THE ASIAN AGE

NEW DELHI SUNDAY 1 DECEMBER 2019



PEOPLE | Newsmakers

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SUNDAY AGE | Cover

Shrinking Parsi community innovating wavs to keep its legacy alive



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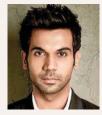
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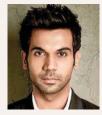
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Terrorism







From falls in GDP to political morality — BJP to set multiple records of declines

> - Akhilesh Yadav, SP president

Citu starts 238-km

march to save PSUs

Chittaranjan (WB): The CITU. the trade union wing of the CPI(M) on Saturday started a 238-km long march from Chittaranjan in West Burdwan district to Kolkata to protest the Centre's decision to privatise Central public sector units. The 283-km long march of the Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU) will culminate with a public meeting in Kolkata on December 11. The march started from the Chittaranjan

Locomotive Factory, a railway undertaking with the slogan "Save Public Sector", to protest the Union governments decision to sell stake and privatise public sector

BJP: Couldn't take

LS success forward

Kolkata: West Bengal BJP president Dilip Ghosh said on Saturday that the party's failure to take forward its success in the Lok Sabha elections to the recent assembly bypolls in the state was due to the lack of experience. In the bypolls, ruling Trinamool Congress won all the three assembly seats of Karimpur, Kaliagunj and Khargapur Sadar rele-gating BJP to the second position. Ghosh said "We will analyse the reasons for the failure in the bypolls. We lacked experience although our workers had the right enthusiasm. So we could not take our success in the Lok Sabha polls forward." —PTI

Sidda: K'taka Cong will return to power

Bengaluru: CLP leader Siddaramaiah on Saturday claimed that his party will win at least 12 seats, if not all the 15, in the December 5 bypolls and a political change in the state will then be inevitable. "We (Congress) are going to win at least 12 seats. No wonder if we win 15 seats. If we win 12 seats, how can the BJP government survive? Yediyurappa has to resign. Then, political change will be inevitable," Siddaramaiah

RS SEES 89% PRODUCTIVITY IN FIRST HALF

told reporters at Kokatanur.

New Delhi: Despite protests on several issues by opposition members in Rajya Sabha, the upper house of Parliament has reported 89 per cent productivity in the first half of the ongoing winter session. Of the total available time of more than 55 hours, the House availed more than 49 hours, the Rajya Sabha secretariat said in a statement on Saturday. While a little more than 8 hours were lost on account of disruptions, members made up for the lost time by sitting for two and a half hours extra resulting in a net total loss of 5 hours and 51 minutes during the first half of this session, it said. Three Bills including the Jalianwala Bagh National Memorial (Amendment) Bill were

passed during the first half of the winter session. During the second week of the winter session, Rajya Sabha passed two Bills, The Transgender (Protection of Rights) Bill and The Chit Funds (Amendment) Bill. Discussion

on the Bill seeking to replace the Ordinance banning e-cigarettes remained inconclusive, the secretariat said. "At the end of the first half of the ongoing winter session, Rajya Sabha has reported produc-

tivity of 89 per cent for the first two weeks combined," it said. Members of Rajya Sabha also made a record 51 zero hour submissions and 30 special mentions on various issues of public importance. - PTI

■63% turnout in Phase 1 Jharkhand poll

Cong MLA flashes gun outside polling booth

Two major incidents of violence were reported during the first phase of polling in Jharkhand Saturday. Congress candidate Krishna Nand Tripathi was seen flash-ing a gun outside a booth during polling.

Clashes erupted between the Congress and BJP supporters in Kosiyara village in the Daltonganj Assembly constituency. Mr Tripathi — who was detained for questioning and later released — accused BJP nominee Alok Chaurasia and his supporters for trying to disrupt the electoral

process in the area.

Meanwhile, the Election
Commission (ECI) asked the district administra-tion to submit a report on the incident.

Following interrogation, Mr Tripathi told reporters outside the deputy com-missioner's office, "The situation went out of hand after I was attacked by the supporters of the BJP nominee who were trying to disrupt the electoral process outside the polling station. I also requested the administration and the police to provide me with security when BJP workers creat-ed a ruckus outside the polling station and stopped me."

According to sources from Ranchi, Mr Tripathi's weapon was seized and a probe has been initiated by the police into the incident. Around 63 per cent of voting was recorded for

Priyanka

seeks prope

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hostel death

New Delhi. Nov. 30: Con-

gress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra has writ-

(JNV) student, asserting

that action in the matter

is of utmost importance

for the safety of girls in

On September 16, the body of 17-year-old Anushka Pandey, a Class

11 student of JNV, Bhongaon, was found

hanging from the ceiling

to Yogi Adityanath, said

the incident was heart

wrenching and it assu-

mes importance in the

context of the security of

girls studying in various

institutions in the state.

Pandey's daughter was

found in the hostel under

stances. Injury marks

were found on her body

but post-mortem was not

done. The deceased's fam-

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She said the family of

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The body of Subhash

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Priyanka

Vidyalaya

Gandhi

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Yogi



Congress candidate from Daltonganj K.N. Tripathi brandishes a revolver in Palamu district on Saturday during the first phase of Jharkhand Assembly elections.

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In another incident of violence, Naxals tried to create disturbance in Gumla by blowing up a bridge in the Bishunpur area immediately after

voting began Saturday. According to the district administration, "No casualty was reported and the voting process was also not disrupted due to

Around 63 per cent voting was recorded in the 13 (Jharkhand) that went to polls in the first phase of voting Saturday. BJP was locked in a tough electoral battle with the JMM-led grand alliance. Key candi-

dates in the fray were BJP candidate and health minister Ram Chandra Chandravashi from the Bisrampur seat and Congress state president Rameshwar Oraon from

ernment.
"The news reports about vehicles

ing," the Sena said.
"The Prime Minister, home minister and other ministers are not ready to leave their security and their bulletproof cars. This means the concern over removal of the Gandhis' security is valid too," the Saamana editori-

The home ministry had

Sena on SPG removal: Must not play with someone's life

Party says concern over removal of Gandhis' security is valid

AGE CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI, NOV. 30

THE ASIAN AGE

The Shiv Sena on Saturday raised concern over removal of the Special Protection Group (SPG) cover of the Gandhi family. Indicating that the decision to remove the SPG cover was politically motivated, the Sena said that political differences should be kept aside in such matters and no one differences should play with people's

An editorial in the party mouthpiece Saamana said that politicians should feel safe in their environment and that the Prime Minister should intervene in the matter if the concerns over safety were valid. The party stressed that it would have taken the same position if it was someone other than the

Gandhis.
The SPG cover of the Gandhis (Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi) was replaced with the Z-plus security of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) by the gov-

deployed in the motorcade of Gandhis are also worry-



NCP leader Ajit Pawar gestures victoty sign as he leaves the Vidhan Bhavan after the Shiv Sena-NCP-Congress alliance won the floor test in the Maharashtra Assembly in Mumhai on Saturday.

— RAJESH JADHAV

said that the threat to the Gandhi family had reduced and hence, the SPG cover had been withdrawn.

"The reason for giving SPG cover to the Gandhis was that Indira Gandhi was killed by her own security guard and Rajiv Gandhi was killed by militants," it said.

"There can be political differences with the Congress or the Gandhi family. The tussle with the Nehru family has turned intense over the last fiveodd years (since BJP came to power at the Centre). But one should not play with somebody's life," the Sena said. Home minister

Amit Shah, replying to the debate on the SPG (Amendment) Bill, Wednesday said that the BJP did not carry out actions with a hurtful approach and that it was the Congress which had taken many such decisions in the past. He said

in fact been increased for the Gandhi family. "This (removal of the Gandhis' security) is not the fact. The security of the Gandhi family has not been withdrawn but changed to 'Z-plus' with advance security liaison and ambulance that will be given across the coun-

try," he asserted.

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Speaker post: Patole to take on Kathore

AGE CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI, NOV. 30

Senior Congress MLA Saturday filed his nomination for the speaker's post as the joint candidate of Maharashtra Vikas Aghadi (MVA). He will take on Bharatiya Janata Party's Kisan Kathore in Sunday's election.

Considering that the Uddhav Thackeray-led MVA government won the vote of confidence by securing 169 votes, the election is likely to be a cakewalk for Mr

However, unlike the floor test, which was held by open ballot, the voting for speaker's election will be held through a secret ballot.

Mr Patole represents Sakoli Assembly seg-ment in Vidarbha. Earlier, there were reports that the Congress did not want the post and instead insisted on the post of deputy chief minister's position.

Meanwhile, state BJP chief Chandrakant Patil announced Mr Kathore, who represents Murbad seat in Thane district, as the Opposition's candidate for Sunday's election. Both Mr Patole and Mr Kathore are in their fourth term as MLA.

However, Mr Patole hoped he would be elected unopposed.

CAB trouble: Shah meets N-E CMs, political leaders

CAB may not affect protected tribal areas

AGE CORRESPONDENT with agency inputs NEW DELHI NOV. 30

Union home minister Amit Shah on Saturday held discussion with leaders of political parties, students bodies and civil society groups of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh and Meghalaya on the contours of the proposed Citizenship Amendment

Bill (CAB). According to sources, chief ministers of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh and Meghalaya, Union minister Kiren Rijiju, and several MPs attended the meet-

ings separately. Most of the regional parties and civil society groups raised the issue of how CAB could affect the

Sources said the home minister has indicated to the lawmakers that the CAB may not affect the tribal areas protected by the Inner Line Permit (ILP) regime and those governed under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution. These areas may be exempted from the ambit of the proposed Bill, Mr Shah is believed to have conveyed to the delega-

Later, Assam minister Himanta Biswa Sarma reportedly though most of the civil groups opposed the earlier bill, the new the redrafted bill

Bhaskar Jyoti Mahanta is new Assam DGP in-charge

MANOJ ANAND

Assam-Meghalaya cadre IPS officer Bhaskar Jyoti Mahanta from 1988 has been appointed as the new director general of police (in-charge) of Assam.

In a notification issued by the home department of the Assam govern-ment on Friday stated that IPS officer Bhaskar Jyoti Mahanta is allowed to look after the current duties of DGP, Assam in addition to existing the S duties as the incumbent (Border).

will ensure that the inter- bouring countries.

tected.

nous people of Assam. said even have

DGP Kuladhar Saikia Mr Mananta in a ple function at DGP headquarters took over the office from Mr Saikia who expressed satisfaction over his tenure and thanked the people for their cooperation in managing the law and order situation of the state at various critical juncture.

Mr Mahanta, a 1988 batch IPS officer of the Assam-Meghalaya cadre, is presently serving as Special

ests of the ILP-regime areas and the Sixth Schedule areas are pro-

Mr Sarma also said separate legislation may be brought on the recommendations of a committee set up by the home ministry to look into the options of providing constitutional safeguards to the indige-

The Assam-based politi-cal party AIUDF, headed by Maulana Badruddin Ajmal, has opposed the bill, which aims to give citizenship to non-Muslim refugees from three neigh-

Former Arunachal Pradesh chief minister Nabam Tuki said they opposed the 2016 bill but if the new bill excludes the ILP-regime states, it can be considered. President of the All Bodo Students Union Pramod Boro said they have conveyed to the home minister that they opposed the CAB as it does not provide any safeguard to the tribal areas, sources said.

The home minister is holding meetings in the wake of strong protests in the Northeast against the

Maharashtra CM Uddhav Thackeray after the Shiv Sena-NCP-Congress alliance won the floor test in the Maharashtra Assembly in Mumbai on Saturday. -PTI■ Says will remain a Congress soldier 'Sulking' Scindia meets MP Nath, irons out differences

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY BHOPAL, NOV. 30

AICC general secretary Jyotiraditya Scindia — who recently kicked up a political storm by omitting Congress from his revised Twitter profile — Saturday put to rest speculations of snapping ties with his party saying, "I am a soldier of the Congress and will remain so"

Mr Scindia told reporters in Gwalior that unnecessary confusion had been created over his revised Twitter profile in which he had "rightfully" described himself as a "Jan Sevak"

or public servant.
"I am not quitting the Congress. I am a solider of Congress and will remain so," he said. Mr Scindia also hailed the Uddhav Thackeray-led coalition government in Maharashtra saying, "The new government will speed up development in the state".

In another development, the scion of the former royal family of Gwalior Saturday accompanied minister Kamal Nath in his copter, to and



AICC general secretary Jyotiraditya Scindia and Madhya Pradesh chief minister Kamal Nath at a wedding ceremony.

from the marriage ceremony of the son of local Congress MLA, Banbari Lal Sharma, in Morena, Madhya Pradesh.

Mr Scindia — who in recent times had written a series of letters to Kamal Nath, pulling him up for his failure on several fronts – thus quashed rumours of a growing rift between the two leaders. Sources said that the duo discussed a wide range of issues on the flight to and

from Morena.

This assumes significance, particularly in the wake of talks of the appointment of a new Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) chief in MP in the near future. Mr Nath had held the twin posts of chief minister and PCC president and recently announced quitting the party post to focus governance. Scindia, who lost the last Lok Sabha elections from Guna in MP, had been gunning for the party post.

■ BJP slams Bioara MLA's statement, seeks apology Pragya dares Cong MLA to torch her

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY BHOPAL, NOV. 30

Controversial Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MP from Bhopal Pragya Singh Thakur, an accused in 2008 Malegaon blast incident in which six people were killed and 100 others injured, on Saturday dared a Congress MLA in Madhya Pradesh to carry out his vow to burn her alive by announcing a

Pragya who was forced to apologise in the Lok Sabha twice for pur-

portedly calling Mahatma Gandhi's Nathuram Godse a patri-Saturday on announced that she would reach Bioara assembly constituency, represented by Congress MLA Gobardhan Dangi on December eight, throwing a challenge at the latter to set her on fire.

In another tweet, she called Dangi, a close associate of senior Congress leader Digvijaya Singh, whom she defeated in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls from Bhopal, a propagator of Gandhi's and



Sadhavi Pragya

Kamal Nath government's idea of non-violence". Mr Dangi had earlier that Pragya would be burnt alive if

she set foot in his con-

stituency. "We will burn her effigy and even burn her alive if she sets foot in the constituency", Mr Dangi had declared while staging a demonstration in Rajgarh in protest against the remarks on Godse by Pragya, a couple of days State Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) president

Rakesh Singh slammed Mr Dangi for his statement, saying that it was highly objectionable on the latter's part to threaten to resort to vio-

lence against a woman.



Citizenship (Amendment) Bill will dilute demography of North-East states

> Mukul Sangma, Former Meghalaya CM

2 women run over by truck in Amethi

Amethi: Two women were killed on Saturday after being run over by a truck when they fell on the road from a motorcycle due to a pothole, police said. According to SHO of Jagdishpur police station, Angad Singh, the accident took place in Almasganj area under the police station's jurisdiction when two women fell from a motorcycle as it hit a pothole, and were subsequently run over by the truck which was coming from behind them. The deceased have been identified as Sama Banu (20) and Sakur Banu (24), Singh said, and added that both of them died on

Patient found dead in Kolkata hospital

Kolkata: A 40-year-old patient of the Calcutta Pavlov Hospital was found hanging from an iron railing of a stairhead of the female ward, police said on Saturday. The patient, identified as Asha Verma, was on Friday evening found hanging with a piece of cloth from the iron railing of the stairhead room on the fourth floor of the female ward of the hospital, they said. The patient was rushed to a nearby hospital where she was declared brought dead, a police officer said. Following a court order, she was admitted to the hospital in May this year, he said.

— PTI

UPSET OVER INSULT, MINOR KILLS SELF

Ludhiana: Upset at being allegedly humiliated and beaten in front of the class by the school principal and a teacher for wearing tight and short pants, a minor student killed himself by hanging from a fan at his home near Ludhiana, police said Saturday. Dhananjay Tiwari took the extreme step Thursday night at his residence in Daba area. He was abused and thrashed by a school teacher, the principal and the school director for wearing short and tight pants, according to and FIR filed by his father Brij Raj Tiwari. The father has alleged that his son was beaten and humiliated in front of the whole class and was asked to stand outside the classroom as punishment by teacher Poonam. Police booked school principal Saroj Sharma, teacher Poonam and school director Prabhu Dutt, but no arrest has been made. Saroj and Dutt are couple. The boy had narrated the incident to his mother, who said her son had stopped going to school after he incident. Upset at the incident, he committed suicide by hanging from a fan in his home, the parents said in the complaint. - PTI

India & Japan corner Pak on terror support

Joint statement names Pak 'as source of terror'

SRIDHAR KUMARASWAMI NEW DELHI, NOV. 30

India and Japan on Saturday evening held their first-ever 2+2 dialogue at the foreign and defence ministerial level in New Delhi, after which the two countries asked Pakistan to act firmly against terrorism.

In a joint statement, the two countries noted "the threat posed to regional security by terrorist networks operating out of Pakistan and called upon it (Pakistan) to take resolute and irreversible action against them and fully comply with international commitments including to the (global anti-terror watchdog) Financial Action Task Force (FATF)". Obviously with an eye on China, both India and Japan also "reaffirmed the importance of freedom of navigation and overflight, unimpeded lawful commerce and peaceful resolution of disputes" in the South China Sea.

in the Indo-Japan Joint Statement on the terrorism issue is being seen as a major victory for India. Also, the reference to the South China Sea in the Indo-Japan Joint Statement is being seen in the context of China's military assertiveness in the region and is being viewed as extremely significant. In what is being seen as a reciprocal acknowledgement of Japanese security concerns, both countries also "condemned North Korea's recent launches of

The naming of Pakistan

ballistic missiles". India and Japan also announced that there had been "significant progress made in the negotiations of



Japan's defence minister Taro Kono sits in the cockpit of a fighter plane at the Air Force Station Hindon in Ghaziabad on Saturday.

Servicing Agreement (ACSA)" — a proposed logistics support agreement that will reportedly enable the armed forces of both countries to use facilities at each other's military bases. The two

countries expressed "desire for early conclusion of the negotiations and were of the view that the agreement will further contribute to enhancing defence cooperation between the two sides". It had earlier been decided to commence the negotiations for ACSA in October 2018. India currently has such a pact only with the United States and is also planning one with Russia. In another major development, it was announced that "the ministers also concurred to proceed with coordination for the first India-Japan joint fighter aircraft exercise in Japan". The 2+2 Dialogue was conducted from the Japanese side by Japan's Toshimitsu Motegi and defence minister Taro

Kono while external affairs

minister S. Jaishankar and

defence minister Rajnath

Singh and it was affirmed

strategic depth of bilateral security and defence cooperation". It was also decided to hold the next 2+2 ministerial meeting in Tokyo.

Saturday's Dialogue comes a couple of weeks ahead of the crucial Annual Summit to be held in India between Japanese PM Shinzo Abe and Prime Minister Narendra Modi. On the issue of terrorism including that emanating from Pakistan, the Joint Statement said, "The ministers condemned in the strongest terms the growing threat of terrorism and acknowledged that it constituted a major threat to peace and security in the region. The Ministers called upon all countries take resolute action in rooting out terrorist safe havens and infrastructure, disrupting terrorist networks and eliminating financing channels and halting cross-border movement of terrorists."

The Ministers underlined the need for all countries to ensure that all territory under their control is not used to launch terrorist attacks on other

2 Army soldiers dead in Siachen avalanche strike

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, NOV. 30

THE ASIAN AGE

In a second unfortunate incident within 15 days, two Indian Army personwere killed on Saturday after an avalanche hit their patrol at an altitude of about 18,000 feet in southern Siachen glacier.

"An Army patrol oper-

ating at an altitude of approximately 18,000 feet in Southern Siachen Glacier was hit by an avalanche during the early hours of 30 November 2019," said a statement by the Indian army. It said that an Avalanche Rescue Team following the immediately rushed and managed to locate and pull out all members of the patrol. Simultaneously, Army helicopters were pressed into service to evacuate

the avalanche victims. "However, despite best efforts by the medical teams, two Army personnel succumbed in the

avalanche," it said. Earlier on November

An Army patrol operating at an altitude of approximately 18,000 feet in Southern Siachen Glacier was hit by an avalanche during the early hours of Saturday

porters were killed in an avalanche in the north-ern part of the Siachen Glacier.

The Siachen Glacier in the Karakorum range is known as the highest militarised zone in the world where the soldiers have to battle frostbite and high winds.

Avalanches and landslides are common at the glacier during the winter and temperatures can drop to as low as minus 60 degrees Celsius

Indian army has lost 163 personnel, including six officers, in the Siachen Glacier, which is world's highest battlefield, during the last 10 years, according to a defence ministry state-18, four Indian Army personnel and two civilian ment in Parliament last year in March. — PTI

8 killed as pick-up van falls off bridge

Dhule, Nov. 30: Eight persons, including five children, were killed and 23 injured when a pick-up van carrying labour-ers from Madhya Pradesh fell off a bridge in north Maharashtra's Dhule distric.

The incident took place on Chalisagaon-Dhule highway near Vichur village around 12.30 am when the van driver lost

an attempt to avoid a pothole while crossing a bridge on the Bori river.

The vehicle hit parapet of the bridge, broke it and plunged into the river around 40 to 50 feet below, he said. As the van hit rocky riverbed, seven of the passengers died on the spot, while one woman died during

CAN FIN HOMES LTD

Above Rewari Co-operative Bank Near Hanuman Mandir Sohna Road, Dharuhera- 123106 PH: 01274-242381 / 297604 CIN: L8511OKA1987PLC008699

Rule 8(1)] POSSESSION NOTICE

[FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY]
Whereas, The undersigned being the authorized officer of the Can Fin Homes Ltd,
Dharuhera Branch, under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and
Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (Act 54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers
conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement)
Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice dated 02.09.2019 calling upon the Borrower's Mr. Vikas Chaturvedi S/o Mr. Gopal Chandra Chaturvedi, Mrs. Shalini Chaturvedi W/o Mr. Vikas Chaturvedi, Guarantor/s Mr. Nitin Kumar Singhal S/o Mr. M L Gupta to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs. 19,30,405/- (Rupees Nineteen Lakh Thirty Thousand Four Hundred Five Only) as on 0.109.2019 with further interest, expenses and other charges thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower/s, guarantor/s having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the

borrower/s, guarantor/s and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under sub-section (4) of section 13 of Act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on this 26th day of November of the year 2019.

The borrower/s, guarantor/s 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 the Can Fin Homes Ltd, Dharuhera Branch for an amount of Rs. 19,30,405/- (Rupees Nineteen Lakh Thirty Thousand Four Hundred Five Only) as on 01.09.2019 with

further interest, expenses and other charges thereon.

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.

DESCRIPTION OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY All that part and parcel of the Property i.e. Flat No. 105, First Floor, Plot No. 133, Khasra No. 3123, Dayanand Colony, Gurugram, District Gurugram, Owned by Mr. Vikas Chaturvedi S/o Mr. Gopal Chandra Chaturvedi & Mrs. Shalini Chaturvedi W/o Mr. Vikas Chaturvedi

with following boundaries: East: Flat No. 104, West: Flat No. 103 & Road, North: Road, South: Passage

Date: 30.11.2019, Place: Dharuhera Authorised Officer, Can Fin Homes Ltd

NORTH DELHI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

OFFICE OF THE EX. ENGINEER (M)-I/KPZ KESHAV PURAM: DELHI-110035 E-Mail ID: eem1kpz@gmail.com

NIT No. E.E.(M-I)/KPZ/TC/2019-20/40 DATED: 29.11.2019 NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Start date of sale/download of tender 29.11.19 upto 5:00 P.M.

Last date tender Document on line Submission

: 12.12.19 upto 11:00 A.M

Opening of financial Bid : 12.12.19 upto 11:15 A.M The Executive Engineer (M)-I/Keshav Puram invites on behalf of the

Commissioner, North DMC sealed percentage/item rate tenders from the approved and eligible contractors. The tenders will be opened on the website www.tenderwizard.com/NORTHDMCETENDER by Executive Engineer (M)-I/Keshav Puram. The rates hold good for 6 months S. No.1, Name of Work: Imp. to drainage system & lanes from H.No. 206 to AC-Block Market on AB/AC Block Road, Shalimar Bagh

(S) in Ward No. C-63/KPZ, Head of A/c: XI-VIII-S (d), Warranty of Maintenance Period: 5 Years, Tender Amt. (Rs.): 2613842/-Estimated Amt. (Rs.): 2826300/-, Earnest Money (Rs.): 52300/-, Time of Completion: 4 month, Cost of Tender (Rs.): 500/-S. No.2, Name of Work: Imp. to drainage system & lanes from H.No.

31 to 82 & 169 to 226 in AA- Block, 'Shalimar Bagh (S) Ward No. C- 63N/ KPZ. Head of A/c: XI-VIII-S (d), Warranty of Maintenance Period: 5 Years, Tender Amt. (Rs.): 3367156/-, Estimated Amt. (Rs.): 3640900/-Earnest Money (Rs.): 67400/-, Time of Completion: 4 month, Cost of

S. No.3, Name of Work: Imp. Walkway of park along H.No. 82 to 95 & lanes from H.No. 138 to 144, 154 to 170, 183, 210 to 215, 209 to 216 in BC East Block, Shalimar Bagh (S) in Ward No. C-63/KPZ. Head of A/c: XI-VIII-S (d), Warranty of Maintenance Period: 5 Years, Tender Amt. (Rs.): 3107763/-, Estimated Amt. (Rs.): 3360400/- Earnest Money (Rs.): 62200/-, Time of Completion: 4 month, Cost of Tender (Rs.): 500/-

Tender document can be down loaded online on website www tenderwizard.com/NORTHDMCETENDER for bidding by approved/

R.O. No. 171/North/DMC/2019-20

Ex. Engineer (M)-I/KPZ

India 'satisfied' with Gotabaya's Lanka assurance

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, NOV.30

India is satisfied over the assurances furnished by Sri Lankan President Gotabaya Rajapaksa that "India will remain his top priority and that he will not allow any third force to come in between cooperation" of the two countries, sources have indicated. The assurance is being seen as significant, given India's concerns over earlier move-ment of Chinese submarines in Sri Lankan waters and also the fast increasing Chinese footprint in the island nation. New Delhi also appears relieved by the assurances, due to the perceived earlier proximity of the Rajapaksa brothers (President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa) towards China. PM Modi — after holding extensive talks with President Rajapaksa in the Capital on Friday — had said both countries "should be alert to each other's security concerns and

Assurance is being seen as significant, given India's concerns over the fast increasing Chinese footprint in the island nation

sensitivities". New Delhi also seems quite pleased that President Rajapaksa said his country "will continue to work closely with India to ensure that Ocean Indian

remains a zone of peace".

The Lines of Credit (LoCs) announced by India are also being seen as an effort to counter the Chinese financial muscle in the island nation. PM Modi had on Friday announced a new \$400 million Line of Credit (LoC) to Sri Lanka for infrastructure development, a separate "special" \$50 million LoC to help Sri Lanka boost its fight against terrorism and also swift activation of an earlier announced \$100 million for solar projects in the island

Bhopal/Agar Malwa, Nov. 30: In an embarrassment for the Madhya Pradesh government, the name of a policeman, who died over two weeks back, appeared in the transfer order issued recently.

