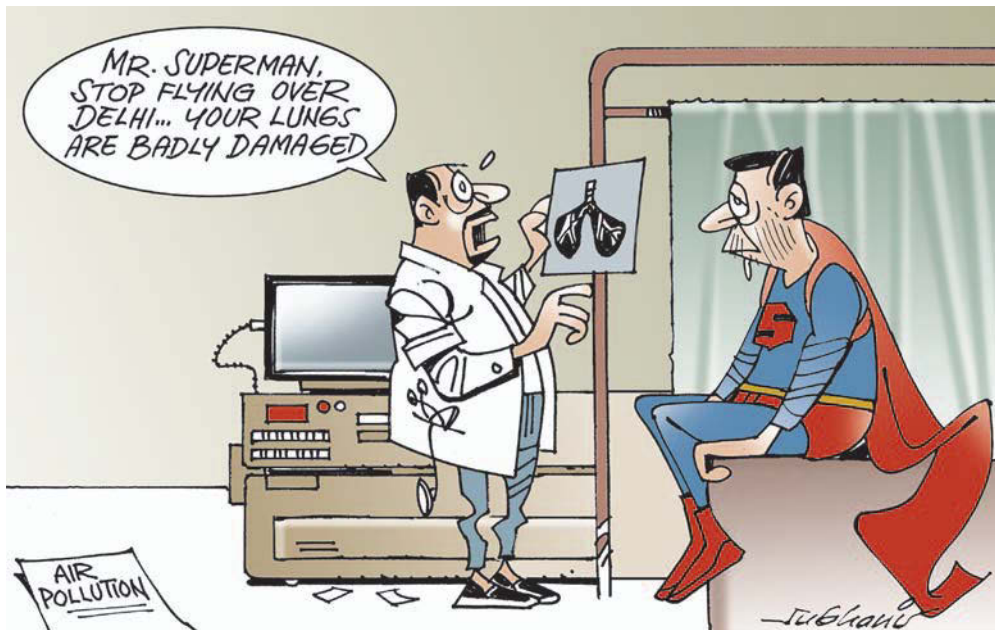
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Despite his thundering, no politician with stakes in the electoral system can blithely lead his supporters towards a confrontation which can cost lives. Every voter matters; every life matters. And similarly, a government (even if it is led by a seemingly 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

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 triumphalist. 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

SHIFTING OF LV

It may be recalled how Mr L.V. Subramanyam became CS in AP. In April 2019, before Assembly polls, due to accusations against the then CS Mr Punetha, who was removed by the Election Commission and Mr Subramanyam was posted in his place. But the N. Chandrababu Naidu government found fault with his appointment accusing him of being co-accused in quid pro quo case Mr Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy. Later, when Mr Jagan Mohan Reddy became CM, he continued the services of Mr Subrahmanyam as CS. Normally, the CS will be changed when new party and CM assumes political power. But this was not done due to Mr Jagan Mohan Reddy's intimacy. In spite of this, it is now embarrassing as to why he as shifted?

P. Koormarao
Visakhapatnam

TSRTC STRIKE

The Telangana government is in hot waters. Even as the burning problem of RTC is not doused another dreadful problem has been created by the ghastly murder of a woman tahsildar. (*Revenue employees on warpath, to boycott work for three days. Nov. 5*) There is a rumour that Singareni employees are preparing themselves to revolt against the government. The position of Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhara Rao is like caught between devil and deep sea.

S.A. Nabi
Giddalur, Prakasam

Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhara Rao should take moral responsibility for the murder of Ms Ch. Vijaya Reddy as he did nothing to free the revenue department of corruption. Expressing condolences to the family of the deceased tahsildar would not suffice. He is unfit to be CM as corruption has become rampant.

Dinesh Joshi
Hyderabad

I wonder how the attacker could enter the office of a tahsildar with so much fuel in the first place. This is a big lapse on part of security at the office. The defunct closed-circuit cameras reveal the real state of golden Telangana.

Mohammed Wasif Ali
Secunderabad

Every Monday the best letter of the week wins ₹300. Email your letters to info@deccanmail.com, editor@deccanmail.com. You can also send them to Editor, Deccan Chronicle, 36, Sarojini Devi Road, Secunderabad-500 003.

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

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 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 missiles 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.