Chhotelal Tomar, who was posted in Soyatkala police station of Agar Malwa, died on November 12 following a

On November 28, the state police headquarters issued a list for the transfer of sub-inspectors, as per which Tomar was transferred to Gwalior

However, after transfer order went viral on the social media and sparked ridicule, the police department blamed Tomar's kin for informing them late about his death.

Opposition BJP, which has been frequently

In MP, dead cop's name appears in transfer list

Sub-inspector prolonged illness.

from Agar Malwa.

accusing the Kamal Nath government of running "transfer industry" in the state, said, "The state government has made an unprecedented progress in the field of transfers."

— PTI

Modi govt claims Ram temple as achievement

NITIN MAHAJAN NEW DELHI, NOV. 30

The unanimous verdict of Supreme Court of India on Ram Janmabhoomi, clearing way for construction of a grand Ram temple, is one of the biggest achievements that is being claimed by the Narendra Modi government in its campaign on the social media marking completion of six months of its tenure. The campaign

The campaign, "Phenomenal Six Months of Modi 2.0", launched today also lists achievements like Abrogation of Article 370, implementation of triple talaq bill, Ayushman Bharat, subsidies to farm-ers under PM Kisan Samman Nidhi.

Sources stated that the attempts would be made by

'Phenomenal Six Months of Modi 2.0' also lists achievements like Abrogation of Article 370, implementation of triple talaq bill, Ayushman Bharat, subsidies to farmers under PM Kisan Samman Nidhi

The campaign,

both the government and the Bharatiya Janata Party to bring out the people policies Narendra Modi government in front of the masses. Cabinet ministers and senior BJP functionaries have been tasked with projecting these achievements before masses, Minister

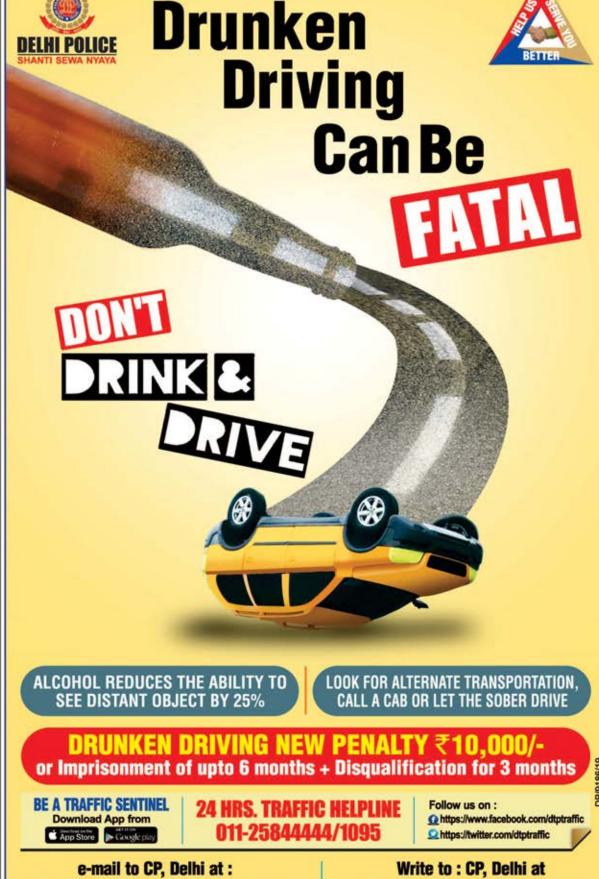
ferred the global goalkeeper award by bill and Melinda gates foundation for his swachch bharat initiative is also one of the achievements being projected as a major achievement of first six months. Another major highlight would be setting up of the Jal Shakti ministry to ensure potable water supply to people.

In a series of tweets, Prime Minister Narendra Modi also pointed out that the dispensation has taken numerous decisions that have pushed the country's development, accelerated social empowerment and enhanced unity. In a series of tweets using the hashtag "6monthsofIndiafirst", the prime minister said the government "aspires to do even

more in the times to come" As part of the campaign the elected representatives have also been tasked with bringing it to the notice of people that the Parliament is working extra time to ensure welfare of people. "The Budget Session of Lok Sabha has been the most productive ever, which was the first session of 17 Lok Sabha, was the most productive ever after 1952,' the campaign would elicit.

The campaign would also highlight the national security as focus area for the government. The leaders would also ensure that rural areas are made aware of the fact that india has refrained from signing Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership, providing relief to agricultural, industrial

and trade sector.



cp.amulyapatnaik@delhipolice.gov.in

P.O. Box No. 171, GPO, New Delhi





Isn't decline in GDP growth rate not indication of economic recession

> Ashok Gehlot, Rajasthan chief minister

SHORT TAKES

Minor boy hangs self in Ludhiana

Ludhiana: Upset over allegedly being humiliated and beaten in classroom before other students by the school principal and a teacher for wearing a body-hugging, ankle-length trouser, a minor student hanged himself to death at his home near Ludhiana. The incident left CM Amarinder Singh "anguished", prompt-ing him to order a probe into the alleged suicide by the 17-year-old Class 11 student. "Deeply anguished to hear of a Class 11 student committing suicide after facing harassment by teachers at school. Have directed Ludhiana deputy commissioner to personally look into the matter," said the CM in a tweet. — PTI

South Indian cine stars join BJP

Chennai: Actor Radha Ravi and actress Namitha joined the BJP here in the presence of its national working president J.P. Nadda. Radha Ravi, a former AIADMK MLA, had auit the DMK in March this vear after he was suspended for indiscipline and joined the ruling party again. Son of iconic yesteryear actor and a stalwart of the Dravidian movement "Nadigavel" M.R. Radha, Ravi had often switched loyalties between the main opposition DMK and the ruling party. Known for his controversial remarks on a number of issues, he was suspended from the DMK for an alleged sexist remark against actress Nayanthara. — PTI

160 drunk drivers arrested in Odisha

Bhubaneswar: Making its intention clear that no traffic violations and lapses as far as road safety is concerned will be tolerated, Odisha police arrested 160 drunk drivers following a massive crackdown launched in several parts of the state in the last 24 hours. DGP Satvaiit Mohanty on Saturday said that 160 persons were arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol. A highest of 27 drunk drivers

were arrested in Ganiam dis-

trict. A biker was also fined

PLAN TO REPATRIATE BRUS FAILS

Agartala: The latest initiative to send the Bru refugees living in relief camps in north Tripura back to Mizoram failed, as only 171 families of the targeted 4.447 returned to their homeland. The fate of around 32,000 inmates remaining in the camps now hangs in balance. The officials said free ration was distributed to the inmates of the camps at Kanchanpur and Panisagar sub-divisions for the last time on Saturday as, according to government instructions, it would be stopped from Sunday. Altogether 4,447 displaced Bru families were scheduled to return to neighbouring Mizoram from where they started fleeing since 1997 following ethnic clashes However, only around 844 members of 171 families moved back to Mizoram till November 22 during the exercise. "This ninth round of repatriation began on October 3 and ended today. It has been considered the last round. But, like the previous rounds, this one too failed to take the displaced people back to Mizoram," an official said. "A pall of gloom has descended in the camps following the government's

announcement that no ration

People's Forum general sec-

would be supplied to the

inmates from tomorrow.

Mizoram Bru Displaced

retary Bruno Msha said.

Assam to set up RAF teams to end man-elephant conflict

359 died in last 4 years ■ Each team will be equipped with arms

MANOJ ANAND

Bogged down by growing incidents of man-elephant conflicts, the Assam forest department has decided to form a team of rapid action force (RAF) in each forest division of the state to curb the menace.

Pointing out that a total of 359 people died in manelephant conflicts in past four years, Assam forest minister Parimal Suklabaidya said that during the last four years, around 1,169 incidents of

man-elephant conflict were reported in the state. Each RAF team will be equipped with arms and other equipment to tackle the situation, the minister said. "Man-animal conflict is now becoming a common phenomenon in Assam and the north-eastern region," he added.

SPG Act Bill

may come

next week

up in RS

Sabha.

gnition of Property Rights of Residents in

Unauthorised Colonies

Bills, all passed by the Lok Sabha," an official release said.

The SPG amendment

bill says that Special Protection Group will

Prime Minister and

members of his immedi-

ate family residing with

him at his official resi-

dence. The bill also pro-

vides that SPG will give

security to former Prime Minister and his

immediate family mem-

bers residing with him

at the residence allotted

to him for five years

from the date he ceases

to hold the office. — ANI

covide security to the



died in 2017, 98 in 2018 and 87 died this year so far. Similarly, 263 incidents were reported in 2016, 398 in 2017, 293 in 2018 and 215 in this year so far," Mr Suklabaidya said.

There are 13-14 forest divisions out of 33 divisions in the state where more such incidents have been reported during the

the situation and reduce the incidents, we are now going to form a rapid action force. Few forest department personnel will be deployed. We will provide vehicles, guns and other equipment to them. The entire process will be completed within a week. We will try to deploy at least one Rapid Action Force team in each place and they will alert 24

Asserting that his gov-

ernment has initiated various measures to reduce the conflict situation in the forest areas, the minister, however, claimed that such incidents have gradually declined in the state in comparison to previous

THE ASIAN AGE

Elephant Kaushik Barua however attribute this to shrinkage of elephant habitat.

'Although elephants and human beings are two different species, they have the common requirement of land. For whatever reasons, there is a growing shrinkage of land," he

Referring that as many as 62 elephants have died in the state since January this year and altogether 63 people have been killed in conflict, Mr Barua was not sure if measures like RAF would help ion reduc-

Israel firm apologises to DRDO for missile jibe

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, NOV. 30

New Delhi, Nov. 30: The Israel's Rafael Advanced bill to amend the SPG Act and the legislation Defence Systems has apologised to the Defence Research to provide ownership rights to people in unau-thorised colonies of Delhi are likely to come D e v e l o p m e n t Organisation (DRDO) for questioning its programme to develop man up for discussion in Rajya Sabha next week. portable Anti-Tank Guided Missiles (ATGM), The bill to amend SPG Act and on ownership saying it was unintended. rights to unauthorised "We apologise for any

colonies have already been passed by Lok unintended communication that has triggered emotional misbalance," said a late night press release issued by its PR "The Upper House is likely to take up next week the Special rrotection Group
(Amendment) Bill, the
Dadra and Nagar Haveli
and Daman and Diu
Merger Bill and the
National Capital
Territory of D firm on Friday. The statement said that Rafael Advanced Defense System affirms and applauds the work done by DRDO in National Capital Territory of Delhi (Reconologies for India.

record that our collective effort will bring in the best in class technologies that will strengthen India's defence systems," said the statement.

Rafael said it remains fully committed to its partner DRDO and dis-plays Indo-Israel robust and long-term relationship that fosters joint development of products

for tomorrow.

The clarification comes after DRDO on Friday had reacted angrily after a statement by the Israeli-Indian joint venture firm challenged the need for its programme to develop ATGM as the Army

ner somewnere on the

way. The woman's med-

Saturday confirmed rape, the sub inspector said. Her statement has

been recorded and her

relatives in Karnataka

have been informed, he

A search was under way to trace the truck

driver who was at large,

examination on

The Indian Army has acquired 210 man portable anti-tank Spike missiles to be deployed at the border with Pakistan from

Israel's Rafael Advanced Defence Systems, which has established a joint venture with the Kalyani Group in India. Indian Army on Wednesday test fired two newly-acquired Spike missiles at the Infantry School at Mhow, Madhya Pradesh.

India had shelved plans to buy ATGM from private firm in favour of indigenous development by the DRDO. However, to meet urgent security requirement Army acquired Spike missiles from Rafael.



RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav helps RLSP chief Upendra Kushwaha break his indefinite fast in Patna on Saturday as Loktantrik Janata Dal leader Sharad Yaday looks on.

Cops raid Naxal camp in Maha, two rebels killed

Gadchiroli, Nov. 30: The police raided a training camp of Naxals in Maharashtra's Gadchiroli district on Saturday and killed two rebels in an encounter, officials said.

The encounter took place in early hours in Bhamragad area, which borders on Chhattisgarh, ahead of the ₹Peoples Liberation Guerrilla Liberation Guerrilla Army (PLGA) Week' which the Naxals observe from December 2 to 8, an official said.

The identity of slain Naxals was yet to be ascertained, he added. The skirmish took place when a patrolling party of Gadchiroli police's C-60 commandos was conducting a combing operation in Abujmad forest on Bhamragad side, he said.

Commandos came upon Naxals' training camp where preparations were underway for PLGA week, he said.

The Naxals opened fire on the commandos, leading to hour-long gun battle, he said. Identity of slain Naxals was yet to be ascertained. The skirmish took place when a police team was conducting a combing operation in Abujmad forest on Bhamragad side

After Naxals fled from the spot, the C-60 team conducted a search operation, during which bodies of two Naxals were found. "Two Naxals were killed

in counter-firing by the C-60 commandos. firearms, ammunition like blasting material, detonators, pressure bombs, wiring, battery were recovered from the spot alongwith sizable quantities of food staples such as rice and dal," Shailesh Balkawade, superintendent of police, Gadchiroli, told PTI.

"We have destroyed a camp where at least 80 Naxals were undergoing training," he said.

First night trial of Agni-III missile Balasore (Odisha), Nov. said. The missile, which missile's

30: The first night trial of the nuclear capable Agni-III surface-to-surface ballistic missile was carried out from a mobile launcher at the Integrated Test Range at the A.P.J. Kalam Island off Odisha coast on Saturday, defence

sources said. The trajectory of the missile is being moni-tored and the outcome of the trial is awaited, the sources said.

The flight test of the intermediate range missile, which has a strike range of over 3,500 km, was part of a user trial by the Army, the sources

has a length of 17 m, diameter of 2 metre and launch weight of around 50 tonnes, has been already inducted into the armed forces, the sources said. The trial was carried out

by the Strategic Forces

Command of the Indian Army with logistic support from the Defence Research and D e v e l o p m e n t Organisation (DRDO) at launch complex-4 of the

ITR at about 1920 hrs, the sources said.

"It was the fourth user trial in the Agni-III series carried out to establish the repeatability of the

performance. For the first time the test was conducted during source said.

It is powered by a twostage solid propellant system and is capable of car rying a warhead of 1.5 tonnes which is protected by carbon all composite heat shield, they said. Agni-III is equipped with

hybrid navigation, guidance and control systems along with advanced onboard computer. The electronic systems

are hardened for higher vibration, thermal and acoustic effects, a DRDO scientist said.

UP mining scam: ED set to quiz **BSP MLC**

AGE CORRESPONDENT

Enforcement Directorate (ED), probing the illegal sand mining case in Saharanpur district (Uttar Pradesh), is all set to question former BSP MLC Haji Iqbal and his family members.
The ED has already
booked Mohammad
Wajid, son of Haji Iqbal, and two IAS officers in connection with the case.

Sources said, "Mohammed Wajid, is one of the beneficiaries of the scam, who is named as an accused in the ED's case. It is suspected that former BSP MLC and his other family members also played crucial role in the illegal sand mining in Saharanpur district. Haji

Iqbal may be called for questioning very soon". The other accused named in the FIR include Mehmood Ali, Dilshad, Mohammed Inam, Late Mehboob Alam, Naseem Ahmad, Amit Jain, Vikas Agarwal, Mukesh Jain and Puneet Jain. The ED also named two senior IAS officers—Ajay Kumar Singh and Pawan Kumar—serving as secretaries in the UP government, as accused in the case. The case per-tains to the alleged irregularities in renewal of sand mining leases in Saharanpur district dur-

In 2012, the state under Akhilesh Yadav had floated a policy of e-tendering in the allocation and renewal of sand mining leases. The order dated May 31, 2012, also cancelled all its prior orders pertaining to the grant and renewal of sand mining leases under the UP Minor Minerals Concession Rules, 1963.

ing the SP rule.

Mothers want accused punished

Woman from Karnataka

raped in U'khand's Tehri

New Tehri, Nov. 30: A the truck driver who

woman from Karnataka was allegedly raped by a truck driver in had given her a lift, Rawat said, adding that the driver later dumped

said.

he added.

AGE CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, NOV. 30

After learning that their sons were accused of the gang-rape and murder of aveterinary doctor, their mothers said they felt no mercy for them. They would accept it if their sons were punished.

Ms Moula Bi, the mother of prime accused Mohammed alias Areef, told the media: "My son came home at about 1 am on Friday. He said he had an accident and a girlhad died. He took a bath and went to sleep. Within two hours, the police came andtook him away in a car. I accept that my son has done a mistake.'

Uttarakhand's Tehri dis-

trict, a police official

said on Saturday. The 28-year-old woman

ran away from her home

in Karnataka after a fight with her family,

According to a complaint lodged by the

woman with Kandisaur

Police, she was raped by

Kandisaur

Singh Rawat said.

Inspector

Surendra

Mohammed, a resident of Jakkulare village, has been working as a driver for five years. The mother of J. Naveen

said, "He left on Wednesday to work and did not return. I do not take my son's side. If such a thing happens to my daughter, I would react in the same way. He has done a mistake. Punish my son as you do the others. Whatever the punishment is, it should be equal to him." Ms Jayamma, the mother of C. Moula Bi, the mother of prime accused Areef, told the media: 'My son came home at about 1 am on Friday. He said he had an accident and a girl had died. He took a bath and went to sleep.'

Chennakeshavulu and resident of Gudigandla, said, "My son was sleeping at home when Areef called him to unload a lorry. On Friday, the police came to my home and took him.

My son will not do this, he is innocent. If he had done anything wrong, punish him. A mother has lost her daughter and it is not right for me to say that I want to save my son.' Chennakeshavulu's

younger sister said that her brother was not working due to a kidney ail-"Areef took him with

him. He does not even have a drinking habit. He stopped consuming alco-Nims (Nizam's Institute of Medical Sciences). He would not have done anything wrong.

Uddhav govt sails through floor test

■ Continued from Page 1 the state. It is not possible to work without their blessings," he said.

'There was some pressure before coming to the House as I did not have the experience of working in the House but only on the ground. But after what I witnessed today, I can say that battles on the ground are better," Mr Thackeray

Though it was an easy triumph for Mr Thackeray, he witnessed the rigours of the legislative proceedings on his first day in the House. The BJP MLAs created a ruckus in the Vidhan

Sabha by questioning the validity of the session, oath taken by the ministers, appointment of the pro tem speaker and the floor test.

Soon after the proceedings began, Mr Fadnavis said that not only the session was held unlawfully, but the ministers also violated rules while taking the oath. He contended that the new government has flouted rules and even constitutional provisions

in each of its actions. "Business is being transacted in the House in violation of the Constitution. The session itself is not in line with the rules. Since played out after the last session, this means it ended sine die. A summons was required to be issued through the governor to convene a new session but that was not the case," Mr Fadnavis said. He also claimed that the oath-taking ceremony of Mr Thackeray and six

ministers on Thursday was also not in line with the rules. "Some took Balasaheb Thackeray's name, others took names of Sonia Gandhi and Sharad Pawar. The oath was not taken as per the given format," the former chief minister

national anthem was added. The BJP leader also objected to replacement of Kolambkar as the pro-tem speaker with Mr Walse Patil. "Such a replacement was done as the Shiv Sena-NCP-Congress alliance was scared of losing the floor test, he said in the House. However, Dilip Walse-Patil rejected his claims and asserted that the session was being held according to the directions of the Supreme Court. The Shiv Sena, Congress

and NCP leaders slammed Mr Fadnavis and his party for not remaining present in the House to congratulate Mr Thackeray.

'12 global firms want to shift base from China to India' Mumbai, Nov. 30: Finance

Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Saturday said about 12 global companies have evinced interest to shift their base from China to India, taking advantage of competitive tax rate of 15 per cent announced recently.

In a biggest reduction in

28 years, the government in September reduced corporate tax rate by almost 10 percentage points in a bid to give a boost to sagging economy. Base corporate tax for

existing companies has been reduced to 22 per cent from 30 per cent, and for new manufacturing firms incorporated after October 1, 2019 and starting operation before March 31, 2023, it was slashed to 15 per cent from 25 per cent. "I had said that I will form a task group, which will look into those companies which want to get out of China, and in the meanwhile I announced the corporate tax cut. There were many companies which were showing interest and wanting to come back.

"So, this task force has already started contacting many of these companies. The last count, I came to know was about 12 of them have already been spoken to, their minds



Nirmala Sitharaman

understood, their expectation listed out so that the government can come up with a concrete offer for them to shift from where they are now, so that the ecosystems can get built here, new industries can come," she said.

The minister said the word that was given for bringing newer industries, which are moving out of China, is actively moving forward. "And I am sure, I will be

able to report some progress on that," she

With regard to investment of ₹100 lakh crore in the next 5 years, she said, the task force will come out with a list 10 major infrastructure projects by December 15 and investment in these projects

would be front-loaded. "We made sure that a set of officers were looking into pipeline that can be readied, so that once the fund is ready and it will be In a biggest reduction in 28 years, the government in September reduced corporate tax rate by almost 10% points in a bid to give a boost to sagging economy

front-loaded...That task is near completion," Sitharaman said.

Before December 15, she said the government will be able to announce the front-loading of at least a

10 major projects. The finance ministry in September set up a task force headed by economic affairs secretary to prepare a road map for the ʻnational infrastructure pipeline" from 2019-20 to 2024-25 under a Rs 100 lakh crore infra plan. The task force expected to cover greenfield and brownfield projects costing above ₹100 crore each.

The finance minister also listed some of the measures taken by the government to boost consumption and liquidity in the system since August this year.

Talking about the GDP growth rates, she expressed hope that the next numbers should be

THE ASIAN AGE

INDIA'S NRC PUZZIF.

The failed Assam NRC exercise should jolt the government into realising the disastrous effects if implemented nationally. Introducing a majoritarian agenda into it should not be an alibi for addressing the pressing demands of a deprived population

NRC CAN'T BE INDIA'S TOP PRIORITY NOW



Valson Thampu

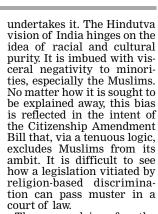
ssam witnessed a mas-Asive citizen-verification exercise, involving over 50,000 personnel, and costing ₹1,600 crore to the national exchequer. It came a cropper. Nineteen lakh people were rendered stateless. Most of those excluded turned out to be from the majority community, which politically embarrassed its initiators. The trauma the whole exercise inflicted on them can be imagined. Ask a school student what it feels like to be sent out of a classroom for a period. Then guess for yourself what it means to be plucked out by the ironhanded monster of a state from where you lived, rooted for years and decades, and cast into the limbo of statelessness.

One would have thought that the Assam NRC exercise was a case for pausing to rethink the logic and dynamics of the exercise. Not so, for our redoubtable Home Minister, to whom it is, instead, an excuse for upgrading it to a national exercise. The logic is: because we couldn't pull it off in respect of a small state with 35.4 million people, let's extend it to 1,300 million people spread all over India. One can only hope that, unlike in the case of Assam, this mammoth exercise, if undertaken, would not be found worse enough to warrant a repeat verification. The country can ill-afford it.

The idea of the NRC per se is welcome, though where it should figure in our order of priorities is a matter of opinion. Strictly from a political point of view, the need to safeguard the demographic purity of the country, warding off cross-border migrations, is a sensible responsibility. What queers up its political pitch is its presumed bearing on the electoral fortunes of parties. Aside of this, the Indian culture has been for millennia distinguished itself for its hospitality. Welcoming and ministering to guests guest being free of all labels – was, in our culture, a spiritual value (Atiti devo bhava). What underlies this worldview of genial hospitality is the insight that we are but wanderers on the earth, and that our ownership of land is an illusion, a play of maya. In comparison, the Semitic faiths — Judaism, Christianity, Islam were more rooted in the land, the reason they became more inhospitable to diversities. This negativity to the 'other' went deep into European nationalism, plunging Europe, and the rest of the world, into two

World Wars. Somehow, it doesn't carry conviction when the ruling dispensation rationalises its commitment to pan-Indian-NRC on the alibi that it was from the UPA bottle that the genie of NRC sprang out, in the first place. As poet Kabir said, the public perception of an action is coloured by who

Monstrous overexpectations, raised and belied, can turn into a monster of public disenchantment. The failure to deliver needs to be obfuscated from public awareness with surgical strikes, abrogation of Article 370 and things like that



The compulsion for the NDA government to unfurl the panoply of the NRC nationally is at its zenith at the present time. This exercise, when slanted ideologically, is sure to stoke nationalist sentiments across India. The key to this is found in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's image as the crusader against 'corruption'. In a secular context corruption pertains to material misappropriations. In the ideological environment of Hindutva, 'corruption' has cultural, religious and ethnic overtones. It is quite easy to persuade the masses that the presence of the 'other' is a source of corruption. This is the logic at work in projecting Congressmukt Bharat as a national goal; its resonance stemming from the stigmatisation of the Congress — the political otnercorruption.

Otherness is corruption. In such a context, the NRC exercise appeals — despite its unimaginably high cost and daunting logistic challenges — emotionally to a nation-wide constituency.

It is almost certain that when the home minister announced in Parliament that the NRC will cover the whole of India, he was already in the know of the worrisome state of our economy. Today we know that the GDP growth for Q2 stands at 4.5 per cent; a formidable half per cent below the worst-case scenario that the former minister, finance Chidambaram, had dicted it would be. The developmental track-record of the Modi-Shah dispensation, index after index, belies the grand-standing in that connection. Popular political goodwill can melt in quick time under the heat of harsh lived realities. Monstrous over-expectations, raised and belied, can turn into a monster of public disenchantment. More so today when sentiments and attitudes, if Alvin Toffler is believed, are disconcertingly short-lived. The failure to deliver needs to be, hence, obfuscated from public awareness with a series of adrenalin shots: surgical strikes. Balakot attack (ghar, ghar ghuskarke maroonga), abrogation of Article 370 and the re-hashing of a state into centrally administered territories, and so on. 'Chanakyashastra', if you like, of this kind is like a top: it has to spin to stand upright. To stop spinning is to tip and to fall aside.

It yields electoral dividends for a party in the short run. But, it turns good governance into a teasing illusion for the people. Nobody's quality of life improves because of a surgical strike, or a thousand of its kind. The security environment neither of Jammu and Kashmir nor of the rest of India improves because a



People enquire about the documents to be submitted at a foreigners tribunal in Assam.

state has been sliced down paigns. Doing a head count is the middle or unequally. The cultural kaleidoscope of human collectivity,





unity-in-diversity, tolerance and socio-spiritual resilience, will gain nothing because of an NRC.