Tingle-minded, are we? The rapid rise of ASMR

Mary Wakefield

Once had a flatmate called Tom, who behaved very oddly when our cleaner came round. On mornings when she was due he'd become strangely excited, like a man waiting for a date, though Midge (70) seemed an unlikely target. I would leave the flat so that Midge could get on with it, but Tom would insist on staying. He'd settle himself into an armchair, close his eyes and sit there, still as a toad, as she hovered and dusted around him. Eventually I asked him about it, and he confessed. Listening to Midge, he said, "makes my brain feel nice". As he explained it, the sounds of cleaning, sweeping and busying about sent delicious shivers running across his scalp. "It's blissful — like a tingling feeling. But it's not at all sexy," he was keen to stress. I said: "Don't fret, Tom. That all sounds... normal." I had no idea then just how very normal Tom was.

This was in 2007 and, as it happens, that very year a group of people gathered in an online chatroom to discuss that very feeling. They didn't all depend on cleaning noises: the sounds that set it off were many and varied. For some it was a whispering voice, for others a tapping sound or the crinkling of paper, though everyone agreed that a feeling of being given personal attention and cared for helped. One of the chatters concocted a plausible-sounding bit of jargon: autonomous sensory meridian response, ASMR for short, and that was what stuck. And that's what has, more than a decade later, become an internet phenomenon.

Any discussion of what exactly ASMR is usually comes to the same conclusion: that it evolved as a response to primate grooming. Chimps and gorillas, it's said, fall into the sort of ecstatic state Tom describes when they nit-pick and pair-bond, and some humans, like Tom, retain the ability. I like to imagine the Toms of the past: the groups of shifty hominids who sat a little apart, listening to the drip of ice-age melt-water; the Victorians who hurried home when the chimney sweep was due. I like to think back to when ASMR was a private affair. Because it sure isn't now. Once it had a name it became searchable, and once it became searchable it became monetisable, and now all manner of people make a living making videos that trigger ASMR — ASMRtists they call

themselves. If you get it just right, if the timbre of your whisper does it for the ASMR gang, you can make a very decent living.

Most ASMRtists are themselves members of what they sometimes call the 'tingle tribe'. WhispersRed, for instance, is a nice-looking British girl, real name Emma Smith, who videos herself speaking in a quiet, breathy voice — slowly and dreamily, but with great focus like a very attentive nurse, or a psychopath. To me, WhispersRed sounds as relaxing as Hannibal Lecter. But when I played a video to Tom, that familiar blissed-out smile crept over his face. American teens, the beadiest of entrepreneurial groups, cottoned on early to the profit potential. Is it wrong for children to make videos for adults to get off on? It's such a recent phenomenon that no one knows. One 13-year-old ASMRtist called Makenna from Colorado hit the big time last year with a video entitled "Eating raw honeycomb — EXTREMELY sticky mouth sounds". More than 12 million have watched it, and Mak and her manager mom make \$1,000 a day in advertising revenue. Eating sounds are extremely popular amongst the ASMR gang. And if, like me, you don't get tingles from the videos, they're likely to be among the most disgusting things you've ever seen. One Canadian girl, ASMR SAS, eats to order for cash. I might never forget the clip of her dipping king prawns in melted cheese and eating them right up against the camera lens. It was the squelching, crunching sound — and who dips prawns in cheese?

Of course there's something touching about all those lonely tingleers finally getting together. But there's also something troubling about ASMR, especially the rate at which it's spreading across the web.

More and more companies are making adverts designed to activate ASMR. If you can give some of your audience an actual high, why wouldn't you? In this year's Super Bowl, there was an ASMR commercial for Michelob Ultra Pure Gold beer. Model Zoë Kravitz (daughter of Lenny) whispered and tapped on the bottle like a pro. Ikea, Taco Bell and KFC have all done ASMR ads. Google's brand-consulting service recommends it. ASMR and junk food are a perfect fit, says KFC's marketing boss. "There's a lot of comfort associated with ASMR, and that's what our food delivers." How much comfort do 21st-century adults need?

By arrangement with the Spectator

Savour life, relish the moments



Moin Qazi

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. 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. 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 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!

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.

CPP divided on India's presence at Rabat meet

NEW DELHI, November 5

DESPITE an unprecedentedly long five-hour discussion, at time acrimonious, the Executive Committee of the Congress Parliamentary Party today neither endorsed nor censured Government's participation in the Rabat Summit.