Instead, we could even end up as losers in the long run. The least of that loss will be the diversion of the sorely needed resources from the urgent priorities on the ground to the NRC white elephant. The real loss will be the erosion of our emotional and social cohesion as a nation. Getting infected with phobias and negativities towards those different from oneself is not a sign of vitality but of paranoia. Diversity is not a liability. It's an asset. I was associated with St. Stephen's College, Delhi, for four decades. Its strength and greatness is that it is a microcosmic representation of the diversity of India. About 37 languages are spoken on its campus! Students from all states and UTs live on the campus. I cannot think of an educational institution that is homogenised in the composition of its student body or

So, there is this little thing that history tells us. In the past, whenever Census exercises were undertaken by imperialistic states, they presaged military

faculty in terms of language,

religion, social status or gen-

is why it is done. The casting away of a few million human beings into the misery of statelessness may seem, for the time being, a shot in the arm for hot-air jingoism. But, surely, no one expects that the morsels of food thus saved, or the land freed up from 'illegal occupation, of the citizens of India. We could be, for all we know, poorer for becoming that much more narrow-minded and intolerant of differ-

> (The writer is former principal of St Stephen's College, New Delhi)

After the final list of **Supreme Court** monitored NRC in Assam was published, the 19,06,657 people who were declared stateless. could get certified copies of their rejection to approach nearly 100 foreigners tribunals for further claim of their citizenship.

the Indian Constitution and Indian Citizenship Act, 1955, lay down various provisions relating to citizenship. Articles 5 to 10 of the Indian Constitution and Sections 3 to 10 of the Citizenship Act, 1955, speak of the provisions for acquisition and termination of citizenship. In India, citizenship can be acquired by birth, descent, registration, naturalisation and incorporation of territory. Similarly, citizenship can be terminated by renunciation, acquisition of citizenship in another country and by deprivation. Article

both these latter countries are as strong as that of the other three countries. Even the choice of religious persecution to the 11 of the Constitution exclusion of other grounds grants power to Parliament is not a valid one. So far

POWER TO REGULATE CITIZENSHIP CAN'T BE EXERCISED ARBITRARILY



Resmitha Ramachandran

A right is not what some one gives you, it is what no one can take from you – Ramsey Clark

The only title in a democracy that is superior to the President is the title of citizen, said Louis Brandeis in 1937. Even though the words of Brandeis were in the democratic context of United States of America, it has resonance in our country, as all important offices like the President of India, Vice-President, Prime Minister, judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts etc. can be held only by a citizen. Therefore, 'citizen' is the only "person" who enjoys full civil and political rights guaranteed by the laws of the land.

to regulate citizenship by law. But, none of these provisions, including the power of Parliament to regulate citizenship can be exercised arbitrarily to grant/deny citizenship to any person in India, as Article 14 of the Constitution guarantees "equality before law" and "equal protection" of laws to "any person" within India. However, the current attempt by the NDA to

revive the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, by amending the Citizenship Act, 1955, to grant citizenship only to Hindus, Sikhs, Budhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians (excluding Muslims) Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan facing reli-gious persecution and who had migrated to India without valid

travel

uments or

government

period of their

travel documents
has expired during
their long stay in
India makes very

serious violations of

very same government

is fighting a ruthless

battle in the apex

court to oust the

Rohingya Muslim

migrants who are

the worst persecut-

ed community in

the world in the

It is pertinent that

has not given a

cogent reasoning for discriminating

government

recent times.

between people who are facing religious per-

secution from that of oth-

ers OR for discriminating

between the immigrants of

the proposed three countries and the rest OR for

distinguishing Muslim and

non-Muslim migrants. The

extend it magnanimity nei-

ther to the Muslims from

these three countries nor to

immigrants from Sri Lanka

or Myanmar even though

historic and ethnic links to

government refuses

have got a strong secular foundation. The attempt to distinguish between the Muslims and non-Muslims in granting citizenship without the determining principles is aimed at mak-ing the Indian secular mosaic with different people, different beliefs, different yearnings and different dreams into a homogenous identity subservient to the anti-Muslim majoritarian Hindutva dictates. In history, a shockingly analogous similarity can be seen in the Nazi propaganda promoting the "national community" and identifying who shall be excluded. It must be remembered that the campaigns of the Nazi regime which instigated hatred were successful in creating an atmos-phere tolerant to violence against Jews. India,

Indian citizenship laws

C A B and the talks of NRC coupled with continuous mob lynching and violence against Muslims are literally tak-ing the country to such a dangerous juncture.

The only hope and refuge against such a sectarian approach is the courts of this country where the vires of the law (if successfully passed) can be tested in the touch stone of the Constitution. Generally, the courts keep a self-imposed restraint in the pieces of legislations being passed by the competent legislatures. But, of course, since Royappa (AIR 1974 SC 555), the courts have shown a least tolerant attitude towards very arbitrary legislations based upon unjust and unreasonable classifications based upon wide discretions. Discretion is no more an unruly horse carrying on its back the administration amuck with power. Hence, the government will have to convince the court on the intention of the subject of the legislation excluding Muslims from acquiring citizenship.

The government has to answer the court as how Ahmadiyas Pakistan, Xingjiang Muslims in China, Hazaras Xingjiang in Afghanistan and Muslim Rohingyas in Myanmar are outside the scope of religiously persecuted. The government also will have to find answers in vain to address the question as to how the religiously persecuted in three selected countries are different from the religiously persecuted in the other countries. Last but not the least, the government will also have to have an unabashed answer to the aspect as how it can change the secular criteria in granting citizenship by breaking even the basic structure of the Constitution.

(The writer is a lawyer in the Supreme Court)

THE CITIZENSHIP

■ The Citizenship Amendment Bill proposes changes to the Citizenship Act, 1955 in Section 2 in Sub Section (1) after Clause (b) as follows: "Provided that person belonging to minority communi-ties namely Hindus, Sikhs, Budhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians from Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan who have been exempted by or under clause (c) of sub section (2) of Section 3 of the Passport (Entry into India) Act, 1920 or from the application of the provisions of the Foreigners Act, 1946, shall not be treated as illegal migrants.

AMENDMENT BILL

I SPELL MY NAME AS 'AAKAR' BUT IN MY BIRTH CERTIFICATE IT IS 'AKAR'. IN MY ELECTRICITY BILL IT IS 'AKKAR'... IN MY VOTER ID CARD, AAKAR PATEL IS ONE WORD. IN MY OLD PASSPORT MY FATHER'S NAME IS 'ANIL' AND THE NEW ONE HAS 'ANAIL'... IF YOU ARE IN ASSAM, THESE MISTAKES COULD COST YOU YOU'R CITIZENSHIP AND YOU **COULD BE JAILED...WITH A NATION-**WIDE NRC, THERE COULD BE 1,000 MORE FOREIGNERS TRIBUNALS. IF THIS **IS DAMAGE CAUSED BY 100 TRIBUNALS** IN ONE STATE, THINK WHAT WILL HAP-PEN WHEN IT GOES NATIONWIDE

AAKAR PATEL, executive director at **Amnesty India**

SUNDAY | 1 DECEMBER 2019 | NEW DELHI

THE ASIAN AGE

1 DECEMBER 2019



As Pak flounders, try a measure of grace

The English language borrowed one its most frightening words from German. The word is *schadenfreude*, and it means "joy in the suffering of someone else", and the feeling is increasingly common amongst India's ultra-nationalists.

You might ask why it's frightening. Here's why: people – and countries – in deep trouble tend to lash out indiscriminately, endangering everyone in

the neighbourhood. So, for example, when the Pakistanis find themselves in a hole, it's not seemly for India's leaders to gloat, or to threaten.

And the Pakistanis are in a very deep hole. Their government is broke, and finds it difficult to borrow money from anyone except the Chinese, who do only for the CPEC project. The country's civilian government, which follows its army's orders rather than vice versa, is under threat from the fragmented opposition that has begun to show signs of unity. The leaders of two of its most important political parties are in custody and seriously ill, and the death of either of them would bring on wave of unrest that is likely at least to end Imran Khan's naive, amateurish, and emotional reign. Then there's the shadow of terrorism, most of it homegrown.

But that's not all. The headlines here, dominated by Maharashtra and its government, spoke largely of the controversy surrounding the extension of General Bajwa's term by three years, and very little of the tensions underlying this seemingly innocuous order.

Well, it's not innocuous by any means. In the first place, the order itself, a one-paragraph document signed by none other than Imran Khan himself, is seriously out of order. Pakistan's army chief reports to his President, not the Prime Minister, and the order is, well, amateurish, reinforcing the appropriateness of Imran Khan's nickname from his Oxford days, Im the Dim.

Second, it meant that over a dozen lieutenant generals – 17, according to an informed observer – in the Pakistani army were denied a shot at running the army and the country. Third, it got the Supreme Court of Pakistan involved, which matters because Chief Justice Asif Saeed Khan Khosa has a substantial spine. Back in 2007, he was suspended from the Labora High Court for refusing to take a fresh each of office under Courts. Lahore High Court for refusing to take a fresh oath of office under General Musharraf's Provisional Constitutional Order, and restored to office the next year after a lawyers' movement to restore "deposed judges" to their respective offices.

Justice Khosa's order of November 28 gives Imran Khan's government six months to develop credible legislative and procedural means to take care of the extension of their army chief's tenure, which is essential breathing space.

This breathing space is essential because there's another cloud on the Pakistani horizon. The special court that tried ex-President Musharraf was due to announce its verdict about the same time, but the Supreme Court held it back. The Pakistani army will not, under any circumstances, countenance one of its most aggressive former leaders being locked up for treason. It would much rather have him die without controversy in exile, as other leaders have done.

The army is also seething because, for the first time in Pakistani history, soldiers haven't got their annual raise. With inflation draining their funds, and more action due in future because of Operation Radd-ul-fasaad, meaning, roughly, "elimination of discord", which aims to finish the residual threat of terrorism in the country. Never mind that the operation's predecessor, Zarb-e-Azb, also aimed at wiping out terrorism, failed dismally. Never mind that the army has never learnt that dividing terrorists into good and bad doesn't work. The soldiers shoulder most of the risk, and nary a pay rise in sight.

Finally, the Pakistani response to India's Kashmir move sparked off a series of separatist threats. The Balochis, the Pashtuns, the Sindhis, the Mohajirs, and some Kashmiris in PoK all want to be rid of the Pakistanis. Indian hawks have predicted or threatened that India will take back PoK in the next few years, that Pakistan will break up into anything from three to six different pieces, and so on. Perhaps the most entertaining of these predictions come from astrologers. Pakistani astrologers predict the break-up of India in the next decade, and Indian astrologers predict the break-up of Pakistan in the next few years.

If you ask me, none of this talk of the break-up of Pakistan makes sense. The Chinese aren't going to let their huge investment in developing a warm-water port in Gwadar go down the tubes. Besides, a Pakistan in pieces, with nuclear arms scattered over three or four different countries, home to at least a dozen powerful terrorist organisations, is everybody's nightmare. We've got the examples of Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, and Syria

to learn from, and none of those has nuclear arms. Pakistani complaints of oppression of Muslims in Kashmir are purely for home consumption, and don't make sense. India's human rights record in Kashmir is well short of stellar, but contains nothing like what the Chinese are doing to Uighurs, or, for that matter, nothing like the kind of thing the Pakistanis do routinely to Balochis and Pashtuns and

So what does make sense?

In a word, water. Whoever controls the bits of Kashmir that India now controls also controls the Indus river system. The Indus Waters Treaty gives Pakistan the right to waters from the "western" rivers, and India the right to waters from the "eastern" rivers. These rivers feed Indian and Pakistani Punjab. If Kashmir ever secedes, Indian Punjab's waters – or Punjab itself – will be lost.

So we do whatever we must to keep Kashmir. That's a given. But threatening the Pakistanis openly, publicly, with cutting off their water will only harden their resolve to take Kashmir. Don't rub their noses in it. Forget schadenfreude. Try a little kindness instead.

Shashi Warrier has written fairy tales, thrillers, a semi-fictional biography, satires, and a love story. Besides writing, he teaches strategic communication at a business school.





THE ASIAN AGE

Make an example of Pragya to battle hate



Pavan K. Varma

Chanakya's View

n January 30, 1948, a little over 5 pm, in New Delhi, Nathuram Godse pumped three bullets into the fragile body of Mahatma Gandhi. Within seconds, one of the greatest messiahs of peace the world has seen was lying lifeless. It was a crime that shocked the conscience of the world. A nation was left bereft, a world orphaned. But, today we have Pragya Singh Thakur, the BJP MP elected from Bhopal, referring to Godse as a deshbhakt, a patriot. She has said this not once, but twice, the sec-ond time from the floor of the Lok Sabha. What she said is on record. The Speaker may have expunged her remarks, but the House heard what she said. Her lame excuse that she has been misquoted, convinces no one, not even the party. Rajnath Singh, the Raksha Mantri, and J.P. Nadda, the working president of the BJP, condemned her remarks. She was withdrawn from the membership of the consultative committee of the defence ministry. It is said that the party is planning to take further disciplinary action against her.

What Pragya Thakur said is important not because she — an accused in a terror case — said it. It is dangerous because of the ideology it represents. What kind of convoluted, bigoted, hateful, communal and vicious thought process must be responsible for a person to refer to Godse as a deshbhakt? This is a question the BJP must squarely con-

front. This is all the more so, because it seems quite clear that the ideology that Thakur represents has many supporting voices in the party. Even after she made her condemnable comment from the floor of the House, some BJP MPs sought to justify it. One luminary of the BJP said that while Godse may have been misled, it is undoubted that he was motivated by patriotism. On earlier occasions too we have had people like Sakshi Maharaj make state-ments in support of

The time has, therefore, come for the BJP to come clean on this issue. If it believes that what Thakur said is wrong, it should take exemplary and definitive action against her. A half-hearted apology by her will not work. Nor will cosmetic discition Her mat ter must be referred to the Ethics Committee of House, and she should, on its recommendations, which must be unequivocal, disqualified from the membership of the Lok Sabha. In addition, the BJP must forthwith expel her from the party. Only then will the message go loud and clear to all those within the party, or in organisations affiliated to the party in any way, that this kind of hateful ideology will not

be tolerated. For too long now, proponents of violent, divisive, and abusive language, have been given a soft landing by the BJP. Some time back, another so-called Sadhvi, Niranjan Jyoti, so-called in a public speech spoke

haramzadas". On that occasion too an anodyne apology was considered sufficient to exonerate None of these apologies confront the real issue about the need to confront com-munal venom in certain sections of society.
When, on the first

occasion, Thakur referred to Godse as a patriot, PM Narendra Modi expressed deep regret. He said: "The remarks made about Gandhiji or about
Nathuram Godse are
very bad and very
wrong for society. She
has sought an apology
but I would never be able to forgive her fully." Quite clearly then, the PM has not been able to condone what she said on the first occasion. Now that she has repeated her offence, and that too from the august floor of Parliament, what should his reaction be? Since he reacted in no uncertain terms to her first statement, and she has — notwithstanding his anguish — repeated her condemnable views, should not the PM, as per his own public averment, ensure that she receives exemplary

This is particularly relevant since this is the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. The government is celebrating this event with great fanfare. Gandhiji's legacy, and his continued relevance, is being projected as a matter of belief and of commitment. The PM is at the forefront of these efforts. From countless forums he has spoken

The truth is that there is an ugly underbelly in the ultra-right that pays lip service to the Mahatma but actually valorises the likes of Nathuram Godse. Pragya **Thakur represents** that underbelly.

the Mahatma, and many flagship programmes of the government — such as Swachh Bharat — are being specifically carried out in the name of Gandhiji. With this as a backdrop, when a MP of his own party refers to the man who assassinated the Mahatma as a patriot — and says so for the second time — it is only to be expected that the PM will personally intervene in the matter to ensure that she is

suitably chastised. The truth is that there is an ugly underbelly in the ultra-right that pays lip service to the Mahatma but actually releving the likes of valorises the likes of Nathuram Godse. Pragya Thakur represents that underbelly. It sents that underbelly. It is for people to estimate whether those who secretly support the view of Thakur are a fringe or the mainstream. Either way, the B.IP. as the ruling party BJP, as the ruling party in the country, and the largest party, must publicly correct the justifiable impression that some within it are closet or public admirers of the man who murdered the Mahatma.

India as a nation will survive only when it reshatred, violence, and narrow-mindedness that still lurks somewhere in the darker recesses of its societal fabric. The lack of strong and exemplary action against Thakur strengthen the forces of hatred and violence. The worst that can happen is for only a halfhearted and ambivalent message going out to the purveyors of hate and divisiveness after the outrage of Thakur. The PM must back his stated revulsion by action. Otherwise the impression will gain ground that what he cannot forgive he is willing to con-

The writer, an author and former diplomat, is a member of the JD(U). The views expressed are personal.

LETTERS

RED HERRING

Whenever the ruling BJP is on a sticky wicket, as in Maharashtra, its second-rung leaders make an entrance in swashbuckling style, shooting off crass comments and fantastic lies. The recent episode of BJP MP Pragya Thakur calling Nathuram Godse a patriot that derailed discussions on the economic slowdown in Parliament is the latest case in point. The Opposition is gullible. Any nonsense is enough to get it all riled up. Little does it realise that bullshit is strategy for this government and by reacting to it, whether positively or negatively, it is giving it power and its wielders time and space to regroup.

Tharcius S. Fernando

WE FAILED THEM

The gruesome gang rape and murder of a 26-year-old government veterinarian doctor in Hyderabad has brought back chilling memories of the Nirbhaya incident in Delhi that shook the conscience of the entire nation. What is galling is that the offenders tampered with the evidence by setting the body on fire and the police turned away the victim's parents and sister and refused to take their complaint. The horrifying incident exposes the dangers lurking in the shadows on the city streets, besides underlining the perils faced by women. While the accused deserve nothing less than the death penalty, it is evident that we have failed our daughters again!

N.J. Ravi Chander

GIVE GIRLS AGENCY

Simultaneous rapes reported from across the country on Friday, including that of Priyanka Reddy which culminated in her murder, has shocked women and rightthinking men across India. It is learnt there are more than six lakh rape cases pending in our courts as of now. This gives perpetrators a long rope and hope to culprits. While some people hold that even weak, less competent women who are unable to take care of themselves still do not deserve such brutish treatment, others are speaking about survival of the fittest. For the safety of all, we want more fast-track courts, strict vigil by law enforcement and girls being taught self-defence in schools along with other subjects. Sravana Ramachandran

Chennai

IMMORAL POLITICS

The rape and murder of a 26-yearold veterinary doctor has shocked the nation. Still, that didn't stop some people, including a BJP MLA from giving it a false communal spin and thus trivialising it, even while the family was grieving. Four people have been arrested in the case, of whom three are Hindu and one Muslim. The government should take action against the MLA and his spiritual cohorts. They should be punished along with the accused.

Ziya Bengaluru

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.

No 'marshal law', after all

 T^{he} Rajya Sabha secretariat is said to have been reprimanded of sorts by the top echelons of power over its decision to change the uniform of marshals in the house. The military-style uniform outraged veterans and parliamentarians alike. It is learnt that a trusted lieutenant of Union home minister and BJP chief Amit Shah called on top Rajya Sabha bosses to convey that the uniform controversy was an entirely needless one. That explains why now the marshals are back in their old uniforms sans the headgear.

A truce of compulsion

 $T^{
m he}$ two Chavans are a bit cut up in Maharashtra having missed the chance to be either deputy chief minister or Speaker of the state Assembly. Ashok and Prithviraj Chavan are both former Congress chief ministers of the state and are said to have played a big role in the Shiv Sena-NCP-Congress Maha Vikas Aghadi alliance and the preparation of a common minimum programme for the Uddhav Thackeray ministry. But 'Delhi' is said to

We are marshal, Indian-style!

have opposed their induction in the Thackeray ministry pointing at their "ex-CM" tags. Last heard, Ashok and Prithvi, known to have crossed swords, have worked out a temporary truce of sorts to prevail upon party president Sonia Gandhi to let one of them become either a cabinet minister or Speaker. The other hopes to join Team Sonia in Delhi as an AICC general secretary. Now, that amounts to being ambitious as 10, Janpath, is known to have antipathy towards cutting private deals and

Paswan's dream

The Maharashtra fiasco has left many red faces in the BJP. While a section of the party seems bent on targeting Bhupendra Yadav's "gullibility" in trusting Ajit Pawar's acumen, some NDA allies are emphasising the need for an "NDA convener" on the lines of the role that George Fernandes played during the Atal Bihari



By WAQYANAWIS

Vajpayee era. Lok Janshakti Party (LJP) leader and Union minister Ram Vilas Paswan reportedly fancies himself in a modern-day George Fernandes role. However, a little birdie at Deen Dayal Upadhaya Marg, where the BJP headquarters is, claims that the leadership has utter disdain for the convener proposal.

Scindia sidelined?

All is not well in the Madhya Pradesh Congress. Jyotiraditya Scindia was quick to deny any political message in the change of his Twitter profile where his affiliation with the Congress did not find mention but sources close to him point at his growing differences with chief minister Kamal Nath. Mr Nath is said to have instructed all police and district officials not to entertain transfer posting requests from senior Congress leaders unless they are routed through the "proper channel" (read the chief minister's office). In other words, it means that each time a favour is sought in the Gwalior-Chambal region, Mr Scindia has to approach Mr Nath.

Incidentally, Mr Nath was present at Uddhav Thackeray's swearing-in, accepting congratulations on how he convinced a somewhat reluctant Sonia to go ahead with

an alliance with Sena. Mr Nath's ties with Thackerays reportedly date back to Sanjay Gandhi era when Balasaheb was an ardent supporter of emergency and Sanjay's 'nasbandi' to curb population.

Oh, for a free ride on Tejas

Union railways minister Piyush Goyal is under pressure to extend the free travel facility to Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha MPs on the country's private railway train, Tejas. Tejas is a roaring success both in terms of commerce and comfort. But the elected representatives' complimentary railway passes are not valid on the Tejas Express. Operated by Indian Railways subsidiary IRCTC, its tourism and catering arm, Tejas Express runs between Lucknow and New Delhi. According to a Niti Aayog report, the Narendra Modi government is in the process of forming a task force to draw a blueprint for handing over operations of 150 trains and 50 railway stations across the country to private operators in a "time-bound manner". Clearly, the MPs are feeling left out.

> The writer is a keen observer of the goings-on in backrooms of power

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Dilli Ka

SUNDAY INTERVIEW

'BJP should not have allied with Ajit Pawar after alleging scam role'

With Devendra Fadnavis failing to form the government with the help of NCP leader Ajit Pawar, BJP leader **EKNATH KHADSE** has come

out all guns blazing against the move. Mr Khadse, who was himself booted out of the Cabinet over allegations of corruption, hits out at his party for taking the gambit of forming the government with the scam-tainted Ajit Pawar. Speaking with **SONU** SHRIVASTAVA, the

Muktainagar strongman spoke about a range of issues relating to the recent elec-

Who is responsible for the embarrassment of the BJP after its government had to step down within four days?

I do not want to name individuals. But the party has leaders who had been given the responsibility to take the decisions. Perhaps their decisions might have gone wrong.

Do you think former chief minister and BJP leader Devendra Fadnavis is responsible for the current performance of the BJP in Maharashtra?

I don't think so. At present, the responsibility can't be

Was the denial of tickets to senior leaders like you and Vinod Tawde a reason for the underwhelming performance

Though we were denied tickets, we could have still contributed five to 25 seats to the BJP's tally if the party had taken our help during campaigning. But I feel people within the party wanted to sideline me. I have been working for the party since the last four decades. I can't go against the party. But unfortunately, those who worked hard for the party were sidelined in this elec-tion. It was clearly reflected in the results

Was it a wrong move to go with NCP leader Ajit Pawar?

The BJP should not have joined hands with Ajit Pawar against whom it had made several allegations regarding a massive irrigation scam in the state. We had provided the evidence in a bullock cart about the scam. But it seems The BJP should not have joined hands with Ajit Pawar against whom it had made several allegations regarding a massive irrigation scam in the state... His stepping down as deputy chief minister was a face saving act.

that after coming to power in 2014, the party sold all the evidence to the scrap dealer as the price of scrap was high those days. His stepping down as deputy chief minister was a face saving act. It would have been more humiliating for Ajit Pawar if he had waited for the floor test in the Maharashtra Assembly.

Will the Maha Vikas Aghadi complete its tenure?

I am not a fortune teller to know whether the government will continue or not. It will depend on the circumstances. It was being said that Atal Behari Vajpayee's government would not complete its tenure. But it completed



THE ASIAN AGE

BJP leader Eknath Khadse

its five-year term. Atalji had led an alliance of 32 parties. If the alliance gets good leadership, it can complete its tenure. However, if differences arise between the parties, it might only survive for

four to six months.

assure you we would not have made a Muslim President of India.

the majority community has cornered every element of power and

marginalised the minority, especial-

ly the Muslim, but also the dalit and the adivasi, while also claiming to

We lie to ourselves that we are dif-

ferent but of course we are not. We

have done majoritarianism through

other means. The Citizenship Amendment Bill, read together with

the National Register of Citizens,

will prove what I mean. Our actions

in Kashmir, in Assam, on the issue

of terror also show this. The appalling Babri Masjid judgment (also known as the Ayodhya case

be pluralist.

What has happened is that in India

Was it possible for the BJP to form a government with the Shiv Sena?

The chapter is over. Now,

everything has come out. I am promise of sharing the CM's post for equal terms was made to the Sena by the BJP. But I feel finding a solution (for the stand-off between the BJP and ble thing. Had they found some solution, it would have been better for Maharashtra.

Did the BJP fail to show flexi-

People supported the Mahayuti. Both parties (BJP-Shiv Sena) should have shown flexibility. If they had taken two steps backwards, this situation would not have arisen.

Will the Central leadership need to intervene in Maharashtra to resurrect the

The party is alive. In 2014, the party had contested 288 seats and won 123 seats. This time, we have contested 164 seats and won 105 seats. If one sees the winning ratio, it is equal to the 2014 Assembly results. There is no need for the Central leadership to interfere. We are capable of

after we destroyed the mosque) can

be seen as a textbook example of

majoritarianism pretending to be

The fact is that the Indian model of

majoritarianism is more subtle and less crude but just as deadly. It

assumes that one community is pre-

eminent and gives it primacy and a

special place. At the same time, we

spit on the minority with the accu-

sation (totally false as all the data on

employment, housing and any other

indicator will show) that they are

Aakar Patel is a writer,

director of Amnesty

International (India)

columnist and executive

recipients of "appeasement".

something else.



MAY GET NEW FACES

abu watchers expect a reshuffle at the top level in the finance ministry in the coming weeks. It has been necessitated after G.C. Murmu, who headed the department of expenditure in the ministry, was appointed the first lieutenant governor of Jammu and Kashmir after it became a Union territory.

Further, finance secretary Rajiv Kumar is scheduled to retire in February next year, followed by economic affairs secretary Atanu Chakraborty in April. Sources say that though revenue secretary A.B.P. Pandey is slated to stay in the post until February 2021, the grapevine suggests that the Modi sarkar may turf him out to some other department. The reasoning, it is indicated, is that the government is unhappy about vital numbers of the economy slipping steadily.

If the buzz indeed turns out to be true, we can expect a fresh set of faces in the finance ministry to steer the economy.

'BALANCING' ACT UPSETS IAS

service that benefiting from the Modi sarkar's efforts to break the hegemony of the Indian Administrative Service (IAS) is the Indian Railway Service (IRS). This year, out of 228 officers empanelled at the joint secretary level, 78 officers are from the IRS, compared to just 49 from the IAS and 46 from the Indian Revenue Service. The rest of the 55 officers are from the IPS, IFoS and other services.

This trend is not just limited to 2019. Earlier too, Indian Railway Service babus have outnumbered officials from the other services, including IAS, empanelled at the secretary level.

Currently, the eligibility criteria for IAS officers to be empanelled for a certain position is two years less than their counterparts from other services under the Central Staffing Scheme advantage see seen discriminatory by the others. After the Modi government decided to balance things out at the top of the civil service, empanelled in proportion to

Not surprisingly, the "heaven-born" are far from pleased with this trend and are increasingly talking about the government's "bias" against the IAS officers. However, while the mighty IAS are losing strength at the joint secretary level, the service still dominates at the additional secretary and secretary levels.

IPS ASSOCIATION

NOT 'LEGAL': MHA

Commission (CIC), in response to an RTI application, that the IPS Association does not have the "express sanction" of the

The ministry has further explained that the police force has no right to form an

permission of the Central

government, making the IPS

Not surprisingly, the IPS Association is deeply upset

an

illegal

association without

government.

Association

organisation.

The ministry of home affairs has told the Central Information

their strength.



Indian majoritarianism subtle, but deadly India is special in South Asia as the only republic

Aakar Patel nat is majoritarian-

ism? It is defined as a political philosophy where the majority community is pre-eminent and enjoys primacy, meaning more rights than other communities. This is done in two ways. It is done through law and there are examples of that which we will see. And then there is another way, a special one, which has unfolded before our eyes.

The classic way is through the constitutional route. In such a nation it becomes clearly established that one set of people are more special than others. Sri Lanka's Constitution says: "The Republic of Sri Lanka shall give to Buddhism the foremost place and accordingly it shall be the duty of the state to protect and foster the

Buddha Sasana."

This line will always give the opportunity to the people in power to do mischief to those Lankans who are not Buddhist. The damage caused by constitutional majoritarianism is dependent on the individual. A leader who is inclined to enforce the principle strongly will do more damage. But the fact that the Constitution orders this means that it always remains a threat.

As we observe, the primacy given to Buddhism is non-specific and benign. However, such phrasing is

that has been constitutionally pluralist. Indira Gandhi specifically added the word 'secular' to the Preamble. But observers looking at India today will find it less different from any other South Asian majoritarian state.

used as a trigger. Pakistan's founder did not see his country as discriminating against its minorities. But he also wanted to see elements of Islam in the constitutional make up of the country. Six months after M.A. died, the Pakistan Constituent Assembly under his successor Liaquat Ali Khan passed superb debate.

The debate was mostly between the Bengali speaking Hindus (of East Pakistan, later Bangladesh) and the Muslims. The latter wanted to include Islamic language which they saw as non-specific and benign. This included such lines as "sovereignty belongs to Allah alone", and that in Pakistan "the principles of democracy, freedom, equality, tolerance and social justice, as enunciated by Islam, shall be fully observed.

The Hindus objected. They said that the people using these words may be well meaning but they could be misused to introduce provisions that discriminated against the non-Muslims later. The matter was put to vote and it was a division by religion. No Hindu voted with the Muslims and no Muslim with the Hindus. A short time later, what the Hindus had feared came to be.

Gradually the Pakistan Constitution began to take on a more negative focus and soon the posts of President and Prime Minister became legally only the right of Muslims. Later, through the same constitutional process, a sect of Muslims was declared apostate and persecuted.

Elsewhere in our neighbourhood, the state of Bhutan can only be ruled by a Buddhist king. He controls both the government and the religion, giving him absolute authority over his people and their lands. Till a few years ago, Nepal was a Hindu Rashtra because it was ruled by a Kshatriya king advised by a purohit as prescribed by Manu Smriti. Bangladesh's Constitution opens with the line "Bismillah ir rehman ir rahim". While it is true that the Bengalis have been less mischievous with this as the Pakistanis, the words remain and are a ticking time homb Constitutional maioritarian ism is always in wait of the leader who will interpret the seemingly benign words aggressively.

Let us turn now to that special way in which a nation can be majoritarian. India is special in South Asia as the only republic that has been constitutionally pluralist from start to finish. Indira Gandhi specifically added the word "secular" to the Constitution's Preamble just in case it wasn't clear. But the outside observer looking at India today will find it very less different from Pakistan or Sri Lanka or any other South Asian majoritarian state.

Yes, anyone can become Prime Minister in India but no Muslim has. We can be happy with the fact that unlike in Pakistan we have had Muslim Presidents but a Pakistani President has real power unlike our rubber stamp. If they had the authority to dismiss Parliament, I

'The potholes will come in handy for planting trees.'

Noorani

Maharashtra shows Modi will bite dust if Opp. unites

he recent elections to the Legislative Assembly of Maharashtra sprang no surprise in yielding a hung Assembly in which no party had a majority.
In the Maharashtra elections the

BJP won 105 seats; its 30-year-old ally the Shiv Sena won 56. But Uddhav Thackeray, the Sena's leader, seeing the ground slip away under its feet by the assertiveness of the senior and arrogant partner, the BJP, laid claim to the office of chief minister alleging a prior

The BJP denied the accord and refused the prize to its partner. They fell apart. Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari, an RSS man, invited the BJP's candidate, former chief minister Devendra Fadnavis, to form a government since his was the largest single party. The invitation was declined. President's rule was imposed. But a Plan B was in the offing.

There was the Congress and its offshoot, the Nationalist Congress Party led by Sharad Pawar. His nephew Ajit Pawar, as ambitious as he was impetuous, had long nursed a grudge that uncle was overlooking his claims to preferment. He clandestinely established contact with Fadnavis and during in the night of November 22-23, entered into a shoddy pact with

As a senior NCP leader, Pawar

was entrusted - most unwisely with a paper containing the signa-tures of all NCP MLAs. These he submitted to the governor along with his own covering letter supporting Fadnavis' claim to be called to form a government.

Governor Koshyari, shutting his eyes, acted on this "documentation" without raising the most elementary question as to the veracity of the offers of support. It was the dead of night, after all.

Events ran at breakneck speed lest dawn aborted the ruse. The deal was finalised at 11.45 on the night of November 22. Hours later, at 2.30 am, the governor recommended revocation of President's rule. This requires the Union Cabinet's approval. This was done at 5.47 am by Prime Minister Narendra Modi invoking, most improperly and illegally, an exception in the rules of business to meet circumstances of dire emer-

At 7.50 am, the governor administered the oath of office to Fadnavis as chief minister and Pawar as his deputy. Less than an hour later Modi congratulated both.

The rest of the drama need not detain us. The Supreme Court ordered a floor test. Ajit Pawar ditched the Fadnavis fold.

The night's pantomime was, of course, choreographed by Narendra Modi. Only the Prime Minister could have used, rather

abused, the exception clause in the rules to dispense with the Cabinet's prior approval to the revocation of President's rule.

A President who so readily agreed to do the Prime Minister's bidding, at the dead of night, exposes himself as a mere rubber stamp for the Prime Minister. Three constitutional posts were debased the President, Prime Minister and the governor.

The sordid episode yields two lessons, political and constitutional. It reveals the depths to which Modi will stoop to grab power. His publicly proclaimed ambition to secure a Congress-free India was a euphemism for BJP rule in every single state. He began by undermining the Cabinet and went on to suborn the President's indepen-

The Maharashtra episode exposes his true colours. But his defeat there has also raised the Opposition's morale — Modi is not invincible. He can be made to bite the dust if only the Opposition were to unite.

Constitutionally, it shows that the fears expressed over Indians' incapacity to observe the norms of democracy were all too true. A century ago, C. Rajagopalachari predicted in his prison notes "elections and their corruption, injustice and power and tyranny of wealth, and inefficiency of adminsoon as freedom is given to us. Man will look regretfully back on the old regime of comparative justice and efficient, peaceful, more or less honest administration. The only thing gained will be that as a race we will be saved from dishonour and subordination.

Indians grasped the mechanics of the parliamentary system but not its culture, still less its morality. As Balfour wrote in his introduction to Bagebot's classic The Constitution: English

"Constitutions are easily copied, temperaments are not; and if it should happen that the borrowed constitution and the native temperament fail to correspond, the misfit may have serious results. It matters little what other gifts a people may possess if they are wanting in those which, from this point of view, are of most importance.... The successful working of British institutions may be diffi-cult or impossible. It may indeed be least possible where the arts of parliamentary persuasion and the dexterities of party management are brought to their highest perfec-

As for Ajit Pawar's double act, one is reminded of Lloyd George's swipe at Sir John Simon: many a member had crossed the floor of the House but none left behind such a slimy trail.

By arrangement with Dawn

with the ministry's stand.
According to P.V.R. Sastri, a
former IPS officer and
secretary of the association, the IPS officers are recruited and governed under the all India service rules, which do not prohibit the formation of an association by the officers. Sources say that the upset IPS officers have challenged the ministry's stand, while their counterparts in the Central Armed Police Forces feel that the ministry's stand has vindicated their views about the IPS Association. The IPS officers, however, blame their

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

IAS colleagues in the ministry

for their alleged "bias" and

creating controversy. Now,

this sounds familiar!

heart recuperate from an attack



Screen-time may impact child development

Washington: Many new findings that conducted recently, revealed that the excessive amount of time spent by children in using their mobile phones, or in watching television, can have a severe effect on their development. A recent study conducted by the University at Albany, the National Institutes of Health and New York University Langone Medical Center, revealed that the average time children spend in front of screens increased from 53 minutes per day at 12 months to more than 150 minutes at 3 years. The time period is beyond the recommendations from the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP). The digital media exposure should be avoided for children under 18 months of age, following up the introduction to children of 18 to 24 months of age and also, limiting the usage to an hour a day for 2 to 5 years of age. The study further stated that the American Pediatric Academy had provided screen time exceeding recommendations for almost 87 percent of children. The usage of screen time by children and the educational qualification of the parents are likely to be intercon-nected. Children whose parents are holders of only a high school diploma or equivalent are more prone to fall into the category. Twins were more likely to be the ones belonging to the highest screen time group. Also, the research shows that children in home-based



care, be it provided by a

the ones in center-based

increased throughout tod-dlerhood, that is by age 7

and 8, but a fall of usage of

care. The screen time

1.5 hours per day was shown. — ANI

parent or relative, were more than twice as likely to have high screen time than

Placenta changes of old moms linked to heart problems

London: Placenta changes in older mothers may be linked to a higher risk of heart problems in their male offspring, according to a study in rats. The researchers, including those from the University of Cambridge in the UK, analysed the placenta of young (3-4 months old) and aged rats (9.5-10 months old) that were pregnant with male and female offspring. They said the placenta - an organ attached to the walls of the uterus, and connecting to the umbilical cord of the growing fetus - transported nutrients and oxygen from the mother to the growing offspring, helping her support fetal development. The organ is the main protective barrier for the fetus against toxins, bacteria, and hormones — such as stress hormones — in the mother's blood, they added. The study, published in the journal Scientific Reports, noted that advanced maternal age reduced the efficiency of the placenta of both male and female fetuses. "Advanced maternal age alters placental phenotype

in a sex-specific fashion.

These sexually-divergent

changes may play a role in

determining health out-comes of female and male

offspring of aged mothers," the researchers wrote in the

study. The researchers said

ture and function of the pla-

ageing affected the struc-

centa more markedly for

male fetuses, reducing the

organ's ability to support

their growth. - PTI

Caring for family is what motivates people: Study

you ever wonder how much you care for your family or vice-versa? Across the globe, caring for loved ones is what mat-ters most and this fact hasn't been the focus of many psychology studies. Scientists have come up with a study that suggests, caring for the family is the reason behind the peofeeling motivated

An international team of researchers led by evolutionary and social psy-chologists from Arizona State University surveyed over 7,000 people from 27 different countries about what motivates them, and the findings go against 40 years of research. The study will be published in the journal Perspectives

Psychological Science. Ahra Ko, an Arizona State University (ASU) psychology graduate student and first author of the paper, said: "People consistently rated kin care and mate retention as the most important motivations in their lives

Rodent fossil

Nov.

Researchers have unearthed well-pre-served middle ear bones

from a new species of

an extinct rodent that

lived 145-66 million

years ago in what is now

northeastern China, an advance that may lead to better understanding of the evolution of hear-

The study, published in the journal *Nature*, looked at fossils of the extinct rodent-like mammal — Jeholbaatar

kielanae — at Jehol Biota of China, and noted that these ani-

mals had a middle ear

that is distinct from

The researchers, including those from

the Chinese Academy of

Sciences, said the evolution of the rodent's

involved in hearing may

have been driven by spe-

cialisation for hearing. They said the fossil

clues provide solid evi-

dence of the morpholo-

gy and formation of the

inner ear bones, which are fully detached from

muscles

those of its relatives.

reveals how

middle ear

evolved

Beijing,



and we found this over and over, in all 27 countries that participated. The findings replicated in regions with collectivistic and China, and in regions with individualistic cultures like Europe and the

The study included people from diverse countries – ranging from Australia and Bulgaria to Thailand and Uganda — that covered all continents except Antarctica. The ASU team sent a survey about fundamental motivations to scientists in each of the participating countries. Then, the researchers in each country translated

the questions into the native language and made edits so that all the ques-tions were culturally appropriate.

appropriate.

For the past 40 years, evolutionary psychological research has focused on how people find romantic or sexual partners and how this decime. ners and how this desire affects other behaviours like consumer decisions. But study participants consistently rated this motivation, called mateseeking, as the least important factor in their

Evolutionary psychologists define kin care as caring for and supporting family members, and

taining long-term committed romantic or sexual relationships. These two motivations were the most important even in groups of people thought to prioritise finding new romantic and sexual partnerships like young adults and people not in committed relationships. In all 27 countries, singles prioritised finding new partners more than people in committed relaand men mate-seeking tionships, ranked higher than women. But, the differences between these groups were small.

The motivations of mate-seeking and kin care of family and relations were also related to psychological well-being but in opposite ways. People who ranked mate-seeking as the most important were less satisfied with their lives and were more likely to be depressed or anxious. People who ranked kin care and longterm relationships as the most important rated their lives as more satisfy-

Nightmares prepare us for real-life dangers: Research

Washington, Nov. 30: Nightmares help prepare our brains to handle stressful situations, according to a small US government-funded study.

Researchers Switzerland and the US subjected 18 people to a bizarre experiment: they were fitted with electrodes to monitor their brain activity at night, and they were woken multiple times to answer interview questions, such as: "Did you dream? And, if so, did you feel

The researchers found

Studying 107 people, researchers identified the brain regions lit up by nightmares, and found those regions were more responsive the day after a nightmare

a pattern: during night-mares, there was often heightened activity in regions of the brain that control emotions.

In a second experiment, they gave 89 people a dream diary to fill out. At

through an MRI scan while being shown negative and scary images.
They found that, in peo-

ple who had experienced nightmares, their emo-tional brain regions responded faster and more efficiently. Studying 107

Studying 107 people, researchers in the US and Switzerland identified the brain regions lit up by nightmares, and found those regions were more responsive the day after a nightmare

Their conclusion was that nightmares helped steel us for stressful expe-

Electro-optical device may lead to faster processors

London, Nov. 30: Researchers have created a novel device which bridges the fields of optical and electronic computing, an advance that may lead to faster and more energy efficient memories and

The researchers, including those from the University of Oxford in the UK, said until now a compact device using light to transfer as well as encode information could not be easily interfaced with the architec-ture of traditional electronic computers.

This was because electrical chips, in which the subatomic particles electrons flow through, needed to be small to efficiently, operate whereas optical chips — with the light particles photons flowing through them — are required to be large.

They explained this was because the wavelength of light is larger

than that of electrons.

As part of the study, published in the journal Science Advances, the scientists came up with a solution to confine light into nanoscopic dimensions, and have developed devices with dual electrical-optical functionality.

The size reduction, and a significantly increased energy density allowed them to bridge the incompatibility of photons and electrons for data storage and computation, the researchers said.

They showed that by sending either electrical or optical signals, the state of a photo- and electro-sensitive material is transformed between two different

The state of this phasetransforming material was read out by either light or electronics, meaning memory could encoded retrieved in the form of

OA disables mobility in older adults

steoarthritis (OA) is a highly prevalent dis-abling condition that affects approximately 1 in 8 adults worldwide. As the most frequent cause of mobility disability in older adults, and with its high level of cost to healthcare systems, it causes a substantial individual and societal burden. Many patients with OA fare badly and do not receive proper care.

The two dominant risk factors for OA are obesity

Exercise thera-

treatment and

knee and hip OA.

gests that physi-

cal activity helps

Evidence sug-

py is the first-line

and joint injury and they continue to increase worldwide and are mostly modifi-

According to British Society for Rheumatology, understanding of mechanisms of OA has advanced dramatically. This is no longer a cartilage-centric disease and archaic terms

Nitin Sharma

Daily dozen such as wear and tear and degenerative are now considered both pejorative and inaccurate. OA is best characterised as a disease with most important chronic abnormal remodel-non-surgical ling affecting the entire syn-treatment of ovial joint organ with the outcome being structural and functional failure.

By contrast, contemporary evidence demonstrates that

OA is a "whole person condition" in which different conditions and biopsychosocial factors that improve sympmodulate inflammatory toms.

processes as well as behavioural responses which trigger pain and disability interact to affect a person's joint health. This viewpoint highlights the key role of active, non-surgical treatments in the management of OA. Exercise therapy is the first-line treatment and

most important non-surgical treatment of knee and hip OA, not only because of the positive effect on joint symptoms, but also because evidence highlights that exercise and physical activity help prevent chronic conditions and improve symp-

Exercise therapy acts as a painkiller in osteoarthritis irrespective of radiographic severity. It is good to inform patients that pain flares are to be expected with frequent daily activities such as repeated chair stands and when starting to exercise. This is not a sign of danger to the cartilage, but rather a sign of exposing the body to a new or repeated activity and similar to what all people (even those who do not have any arthritis) would experience when starting any new activities. In patients with knee and hip OA who start exercising twice weekly, pain flares decrease

There are a few examples of exercises which may benefit those suffering from knee OA: warm up: 10-15 minutes; walk or bike at half normal speed; march in place; inner range quads over roll with resistance. (10-15 reps with 2-3 sets); seated knee extension with resistance using (therabands or weight cuffs) (10-15 reps with 2-3 sets); sit to stand (without using hands) (8-12reps x 2 sets); standing leg side raises. (10-15 reps x 2-3 sets); calf raises

If you find it hard performing any exercise, speak to your physical therapist, so that the exercise can be reviewed and modified, if necessary. Sometimes it takes a bit of trial and error to get the right set of exercises for you.

The writer is a physiotherapist,

Diet pills, laxatives may signal risk of eating disorder in young women

Washington, Nov. 30: Teens and young women who use diet pills and laxatives for weight control are five to six times more likely to be diagnosed with an eating disorder in the next three years, a U.S. study suggests.
Using these medications

the lower jaw.
According to the researchers, the bones for weight loss can be danreveal a unique configugerous and may be a warnration with more coming sign to consider counseling because there is an increased risk for developplete components. The new fossil, they said, reveals a transi-tional stage in the evoluing an eating disorder such as anorexia or bulimtion of the surangular ia, the study authors write a "reptilian" jawbone. in the American Journal

of Public Health.
"Advertising for these Based on the findings, the scientists speculated that in a class of extinct products is common on mammals, the joints social media, and the connecting the middle products are easily accesear to the eardrum, and sible at local pharmacies and groceries, which gives young people the mistakthose connecting bones in the cheek region to en idea that they are safe the lower jaw may have evolved in tandem, said Jordan of Boston Hospital's allowing a distinct jaw Levinson movement while chew-Children's Division of Adolescent



Young Adult Medicine, the study's lead "But this could not be

further from the truth. These products are not medically recommended for healthy weight management and can even be dangerous," she told Reuters Health by email. "When young people get their hands on these easily accessible yet harmful products, they are put at risk for disordered weight control behaviours and, as

our study suggests, may even put them on a path to develop an eating disor-

Levinson and colleagues analyzed data on more than 10,000 U.S. women between ages 14 and 36, who were participating in a long-term study. The women were surveyed annually about whether they had used diet pills or laxatives for weight loss during the past year, and whether they'd received a new diagnosis of an eating disorder. Researchers excluded

young women already diagnosed with an eating disorder from the analysis, and adjusted for overweight status, age, and other factors. They found that eating disorders developed in

just 1% of women who did not report diet pill use for weight control during the past year, and 1.8% of those who did use diet pills.

Similarly, 0.8%women who did not report laxative use for weight loss were later diagnosed with an eating disorder, compared to 4.6% of those who did use laxatives.

Using these kinds of products may increase the likelihood of eating disorders by creating irregular eating behaviors, physical disruptions to digestion or psychological issues, the study authors speculate.

Reuters

Bacteria that consume carbon dioxide for growth

Washington, Nov. 30: sustainable production of Researchers have devel-

oped bacteria called Escherichia coli, which consume carbon-di-oxide for energy instead of organic compounds. This creation in syn-

thetic biology highlights the incredible plasticity of bacterial metabolism and could provide the framework for future carbon-neutral bioproduction. The work appeared in the journal — Cell. "Our main aim was to

create a convenient scientific platform that could enhance CO2 fixation, which can help address challenges related to the

food and fuels and global warming caused by CO2 emissions," said senior author Ron Milo, at systems biologist at the Weizmann Institute of

"Converting the carbon source of E. coli, the workhorse of biotechnology, from organic carbon into CO2 is a major step towards such a platform," added Milo.

A grand challenge in synthetic biology has been to generate synthetic autotrophy within a model heterotrophic organism.

Fine-tuning gene expression

during recovery from stress

Washington, Nov. 30: While getting closer to uncovering a 30-year-old nuclear mystery, scientists have discovered non-coding RNA (Ribonucleic acid), which has a novel role to fine-tune gene expressions during stress

recovery.

Hokkaido University
researchers are beginning to uncover the functions of mysterious organelles in the nucleus and their relation to

The organelles, called nuclear stress bodies, form when cells are exposed to heat or chemical stress. When conditions return to normal, the organelles promote retention of RNA seg-ments, called introns, the researchers report in *The*

This is important because intron retention regulates gene expression for a variety of biological functions including stress response, cell divi-sion, learning and memory, preventing the accumulation of damaged DNA, and even tumour growth.

Among their many mysteries, nuclear stress bodies were found to assemble on a type of long noncoding RNA in response to heat and chemical

biologist Molecular Tetsuro Hirose of Hokkaido University's Institute for Genetic Medicine specialises in non-coding RNAs, which are molecules copied from DNA, but not translated into proteins.

research shows that it is never too late to start. Scientists have shown exercise impacts dementia risk as much as genetics. In a new study, they have shown intensity matters: the more you sweat, the lower the risk. In our growing ageing population, we are all at

older people out-

number younger people.

This has created unique health challenges.

Dementia may be one of the scariest — a debilitating condition that erases moreoviers a condition

memories; a condition

But dementia does not

have to be your fate. Exercise protects our

memories from being

erased and our latest

without a cure.

Por the first time in human history dementia. This is because a certain amount of our fate is predetermined by biological factors. Ageing is a critical risk factor for dementia and certain genes also increase our

> Recently, however, we have begun to appreciate the role that lifestyle plays. New evidence reveals decreasing dementia rates despite an increasing ageing population. The reason?

Improvements in living conditions, eduhealth care. One of the greatest modifying risk factors

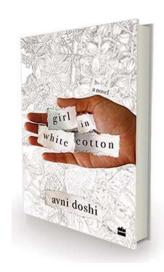
physical

pocampus memory. - Agencies

Sweat in gym to wards off dementia! some risk of developing inactivity. This gives us the opportunity to train for a healthier brain! It turns out that exercise does something that helps the brain regenerate itself: it grows new neurons in the hipimproves

At last, it's time to unpack the difficult mother





GIRL IN WHITE COTTON

By Avni Doshi Fourth Estate India, ₹599

n my middle-school years, I found a book called *Tamarind Mem* in our school library, which I soon got quite obsessed with. The writer, Anita Rau Badami, was unfamiliar to me at the time, and so was the icy Calgary from where her protagonist Kamini remembered — misremembered, really, if we are to be accurate about the slippery slopes of memory – her growing-up years with Saroja, her "sour-tongued mother", in railway towns across India, where her father was posted. (There might have been a sibling – but I am forgetting the details.) Saroja had been given the name "Tamarind Mem" by a mysterious man who entered their lives in one of the railway towns, and who, Kamini later understands,

had become Saroja's lover. This novel unleashed in me a fascination for a specific kind of mother-daughter novel, one that inverted the heretofore familiar formula of the wild/ difficult daughter locked in a complex relationship with her mother, in her attempt to live a life beyond the familiar frames of reference, the kind of daughter who exerts as much of a compelling centrifugal force in the family as in the narrative. Up until then, in the books I had read, the daughter was the doer, the mother, the witness. But Tamarind Mem, deliberately overturning this, was fresh, different, almost scary. For so long I had identified with the difficult daughter myself, transposing the contents to my own Calcutta childhood and youth, If you are partial to the pleasures of the literary novel, then, without a doubt, Avni Doshi's debut. with its exquisite prose and

formal brilliance the ending was one of the finest I have encountered in a long time — is for you. It will dazzle you with its many quiet bounties...

yearning constantly to break out of their mould and outgrow my own mother – and, therefore, *Tamarind Mem*, where it is the mother who wants to break the mould, cast a curious if baffling charm upon me.

I was reminded of all this – the

genre, the obsession, the need to recast memory and even scores with our mothers – when I read Avni Doshi's powerful novel, *Girl* in White Cotton, published earlier this year. (It is interesting that inverted motherdaughter/doer-witness relation-ship is also explored in another book that is the toast of literary circles now, Madhuri Vijay's The Far Field.) Written in the voice of the grown-up daughter, the artist Antara, *Girl in White Cotton* employs spare, elegant prose to not only detail the present but

stories that are as difficult to recollect as they are to forget. (Except, Tara is forgetting.) I would be lying if I said my mother's misery has never given

also conjure up the complicated

and acute terrain of the past, to

contain its treacherous stories,

me pleasure.
I suffered at her hands as a

child, and any pain she subsequently endured appeared to me to be a kind of redemption - a rebalancing of the universe, where the rational order of cause and effect aligned.

But now, I can't even the tally between us.

The reason is simple: my mother is forgetting, and there is nothing I can do about it. There is no way to make her remember the things she has done in the past, no way to baste her in guilt. I used to bring up instances of cruelty, casually, over tea, and watch her face curve into a frown. Now, she mostly can't recall what I'm talking about; her eyes are distant with perpetual cheer. Anyone witnessing this will touch my hand and whisper: Enough now. She doesn't remember, poor thing.

The sympathy she elicits in others gives rise to something acrid

In the past, Tara had walked out of her marriage (to an unexciting man with an overbearing mother) and joined a cult, daughter in tow. While she became the cult leader's favourite, beginning to live with him as his partner, Antara grew up in the ashram, cared for by the eccentric ashramites, chief among them the American hippie Kali Mata, who had moved to India many years ago, in the groupthink days of free love and spirituality.
Afterwards, when a new

favourite replaces her, Tara leaves the cult, and her attempt to return to her previous life, to her original family — Antara's Nana, Nani and the estranged father – leaves a visceral impact on the child. Eventually, Tara moves out again, and mother and daughter cobble a life together, built on the agonizing highs and lows of their acute bond. Into that tinderbox arrives another man, a photographer.