The External Affairs Minister Mr. Dinesh Singh defended India's participation in the Summit and rejected allegations of an unseemly effort by the Government to get an invitation to it.

But critics of the Prime Minister in the Executive maintained that they stood by the resolution adopted by the Working Committee presided over by Mr. Nijalingappa last Sunday censuring Government.

The Party Secretary, Mr. S. D. Mishra, who briefed pressmen in the presence of the Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, Mr. K. Raghuramaiah, said since there was no provision for voting in the Executive the matter could be said to have been talked out.

Mr Raghuramaiah, who is also the Chief Whip, said members wanted to have certain clarifications.



Goodbye

Pakistan singer Rabi Pirzada who called Modi Hitler, quits showbiz after her private pictures get leaked online



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. The United Nations will soon set out procedural details for what happens next, UN deputy spokesman Farhan Haq said.

XI MEETS LAM OVER 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 on Tuesday.

Xi met Lam on the sidelines of a trade event in Shanghai 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."

"The very fact that he is so busy, but he found time to meet, really is a vote of confidence in ourselves" and underlined the importance that Beijing attaches to Hong Kong, Cheung said.

Xi "has a high degree of confidence in the chief executive and also certainly the work of the present government and the political team, so all these are pretty reassuring to us," he added.

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 Zelenskyy. 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,

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

Lev Parnas and Igor 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

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



Ending violence and chaos, and restoring order remain a priority, for Hong kong.

— Xi Jinping after meeting Carrie Lam

IN BRIEF 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 US\$79,000.

'Baghdadi's sister held 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, Nov. 5: 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."

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

3 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

SCIENTISTS TO STUDY FRENCH WINE AGEING AT SPACE STATION

Cape Canaveral, Nov. 5: A dozen bottles of fine French wine 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 ageing process. The goal is to develop new flavours and properties for the food industry. The bottles flew up

aboard a Northrop Grumman capsule that launched from Virginia and arrived at the international space station. Each bottle was packed in a metal canister to prevent breakage.

Wine-making uses both yeast and bacteria, and involves chemical processes, making wine ideal for space study, said University of Erlangen-Nuremberg's Michael Lebert, the experiment's scientific director.

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 uranium move worries EU

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.

Meanwhile, the European Union voiced concern at Iran's announcement that it would resume uranium enrichment.

— AP

WRONG | MOVE Company policy forbids managers from having romantic relationships with subordinates

As McD CEO learnt, office romance is perilous

New York, Nov. 5: Workplace couples are often romanticised — think Bill and Melinda Gates or Michelle and Barack Obama. But when the relationship involves two people with unequal power, it can also be fraught with peril, especially in the #MeToo era.

McDonald's CEO, Steve Easterbrook, is only the latest chief executive to be ousted over a consensual relationship with an employee. Increasingly, US companies are adopting policies addressing workplace romances, a trend

that began well before the #MeToo movement galvanized a national conversation surrounding sexual misconduct.

Addressing workplace romance can be complicated, but many companies remove any grey areas by forbidding managers, especially C-suite executives, from having relationships with subordinates given the potential for favouritism or lawsuits if the relationship sours.

There are questions about whether consent is truly possible when the power imbalance is espe-



cially great. Many women who have come forward to share their #MeToo stories have said they feared the consequences of saying no to a powerful person who could influence

their careers. "That power difference can create a dynamic where the relationship can never truly be consensual," said Debra Katz, a founder partner of the law firm

Katz Marshall & Banks who has represented women in several prominent sexual harassment cases. "The #MeToo movement has shown how quickly it can go from consensual in the beginning to a huge problem when the relationship goes awry."

Easterbrook's departure comes as McDonald's steps up its efforts to stop sexual harassment after dozens of employee complaints.

Over the last three years, more than 50 McDonald's employees have filed cases alleging sexual harass-

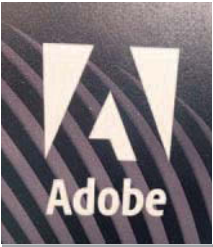
ment with the US Equal Employment Opportunity Commission or in state courts, according to Fight for \$15, a labour advocacy group. The hamburger chain unveiled a programme to teach its 8,50,000 US employees how to recognise and report harassment and bullying. Franchisees aren't required to offer the training, but the company expects them to provide it.