Structured so deftly that the movements from the present to the past are seamless and controlled with quiet precision, Girl in the White Cotton, however, is its most sophisticated in its forays into the present – Antara's life, with her husband and his overbearing NRI mother, her fraught relationship with Tara who is now showing the early signs of dementia - and to her

If you are partial to the pleasures of the literary novel, then, without a doubt, Avni Doshi's debut, with its exquisite prose and formal brilliance - the ending was one of the finest I have encountered in a long time – is for you. It will dazzle you with its many quiet bounties, each sentence as polished as it is tight, its bleakness deeply evocative of the daily lives of artists, whether or not they have the complex maternal ties of Antara, its the exploration of the silences, the cruelties and the tendernesses that mark our most intimate relationships, sustained, and its familiar darkness, borrowed from the deepest reserves of our own

> Devapriya Roy is the author of five books, most recently Friends from College

Spooky 'killer' nanny thriller with a surprise ending



Gulab

lease help me. I didn't kill anyone." With an opening as compelling as this, it's impossible to stop turning the pages of *The Turn of the*

Key in a frenzied manner. Rowan, a 27-year-old nanny, has been arrested for murdering one of the children in her charge. The case is splashed all over the media, and she is painted as an incarnation of evil. In desperation, she writes to Mr. Wrexham, a brilliant advocate she has heard about from fellow prisoners, and appeals to him to help her.

A major part of the book is a series of letters to Mr. Wrexham, in which Rowan tells her side of the story starting with the fact that she wasn't even looking for a new job when she stumbled upon the ad, and reveals damning things about herself too. She is

not goody goody like Mary Poppins, nor is she remotely as efficient. She swears, smokes on the sly and occasionally enjoys a drink or two. She even bashfully admits to occasional urges to slap recalcitrant children in her charge, urges that she claims she has

Periect Nanny rather well, though: "Almost exactly one week after I had opened the email from Sandra Elincourt, I was on my way to Scotland, doing my very best impression of Rowan the Perfect Nanny. My normally bushy hair was brushed to a shine and tamed into a neat, jaunty ponytail, my nails were buffed and my make-up unobtrusively on point, and I was wearing my best 'approachable yet responsible, fun yet hard-working, professional yet not too proud to get down on my knees and clear up sick' outfit—a neat tweed skirt and a white cotton fitted shirt with a cashmere cardigan over the top."

The job is no cake walk either: the parents dash off on a long work trip a day after she arrives for one of their architectural proj-

ects, and she's left in a remote part of Scotland with hostile children, a book of detailed instructions, and strong rumours that the house is haunted: "I didn't believe in the supernatural — I should say that up front, Mr Wrexham. And so the leg-

never carried out. ends of the house didn't Rowan acts the part of bother me at all, in fact the whole idea of nannies and servants driven out by mysterious spooky happenings seemed more than a little ridiculous almost Victorian. But the fact was that four women had left the Elincourts' employment in the last year. Having the bad luck to engage one nervous, superstitious employee seemed quite likely. Getting four in a row seemed... less so.' One of the children had warned her off, telling her not to take the job on the day of her interview itself: "The ghosts, she had sobbed. The ghosts wouldn't like it."

The ghost factor is as unsettling as the fact that the entire house is wired monitored. employer, Sandra, tells her with a touch of pride that this old Victorian lodge has been converted into a

'smart' house because her husband is a tech freak, and besides, "Architects must try cool gadgets." There are no regular door-



THE TURN OF THE KEY

By Ruth Ware Harvill Secker, ₹599 bells, switches, taps, etc, and it can be challenging. The entire family is signed on to the "Happy" app, which takes care of every-

thing, including reading bedtime stories to the children. Rowan's bedroom too isn't spared and she flings a sock at what could well be a surveillance camera on the ceiling: "It couldn't be a camera...could it? But no. That would be more than creepy. That would be illegal surveillance. I was an employee—and I had a reasonable expectation of privacy, or whatever the legal ter-minology was." You may well find yourself falling out of love with Siri, Alexa and all the other lovely AI ladies and gents as you read on.

Rowan's nights are disturbed by mysterious creaks and footsteps, and sudden, loud bursts of music. She spends them frozen in fear. Her sleep-deprived days are fraught with confusion, as strange things happen and objects mysteriously vanish or appear. But while she knows that she really should leave this house "of hidden eyes

and ears and speakers, powerful holds her back: "Remember why you're here, I thought grimly." This is the key to *The Turn* of the Key.

Almost everyone is a suspect in this chilling Gothic yet modern story. While the beginning has a brisk pace, the middle lags with those repetitive gnostly creaky episodes, but not enough to make you yawn. Fortunately, Rowan is such an interesting character, she lifts all the boring bits. We learn more about her as the story unfolds, her past included and the unhappy relationship with her hardto-please mother. She's not made of cardboard—she's real, warts and all.

Friendly advice: keep beverages and snacks close at hand for the last few chapters, because you may find it impossible to tear yourself away from the bookthat's when the story hurtles at breakneck speed to a conclusion that will make you go "Gosh".

Rupa Gulab is a freelance writer and the author of Girl Alone, Chip of the Old Blockhead and The Great Depression of the 40s

acknowledgement of the

fact that Nehru wanted

Indira Gandhi to be his

Diminutive Gandhian won a war, but was denied his place in the sun





LAL BAHADUR SHASTRI: POLITICS AND BEYOND

by Sandeep Shastri Rupa, ₹495

he public memo-ry of Lal Bahadur Shastri, Prime Minister after the Jawarhalal Nehru, is almost anecdotal. The stories that stick are about how he resigned as railway minister in 1956 taking moral responsibility for a railway accident; the slogan "Jai Jawan Jai Kisan"; his leadership in the 1965 war with Pakistan; and the mystery that surrounds his death in Tashkent after the war. Not much has been written, at least in popular literature, about the man

himself. Shastri, whose 19-month prime ministership was hemmed between Nehru and Indira Gandhi, has, without doubt, not got the space he deserved in public memory. After the emergence of the BJP and its desperate efforts to appropriate the legacies of "negnational icons

(mostly Congress leaders), there is a sudden interest, in politics and in other circles, about the lives and contributions of such leaders to the making of mod-Vallabh Bhai Patel, Subhas Chandra Bose or Lal

Bahadur Shastri. The book — Lal Bahadur Shastri: Politics and Beyond — by Sandeep Shastri is a serious study of the life and legacy of the man best known for restoring India's pride and self-confidence by winning a war against Pakistan in 1965, three years after a humiliating defeat by China, and also for his initiating the process to make India self-reliant in food production. The narrative fits the muscular nationalism of the current establishment, but on the other hand, his Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan slogan remains relevant, more so in these times of acute farm-

The diminutive Gandhian had stepped into the large shoes of Nehru and successfully faced many challenges putting to rest doubts about his ability to keep the country together. Shastri's humble background endowed him with a keen practical sense and he was grounded in local reality. He rose from the grassroots and worked at different levels in various capacities before assuming the reins of government Although mentored by J.B. Kriplani, G.B. Pant and Nehru at different times, he had walked out of their shadows and certainly left his imprint. Was he Nehru's natural

successor? The book leaves no one in doubt that Shastri was almost groomed by Nehru as his successor. He was the man in charge of the party's electioneering in the 1952, 1957 and 1962 general elections. He was a permanent feature in Nehru's cabinet

There are anecdotes reflecting Shastri's personality and values. A telling instance: He rebuked his underage son for managing to procure a driving licence and recommended action against the official who issued the licence.

between 1951 and 1964. In 1961, Nehru had entrusted him with the home portfolio after the death of G.B. Pant, virtually ignoring the claims of Morarjibhai Desai (who, after Nehru's death, was to become a prime ministerial aspirant). That Nehru favoured Shastri as his successor became more evident when he recalled him to his Cabinet as a minister without portfolio a few months after his exit from the government under

Kamaraj Plan. It was but natural that the powerful syndicate headed by K. Kamaraj had to select him, comment on whether he at all resented this.

The book dwells on the Morarji's deft manner in which ignoring claims for the prime minis-Shastri handled the anti-Hindi agitation, highlighttership. Shastri and Nehru had enjoyed a good relaing his adherence to the tionship, with the former principles of democracy. backing him strongly dur-ing hours of crises. The True democrat that he was, he acceded to the demands transition was smooth, of the non-Hindi speakers thanks also to Shastri's despite, perhaps, his heart being with the votaries of Hindi becoming India's affable and non-confrontationist approach, which sole official language. Not had endeared him to his colleagues both in the relenting under the presparty and the government. sure from the Hindi speak-This is notwithstanding ing majority in the party the buzz (which has endured to this day) that and the government, he went beyond Nehru's com-Nehru and the syndicate wanted Shastri as a "stopmitment and clearly delineated the Centre's language gap arrangement" to keep policy, which remains the the seat warm for Nehru's cornerstone of India's pludaughter, Indira Gandhi. ralistic democracy (occa-The book refers to Kuldip sional noises notwith-Navar's memoirs, Beyond standing). the Lines and other sources that allude to Shastri's

One chapter is devoted to the leadership displayed during the 1965 war and describes Shastri's decision to move the Army into

Pakistani territory as the "first surgical strike".

There are anecdotes reflecting Shastri's personality and values. A telling instance: He rebuked his underage son for managing to procure a driving licence and recommended action against the official who issued the licence. That sums up Shastri as a man who stood for integrity, humility and simplicity, in personal and public life.

The book quotes Shastri's cabinet colleague T.T. Krishnamachari as saying that Shastri could well have been a "parenthesis in history". His relatively short tenure as Prime Minister and the Congress Party's exclusive focus on the Nehru-Gandhi family are the reasons given for why Shastri has been denied his place in the

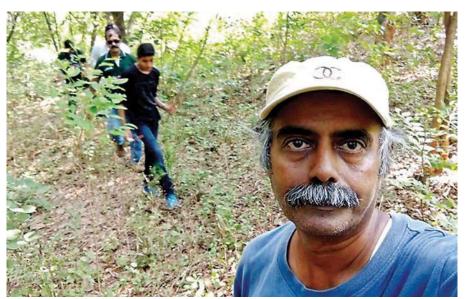
> The writer is an independent journalist based in New Delhi

The forest king: How a BU prof created a Geo Park

Professor T.J. Renuka Prasad is 61 years old, living in the staff quarters at Bangalore University's campus in Jnanabharathi. He spends his days, as he has for the last four decades, tending to the 300-acre mini forest he has created, the country's only Geo Park. The Park is also home to a 3.2 billion year old rock formation, hundreds of species of butterflies, birds and animals, which schoolchildren explore with amazement as they see for themselves, the history of the natural world unfold before their eyes. Professor Renuka Prasad tells M.K. Ashoka his story

iant cathedral ant hills rise like little towers, some nearly 14 feet high. Over 148 varieties of butterflies thrive, too and in the month of October, the land is a burst of colour as lakhs of butterflies burst free from their cocoons. Several peacocks strut through the trees, much to the delight of schoolchildren, who often visit on day-trips, to glimpse, in this urban jun-gle, the beauty of nature. Where is this? In Bengaluru, at the 1,100-acre Bangalore University campus in Jnanabharathi, which is home to the country's only 'Geo Park'! The man behind this phenomenal accomplishment belongs to the University's department of Geology, Professor T.J. Renuka Prasad.

Always casually dressed, in a t-shirt, cap and jeans, well-equipped to walk through his little green kingdom, Professor Renuka Prasad now shoulders the tremendous responsibility of maintaining his geo park. The campus' forest cover, however, had been the cynosure of environmentalists' eves even before he arrived, when the now



Professor T.J. Renuka Prasad in the Geo Park at Bangalore University's Jnanabharathi

retired, senior bureaucrat and forest officer, Yellappa Reddy, sowed the seeds for a 300-acre forest. Professor became Prasad, who involved with this project, went on to create another 300-acre mini forest of his

Professor Prasad conceptualised the 'Bio, Geo and Hydro tour', a half-day study tour for school chil-"I do this with the cooperation of retired vol-unteers who were holding top posts in the Geological Survey of India (GSI)," he says. "Young children can see for themselves, the rock formation, which is 3.2 bil-lion years old, as we explain how important it is to keep our valleys intact. Otherwise, there will be no groundwater left," he explains. The anthills, too, are an indication of ample subsurface level water. There are 149 bird species that call the mini forest their home, as do wild rabbits, peacocks and fox. The water level on campus, says Professor Prasad, has come up to about six metres. All this took him four decades of leadership and hard, hard work to achieve.

"I should note the vision people like Yellappa Reddy and consecutive University volunteers Chancellors. and retired officers who have come together to create this," Professor Prasad explains. "Much of the development has taken place through donations, so the process has not placed a financial burden on the university, either."

THE GEO PARK

The High Court in Lokadalath had observed that there is no Geo Park in INdia. When they asked for a report on the matter, Professor Renuka Prasad, who had, by then, seen the

potential of the Jnanabharathi campus, with its ancient rock formations, decided not to make do with merely submitting a report. He decided instead, to create a Geo Park.

Today, his dream This is where has been realised. we feature The Geo Park in Jnanabharathi is the untold the only one of its stories every kind in the country. The children Saturday who visit learn how the earth

rotates at a speed of 1,600 kilometres per hour, the movement of tectonic plates, the dynamic nature of Mother Earth and how volcanoes and tsunamis happen. The students also

earth's evolution, in the form of rock folding, fractures, joints and intrusions. "They learn that deformations on earth created valleys and fractures, which are in turn filled with water, minerals and other resources on which the survival of mankind depends," says Professor

Civil engineering students also visit the Geo Park, before they go on to join the BBMP and BDA. When they go on to do development work, it will be with an

understanding of the natural, sociological and hydraulic dynamics of the Professor Prasad explains

that he gave the least importance creating 'lawns' and show plants. Instead, he dedicated himself to the cultivation of rare, endangered and threatened

species of plants, as well as medicinal plants. There are 500 Appe Midi (Appe raw mango) plants, 50 varieties in all. Rare specimens like Punnaga vana, Purusha Ratna and varieties of Dasha Puspas are also found. Professor Renuka Prasad says he was introduced to mother earth by his father.

Young and curious, he was instantly captivated. The nature bug has bitten him so hard that he still doesn't move away from the campus' residential facility faculty members often do and the housing is given out to non-teaching staff.

As a young professor, he would leave the labs open until midnight, allowing students to stay in the room when it was too late to leave. He even introduced new courses like Geo Informatics, Earth Informatics, Earth Atmospheric Science and many others into Bangalore University. Today, Professor Renuka

Prasad is 61 years old, a specialist specialist in water resources, surface water, water ground water, water quality, computer application, remote sensing and GIS techniques, as well as geostatics. He is an expert advisor in the cases of the Lok Adalath, to the government of Karnataka on Tank Rejuvenation and Water Bodies Development, an advisor to the BDA and BBMP in the management of earth resources, the drainage network and water bodies in particular. He has been appointed to many boards and universities. Although he is at retirement age, his wellwishers ask him to stay on and nurture his forest for a

little while longer.
The lush vegetation casts its spell on the thousands of Geographic Young Explorers grant received in 2016. She roped in others, joggers and walkers who mainly her family, from sisvisit the Jnanabharathi ter Suniti Rao who wrote the text, botanist and cousin Siddarth Machado, campus every morning and evening. The man behind it all appears to blend into the responsible for accuracy crowd but takes inroads and fact-checking and felthat only he knows, into the low Nat Geo explorer Prasenjeet Yadav, who docu-"Coincidentally, the love of my life is Vasundhara, which means 'daughter of mented and photographed the process. "Over four the process. years, we travelled to various spots in the Western earth', he says. "And I'm lucky to have the full sup-Ghats where Siddarth felt port of my family in my these species might growwork." Looking back on his life, he says, "God blessed me, I have been a happy from inland swamps to thick jungles to rocky outcrops," Rao comments. What do the Western Ghats look like to a seeker

soul all through. I have

stood before the photo-

graph of my father and

thanked him a million



illustrator. Artist Nirupa Rao is a millennial who

believes that her genre is an

intersection between art

and science although "it is

up to the artist to breathe life into it, to communicate

the surreal quality of the

natural world". At the

upcoming event this week-end, Rao will discuss the cre-

ative process behind her newly-launched book,

Hidden Kingdom, a richly

illustrated collection on the

flora native to the Western

Ghats. As the blurb reads,

the diversity ranges from

carnivores and parasites to flowers that stink of rotting

The book, Rao says, hap-

pened thanks to a National

of knowledge? Although as

a child, Rao had spent

"almost every family holi-

flowers.

during the process of creating the book she learned to see them in a different light. The jungle, which first appeared to her as a sea of green, now became a repository of plant species, each one a treasure. As she explains, "It was only once I started to recognise native trees and their individual importance that I realised that the mere existence of trees does not make a 'forest'. A forest is instead a 'system' that is inherently richer and stable due to its complexity." A visitor or tourist, she notes, may just miss the subtler signs of environmental degrada-tion. This intense exploration of the Western Ghats elicits a question that Rao may just get used to in the future. Since the book is filled with intriguing native plants, which were the ones that were the most unusual? Rao has a list, from carnivorous sundews that glisten like red rubies; alien-like ceropegias that temporarily trap insects in their hollow bulbs to gigantic flowers that smell like rotting flesh and of course, an elusive rare flower. "One of my

favourite moments was chancing upon a group of Magenta Ghost Orchids by the side of the road. They are completely devoid of chlorophyll and don't have any leaves. Consequently, they can't produce their own food, and rely on drawing nutrients from surrounding decayed matter. The flowers are pretty rare, so I thought my chances of spotting them at all were slim. I certainly didn't expect to see them when we stopped for a driving break."

An illustrator by choice, Rao feels that botanical

illustration is the ideal combination of two different sides of her personality "the creative and the practical" - so although she enjoys singing, playing the piano and baking, it is through this genre that she is making her inroads in to the hall of fame. She was the one chosen to illustrate Amitav Ghosh's books including his newest, Gun Island. As she readies herself for presenting the book at the annual National Geographic Symposium in Washington DC in January next year, she ponders on the rise of illustration. Wouldn't a photograph say more? While admitting that both - photography and illustration - have their advantages, Rao talks of particular instances when photographing plants become difficult. A tall rainforest tree, for instance. How does all of it come in one frame? Besides that, photography cannot single out a

plant nestling in dense

foliage. "These issues can be solved with illustration," Rao points out. times for placing me on the lap of Mother nature." day" out there, it was only Unearthing the truth: The fight for Ayodhya

GURURAJ A. PANIYADI MANGALURU, NOV 30

he historic Babri Masjid verdict, in which the Supreme Court handed over the disputed land in Ayodhya, the holy land for Hindus, to build a Ram temple, unleashed a tidal wave of debates. Most are political in nature, with words like 'communal' bandied about profusely on social media. In the melee, history is ignored and far too little has been said about the man who was instrumental in excavating the ancient temple that lay beneath the now-demolished Babri Masjid. This man, who was part of the Archaeological Survey of India, fought tooth-and-nail to carry out his work. Dr K.K. Muhammad is his name and he retired as the Regional Director of

Speaking at an aptly titled session, 'Excavating Truth,' at the two-day Mangaluru Literature Festival, Dr K.K. Muhammad began with the words, 'Om Ganeshaya Namaha'. He went on to recount the excavations in Ayodhya, a process fraught with interventions from 'communist' historians, many of which Muhammad himself

faced. The first team, he said, was led by Professor B.B. Lal, of which he himself was a part. They conducted excavations in Ayodhya and found about 12 pillars that were clearly elements of Hindu architecture. Although the team didn't declare this at the time, the 'communist' team, as he called it, was so vocal about claiming that no temple structure had been formed, that they did, in the end, discuss their

"Ayodhya is as sacred for Hindus as Mecca and Madina are for Muslims," says Muhammad. says Muhammad. "Ayodhya doesn't have any connection with the Prophet or the Calipha or Aulias or any important Islamic personality. For Muslims, it is not so important, the Babri Masjid was just another mosque. They should have willingly handed it over to the Hindus and contributed to the temple. However, due to the influence of a section of



Artists perform at the Mangaluru Lit Fest

Communist historians, they could not do so. They should also now come forward and had over the Gyanvapi Mosque in Kashi and Mathura," he said.

The Qutb Minar too, he confirms, was built out of the spoils of 27 temples and still contains more than 50 idols. "These wrongs have taken place and there is no point in hiding them. What has happened has to be accepted," he says, adding, "In the same way, it should also be accepted that the present day Muslims are not responsible for this." The destruction of temples, he says, "happened at the hands of Afghani Muslims cen-turies ago. But present day Muslims will be held responsible if



Dr K.K. Muhammed speaking at the festival

they justify it." Is the Taj Mahal a temple? Some questionable reports circulated in the media, including the Al Jazeera, claimed that the destruction of the Taj Mahal was next in line, claiming that the Hindutva brigade had declared it a temple too. This he refutes, firmly. "It is not a temple," he says. "I was in charge of the Taj Mahal and there is no Hindu temple feature in its architecture. it has two domes - the architectural style that evolved only after 1526. Also, there is no temple built out of marble."
Dr Muhammed, who took a little

trip down memory lane, recalled how his Madrassa teacher exposed students to the Ramayana and Mahabharata. Dr Muhammed also

ed how it was easy to repair about 80 temples in the Chambal region, controlled by the dreaded dacoit Nirbhay Singh Gujjar. "I told him he had a connect with the region as the temples had been built by Gujjar Kings. He was so happy, he agreed to repair the temples that lay within his control. About 80 out of the 200 temples were restored," he says. He also said that in 1990, the government was all set to take action against him for speaking in public on the issue but later, satisfied itself with transferring him to the Goa circle.

Muhammed recollect-

stressed on the need for a well planned course, in schools, on Indian art, culture and architecture. "This must be incorporated into the education system to help the youth relate to their own roots and culture," he said.

He even spoke on Muslims adopting Lord Rama and Krishna as national heroes, as has been done in

countries like Indonesia. He however expressed his unhappiness over the present union gov-ernment for not living up to expectations on promoting Indian culture and also for interventions in the





This DiCaprio is a cool guy, right? Giving money to torch the Amazon

> — Jair Bolsonaro **Brazilian President**

IN BRIEF

Roadside blast

kills Sr Army Cdr Kabul: An Afghan official

says a roadside bomb in the southern Helmand province has killed two security personnel, including a senior

border commander. Omar Zwak, spokesman for the provincial governor, said on Saturday that the blast in the Marjah district wounded two other security officials and a local TV reporter when

it struck a passing convoy. The spokesman said the attack likely targeted Gen. Zahir Gul Muqbil, the army border unit commander who was killed in the explosion. He added that a reporter with the Shamshad TV network, Sardar Mohammad Sarwary, was among the wounded

Peru Oppn leader Fujimori freed

Lima: Peruvian opposition leader Keiko Fujimori walked free from prison after being jailed for more than a year pending a trial over allegations she accepted illegal campaign contributions from Brazilian construction firm Odebrecht. Fujimori left prison in the Chorrillos district of capital city Lima, according to a witness at the scene where hundreds of supporters gathered outside in anticipation of her release. Fujimori was met by her hus-

flowers and balloons. Other supporters carried the orange banners of her politi-cal party. The constitutional tribunal, ordered her release after she was handed an 18month pre-trial sentence in October last year.

band outside the prison with

Pak court to **indict Hafiz Saeed**

Lahore: Mumbai terror attack mastermind and chief of the banned Jud Hafiz Saeed will be prosecuted for terror financing charges by an antiterrorism court in Lahore next month, an official said on Saturday. An anti-terrorism court in Lahore held a hearing against Saeed and his accomplices on terror financing on Saturday and fixed December 7 as the date for indictment of the Jamat-ud Dawa chief. "ATC judge Arshad Hussain Bhutta fixed December 7 for indictment of Saeed and others after hearing the arguments of prosecution and defence lawyers," a court official said after the hearing. He said prosecutor Abdur Rauf Bhatti requested the court to hold day to day hearing to conclude the trial at the earliest, which was opposed by Saeed's counsel.Saeed was brought to the

PAK GOVT TO CONSULT OPPN ON BAJWA

court amid tight security.

SHAFQAT ALI ISLAMABAD, NOV. 30

Pakistan government will

consult the opposition on the legislation to determine army chief's tenure and service, special assistant to the Prime Minister on information Dr Firdous Ashiq Awan said on Saturday. She said elections will be held in the country after the completion of fiveyear constitutional period of the incumbent government. She pointed out that the Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (Fazal) chief Maulana Fazl-ur-Rehman also used to stress that the parliament should complete its constitutional tenure. Ms Awan reminded that the son of Maulana and his other party members were also sitting in this parliament. Regarding the foreign funding case of the PML (N), she said the party had furnished only a single page reply before the Election Commission.

3 minors stabbed in shopping area

Dutch cops reject terrorism angle in attack

Amsterdam, Nov. 30: Three youths were wounded in a stabbing on a shopping street in The Hague early Friday evening, Dutch police said, adding that they were seeking a suspect.

National broadcaster NOS said the attack could not immediately be attributed to terrorism.

Police launched a manhunt after the attack, which took place on a busy shopping street near the city's historic centre. The area was cordoned off and dozens of police and ambulances were on the scene. All the victims were minors and were treated in hospital before being discharged, police said in a statement.

'We are at this moment searching for a suspect, no one has been arrested yet," police spokeswoman

Marije Kuiper said.

National broadcaster

NOS, quoting 'varied
sources', said: "At this
moment there is no indication of a terrorist nesses as saying two of motive." Kuiper said the victims, both girls,



IMAGES AND VIDEOS posted on social media showed crowds of shoppers running away after the incident and others being led out of the

police did not yet have a description of the suspect, but she said an initial police statement that he was a man in his 40s of North African descent had been wrong.

"At this moment all scenarios are still open," she said. Meanwhile, the Dutch police hunted on Saturday for an unidentified suspect who stabbed three youths on a street in the centre of The Hague on Friday during one of the busiest shopping evenings of the year.

National broadcaster NOS quoted two eyewit-

had run screaming from the street into a nearby store. One said an "athletic" man fled the scene, jumping easily over obsta-

The area was cordoned off for hours as first aid workers helped victims and police combed the

area for clues.
Images and videos posted on social media showed crowds of shoppers running away after the incident and others being led out of the stores by first responders. Authorities repeatedly asked witnesses to come forward. They said the situation is 'com-

London terrorist had Pak links

victed İslamist terrorist, who spent part of his teens in Pakistan and released last year from a UK prison, is suspected to be the man who stabbed two people to death in a terror attack on London Bridge, police said on Saturday. Police have identified

THE ASIAN AGE

the suspect as 28-year-old Usman Khan, inspired by the ideology of al-Qaeda terror group, was previously sentenced to 16 years in prison term for his role in the London Stock Exchange bombing in 1990.

At the time of his sentencing in 2012, the judge warned that he was a 'serious jihadist' who should not be released while he remained a threat to the

Khan left school with no qualifications after spending part of his late teens Pakistan, where he ed with his mother when she became ill, it

The *BBC* reported that Khan was out on licence from prison when he two people and injured three others in the stabbing attack on Friday, before he was shot dead by the Scotland Yard.

Khan was living in Stafford since being



(Left) A man is surrounded by armed police after he stabbed two people to death on London Bridge, in London. (Right) Usman Khan.

released from prison on December last, it said. In February 2012, Khan was sentenced to eight years in prison. In 2013, the Court of Appeal sentenced him

to a 16-year jail term.

Two people were killed and several others injured in the London Bridge attack on Friday. The Scotland Yard confirmed that a male suspect, later identified as Khan, wearing a hoax bomb vest was

shot dead at the scene. Scotland Yard's head of counter terrorism policing, assistant commissioner Neil Basu, said in a statement at New Scotland Yard headquarters in London that a "number" of people had been injured, some of whom are said to be critical.

The senior Indian-origin top police officer said Khan had attended an event on Friday afternoon at the Fishmonger's Hall, a historic building near the London Bridge.

London Bridge was one of the areas targeted by an ISIS-claimed terrorist attack in June 2017, when 11 people died as terrorists went on a stabbing spree after ramming a van into pedestrians. The UK had just earlier this month downgraded its terror

threat level from "severe" to "substantial", which means a terrorist threat is likely rather than highly likely in the country. The attack raises difficult questions for Brita-in's government and security services. Prime Minister

Boris Johnson said he had 'long argued' that it was a 'mistake to allow serious and violent criminals to come out of prison early'.

"It is very important that we get out of that habit and that we enforce the appropriate sentences for dangerous criminals, especially for terrorists, that I think the public will want to see," he said.

Johnson, who chaired a meeting of the government's Cobra emergency committee said more police would be patrolling the streets in the coming days "for reassurance purposes." Police said they were treating the stabbings as a terrorist attack and were not looking for

Agencies

HK seniors join street protests

Hong Kong, Nov. 30: Secondary-school students and retirees joined forces to protest in Hong Kong on Saturday, the first of several weekend rallies planned across the city, as prodemocracy activists vowed to battle what they say are police brutality and unlawful arrests.

A top Hong Kong official said the government was looking into setting up an independent committee to review the handling of the crisis, which has seen increasingly violent demonstrations since starting more than five months ago. Hong Kong has seen rela-

tive calm since local elections last week delivered an overwhelming victory to pro-democracy candidates. Still, activists appear keen to maintain the momentum of their movement.

"I came out for the peaceful protest in June when there was more than one million people, but the government did not listen to our demands," said a 71year-old woman in Hong Kong's Central district, who only gave her name as Ponn.

She brought her own plastic stool to join a crossgenerational protest of a few hundred people at the

■ HONG KONG seniors rally to back students as activists decry police actions

■ Students and retirees joined forces to protest in Hong Kong, the first of several weekend rallies planned across the city, as pro-democracy activists vowed to battle what they say are police brutality and unlawful arrests

Chater Garden. Elderly Hong Kongers, some with visors and canes, stood not far from young, black-clad protest-ers. All listened to prodemocracy speakers in a gathering marked by a fes-

"I have seen so much police brutality and unlawful arrests. This is not the Hong Kong I know. I came today because I want the government to know that we are not happy with what they have done to our generation," said Ponn, who attended with her daughter and son-in-law. — Agencies

An Iraqi man drives through burning tires in the Shia Muslim shrine city of Karbala, south of Iraqs capital Baghdad. Protesters burned tyres and surrounded a police station in the southern Iraqi city of Nassiriya, pressing their demands for sweeping reform despite the prime minister promising to quit.

LURKING DANGER



Sinking Philippines village will vanish

Philippines: Da-nica Martinez, 16, grew up in a house that grows taller every few years.Her father raises the stilts of their bamboo hut so water from the sea doesn't reach the floor. They live in Sitio Pariahan, a coastal village in the Philippines that was

once an island, and is now without land. Pariahan, about 17 km north of Manila, is sinking about 4 cm every year, owing largely to land subsidence from the population's overuse of ground-water.

Now, rising sea levels caused by global warming

could soon make this village unlivable, a problem faced by other countries in Asia, where the poorest communities are hardest hit. A deep well is the only source of water, and residents use it to bathe, clean, cook and, sometimes, even

to drink.

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:- Upto 12.00 PM on 14.12.2019

:- Upto 12.30 PM on 16.12.2019

No. EE(M-CLZ)-I/2019-20/34

Opening of Financial Bid

Date of Download of Tender Document

category subject to the conditions that they are neither black listed nor debarred at the time of purchase of tenders : S. No.1. Name of Work: Imp. of lane by RMC and drainage system from H No. 1443 to 1435, 1444 to 1457, 1498 to 1487 and 1456 to 1539 Outram lane in Ward No.14N., Head of Account: XL-VIII-S(d), Tender Amount:

Rs. 5514935/-, Earnest Money: Rs. 110300/-, Time of Comp.: 3 Months Rate hold good for: 5 Months, Cost of Tender: Rs. 1000/-S. No.2. Name of Work: Imp. Dev. of lane by pdg.RMC in Probyr Road, Timarpur in Ward No.12N., Head of Account: XL-VIII-S(d), Tender

Amount: Rs. 7885310/-, Earnest Money: Rs. 157700/-, Time of Comp. 4 Months, Rate hold good for: 5 Months, Cost of Tender: Rs. 1000/-S. No.3. Name of Work: Imp. Dev. to lane by pdg. RMC at Mall Apartment gate 1,2,3,and 4 Timarpur in Ward No.12N., Head of Account:

XL-VIII-S(d), Tender Amount: Rs. 7873008/-, Earnest Money: Rs. 157450/-, Time of Comp.: 3 Months, Rate hold good for: 5 Months, Cost of Tender: Rs. 1000/-S. No.4. Name of Work: Imp. of lane by pdg.RMC and drainage system from Dhalao to GT Karnal road Tagore park link road in Ward No.14N.

Head of Account: XL-VIII-S(d), Tender Amount: Rs. 3277827/-, Earnest Money: Rs. 65600/-, Time of Comp.: 3 Months, Rate hold good for 5 Months, Cost of Tender: Rs. 500/-S. No.5. Name of Work: Imp . of lane from H.No. 2453 to shop No.124 by pdg. Drainage system and RMC and Imp. of back lane from H.No. 2453

to 2479 by pdg. RMC in Hudson lane in Ward No.14N, Head of Account: XL-VIII-S(d), Tender Amount: Rs. 4317974/-, Earnest Money: Rs 86400/-, Time of Comp.: 3 Months, Rate hold good for: 5 Months, Cost of Tender: Rs. 500/-S. No.6. Name of Work: Imp. Dev. of lane by pdg. RMC from Allahabad bank to Mayor Hs. Lancers road Timarpur in Ward No.12N., Head of Account: XL-VIII-S(d), Tender Amount: Rs. 6356939/-, Earnest Money:

Rs. 127150/-, Time of Comp.: 4 Months, Rate hold good for: 5 Months Cost of Tender: Rs. 1000/-S. No.7. Name of Work: Imp. to lanes from H.No. C-7 to C-19, back lane H.No. B-41 to B-36 lane from H.No. E-21 to E-24 back lane from H.No.

A-30A to A-37, A-7 and A-58 to A-1 and lane from H.No. D-46 to D-56 by pdg. RMC in Vijay Nagar single storey in Ward No.14N, Head of Account XL-VIII-S(d), Tender Amount: Rs. 5476074/-, Earnest Money: Rs 109550/-, Time of Comp.: 3 Months, Rate hold good for: 5 Months, Cost of Tender: Rs. 1000/-S. No.8. Name of Work: Imp. Dev. to lane by pdg. RMC from flat No.

417 to Balaii mandir Lancers road Timarpur in Ward No.12N., Head of Account: XL-VIII-S(d), Tender Amount: Rs. 7033774/-, Earnest Money Rs. 140700/-, Time of Comp.: 3 Months, Rate hold good for: 5 Months Cost of Tender: Rs. 1000/-

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Ex. Engineer (M-CLZ)I

Trump to decide on his lawyers

Washington, Nov. 30: The chairman of the House Judiciary Committee asked Pres-ident Donald Trump on Friday to say whether he'll send his attorneys participate impeachment proceed-

ings before the panel. Rep. Jerrold Nadler also asking Republicans on his committee which witnesses they plan to ask permission to subpoena.

The letters from the New York Democrat came as the House impeachment probe enters a new phase with a hearing next week on whether Trump's actions might constitute impeachable offenses.

weeks Intelligence Committee hearings produced a mountain of testimony but didn't seem to move the needle on Capitol Hill, where not a single House Republican supported establishing the chamber's impeachment process. Nadler instructed Trump and top panel Republican Doug Collins of Georgia to respond by the end of next week. The Judiciary Committee meets on Wednesday in an informational hearing to examine the 'constitu-

tional grounds for presi

time after that to hearings where witnesses testify about Trump's actions with Ukraine. Trump has labeled the

proceeding by House Democrats a sham, in part because he could not have his lawyers cross-examine intelligence committee witnesses during hearings and depositions.

The intelligence panel which impeachment for a vote

Presi-dent investigate the Bidens.

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is slated to issue a report of its findings next week that are intended to form the basis of hearings at the Judiciary Committee, would be responsible for drafting any articles of by the full House.

The panel can also seek further testimony. Nadler can deny witnesses sought by Republicans, who are likely to want subpoenas compelling testimony from Hunter Biden and the anonymous intelligence community whistleblower whose complaint sparked the impeachment proceedings. At issue in the impeachment probe is whether Trump abused his office by pressing Ukrainian Volodymyr Zelenskiy to

terms & conditions contained in the Tender Form: Sr, N Faut various items against tender No. 1-32 The manufacturers and their authorized dealers / distributors can offer their n Quantity EMD Opening Date Deptt. Name Equipment/Item Name Non Pre Bid Cases Adenosine Deaminase Kit (ADA),Bile Acid kit (rates of the kit are to be frozen for next 7 years from 2019-20 to 4.34.000/ 01-01-2020 As per technic Biochemistr 2025-26 -Rs.31.00 lakh/year) Paediatric Cytoscopy set with ureterorenoscope Paediatric CPAP System-05 no. Paed.Surgery Inhaled Nitric Oxide System 80,000/-Camera and Projection Monitor 01No's 40,000/-Biochemis nated Electrophoresis System for Nucleic Acid Analy Fully Integrated Digital Podium Histopathology CTVS 40,000 Laparoscopy Hand Instruments 40,000/-02-01-2020 01No's 36,000 Video Recording Equipment for Laparoscopic procedure Fully Intergrated Digital Podium NIPS Transport Incubator 30,000 Programmed Intermittent Bolus (PIB) Pumps 30,000/-20,000/-Semiriged Ureterorenoscope with Accessorie 02 Sets Urology Intracranial Pressure Monitors 80,000/-Neurosurg TSR Pressure Injector 20,000 Pulmonary Medicine Aqua Water Treatment Unit (WTU) Reverse Osmsis(125 L) 01No's Medical Microbiology 20,000 Stackables Incubator 01No's -do-Medical Microbiology Sealing Machine for Autoclave Room 01No's 20,000/-AEC specifica 20,000/ernal Medic Pre Bid Cases Digital Slide Scanner-01 no. 01No's 6,00,000/-Cytology Dual Focus video endoscopy system with image enhancemen Microarray Scanning System 01No's 2,00,000/-Hematology HD Eye Suits Systems AEC CPAP Machin Urology Automated Microtome 01No's 80,000/-Cytology 02No's 2,00,000

Refrigerated Centrifuge (16 Blood Bag Nos.(With buy back of exiting two Equipment.) Tender List can also be downloaded from website www.pgimer.edu.in and Item wise Tender Form with specifications can be downloaded from website www.pgrocure.gov.in. Cost of Tender is Rs.200/- (non-refundable) which can deposited in the shape of Demand Draft in favour of Director, PGIMER, Chandigarh. Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) must be in the form of FDR /TDR valid for a period of one year from any scheduled bank in the name of the Director, PGIMER, Chandigarh. EMD in any other form will not be accepted. Tender can be dropped in the tender box placed in the Procurement Branch (Import) manually by 2:30 PM on or before the late mentioned against respective item. The tenders shall be opened on the same date at 33:00 PM in the presence of the authorized intending tenders. Tenders not submitted on the prescribed form, not accompanied with valid Earnest Money and tender cost shall be summarily rejected straightway. The undersigned reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders received without assigning any reason thereof. "PRE-BID CONFERENCE" WITH INTENDING BIDDERS FOR ITEM Sr. No. 25 to 32 shall be held on 11-12-2019 from 3:00 P.M. ONWARDS IN THE PI(EP), OFFICE, PGIMER, CHANDIGARH For me

NOTE: If any of the tender opening dates happens to be a holiday in PGIMER, Chandigarh, then the same shall be opened on next ful





'Aggressively' pursued Greta Gerwig to cast me in Little Woman

- Saoirse Ronan,

American-Irish actress

Tijoux gives the beat

to Chile's street revolt Paris: Chilean singer Ana

Tijoux says she is scared of cameras. Yet it is hard to think of anything as fearless as her latest hit "Cacerolazo", which has become an anthem of the street revolt in her homeland against its billionaire president Sebastian Pinera. Latin America's richest country has been rocked by more than six weeks of

protests sparked by a 30 peso (four US cents) rise in metro fares. Demonstrations often start with people banging pots and pans, an action known as a "cacerolazo", after the Spanish word for a

'Stopped Jay-Z's rap

on Sheeran's song'

Los Angeles: Stormzy has revealed how he prevented Jay-Z from appearing on his song with Ed Sheeran, Take Me Back to London. The US rapper wanted to appear on the track, but the grime star turned down his "number one hero inspiration" because he thought it was a bad fit. "I felt proper bad because I was

like, 'You're saying no to Jay-Z!" he said. "Jay-Z was super proud and super shocked and taken aback by the fact that this kid told him," he added. The song went on to top the UK singles chart for five weeks in September and October – Agencies



I am kind of old and

boring now: Pattinson

Pattinson nopes his starring role as Batman in the upcoming Matt Reeves-directed standalone won't trigger the fandom similar to the Twilight series as he has grown old and boring now. The 33-year-old actor said he does not want go through the fan pressure, like he did while playing Edward Cullen in Twilight movies, when he essays the role of the caped crusader in The Batman. "There's a part of me that just thinks it's impossible to be what happened with Twilight because it was so sudden. I'm hoping it won't be people hanging out out-

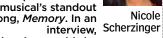
I WAS DEVASTATED AFTER REJECTION **SAYS SCHERZINGER**

side my place," he said. - PTI

London: Singer Nicole Scherzinger says she felt "devastated" after a casting director refused to take her audition for the big screen adaptation of Cats. The 41year-old is no stranger to

Andrew Lloyd Webber's beloved musical of the same name. She was nominated for an Olivier Award for _____

her performance as faded glamourpuss Grizabella in the West End revival of Cats in 2014, in which she performed the musical's standout song, Memory. In an



Scherzinger said she wanted to star in the film adaptation, which was being helmed by Tom Hooper, but she couldn't get an audition for it. "That really upset me, I won't lie about that. I was devastated," she said. "I just wanted to be given a fair opportunity - then you can turn me down. Turn me down to my face, at least, and they didn't," the singer added. "Cats" movie version features Jason Derulo, Jennifer Hudson, Ian McKellen, Taylor Swift and Rebel Wilson.

DiCaprio financed Amazon fire: Brazil Prez

Bolsonaro's remarks were part of wider govt campaign against environmental non-profit groups

THE ASIAN AGE

Rio de Janeiro: Without offering proof, Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro on Friday said actor Leonardo DiCaprio had funded non-profit groups that he claimed are partly responsible for fires in the Amazon this year. remarks Bolsonaro's about the actor were part of a wider government campaign against environmental non-profit al non-profit operating in groups Brazil.

"DiCaprio is a cool guy, isn't he? Giving money to set the Amazon on fire.' the President said to supporters in Brasilia.

DiCaprio's environmental organization Earth Alliance has pledged \$5 million to help protect the Amazon after a surge in fires destroyed large parts of the rainforest in July and August.

The actor's press representative did not immediately comment Bolsonaro's remarks.



Some members of Bolsonaro's administration argue that civil society groups and environmental laws hinder economic development in the region.

Bolsonaro's far, unsubstantiated attack has drawn scorn from politicians and activists. Bolsonaro earlier made

a similar claim in a Facebook live broadcast.

Los Angeles: Downton

Abbey producer Gareth

Neame has revealed that

the conversations about

a possible sequel are

Downton

already happening.

September, three

years after the

show ended on tele-

"We're working 🚄

same as the first time

around: We have to try to

released

"Leonardo DiCaprio, dammit, you're collaborating with the burning Bolsonaro said, saying the actor was part of an international "campaign

against Brazil." He offered no evidence to support his claims in either instance.

Bolsonaro and environment minister Ricardo Salles are promoting

The movie adaptation

featured the return of

many favourites from the original cast, includ-

ing veteran actor Maggie

Crawley, Carmichael

Crawley, Allen Leech as Tom Branson, Elizabeth

Crawley and Michelle

Lady

Bates,

McGovern as

Crawley,

Smit as indomitable Violet

Froggatt as Anna Bates, Hugh

Laura

as Edith

Joanne

development in some protected natural areas, even as intentional fires and deforestation in the Amazon have reached levels not seen in a decade. The criticism

DiCaprio and environ-mental activists follows a police raid at the headquarters of two non-prof-

it groups in the Amazonian state of Para earlier this week.

Local police also arrested four volunteer firefighters and say they are investigating them for allegedly igniting fires to obtain funding from sympathetic donors.
The volunteer firefight-

ers denied any wrongdoing and a judge ordered their release after public outrage over the arrests. Federal prosecutors say their investigation point to land-grabbers as primary suspects for fires in the area, not non-profits

or firefighters. Cattle ranchers, farmers and illegal loggers have long used fire to clear land in the Amazon.

Bolsonaro appeared to be commenting on social media postings claiming that the environmental organization the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) had paid for images taken by volunteer firefighters that it then sup-posedly used to solicit donations, including a

\$500,000 contribution from DiCaprio.

The WWF has denied receiving a donation from DiCaprio or obtaining photos from the firefight-

The WWF also rejected the attacks on its partners "and the lies involving its name, including a series of lie-based social media attacks, such as the purchase of photographs linked to a donation from the actor Leonardo DiCaprio," it said in a

statement.
DiCaprio has been an outspoken advocate on behalf of combating climate change, speaking frequently about environmental issues including the Amazon forest fires. His Leonardo DiCaprio

Foundation, which is focused on projects that "protect vulnerable wildlife from extinction," vulnerable is part of the Earth Alliance.

- Agencies

NEWS NUGGETS

MOTHERHOOD IS A JOURNEY: NICOLE KIDMAN

Los Angeles: Hollywood believes motherhood is a personal experience and there are no fixed theories or formulas to be a good parent. According to Contactmusic, the

actor, 52, who adoptwho adopted Isabella, 26. with ex Tom Cruise, and

has daughters Sunday, 11, and Faith, eight, with her husband Keith Urban, said bringing up her kids has been a learning experience. "I think it's (mother-

hood) just a journey. And the first thing is there's no right and wrong. There's just different children.

"I once got this wonderful advice from my grandmother. She said to me, 'Every child is given some adversity. Where you're born. What you're up against. Your parents get divorced'. There's always going to be problems. And the greatest thing is that the love is

get everyone back together again. And that Dockery as Lady Mary was very challenging,

WOODEN FRAGMENT OF JESUS'

on what the story is, and when we might be able to make it. But it's the Tom Branson, Elizabeth

DOWNTON ABBEY PRODUCER SAYS

THEY ARE TALKING ABOUT SEOUEL

Bethlehem: A wooden fragment believed to be from the manger of Jesus arrived in his birthplace of Bethlehem on Saturday amid great ceremony after more than 1,300 years in

band playing bagpipes, drums and saxophones accompanied the relic as it arrived in Manger

Housed in Rome since

the seventh century, the relic had been presented dians of the Holy Land as a gift from the Vatican.

Worshippers thronged the square as the chief custodian for the Holy A Palestinian scout Land, Francesco Patton, carried the ornate reliquary housing the relic into the Saint Catherine Church next Square, an AFP reporter Church of the Nativity, where he led mass.

Kids under 12 can no longer 'commit crime' in Scotland

Edinburgh: Regulations have come into force raising the age of criminal responsibility

Scotland. Previously children as young as eight could be held responsible for criminal acts — the lowest in Europe and one of the lowest in the world.

That has now been raised to 12, below which a child is deemed to lack the capacity to commit a

Campaigners said it should be raised further, and ministers said they would review the change within three years.

The change followed unanimous support at Holyrood in May 2019 for the Age of Criminal Responsibility (Scotland) Act, which ministers said would be implemented

quickly.

It is the first change in

Prez gets jail

for murder

Paramaribo:

Suriname

It is the first change in the age of criminal responsibility since 1933 when it was raised from seven to eight. The move will mean no child under the age of 12 can now be found guilty of a criminal act.

the age of criminal responsibility since 1933 when it was raised from seven to eight.

The move will mean no child under the age of 12 can now be found guilty of

a criminal act. At what age should children have a criminal record?

Until the change in the law, primary school children aged eight to 11 could be referred to Children's Panel

offence grounds and could be given a criminal However, no child under

12 has been prosecuted in a Scottish court since 2011.

The charity Action for Children said the new provisions would ensure children were treated as children within the justice system.

Paul Carberry, Action for Children's director for Scotland, said: "We fully support the notion that no eight to 11-year-old should ever be regarded as an offender, nor should they be stigmatised in later life as a result of actions as a child, and now this will be enshrined into law.

Scotland's position had been widely criticised, and there have been calls for the new limit of 12 to be raised further.

– Agencies

Owner of boat washed up in **Ireland found** after 3 years

Mayo: The wooden housewashed ashore on Ireland's Atlantic

coast three years ago, prompting two questions: how did it get there? And where was Rick Small?

The 20ft (6-metre) craft, made with driftwood and polystyrene and fitted with solar panels, had no one at the helm when it turned up at Drum beach, near Belmullet in County Mayo in November 2016.

There was a message written on the ceiling: "I, Rick Small, donate this structure to a homeless youth to give them a better life that better life that Newfoundland chose not to do! No rent, no mort-gage, no hydro."

Small was known in Canada as an environmentalist who built solar-powered three-wheeled bikes, but he was elusive and his connection to the boat, and how it crossed the remained Atlantic,

unclear. This week the CTV News network found Vancouver. in him "Mystery solved", he

The 62-year-old said he built the vessel in 2016 and planned to sail from Newfoundland to the Arctic to raise awareness about the climate crisis and vanishing Arctic ice.

But when he failed to source an appropriate motor he gave the boat away. He said he had no idea how it ended up at sea. He expressed pride that it survived a voyage of more than 1,800 miles largely intact. "It didn't sink. I must have done a

good job."
Small said he planned to build another boat after making more solarcalls Solarized-Its.

— Agencies

Taiwan's wheelchair athletes find love on the dance floor

Taipei: Taiwanese athletes Vincent Kuo and Ivy Huang each discovered an electric talent for wheelchair dancing on their but it was when they were paired up together that the sparks really flew.

generation of polio survivors, they have spent perfecting their dance routines. Currently ranked world number two, the recentlymarried couple are in

Germany this weekend to

compete in the World Para

Sport

Part of the island's last

Championship.
"I have always been



interested in sports even if I can't play them because of my disabilities," Kuo told AFP during

a break from practicing Latin dance moves with his wife in New Taipei

military court Suriname sentenced President Desi Bouterse to 20 Desi vears in prison Bouterse on Friday over the executions of political opponents when he was the South American country's dictator in the 1980s. Bouterse, 74, is on a state visit to China and will appeal the judgement when he returns next week, his lawyer Irvin Kanhai said.

A two-time coup leader, two-term president and convicted drugs-trafficker, Bouterse has dominated Suriname's politics since taking power in a 1980 military coup.

Friday's judgement, delivered by a threemember court martial led by Judge Cynthia Valstein-Montor, relates to the executions of 15 regime opponents in December 1982. -AFP

coral, taken from old

moorings, onto the exist-

industry development minister, Kate Jones, stat-ed that the redevelop-

ment team had ensured

This may be Australia's

first underwater hotel

development, but it will

not be its last. In June

the Queensland govern-

ment backed plans for

the reef was protected.

tourism

ing reef Queensland's



Women pose for photographs during the 'Me Marathi' event in Bhopal on Saturday.



Friday.

- AFP

Sanon during the promotion of their upcoming film Panipat in Greater Noida on Saturday.

Oz's 1st underwater hotel on Great Barrier Reef

Queensland: For \$799 a night, tourists now have the opportunity to live out a Finding Nemo dream or a Dead Calm nightmare on the Great Barrier Reef. On December 1, Reefsuites, a pair of underwater hotel rooms,

will open to visitors.

Described as an "intimate experience that will stav with you forever" the Reefsuites look out onto Hardy Reef, an area that is in recovery from both damage sustained during the catastrophic Cyclone Debbie in 2017 and mild coral bleaching.

guests can turn on a light to observe nearby underwater life, while the endless black expanse of the ocean presses in around them. Both ensuite rooms fea-Set to take Australia's long-standing tourism hot spot to "another level," Luke Walker, CEO ture floor-to-ceiling windows; allowing customers

underwater hotel rooms open on Dec. 1. For \$799 a night, tourists now the opportunity to live out a *Finding* Nemo dream

▶ Australia's first

contemplate the fragility of both nature and humanity. By night,

to look out into a vast level," Luke Walker, CEO world of water, glowing an alien shade of company Journey ing the cyclone.

aquarium-like space without harming the ecosystem was the top priority of the 14-month construction process.

are part of Reefworld Pontoon, a \$10m structure built to replace tourism operator Cruise Whitsunday's original pontoon on Hardy Reef, which was damaged dur-

The submerged rooms

a three-level pontoon and underwater hotel near Lady Musgrave Island on the southern end of the Great Barrier Reef. While it may be a first for

The project included turquoise, while they Beyond, said creating the replanting 4,000 pieces of

Australia, underwater hotels already operate in Dubai, the Maldives and Tanzania. — Agencies

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DELHI SPECIAL

NEW DELHI SUNDAY 1 DECEMBER 2019

SPORT | Cricket

Kohli hits out at critics for targeting

HYDERABAD GANGRAPE DCW notice to police for harassment of agitator

Woman sits on protest outside

Antetokounmpo shines as Milwaukee

rising crime against women in the coun-

try. Holding candles and placards, the

curb crime against women in the coun-

try. "We are saddened about the rising

have to save our society ourselves," Mr

gang raped and then burnt, has brought

the issue of women's safety in the coun-

try into focus again as the Central gov-

the rounds

Matinee

Sara makes

GUIDE TO FORTUNE

Tick the answer and check

The majority of genetically modified crops are grown in which part of the world?

- Europe
- The Americas China

Which of the following dog breeds originated in

- Labradoodle
- Lhasa Apso Chow Chow

In which battle did the Ethiopians defeat the Italians in 1896?

- Battle of Adwa
- Battle of Sivana ■ Battle of Isandiwana

Man arrested with illegal firearms

New Delhi: A 29-year-old man, suspected to be a member of the infamous Chhenu gang, was arrested with illegal firearms in the national capital, police said on Saturday. The accused, Qamar Abbas, was a resident of Naya Bazar railway colony, they said. Police got a tip-off regarding Abbas on Friday, following which a trap was laid near the Hanuman Mandir, Yamuna Bazar and the accused was arrested at around 7:40 pm, DCP (North) Monika Bhardwaj said. Four country-made pistols and 18 live cartridges were seized from his possession, the police said. During interrogation, the accused said the arms belonged to his cousin Anwar, who is also a member of the gang. Around two moths ago, the accused, along with Anwar and one Rizwan, allegedly killed one Sufi, a member of the Nasir gang, in the New Usmanpur

Kejriwal asked to appear in court

New Delhi: A local court has directed Delhi chief minister Arvind Keiriwal to personally appear before the court in order to take bail in a defamation case against him. Additional chief metropolitan magistrate Vishal Pahuja asked the accused to appear in person on the next date of hearing. The court"s order came in while it was hearing a defamation complaint filed by Vikas Sankrityayan, who claimed that on May 6, 2018, a YouTube video titled "BJP IT Cell Part 2" was circulated by Dhruv Rathee, who lives in Germany, "wherein a number of false and defamatory allegations were made". Sankrityavan said that the Delhi chief minister retweeted the video from his twitter account without checking the authenticity of

1 held at airport for carrying live bullet

the video.