McDonald's said Easterbrook violated company policy forbidding managers from having romantic relationships with

direct or indirect subordinates. In an email to employees, Easterbrook said the relationship was a mistake and he agreed "it is time for me to move on." He was replaced by Chris Kempczinski, who recently served as president of McDonald's USA.

Easterbrook followed in the footsteps of Intel Chief Executive, Brian Krzanich, who resigned last year after the chip-maker found he engaged in a relationship that, violated a 'non-fraternisation' policy that applies to all managers.

— AP



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 Fransico, 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. —AP



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. —Agencies

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

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 Fvand, 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

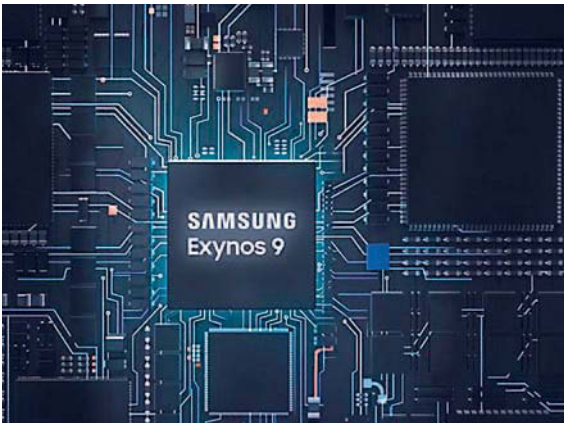
SoftBank to pay a price for betting on startups

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

Fund. SoftBank is expected to post an operating loss of 48 billion yen (\$442 million) for the July-September quarter on Wednesday, according to the average forecast of four analyst estimates compiled by Refinitiv. That would be its first quarterly loss in 14 years, Refinitiv data shows, and compares with an operating profit of 706 billion yen a year earlier. SoftBank has delivered multiple quarters of sector-beating gains, driven by internal revaluations of tech bets by the Vision Fund, which had its first

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 over valuations 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 produce Exynos chips

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

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.

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.



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

- **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

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 2019

Green 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.



Goyal says India hasn't got credible assurance on mkt access, barriers RCEP door is closed, but not forever: Govt

FC 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 safeguard 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.

Govt may not waive \$13 bn telecom dues

RAGINI 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 ₹50,000

FALAKNAAZ 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.

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's 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.

Anushka to endorse Godrej hair colour

RITWIK MUKHERJEE
KOLKATA, NOV. 5

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.



Anushka Sharma

■ VE Commercial Vehicles chief says Q3 & Q4 would be better

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 festival 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-

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.

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



FC BUREAU
CHENNAI, NOV. 5

Around 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 stimulate 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.

PNB clocks ₹507-cr net profit in Q2

New Delhi, Nov. 5: State-owned Punjab National Bank (PNB) on Tuesday reported a profit of Rs 507.06 crore for the second quarter ended September 30 aided by substantial reduction in provisioning for bad loans.

The bank had posted a loss of Rs 4,532.35 crore in the corresponding quarter last year.

During the quarter, provisions for bad loans sharply declined to Rs 3,253.32 crore against Rs 7,733.27 crore.

The provisions during the year-ago period included the amount for the Rs 14,000-crore fraud committed by jeweller duo Nirav Modi and Mehul Choksi.

Gross non-performing assets (NPAs) amounted to 16.76 per cent of the gross advances at the end of September, lower than 17.16 per cent a year ago.

Net NPAs or bad loans also came down to 7.65 per cent as against 8.90 per cent in the year-ago period.

—PTI

RCEP pact shapes up without India

MATTHEW TOSTEVIN
BANGKOK, NOV. 5

Although India pulled out at the last minute, China and 14 other countries agreed in Bangkok this week on plans for what could become the world's biggest trade agreement — the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP).

They aim to sign it next year to start freeing up trade between members that include the 10-member Association of South-east Asian Nations (Asean), Japan, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand.

What will RCEP do?

Exact details have yet to be released, but it will progressively lower tariffs across many areas.

Its backers say that just as importantly it will let companies export the same product anywhere within the bloc without having to meet separate requirements and fill out separate paperwork for each country.

"For a goods producer it's huge," said Deborah Elms of the Asian Trade Centre. "What we don't have now is a lot of Asian trade for final markets in Asia. This sets

that up."

It gives an incentive for companies to build supply chains within the region even if they export outside.

The agreement also touches on services and on protecting intellectual property.

What doesn't it do?

RCEP is not seen as such a "high quality" trade agreement as the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership, among 11 Asia-Pacific countries, because it does not cover or harmonise as much.

Tariffs are agreed between countries rather than across the board. For some countries, sensitive issues such as agriculture won't be touched. It lacks provisions for liberalising state enterprises or protecting workers and the environment.

What economic impact will it have?

Even once signed, implementation would take months to start and years to complete. The complexity makes precise calculations hard, economists say.

The 15 participating countries make up nearly a third of the world's people (it

would have been nearly half with India). RCEP members account for nearly a third of global domestic product, with India's departure making less of a difference.

What does India's absence mean?

India can join later and other countries — notably Indonesia and Japan — have been lobbying it hard to stay. But Prime Minister Narendra Modi was emphatic about rejecting terms the other members agreed.

"While India's exit devalues the pact, it also removes the single biggest obstacle to its completion," said Anthony Nelson of consultancy Albright Stonebridge.

India's biggest concern is a wave of cheap goods from China and elsewhere. For other countries, losing India means they won't access a market that is notoriously hard to get into, but also they won't be able to include India as easily in supply chains. Supporters of the deal argue that India will lose investment while its consumers will pay more than they should.

Southeast Asian countries also see India as a counterweight to China's growing dominance.

—Reuters

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

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

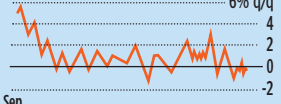
Zealand, will be able to move forward faster with an agreement that was at risk of being jeopardized by India's foot-dragging.

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

Global trade volumes have been in the most pronounced downturn since 2009



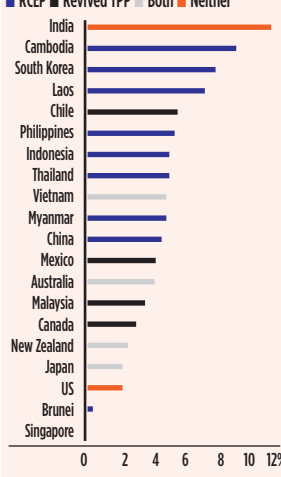
Note: Shows rolling three-month average volumes compared to the average three months earlier. Source: Bloomberg

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

Tariffs among members of Asia's new trade blocs are already relatively low



Note: Shows average trade-weighted tariffs. Source: Bloomberg

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

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 0.2 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



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

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.

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

Caris LeVert added 23 points, Joe Harris scored 19 and Jarrett Allen had 18 points and 10 rebounds for the Nets.

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

ONE MATCH SUSPENSION FOR CLEVELAND GUARD

New York, 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

GIOVINAZZI WILL RETURN TO ALFA ROMEO IN 2020

Austin, Nov. 5: Women's tennis player Ashleigh Barty poses with the year-ending Chris Evert WTA World No.1 Trophy. — WTA

Verona plans to sue 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

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 illion (\$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



Matthew McConaughey (from left), Anthony Hamilton and Lewis Hamilton celebrate Hamilton's sixth F1 world title following the F1 Grand Prix of USA at Circuit of The Americas in Austin, Texas. — 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



Antonio Giovinazzi



Past & present

Former India batsman Yuvraj Singh will be among a hosts of past and present stars who will feature in the ‘Ultimate Kricket Challenge’ tournament in February next year



SCA stadium Rajkot is scheduled to host the second T20 on Thursday.

— BCCI

Cyclone threat to T20

Cyclone Maha is expected to make a landfall on Thursday, match day in 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 fore-

cast. "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 in this file photo. >>> — AFP



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 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

Kolkata to host IPL auction in Dec.

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 kitties 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

Virat, 31, pens a letter to a 15-year-old Chiku

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.