New Delhi: A Bangkok-bound passenger has been apprehended by the CISF at the Delhi airport for allegedly carrying a live bullet in his baggage, an official said on Saturday. The bullet was detected during the baggage search of traveller Jitender at the Indira Gandhi International Airport on Friday. A live bullet of 7.65 mm calibre was recovered from the bag of the passenger who had an Indian passport, the official said. The traveller was not allowed to board the flight and was handed over to the Delhi Police as he could not pro-

THE ANSWER TO TODAY'S GUIDE TO FORTUNE

duce any document for pos-

sessing the ammunition, he

ewbA to eltteB osdA esed1 The Americas wife Anushka

NEW DELHI, NOV. 30

A woman sat on a solitary

protest near the Parliament on Saturday

morning in wake of the

gangrape and murder of a

27-year-old veterinarian in

outskirts

Hyderabad. She alleged

that she was harassed and

beaten up by police personnel, following which the

Delhi Commission for

Women (DCW) issued notice to the Delhi police.

Holding a placard with the slogan "why I can't feel safe in my own Bharat,"

Anu Dubey, who is in her

mid 20s, sat on the pave-

ment near gate number 2-3

of the Parliament House

complex to protest against

crime against women in

the country, the police

She alleged "gross misbe-

haviour, harassment, and

violence" by the Delhi police personnel from the

Parliament Street police

station who forcefully removed her from the site

and detained her.
Though the Delhi police denied allegations of bru-

tality, the DCW issued a

notice to the deputy com-

missioner of police (New

Delhi district) seeking action against the erring police officials.

) बोर्ड का पानी सभी जांच मानकों पर FAI

Delhi BJP Yuva Morcha workers protest against supply

1 arrested for stabbing

of contaminated water in New Delhi on Saturday.

75-year-old woman

AGE CORRESPONDENT

A 39-year-old man was

arrested on Saturday from Pathankot for

allegedly attacking his friend's mother-in-law

with a knife here, police

said. The accused has

been identified as Vijay, a

resident of Raghubir

On Friday, a case was registered based on the

statement of a 75-year-old

woman who said that one

Vijay, a close friend of her daughter-in-law, stabbed her with a knife and fled

from the spot, a senior police officer said.

The woman, also a resi-

dent of Raghubir Nagar,

was taken to Guru Gobind Singh Hospital

and later referred to Deen

Nagar, they said.

NEW DELHI, NOV. 30

केजरीवाल को भेजो जेल



Man arrested for rape, murder of 55-yr-old woman

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, NOV. 30

One person was arrested on Saturday for allegedly strangulating a 55-yearold woman to death in North Delhi's Gulabi Bagh area, the police said. It is suspected that the victim was first raped and then killed by the man who lives in the same locality, the police

On Saturday morning, a person known to the woman went to her shop and found her lying on the floor, following which he raised an alarm. The woman was rushed to a hospital where she was declared brought dead. The deceased lived alone in a small area where she used to sell items of worship and tea.

During investigation, the police analysed the CCTV footage and noticed a person who was seen going towards her shop late at night. The suspect was picked up from his house in the same locality where he lives in a rented accommodation, the police said. Sources said the accused revealed that he first forced himself on

the woman and later strangled her.

The accused was known to the victim. On Friday night he was returning home and saw the woman alone. He forced himself on her and later killed her

of Friday and Saturday. The accused used to work at a dhaba in a nearby locality.

The accused was known to the victim and on the intervening night of Friday and Saturday, he was returning home from work and saw the woman alone. He forced himself on her and later killed her, sources added.

The woman was unmarried and used to live there alone. Her parents had

died earlier.

The body of the deceased has been preserved at the Subzi Mandi Mortuary and the post mortem will be conducted on Sunday. The post mortem exami-

nation and the autopsy report is awaited to confirm sexual assault, the police added. After the autopsy, her body will be handed over to her rela-The incident took place on the intervening night autopsy, ner handed over tives, it said.

Parl, says cops 'thrashed' her **Youth Congress takes out candlelight march**



Youth Congress members during a candlelight march at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi on Saturday.

According to the police, some of its personnel asked the woman to go to Jantar Mantar to continue her protest but when she refused they took her to the Parliament Street police station in a police vehicle, a senior officer said. At that time the woman was sobbing, he said, adding that after some officers heard her

grievances released from the police station. Ms Dubey, however, has alleged that head constables Kuldip and Manju and one more officer misbehaved with her, hit her, and threatened her.

At the police station, she was allegedly thrown on a bed where three women police officers sat over her and beat her. She had

scratch marks on her body and blood was also coming out from her wounds, the DCW said in the notice.

Ms Dubey has submitted a complaint in this regard to the Parliament Street police station. The Delhi police said that a senior woman police officer will

look into the matter. Swati Maliwal, the chair-person of DCW, has

demanded that an FIR should be filed against those responsible for the misbehaviour. The DCW has sought reasons for removing the woman from the site even though she was alone and sitting quietly. It has also asked for details of the officials responsible for misbehaving with her. It has sought all details by December 4.

2-yr-old abducted on Nov. 23 rescued, 2 held

from the clutches of kidwith the case.

On November 23, police received a call regarding the kidnapping of the child by two motorcy-clists in Palam Village at 1:30 pm. During the investigation, 10 different teams were formed to verify the linking routes from the spot. Thousands of CCTV cameras of the accused's venicle

The ownership of the vehicle obtained and the same was found registered on the name of Umesh Pal in Panipat, Haryana. As per technical inputs, immediately a team was dispatched to Panipat to conduct a raid.

On being interrogated,

installed in the area were Pal revealed that his twothoroughly scanned.

During scanning of footage, the police team about the same. Later, as nameiy Choudhary was identified and zeroed down from Palam Village. He disclosed the identity of his co-accused as one Virender Kumar Dutt, who was arrested from

the area of Chander

Vihar and the kidnapped

girl child was also safely rescued from his resi-

Dutt was the master-Nikhil

mind behind whole conspiracy. He met the secnappers and arrested two persons in connection the registration number of the accused persons platform and lured him vith a cash amount of ₹1 lakh. Around ₹5,000 was given as an advance to another accused. The motive behind the

conspiracy was Nikhil's frustration with his own life, as he was not able to have a child even after six years of marriage. "To fulfil the child

desire of his wife and

conspiracy of kidnapping the child. He even made fake certificate of child adoption in the name of Gurugram to misiead state machinery as well as his family," police said.

Dutt disclosed that he purchased the stolen motorcycle from one of his known namely Gagan. The said motorcycle was also recovered from the spot at the time of the

Chief minister Arvind Kejriwal during a meeting with 13-member committee formed to determine the utilisation of

₹50 crore CM's Advocates Welfare Fund announced by the Delhi government on Saturday.

'BJP-hoarders nexus behind onion price rise'

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, NOV. 30

The AAP on Saturday blamed an "unholy nexus" between BJP and marketeers and hoarders for the sharp increase in onion prices and asked the Centre why it was not taking steps to reduce the inflation. AAP leader and Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh also asked the Centre the reason behind selling onion to Delhi government at a higher rate when NAFED, the apex organisation of marketing cooperatives for agricultural produce,

has proposed a subsidised

Dayal Hospital where a surgery was performed and her condition was

stated to be stable, the officer said.
CCTV footage of the

area were checked and call record details of the

accused analysed. It was

revealed that the accused

had fled to Pathankot in

Punjab, following which a

police team reached

Pathankot and arrested

Vijay disclosed that the complainant's daughter-

in-law is his friend and a

between the two women. The daughter-in-law told

him about the incident

following which he attacked the complainant

to take revenge, the DCP

took place

Deepak

Vijay, said De Purohit, DCP (West).

He said the Union minister in charge of food and distribution public department, Ram Vilas Paswan, must tell the public what kind of nexus they have with black marketeers and hoarders.

Struggling to cool prices amid a soaring demand, the Arvind Kejriwal government in Delhi has sought Centre's help to make onions available at subsidised rates. The Delhi government has claimed that NAFED has proposed to sell onions at ₹60 per kg in the city.

Singh blamed the Centre for the "annual furore" over onion prices in the country and claimed it is directly responsible for this "onion chaos" and 'disorganized state of affairs.

There is an alleged nexus between BJP and black marketeers and hoarders, he said. "This unholy nexus has led to the increase of onion prices across the country. The Delhi government was selling onion at ₹23.90 per kg. But to stop this, the central government increased the rate of onion from ₹15 per kg to ₹60 per kg, while 32,000 tonnes of onion rotted in government godowns," he said.

The Centre is responsible for paucity of onions that happens every year," Singh said. When a farmer goes to sell his onion in the market, he gets ₹2-3 per kg for his produce. The hoarders and black marketeers buy onion at this price. Hoard the stock and later sell it at a premium of ₹100 per kg when the stock goes down. This is possible only because the black marketeers get support from the Centre," he said.

AIIMS files police complaint in ₹12 crore banking fraud

AGE CORRESPONDENT of Delhi Police seeking an

NEW DELHI, NOV. 30

The Delhi Police has received a complaint in connection with the banking fraud of over ₹12 crore at AIIMS, officials said on Saturday.

The money has been siphoned off from the bank accounts the All India Institute of Medical Sciences has with the State Bank of India from its non-home branches in other cities.

The AIIMS administration has approached the Economic Offences Wing

investigation into the scam. Police said they have received a complaint and are looking into the matter, a senior police offi-

Over ₹7 crore was fraudulently withdrawn from the institute's main account with the SBI which is operated by the AIIMS director. An amount of ₹5 crore was taken out from another account held by the dean, research of AIIMS. Even after the fraud came to light, attempts were made to withdraw ₹29 crore.

Woman treks to Kedarnath after knee. hip surgery

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, NOV. 30

A 40-year-old woman was able to go for an arduous trek to Kedarnath and Badrinath 18 months after she went through hip and knee joint replacement at a city hospital.

According to doctors, the woman, Mithu Adhikary, had fractured her hip in an accident following which she had to undergo simultaneous hip and knee surgeries. Senior joint replacement consultant at the Indian Spinal Injuries Centre (ISIC), Dr Vivek Mahajan, explained that simultaneous replacement surgeries were conducted on the affected hip and the knee through computer-assisted methods and superior quality implants were used that does not easily sustain wear and tear.

"Being a computer-assisted surgery, the chances of a revision surgery were prevented which is usually caused by wrong alignment of implants as well as substandard implants or surgical techniques. We are very happy that she could take a route that is normal for devotees to take and enjoyed her





By the end of the Test championship, I don't see it being impossible for us to be fourth or fifth in the world.

> — Jason Holder, **West Indies captain**

TAKES SHORT

Afghanistan U-19

team stun India Lucknow: Afghanistan's U-19

team produced a disciplined effort to script a stunning twowicket victory over fancied India in a low-scoring fifth Youth ODI here on Saturday. The five-match series, though, ended 3-2 in favour of hosts India. Batting first after winning the toss, India were bowled out for 157 in 49.3 overs at the **Ekana Cricket Stadium B** ground. Vikrant Bhadoriya made 29 and Kumar Kushagra scored 24 for the home team. Noor Ahmad was the most successful bowler for the visitors, picking 3/39, while there were two wickets apiece for Abid Mohammadi and Shafiqullah Ghafari. In reply, Afghanistan managed to reach the target of 158 in 47.3 overs, with Asif Musazai top-scoring with 42 off 77 balls. For India U-19, Manav Suthar picked up 3/32 in 7.2 overs. - PTI

England hope to fightback Kiwis

Hamilton: England rejected talk their New Zealand series was over when they ended day two on Sunday at 39 for two, but accepted it would need a special performance to turn their fortunes around in Hamilton. New Zealand, meanwhile, ruled out thoughts of playing for a draw as they targeted a clean sweep in the two Test series after a comprehensive innings victory in the first match. With BJ Watling, the architect of the first Test win, again holding the innings together New Zealand recovered from 191 for five to reach 375 in their first innings in Hamilton with Watling and debutant Dary Mitchell featuring in a 124-run stand for the sixth wicket. England, in 18 overs before stumps, lost Dom Sibley and Joe Denly cheaply while Rory Burns was dropped twice to be not out 24 with Joe Root on SIX. — AFI Brief scores: New Zealand 375 IN 129.1 over (T. Latham 105, D.

Mitchell 73; Broad 4/73,

1/24, Henry 1/10).

Woakes 3/83) vs England 39/2

24, J. Root (batting) 6; Southee

in 18 overs (R. Burns (batting)

Kohli breaks silence

Captain hits out at critics for targeting wife Anushka

Indian captain Virat Kohli on Saturday said his actress wife Anushka Sharma is a "soft target", breaking his silence on former player Farokh Engineer's claim that she was served tea by one of the selectors during the

World Cup. The 81-year-old Engineer recently ridiculed the credentials of the five-member selection panel, led by MSK Prasad and comprising Sarandeep Singh, Jatin Paranjpe, Gagan Khoda and Devang Gandhi, claiming that he saw one of them serve tea to Sharma during the World Cup in England.

The 31-year-old captain was surprised by the allegations and said dragging her name was not right. "She came for one World Cup game against Sri Lanka and the family box and the selector box was different, and there was no selector in that box. She came with two friends. As I said, she is known, she's been successful at a very high level so when people take her name, it gets noticed,' Kohli said.

You want to mention something about the selectors do that, but why join her name with it."

"When the lies are spoken so much all around, they start becoming truths. So you need to speak up at some stage and that's exactly what happened recently."

Sharma has often been accused of getting preferential treatment in the Indian cricket fraternity but Kohli rubbished all the allegations, saying his wife's value system would never allow her to do anything wrong.

'So much has been said about her and so much comes out about her. The value system that she has and her beliefs and the nature she has, it won't allow her to go against rules and protocols.

"So I don't know why people have wanted to sensationalise stories by taking her name because



Virat Kohli and Ravi Shastri.

had been ignoring it for a

Captains bats

for coach

relentless trolling of Ravi

Shastri as "agenda driv-

en", saying the India coach is least affected by

perception that he is the

Get up, face the fast

bowlers with "courage" and "without helmet",

average 41 as an opener — Kohli mentioned all that

Shastri did as a player in

his scathing riposte to the

"I think most of these

and I don't know whose,

current coach's critics.

on termed the

while," Kohli said.

captain's yes man.

Kohli

She (Anushka) came for one World Cup game against Sri Lanka and the family box and the selector box was different, and there was no selector in that box. She came with two friends. As I said, she is known, she's been successful at a very high level so when people take her name, it gets noticed

-VIRAT KOHLI

THE ASIAN AGE

she's a soft target. We both why, what for, but to accept lies in that manner, it couldn't be anything but agenda driven," Kohli told *India Today* on its special

show 'Inspiration'.

.. In Ravi bhai's case, luckily, he is a person that doesn't care at all."

Starting out as a slow left-arm spinner, Shastri went on to open the innings for India and also the famous 'Champions' Award in the 1985 World Series Cricket, and Kohli touched upon all that while offering his unequivocal support to the head coach.

"(Promoted from) numthings are agenda driven ber 10 to opener and got an average of 41 as an opener,

he is not going to be bothered about someone sitting at home and trolling him, because if you want to troll a guy who has done that, then get up, face those bowlers, do what he has done, have the clarity to do it, have the courage to do it, then have a debate

with that guy," Kohli said. "He is absolutely chilled out, he says our only focus is how we can be the best team of all time. I think these petty things on the outside, they don't matter at all to him.'

After the rout of Bangladesh in the Test recently, Kohli called his fast bowling arsenal as a "dream combination" that can tor-

ment any opposition on any kind of surface. This was done without Jasprit Bumrah.

The skipper said there is always bonhomie among his fast bowlers, not an iota of insecurity despite all the successes and the intense intense competition. 'There is no jealousy at all and that is their biggest strength, they don't care whether Shami is at 7 now or Jassi is at whatever ranking he is Ishant,"Kohli said.

"I think full credit has to go to them to these guys that they have been able to create this aura around them because of that friendship that belief and the intent being in the

While Sachin Tendulkar is the one he looks up to among cricketers, Kohli's favourite in sporting world is ace footballer Cristiano Ronaldo. think Cristiano Ronaldo because I like the fact that is targeted on a daily basis but he has the mental strength, the will to work hard and the desire to keep coming back.

"For me those things matter more than some-one having absolute unre-al natural ability, which is (Lionel) Messi, so I am in awe of Ronaldo."

Kohli has made a habit of creating records, some-thing that has often drawn comparisons with his idol. legendary Tendulkar. "Well I don't know how to explain it I mean I just hate losing. Basically I hate losing in anything, that is how a sportsman is made up, that is the makeup of any sportsman competing at the highest level," he said. "I don't want any maybe,

I don't what any ifs, when I walk on to that field it is an honour for me, and when I walk out I want to have zero energy left.

"I'm actually always trying to avoid that feeling and that's why I go along about my work in a crazy manner. I just have to put all my effort into every ball that I play, field or I



BCCI AGM set to dilute reforms

BCCI will on Sunday hold its first Annual General Meeting with enigmatic former captain Sourav Ganguly at the helm, seeking to dilute some key reforms mandated by the Supreme Court, constitute cricket committees like the CAC and appoint the Board's representative at

The Supreme Court-appointed Committee of Administrators (COA) was in control of the cricket body for 33 months before the new office-bearers, led by Ganguly, took charge last month. Ganguly's current nine-month stint will get an extension if the BCCI dilutes the specific reform on tenure-cap as mandated by the SCthe SC-Lodha by appointed

Committee. In the agenda released for the AGM, the BCCI has proposed significant changes to the existing constitution. As per the constitution, current which is approved by the Supreme Court, an officebearer who has served two three-year terms, either at the BCCI or at the state association, goes into a compulsory three-year cooling-off period.

The current dispensation wants that period to kick in only after the individual has finished two terms (six years), at the board and state association separately. If passed with a threefourth majority, it will effectively extend the tenure of Ganguly and sec-

BCCI treasurer Arun Dhumal said that all the proposed amendments are aimed at strengthening the board's structure and will only be incorporated once approved by the Supreme Court. "We are not touching the 70-year age cap clause. With regards to the cooling off, our point of view is if somebody has gained experience by running the state association, why give him a cooling-off. That experience should be utilised in the best interest of the game. If he can contribute in the BCCI, why not?" said Dhumal.

"We will take it (all passed amendments at the AGM) to the Supreme Court. We will put across our point of view. What are the practical difficulties we are facing with regards to a few things. In case the court agrees with our idea, then we will have those

amendments," he added. However, going forward, it has been proposed that a three-fourth majority at the AGM should be able to ratify any amendment in the constitution as it is not "practical" to take the Supreme Court's approval, which is required in the existing constitution.

With the BCCI's clout significantly reduced at the ICC due to the administrative crisis over the past three years, the board has proposed that experienced hands must represent India in the world body and the 70-year age cap clause should not apply to them.

Akram slams Pakistan's fielding Paine's declaration is

bowling legend Wasim Akram blasted the team's efforts on the field during Day 2 of their second Test against Australia at the Adelaide Oval on Saturday. Akram's comments came after a

Adelaide, Nov. 30: Pakistan fast Pakistan conceding a four on a day when David Warner sent the records tumbling with a triple century. "Shaheen Shah was in la la land at fine leg," Akram said. "Yasir Shah and Shan Masood were probably yawning. That's the prob-

should be on the ball.

"Nobody was backing up and you as a fielder, it doesn't matter how inexperienced you are, you set yourself, new batsman in, they just came out, I'll probably start five-ten yards inside the boundary line not misfield from Shaheen Afridi led to Tem with Pakistan cricket. They on the boundary."

an intriguing decision



Ayaz Memon **Over The Top**

Tmagine you are Tim Paine, captain of Australia. Opener David Warner has passed 300 at the Adelaide Oval on the second day of the Test. Brian Lara's record score of 400 beckons. Pakistan's bowling is wilting. There's enough time remaining in the match. What would you

thoughts in a tweet, asking my followers their opinion just after Warner got his triple century: Should Paine declare Australia already had a mammoth score, or should Warner be allowed to get past Lara? Or give him fixed time to get the record or not?

Only 17 per cent of respondents suggested respondents Paine should declare forthwith. Those in favour of Warner being allowed the opportunity to break Lara's record was an overwhelming 76 per cent, the remaining 7 per cent saying he should be allowed to get this within a time limit.

As it transpired, Paine declared with the score 589-3 and Warner unbeaten 335. Given Warner's strike rate (80.14), he wouldn't have needed much time to breach Lara's record, established more than 15 years ago at St John's ground Antigua against England.

days still remained in the match when Paine called Warner and Wade back to the dressing room. Pakistan's batting in the series till then had been so dismal that there seemed

enough time and more to bowl them out twice. It is fascinating to try and

understand why Paine would have made the decision he did. Imagine the tug-of-war being played out in his mind after Warner had completed his triple century: should he allow a teammate chance for great glory, or put the opponent encapsulated these on the mat as soon as possi-

> Remember, Warner was a key batsman who had failed to make 100 runs in the entire Ashes series earlier this year. What a boost it would be for him, what honour for Australian

So why would Paine declare? The most credible explanation is that this is rooted in Aussie cricket culture where winning is prioritised over all else, and team interest comes way ahead of the individ-

This hardy attitude, which is believed makes Australia the most successful team in history, has been the subject of discussion and envy in cricket circles over decades: particularly among players from countries where personal milestones are cherished and provide great rewards. Sometimes this comes

with dollops of pathos. In 1994 Mark Taylor, then captaining Australia, declared when he was 334 playing against Pakistan at Peshawar. Brian Lara had only months earlier broken Sobers's record, and on a featherbed pitch, this was

within Taylor's grasp.

his innings, saying he couldn't imagine getting ahead of Sir Don Bradman 334, which was the highest score by an Australian till then. Similarly, Michael Clarke declared the innings against India at Sydney in 2012 when he was on 329. Clarke could have aimed

Instead, Taylor called off

for Lara's record of 400 which had been established by then but, like Taylor, chose to remain behind Bradman's 334. This showed the reverence in which Bradman is still held in Australia in the cricket-

ing fraternity.
However, there has been the exception too. In 2003 at Perth, against a hapless Zimbabwe side, opener Mathew Hayden didn't stop at Bradman's milestone, plundering 380 runs and going past Lara's then record of 375. But the captain of the Aussie team then was Steve Waugh.

(For the record, Hayden's record was short-lived, with Lara making 400 a few months later at the same ground, St John's, where he had scored 375 against the same opponent, England, ten years earlier.)

This suggests there is no clear template in making such decisions. It depends on how the captain sees the relative strengths of the two teams, how he has read the conditions and assessed match situations as they unfold. But perhaps the most important consideration in such a complex decision is how the captain understands the senti-ments within his own dressing room, and the

implications it could carry. Paine's declaration is debatable. But if his dressing room, and particularly Warner, can appreciate his logic, the debate is mitigated and the decision gets vindication.

Warner hits 335, Smith shatters record

Adelaide, Nov. 30: An irrepressible David Warner smashed an unbeaten 335 on Saturday while Steve Smith became the fastest man to 7,000 Test runs <<< David Warner Australia took control of the daynight second Test against Pakistan. Skipper Tim Paine waved his

players back into the pavilion at 589 for three ahead of the second day's dinner break with Warner on the 10th highest Test score ever, also a personal The decision to declare deprived him of a crack at

Brian Lara's all-time high 400 not out, but it proved to be the right one with the Australian bowlers quickly tearing through Pakistan's hapless top order under the Adelaide Oval lights.

They finished in deep trouble at 96 for six with Mitchell grabbing four of them.

Babar Azam was not out 43 and Yasir Shah was on

'It's just sunk in to me that it is very rare that opportu-

> SCORE**CARD**

Australia (1st innings): J. Burns c Rizwan b Afridi 4, D. Warner (not out) 335, M. Labuschagne b Afridi 162, S. Smith c Rizwan b Afridi 36, M. Wade (not out) 38. Extras (lb6, nb7, w1) 14. Total (for three wickets in 127

FoW: 1-8, 2-369, 3-490. **Bowling:** Abbas 29-7-100-0, Afridi 30-5-88-3, Musa 20-1-114-0, Yasir 32-1-197-0, Ahmed 15-0-75-0, Azhar 1-

Pakistan (1st innings): S. Masood c Paine b Hazlewood 19, Imam-ul-Haq c Warner b Starc 2, A. Ali c Smith b Cummins 9, A. Shafiq c Paine b Starc 9, B. Azam (batting) 43, I. Ahmed c Paine b Starc 10, M. Rizwan c Paine b Starc O, Y. Shah (batting) 4. Total (for six wickets in 35 overs) 96.

FoW: 1-3, 2-22, 3-38, 4-69, 5-89, 6-89. Bowling: Starc 13-5-22-4, Hazlewood 8-2-29-1, Cummins 14-1-45-1.

FAOTEOT TO 70	000	DUMO	IN TEOTO
FASTEST TO 7000 RUNS IN TESTS			
Batsman	М	I	Time
Steven Smith (Aus)	70	126	9 yrs & 140 days
Wally Hammond (Eng)	80	131	18 yrs & 238 days
/. Sehwag (Ind)	79	134	8 yrs & 278 days
Sachin Tendulkar (Ind)	85	136	11 yrs & 353 days
Garry Sobers (WI)	79	138	16 yrs & 359 days
(umar Sangakkara (SL)	83	138	9 yrs & 3 days
/irat Kohli (India)	81	138	8 yrs & 113 days
(umar Sangakkara (SL)	83	138	9 yrs & 3 days
		STATS	S: S. Pervez Qaiser

moment for the rest of my definitely," Warner on making such a big score.

"More importantly, the partnerships we put on. It just showed how much pride we have as a batting unit running between the wickets.

"If I'm doing my job well and putting the team in the best position, we're going to win a lot of games," he

The visitors, who have lost 13 consecutive Tests in Australia, enjoyed little success in a long day in the field as they look to avoid a 2-0 series defeat.

But they did remove Marnus Labuschagne for 162 in the opening session and also bagged Smith,

caught behind by Mohammad Rizwan off Shaheen Afridi for 36. In making his runs, Smith shattered a record that had

He took a single off Muhammad Musa to reach 7,000 runs in his 126th innings, taking possession of a mark held for 73 years by English great Wally Hammond who reached the milestone in his 131st innings. Smith also moved past legendary countryman Donald Bradman's 6,996 Test runs to become Australia's 11th highest scorer. The home team resumed

the day at 302 for one with Warner on 166 and Labuschagne 126, with the pair putting on another 67 runs before Pakistan finally got a breakthrough.

Skipper Azhar Ali took the new ball and Afridi clean-bowled Labuschagne as he attempted a drive, just as he and Warner appeared set for another long day at the crease.

The 25-year-old trudged off to a standing ovation after a classy 162, his second century in a row. Their marathon 361-run

partnership was a record second-wicket stand for Australia against Pakistan and the highest ever in a pink-ball Test. Minutes later, Warner completed only the second

Test double century of his

career. Playing in his 81st Test, he reached 200 with a single from Afridi, having clattered 23 fours. Pakistan Almost three and a half thought they finally had him out on 226 when he was caught in the gully off debutant Musa, only for their heads to drop when it was called a no-ball.