Indian skipper Virat Kohli celebrated his birthday with wife Anushka Sharma.

are thinking about those shoes dad did not give you today. They mean nothing when compared to the hug this morning or the joke he cracked about your height. Cherish this," Kohli wrote in the letter he shared on

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

Santner spells England collapse, NZ go 2-1 up

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. Dawid 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 Tinkner 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," he added. — AFP

Unbeaten Smith drives Oz to win over Pakistan

Canberra, Nov. 5: Master batsman Steve Smith stroked a faultless unbeaten 80 as Australia edged Pakistan by seven wickets in Canberra to go 1-0 up in their three-match Twenty20 series. Top-ranked Pakistan set a competitive 150 for six off their 20 overs, with skipper Babar Azam hitting his second consecutive half-century and Iftikhar Ahmed clubbing a quick-fire 62. 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

opening match in Sydney 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."



Steve Smith

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



Yuzvendra Chahal during the first T20 against Bangladesh on Sunday.

afresh. "I think we are positive. It is not like we haven't lost the first match of any series and didn't go on to win the series. The first

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

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 wicketkeeper



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.

Expect India to take on Oz in a Day/Night Test, says 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 him but I wanted to be 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



Future planning

Bayern Munich president Uli Hoeness says the German giants will take their time to find Niko Kovac's (in pic) successor, expects them to be able to name a new head coach within three weeks

Games

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DECCAN CHRONICLE

WEDNESDAY | 6 NOVEMBER 2019 | VIJAYAWADA



It's a tight turnaround, but we'll prepare as best we can.

— Gian Piero Gasperini, Atalanta boss ahead of their Champions League clash with Manchester City

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 Mysuru 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.

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. — PTI

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Manchester City's Raheem Sterling (left) attends a team training session in Manchester on Tuesday, the eve of their Champions League Group 'C' match against Atalanta. — AFP

David vs Goliath

City look to seal their ticket to knockouts with 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 thigh 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

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 1.30 am (Thursday)
on SONY ESPN, HD

Bayer vs Atletico Madrid
from 1.30 am (Thursday)
on SONY SIX, HD

PSG vs Club Brugge
from 1.30 am (Thursday)
on SONY TEN 3, HD

Atalanta vs Man City
from 1.30 am (Thursday)
on SONY TEN 2, HD

Real Madrid vs Galatasaray
from 1.30 am (Thursday)
on SONY TEN 1, HD

back in 1963.

The turn around 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

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

Now the former Germany assistant coach wants an immediate response from Bayern's stars against Olympiakos.

Both Mueller, 30, and Martinez, 31, mainly started on the bench under Kovac, but Flick wants to utilise the experience of the veterans, who helped Bayern win the 2013 treble of Champions League, Bundesliga and German Cup titles.

Group 'B' leaders Bayern host bottom side Olympiakos at the Allianz Arena with a fourth straight Champions League win in their sights after beating the Greek side 3-2 in Piraeus a fortnight ago.

Bayern already have one foot in the knock-out phase as they currently sit five-points clear of second-placed Tottenham. — AFP

AITA on sticky wicket after a 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

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 specialist 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

CHINA OPEN | BADMINTON

Sindhu makes a first round exit

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.

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 takes Oly quota, Manu wins

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 medallist 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 Valariyan, 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

HFC LOOK TO EXTEND MOMENTUM

MOSES KONDETY | DC HYDERABAD, NOV. 5

Two matches into the Indian Super League. Hyderabad Football Club appeared battered and bruised. After the first game at home, they're full of beans.

Understandably, after talismanic Brazilian Marcelo turned their fortunes around with a jaw-dropping freekick that sank into the Kerala net and soared host spirits in a come-from behind 2-1 win.

On Wednesday, manger Phil Brown will look to a similar show from his boys as they take on nippy NorthEast United in the second game at the Gachibowli Stadium, a venue where they found frenzied fans, with whom the team want to build a relationship via powerful performances on the field.

A second win will even out the two losses but Brown still does not have a full squad to choose from — Bobo, Rafael Gomez and Giles Barnes are injured and Nestor Gordillo is serving a ban. "I don't think we have moved past all the injuries, there are four big players still injured but we will focus on what we



Hyderabad's Robin Singh at a training session on Tuesday.

have," he said. NorthEast have a big one in their ranks — World Cupper Asamoah Gyan of Ghana. "We know we are up against a very strong team that has Gyan who is capable of winning a game on his own but we have a team which has character," said Brown. NorthEast manager Robert

Jarni is cautious. "You never know how they (Hyderabad) are going to play. They won the last game, are full of confidence," he said.

NorthEast United are unbeaten in three matches and sit fourth on the table while Hyderabad are ninth with a lone win in three... but they know it's a new game.