On what basis the selection (for the South Asian games has been done?

— Prajakta Sawant, India's doubles badminton player questions BAI on the team's selection policy

SHORT

TAKES

Prajakta slams BAI on selection

New Delhi: Doubles player Prajakta Sawant on Saturday slammed the selection of the Indian badminton team for the South Asian Games (SAG) in Nepal, saying players who don't even feature in the domestic tournaments have been picked for the regional multi-sporting

event The Badminton Association of India (BAI), however, denied any allegations of favouritism, saying the players were picked on the basis of a set of selection criteria. In a series of

tweets, Sawant questioned the selection of the team and urged **BAI president Himanta Biswa** Sarma to look into the matter. "SAF (sic SAG) Games team for Badminton is already decided unofficially..Players are put-ting stories on *Instagram* and Facebook of arriving at Nepal. On what basis the selection has been done?? @himantabiswa @BAI_Media," Sawant wrote on

her *Twitter* handle. "Players from Gopichand academy are only supposed to play for Indian team??who doesn't even participate in All India tournaments and are selected directly to the Indian team? @BAI_Media @himantabiswa. Please

Aizawl, Bagan in

a goalless draw Aizawl: Hosts Aizawl Football

Club held Kolkata giants Mohun Bagan to a goal-less draw in the opening match of the 13th I-League here on Saturday. The season's inaugural game between two former champions had several moments of excitement but a goal eluded both sides in the end.

Both coaches, Kibu Vicuna of Mohun Bagan and Stanley Rozario of Aizawl, packed their sides with midfielders, indicating a cautious approach to begin their campaign. Monun Bagan had Suhair V. P. as the lone striker upfront while Rozario played William Lalnunfela ahead of a six-man

midfield. The visitors pressed hard from the get-go. Suhair's through pass to Julian Colinas brought up the first chance of the game in the third minute and the Spaniard's left-footed strike beat Lalremruata in the Aizawl goal, but went just wide. Suhair then got an even better through ball from Nongdamba Naorem in the eighth minute but hit straight at Remruata who did well by coming off his line quickly. The referee flashed his yellow card a

VISHNU, **RAGHUL TIED FOR CROWN**

few times in the game.

Greater Noida: The stage is set for a spectacular day of races at the Buddh International Circuit, with the LGB Formula 4 and the JK Tyre Suzuki Gixxer Cup poised for a sensational showdown in the JK Tyre Festival of Speed in front of over 40,000

Chennai's Vishnu Prasad and

Raghul Rangasamy, close friends and arch-rivals in the LGB-4, were tied on 73 points after Saturday's two races and have one last race to battle it out for the coveted title in the JK Tyre FMSCI National racing Championship on Sunday. The Gixxer Cup too went topsy-turvy with championship leader Tanay Gaikwad suffering an unexpected DNF on Saturday. The Pune lad (54 points) has now slipped to the second position, with Syed

Muzammil Ali jumping into the Bengaluru's Muzammil collected 10 points on Saturday, comfortably winning the race to move to 56 points. This one too comes to the final race on Sunday, with the winner likely to walk away with the coveted

Agencies

Bucks own Cleveland Lewis takes pole

THE ASIAN AGE

Antetokounmpo shines as Milwaukee triumph

Los Angeles, Nov. 30: Giannis Antetokounmpo drained four clutch bas-kets down the stretch as the Milwaukee Bucks won their 10th consecutive game with a 119-110 victory over the Cleveland Cavaliers on Friday. Milwaukee led by as many as 22 points in the

first half but Cleveland chipped away until they closed the gap to just three late in the fourth but that was as close as they would

Every time the Cavs got within striking distance of levelling the score, Antetokounmpo answered with a basket of his own to help seal the win.

Antetokounmpo ished with 33 points and also delivered a doubledouble with a team-high 12 rebounds for the Bucks, who beat the Cavaliers for the second time this sea-

George Hill chipped in with 18 points, while Khris Middleton had 12, Donte DiVincenzo 11, and Eric Bledsoe and Ersan Ilyasova 10 apiece.

Rookie Darius Garland scored 21 points to pace the Cavaliers, who lost their third straight. Cedi Osman had 20

points, Nance 18, Kevin Love and Collin Sexton 16 apiece, and Tristan Thompson 11 in a balanced Cleveland attack.

Thompson collected a game-high 13 rebounds to complete a double-double for the game.

SPURS CLIP KAWHI'S

Elsewhere, Kawhi Leonard led all scorers with 19 points in his second game back in San Antonio since being traded away prior to last season, but it wasn't enough as the Spurs beat the Los Angeles Clippers 107-97. Leonard, who joined the

Clippers in the offseason after one season with the Toronto Raptors, had 13 points in the first half.

Derrick White and LaMarcus Aldridge

scored 17 points and DeMar DeRozan chipped in 15 for the Spurs, who had lost 10 of their last 11



Giannis Antetokounmpo (right) of Milwaukee Bucks drives past Alfonzo McKinnie of the Cleveland Cavaliers during their NBA game in Cleveland on Saturday. Bucks won 119-110.



What's here is our next opponent. We want to continue to get better. We have guys who have been there and know what it takes. This is a long process, and we can never shortcut it. But we can enjoy it along the way

— LeBRON **JAMES** Los Angeles Lakers player

JaMychal Green came off the bench to score 16 points for the Clippers, who had their seven game

win streak snapped. San Antonio tied the game 53-53 at the half then compiled a 87-71 lead early lition of the struggling

in the fourth quarter in a

surprising upset. In Los Angeles, Anthony Davis and LeBron James combined for 49 points as the Los Angeles Lakers won their 10th straight game with a 125-103 demo-

and James finished with

Washington Wizards.

The Wizards have been

one of the league's worst

defensive teams this sea-

son, and Davis and James

Davis added 13 rebounds

took advantage of that.

11 assists and they both sat for the fourth quarter as the Lakers moved to the top of the overall league standings.
All of the victories in the

Lakers' latest streak have been against sub-500 teams however, and their upcoming games against Dallas, Denver and Utah — who are all above .500 — may prove more difficult.

Quinn Cook scored 17 points and JaVale McGee had 15 points and 11 rebounds.

Also, Norman Powell

scored 19 of his careerbest 33 points in the third quarter as Toronto recovered from an early 11point deficit to defeat the Orlando Magic 90-83.

Fred VanVleet added 22 points for the Raptors, who extended their winning streak to six games.

Pascal Siakam had 10 points and 13 rebounds for the Raptors, who shot 37 percent from the field. Evan Fournier scored 19

points for the Magic, who had 22 turnovers compared with just 13 by the Raptors. In Phoenix, Luka Doncic equalled a career high 42

points as the visiting Dallas Mavericks rallied for a 120-113 victory over the Phoenix Suns.

Radonjic fires Marseille home

Paris, Nov. 30: Nemanja Radonjic came on as a second half substitute to score in the 89th minute and earn Marseille a 2-1 win in a breathless Ligue 1 encounter with Brest on

Andre Villas-Boas has now guided the former European champions to their fourth successive league win. It lifted the

placed side onto 28 points, five behind Paris Saint-Germain who Monaco on Sunday.

"I think it was our best game, but also the most stressful. Amazing. We played well, this is the first time I have nothing complain about, admitted Villas-Boas.

The first period was fast and furious, but Marseille were left scratching their heads after 12 shots failed

to reap any reward. Dario Benedetto looked bemused after he flashed in a right-footed volley blocked by Brest keeper Gautier Larsonneur.

Morgan Sanson had ear-lier hit the woodwork, but despite all of Marseille's might it was Brest who arguably felt the most aggrieved not to have scored. Their one and only chance of the first period came in the 13th minute when Irvin Cardona's shot bounced off the far post, the ball then tracing the goalline to ricochet off the near post, with Marseille keeper and captain Steve Mandanda beaten. — AFP

I think it was our best game, but also the most stressful. Amazing. We played well, this is the first time I have nothing to complain about.

> - ANDRE VILLAS-BOAS Marseille coach



Marseille's Nemanja Radonjic (left) scores his team's second goal during their French league match against Brest at the Orange Velodrome stadium in Marseille, southeastern France, on Friday. Marseille won 2-1.

Serdar wins it for Schalke

Berlin, Nov. 30: Suat Serdar scored a late winner to give Schalke a 2-1 victory at Union Berlin on Friday and take David Wagner's team joint top

in the Bundesliga. Schalke now have 25 points after their seventh win of the season and trail leaders Borussia Moenchengladbach only on goal difference. Serdar has five goals in

the Bundesliga this cam-

paign, more than in his

combined. His late strike

Suat Serdar nets a later winner as **Schalke beat Union** Berlin 2-1 go joint top in the German League. Schalke are on 25 points, trailing Borussia Moenchengladbach on goal difference.

same after being set up by smart approach work from Ahmed Kutucu and Amine Harit.

Union Berlin had won four of their last five matches and were unfortunate to fall behind on 23 minutes when Benito Raman's fierce left-foot beat Rafal Gikiewicz in goal.

However, Union levelled from the penalty spot after 36 minutes when Marcus Ingvartsen scored following a foul on Robert Andrich.

The game seemed headed for a stalemate before Serdar had the final say.

— AFP

Bucharest set to host Euro draw

Bucharest (Romania), Nov. 30: Bucharest hosts the draw for Euro 2020 with the fates of World Cup holders France and reigning European champions Portugal providing the greatest interest just over six months before the start of what is a controversial tournament.

The coaches of all qualified nations will be in attendance for the draw ceremony at the Romexpo exhibition centre in Romania's capital, which will host four matches at the finals.

For the first, and surely only, time, this European Championship — the second to feature 24 teams is being held in 12 cities in 12 different European nations from June 12 to July 12, with the semifinals and final taking place at Wembley in London. However, the concept

and part of that is down to the fact that much of the suspense has already been taken from the draw. The need to ensure qualified host nations get to play at least two home matches means some teams already which group they will be

has come in for criticism,

For the first time this European Championship the second to feature 24 teams is being held in 12 cities in 12 different **European nations** from June 12 to July 12, with the semifinals and final taking place at Wembley in London.

FORMULA ONE

in Abu Dhabi

Abu Dhabi, Nov. 30: Lewis Hamilton claimed his first pole position in four months with a scorching record lap at the Yas Marina circuit on Saturday for the Abu Dhabi Grand Prix ahead of his Mercedes teammate Valterri Bottas.

recently-crowned champion delivered a late lap in one minute and 34.779 seconds to outpace Bottas, who will start from the back of the grid after collecting penalties for taking new engines.

It was a stunning way for Hamilton to finish the 'qualifying season' and improved his career record total to 88 poles, five of them in Abu Dhabi, the 21st and final race of the

It was his first pole since the German Grand Prix in July and his fifth of the year. He is more than 30 clear of his nearest rival Sebastian Vettel on 57.

"It's been such a long slog to try and get this pole position," admitted

"Yesterday was quite wobbly so I had to regroup overnight and come back focussed," he added. Max Verstappen was

third for Red Bull ahead of the two Ferraris of Charles Leclerc and Sebastian Vettel with Alex Albon tak-ing sixth in the second Red

The Dutchman will start Sunday's season-closer alongside Hamilton on the front row.

"As a team it's been a really strong day. We saw in qualifying that we had good pace and, as I'm going to start last, we'll take that fighting spirit forward

Lewis Hamilton claimed his first pole position in four months with a scorching record lap at the Yas Marina circuit. The recentlycrowned champion delivered a late lap in one minute and 34.779 seconds to outpace Valterri Bottas.

tomorrow," said Bottas. Verstappen said: "I think today was the best we could do. We all know Mercedes are dominant here, but I think there are a lot of chances in this race.'

Lando Norris won his intra-team qualifying battle with McLaren partner Carlos Sainz to take seventh ahead of Renault's Daniel Ricciardo with Sainz ninth and Nico Hulkenberg, in his final weekend with Renault,

After a hot day, which saw paddock regulars seeking the shade, the Q1 section of qualifying began in cooling conditions with the sun falling with the temperature. The rapidly-changing conditions were a challenge to the teams as they sought to maintain and improve tyre performance. The first outstanding lap

came from Verstappen before Hamilton took over with a lap that may have been affected by a lurid spin from Vettel, who somehow managed to turn his Ferrari to face the wrong direction on the start-finish straight.

- AFP



Max Verstappen (left) of Red Bull shakes hand with Lewis Hamilton of Mercedes after the qualifying session at the Yas Marina Circuit in Abu Dhabi on Saturday.

Rajiv bags two points for India

fier only to be a sizzling affair by the afternoon's Asia Production 250cc (AP 250) race 1 of the finale 7th round of FIM Asia Road Racing Championship 2019 (ARRC) Thailand.

For IDEMITSU Honda Racing India team rider duo of Rajiv Sethu and Kumar, Saturday turned out to be mixed day. While the morning qualifier pushed Rajiv out of the top 15 front bunch, he made a strong recovery in afternoon's race 1, finishing 14th and adding 2 more points to the solo Indian team's kitty. Meanwhile, an aggressive cornering in last turn resulted in Senthil's crashing out of the race in lap 1

The morning qualifier saw top 20 riders fight in a tight 2 seconds gap for the title battle. Riding with middle bunch in the first half of qualifier, Rajiv was

Buriram (Thailand) Nov. initially stuck in the 1:55 **30:** The battle for title started from the morning qualistrategizing fast, the 21year-old made a quick pit stop to lose this bunch. Rejoining with the fast bunch, he breached into 1:54 seconds mark to finally qualify 16th with best lap time of 1:54:737 — a mere 2.185 seconds off the female rider Muklada (1:52:552). Determined to win points

for India in the afternoon AP250 race 1, Rajiv gained 2 positions to 14th in lap 1 itself. But Malaysian rider Muhammad Faerozi crash in lap 1 turned out to be the turning point of the race. While the top riders pushed ahead, the next bunch of 7 riders including Rajiv hit the brakes and formed the next group. From here on, this bunch of 7 riders rode in under 1 second gap. Clocking his best lap time of 1:54:539, Rajiv maintained his 14th spot till lap 3. Lap 4 saw him slip to 15th only to recover back to 13th and maintain this pace till



We want to dedicate the win to armed forces, especially to the families who lost their loved ones on the borders.

- Rohit Rajpal, India's non-playing **Davis Cup captain**

SHORT TAKES

Sathiyan bows out of ITTF World Cup

Chengdu, China: G. Sathiyan's dream run at the International Table Tennis Federation Men's World Cup came to an end after the Indian went down to former world number one Timo Boll here on Saturday. The world number 30 Sathiyan, making his World Cup debut, went down 1-4 (11-7, 8-11, 5-11, 9-11, 8-11) to the German in the pre-quarters. Sathiyan started on a bright note, taking a 1-0 lead, but the experienced Boll replied quickly to level the match. The two-time World Cup champion then dominated the tie, winning the next three games without much trouble. On Friday, Sathiyan had defeat-ed higher ranked Frenchman Simon Gauzy 11-13, 9-11, 11-8, 14-12, 7-11, 11-5, 11-8 before beating world number 24 Groth Jonathan of Denmark 11-9, 7-11, 11-5, 11-6, 11-2, to top his group and reach the round of 16.

Pep wants to stay at City beyond 2021

Manchester: Pep Guardiola is interested in staying as Manchester City manager beyond the length of his current contract with the Premier League champions, which is due to expire next summer. The 48-year-old is already on course to make City the longest employer of his managerial career, having spent four years at Barcelona and three in charge of Bayern Munich. But Guardiola has for the first time indicated that he would be prepared to discuss the prospect of staying beyond the summer of 2021 and into a sixth season in charge at the Etihad. "I'm open (to staying) yes, I'm so comfortable working with this club," said Guardiola. "It depends on results. When you are five years it depends on the results. We will see wha happens this season and next

This season has not gone according to plan for the City manager as he attempted to match the unprecedented efforts of last year when he swept all three domestic titles with the club. — AFF

MUMBAI CITY, ATK PLAY OUT THRILLING DRAW

Kolkata: ATK and Mumbai City played out a thrilling 2-2 draw in a closely contested Hero Indian Super League clash here on Saturday.

Michael Soosairaj put ATK in front which was cancelled out by Pratik Chaudhari (62'). Then it was Serge Kevyn (90+3') who put Mumbai ahead only for ATK's Roy Krishna (90+6') to rescue a point for the hosts with a late goal.

It was a cagey start as the teams struggled to get a foothold in the initial stages. ATK could have drawn first blood in the 19th minute but a timely block from Rowllin Borges kept the scoreline intact. It all started with David Williams squaring the ball to Soosairaj who in turn set up Javi Hernandez. The Spaniard unleashed a shot at goal which went wide following a block

Minutes later, Williams tried his luck from distance, but his effort went inches wide of the

from Borges.

After the half an hour mark, Mumbai got their first opening of the match when Diego Carlos delivered a brilliant cross from the left for Modou Sougou, but the striker could not control the ball and the chance went abegging. In the 39th minute, ATK finally breached Mumbai's defence defence-splitting through ball to find Soosairaj who made a marauding run from his left wing-back position. The former Jamshedpur FC player then kept his calm and slotted past Amrinder Singh to put his team

in front. - Agencies

India outPaes Pak

Paes extends Davis Cup record, India earn qualifiers spot

Nur-Sultan, Nov. 30: Veteran Leander Paes bettered his own Davis Cup record by winning thing special for me and I am passionate about it. Jeevan was playing his first match and I his 44th doubles match, this time partnering debutant Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan, as India blanked Pakistan 4-0 on Saturday to earn a spot in the 2020 Qualifiers.

Pakistani teenagers Mohammed Shoaib Hufaiza Abdul Rehman were no match for the Indian combination of the battle-hardened Paes and Jeevan, who needed just 53 minutes to win 6-1, 6-3. Last year, Paes became the most successful doubles player

in the history of Davis Cup when he won his 43rd match, surpassing Italian great Nicola Pietrangeli during the tie against China. against China.

The 46-year-old had taken 56 ties for his 43rd win while Pietrangeli competed in 66 ties for his 42 victories.

This was my 44th win but it felt like my first. All my wins

took the weight of that pressure on my shoulders being the responsible senior partner,"

Paes said.
"It was about staying solid today. Jeevan has a big heart, he loves to play for flag. I am proud to share the court with him. These guys keep me young, fresh and vibrant. They bring out the best in me. We have got a great mix of different generations and different age groups. It's lot of fun to be back to playing for India again," added the winner of 18 Grand Slam titles.

His record of 44 wins in 57 ties is unlikely to be broken anytime soon as except him, none of the active doubles players feature in the top-10 list. Belarusian Max Mirnyi, at number three, has 36 wins but has not played on Tour since Paes' record of 44 wins in 57 ties is unlikely to be broken anytime soon as except him, none of the active doubles players feature in the top-10 list

THE ASIAN AGE

Saturday's result means India have won all the matches in a tie for the first time since February 2014 when they had blanked Chinese Taipei 5-0 in Indore

heap in the doubles, the legendary Indian stands fifth in the list of players for total number of wins with 92-35 win-loss record.

He now has 92 total wins, including 48 in singles. One more win will take him

who has 92-28 win-loss record. In the reverse singles, Sumit Nagal trounced Yousaf Khalil 6-1 6-0 for his second straight win. Both the sides opted not to play the dead fifth rubber. The fourth rubber is played even if the outcome of the tie is decided after the first three matches but the rules permit teams to skip playing the dead fifth rub-

ber. Saturday's result means India have won all the matches in a tie for the first time since February 2014 when they had blanked Chinese Taipei 5-0 in

Indore.
India will now face world number two Croatia for the Qualifiers in an away tie, to be held on March 6-7.

Twenty-four nations will go head-to-head in a bid to win one 12 qualifying spots for the Davis Cup Finals. The 12

losing nations will compete in World Group I



Leander Paes (right) and Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan celebrate their 6-1, 6-3 win over Pakistan's Mohammed Shoaib and Hufaiza Abdul Rehman in their Davis Cup doubles rubber in Nur-Sultan on Saturday.

Madrid go top with gutsy win

Madrid, Nov. 30: Sergio Ramos scored a goal and conceded a penalty as Real Madrid battled past Alaves on Saturday to go top of La Liga before Sunday's game between Barcelona and Atletico Madrid. Barca and Atletico face

off at the Wanda Metropolitano Madrid did all they could to take advantage, with Dani Carvajal the unlikely matchwinner in a gritty 2-1 victory over Alaves. Ramos had headed Madrid in front shortly after half-time only to concede a needless penalty for throwing his arm across Joselu, which

before Carvajal poked in. Madrid pull three points clear of Barcelona and six ahead of Atletico, who have played a game more than the top two. Sevilla, in third, host Leganes on Sunday. Alaves stay 13th. A 1-0 defeat at

Lucas Perez converted

Mendizorrotza 13 months ago came three weeks before Julen Lopetegui was sacked as coach but this time Madrid showed the kind of steel that was so painfully lacking last

season. On a wet and windy afternoon in the Basque country, Zinedine Zidane's side never

showed the verve and creativity that was so impressive in the draw against Paris Saint-Germain on Wednesday. But this was a gutsy performance that means

they have now won six

and drawn two of their

last eight matches in all

competitions, with the Clasico against Barcelona month approaching.

Gareth Bale made his first Madrid start since October 5 after recovering from a calf injury and his first too since his controversial celebration with Wales earlier this month, which sparked anger among his club's support-

Bale hit the post in the

first half but faded and

was replaced by Rodrygo

after Alaves' equaliser. With Eden Ĥazard out injured, Isco also kept his place while Alphonse Areola was given a rare outing in goal ahead of the rested Thibaut Courtois.

Real Madrid's Dani Carvajal (right) celebrates scoring against Alaves in their La Liga

match at Mendizorroza Stadium in Vitoria on Saturday.

Madrid were lucky not to concede another penalty early on as Aleix Vidal slalomed inside Ramos and then Eder Militao, dangling leg Vidal's foot. Guillermo Referee Cuadra felt the fall was

exaggerated. At the other end, Bale hit the post with header and Karim Benzema latched onto a quick throw but instead of shooting, hooked the ball back for Isco whose effort was saved.

Alaves grew in confidence as the rain grew heavier yet Madrid regrouped at half-time and took the lead soon after as Ramos was given a free header to glance in Toni Kroos' crossed free-

GRITTY VERMA KEEPS INDIAN HOPES ALIVE

Lucknow, Nov. 30: A grit-Sourabh entered the men's singles final after a hard-fought three-game win over Korea's Heo Kwang Hee in the semifinals of the Syed Modi International

here on Saturday. The 26-year-old Indian, who won two BWF Super 100 titles in Hyderabad and Vietnam this year, displayed a never-say-die attitude during his thrilling 21-17, 16-21, 21-18 win over Heo, ranked 44th

in the world. Sourabh thus set up a final clash with eighth seeded Taiwanese Wang Tzu Wei, who thrashed former world number 1 Korean Son Wan Ho 21-9, 21-7 in the other semifinal

of the Super 300 event. Earlier, former national champion Rituparna Das played her heart out before going down to Thailand's Phittayaporn Chaiwan to bow out of the women's singles com-

petition. The 23-year-old Indian went down fighting 22-24, 15-21 to Chaiwan in a 39minute women's singles semifinal match.

World No. 36 Sourabh made a good start to the semifinal, opening up a 6-2 lead before grabbing a 11-7 advantage at the

break. The Madhya Pradesh shuttler kept moving ahead despite a spirited fight from Heo and eventually pocketed the opening game.

PREMIER | LEAGUE

Shelvey stunner stumble Man City

Manchester City's Premier League title hopes faltered once more as the champions twice blew a lead to draw 2-2 at Newcastle on

Saturday.
Pep Guardiola's men were frustrated for long spells after Jetro Willems quickly cancelled out Raheem Sterling's first half opener, but seemed to have found the moment of magic they needed thanks to Kevin De Bruyne's sensational strike eight minutes from time.

However, City's defensive flaws were soon exposed once more as Jonjo Shelvey swept home a well-worked free-kick six minutes later.

City have now dropped points in five of their 14 league games this season and could end the day 11 points behind leaders Liverpool.

Guardiola was without Sergio Aguero who has been ruled out for a couple of weeks by a thigh muscle injury and City missed his predatory instincts as they failed to make nearly 80 percent possession count.

Sterling has usurped Aguero so far this season as City's major source of goals and was clinical 22 minutes in after a lovely backheel from David Silva set the England international up for his 15th goal of the season.

However, the lead lasted just three minutes as the normally goal-shy Magpies produced their own moment of quality when Miguel Almiron teed up

Live on TV

PREMIER LEAGUE Norwich vs Arsenal from 7.30 pm on Star

Sports Select 1, HD Man City vs Aston Villa from 10 pm on

Star Sports Select 1, HD Leicester vs Everton from 10 pm on Star Sports

Select 2, HD

Willems to slot past Ederson into the far cor-

When City lost on their last visit to St James' Park back in January the title seemed lost, only for a 14game winning streak to end the campaign to pip

Liverpool to the post. The Reds' relentless form at the top of the table meant City started the day nine points behind and with precious little margin for error even before November is out.

But the sharpness and accuracy of passing that has characterised City's two title triumphs under Guardiola was lacking as the visitors' struggled to unlock the mass ranks of

the Newcastle defence. City finally began to work Martin Dubravka in the Newcastle goal in the final quarter as De Bruyne's shot from a nar-row angle was turned away before Gabriel Jesus had a huge chance to make his mark in Aguero's absence.



Newcastle United's Jonjo Shelvey (right) celebrates with teammates after scoring against Man City in their English

SENIOR WRESTLING NATIONALS

Gold for Vinesh, Sakshi on Day 2

Jalandhar, Nov. 30: Star grapplers Vinesh Phogat (55kg) and Sakshi Malik (62kg) dished out convincing wins in the finals to claim gold medals on day two of the Tata Motors Senior Wrestling National Championships here on

However, the highlight of the day was Haryana wrestler Anita Sheoran's stunning win Games Commonwealth bronze medallist Divya Kakran of Railways in the 68kg finals.

The 35-year-old Anita, who had won the 65kg gold medal last year, is on a comeback mode and she surprised everyone with her gold-winning perform-

ance in the final.

Joining Anita was
Punjab's Gursharan Kaur, who is making a comeback

after six years. Gursharan defeated Pooja of Haryana 4-2 in the 76 Kg category to win the

gold medal. Representing Railways,

Vinesh and Sakshi registered convincing wins in their respective final bouts.

While Vinesh beat 20year-old Haryana's Anju 7-3 in the 55kg category to clinch her second consecutive gold at Nationals, Olympic bronze medallist Sakshi overcame some gutsy moves by her opponent Radhika of Haryana and registered 4-2 win in



Shakshi Mallik poses with her gold medal at the senior wrestling nationals in Jalandhar on Saturday.

the final of the 62kg cate-

Chandigarh wrestler Neetu, however, had to settle for silver after losing to seasoned campaigner Sarita Mor in the 57kg cat-

In the 65kg final, Haryana's Nisha defeated Navjot of Railways with a margin of 4-1 as she pulled off a confident victory by fall and denied the Railways' grappler more than a point in the final showdown.

Haryana's wrestlers dominated the medals tally with total of 215 points.