



Rohingya Muslims demanded Myanmar be held to account at the UN top court in The Hague, where Suu Kyi will defend against charges of genocide



Billionaires can spend. That means they can buy bigger share of democracy

— Elizabeth Warren Democratic Prez candidate

**BRIEF**

**World's youngest PM in Finland**

**Helsinki:** Finland's Social Democrats elected a 34-year-old former transport minister to the post of prime minister, making her the youngest head of government in history. Sanna Marin narrowly won vote to replace outgoing leader Antti Rinne, who resigned after losing the confidence of the coalition partner Green Party over his handling of a postal strike. "We have a lot of work to do to rebuild trust," Marin said, while deflecting questions about her age. At 34, Marin also becomes one of the world's youngest state leaders, ahead of Ukraine's PM Oleksiy Honcharuk, who is 35.

**Turkey departs 11 terror suspects**

**Turkey:** Turkey sent 11 French foreign terrorist fighters back to France on Monday, the country's interior ministry said. "Eleven French citizens have been deported to their home country," it said. Ankara has lambasted Western countries for refusing to take back their citizens who left to join the Islamic State group in Syria and Iraq. It says it has sent 1,200 foreign IS members in custody. The ministry said last week that 59 "foreign terrorists" have been deported to their home countries since Nov. 11, when a new deportation push was started. Of them, 215 were sent back to the US and Europe. "Turkey is no one's open air prison or hotel," said spokesman Ismail Karakoc. "We are adding authorities would deport all of the suspects."

**Malta PM under pressure to quit**

**Valletta:** Activists barged into the building that houses the office of Malta's prime minister early on Monday to demand Joseph Muscat's immediate resignation amid an investigation into the 2017 killing of journalist Daphne Caruana Galizia. Muscat is not directly implicated in the investigation but has said he will resign in mid-January after a decision for a new leader of his ruling Labour Party. Testimony by the self-confessed middleman in the murder plan has linked the prime minister's inner circle to attempts at a cover-up. About 200 activists surprised policemen and soldiers as they forced their way into the 16th century building in the capital. Valletta from a side entrance, armed with drums, whistles, flags and loud hollers. They then set down and blocked the entrance, chanting for Muscat to quit. He was not in the building at the time.

**U.S. INFLUENCE UNDER TRUMP WANING**

**Washington, Dec. 9:** It's whispered in Nato meeting rooms and celebrated in China's halls of power. It's lamented in the capital cities of key US allies and welcomed in the Kremlin. Three years into Donald Trump's presidency, America's global influence is waning. In interviews, diplomats, foreign officials and scholars from numerous countries describe a changing world order in which the United States has less of a central role. Once-close allies — France, Egypt, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Mexico, Turkey, Germany and more — have quietly edged away from Washington since the president took office three years ago. In a Buckingham Palace reception room during the recent Nato summit, a camera caught a cluster of European leaders grinning as Canadian PM Justin Trudeau appeared to mock Trump.

**VOLCANIC ERUPTIONS IN NEW ZEALAND**

This is not the first time that a volcano has erupted on the White Island



This aerial photo shows White Island after its volcanic eruption in New Zealand on Monday.

**1914:** The White Island volcano's last fatal eruption kills 10 sulphur miners.

**Aug. 1938:** The White Island volcano erupts in the Bay of Plenty off North Island.

**1953:** An eruption at Mount Ruapehu on North Island wrecks a railway bridge just before the arrival of a Wellington-Auckland express train, plunging it into a river and killing more than 150.

**Feb. 20, 1992:** The White Island volcano, then termed New Zealand's most active, spews a huge column of grey ash as scientists prepare to venture into its crater on a routine study.

**Sept.-Oct. 1995:** Mount Ruapehu erupts in several bursts, sending clouds of ash 10,000 metres (32,808 ft) into the air. Three volcanic peaks in the central part of the North Island, Mount Ruapehu, Mt Ngauruhoe and Mt Tongariro, form the southern tip of the Pacific Ring of Fire, an arc of active volcanoes around the Pacific Ocean.

**June-July 1996:** Mount Ruapehu erupts, belching glowing glass-sized boulders and disrupting air traffic.

**Mar. 2006:** Volcanic eruption on remote Raoul Island, part of a nature reserve in the Kermadec group, causes plume of steam and ash, besides spewing mud from a lake. The island is 1,000 km (600 miles) northeast of New Zealand.

**Mar. 18, 2007:** The volcanic crater lake at Mt Ruapehu bursts its banks, sending a mudflow toward the rural community of Tangiwa.

**Aug. 2012:** Mt. Tongariro, dormant for more than a century, spews boulders and spreads an ash cloud as it explodes with bright flashes and thunderous booms.



**24 feared dead in NZ volcano**

100 tourists were on White Island, a scenic hotspot, when volcano erupted, says New Zealand PM

**Wellington, Dec. 9:** New Zealand police have said no more survivors were expected to be rescued from an island volcano that erupted suddenly on Monday, suggesting as many as two dozen people could have died. Police said some 50 people were visiting White Island when it exploded in the afternoon, hurling ash and rock high into the air. Some 23 people made it off the island, five of whom have since died, the rest were being treated for injuries, including severe burns. It was earlier estimated

the number still on the island, five of whom have since died, the rest were being treated for injuries, including severe burns. It was earlier estimated

It is very much an evolving situation and of course all our thoughts are with those affected  
— JACINDA ARDERN, New Zealand PM



to officials in Canberra. As many as 30 of those involved are also believed to be cruise passengers on a day trip from the vessel Ovation of the Seas, Kevin O'Sullivan, chief executive officer of industry body the New Zealand Cruise Association said. The ship's operator Royal Caribbean — who had billed the trip to White Island as "an unforgettable guided tour of New Zealand's most active volcano" — did not confirm that number. The ship has a capacity of around 4,000 people and

set sail from Sydney last week on a 12 day voyage. "Tourist Michael Schade, made it off the island just in time and was able to capture footage of the devastation. His videos showed groups of startled tourists clustered by the shoreline, waiting to be evacuated as the ground around them smouldered, the sky filled with white debris. An ash-caked helicopter lay damaged nearby. Volcanic Ash said they had landed a helicopter on the island shortly before the eruption carrying four visitors and one pilot. All were now accounted for.

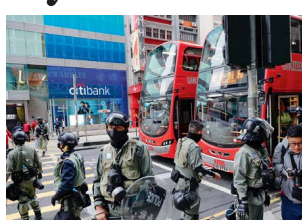
"It had landed on the island. What happened after that we don't know, but we know that all five made it back to Whakatahane on one of the tourist boats," a company spokesman said. Guillaume Calmelet, the co-director of Skydive Tauranga, saw the eruption from above as he took a customer on a tandem skydive from a plane 12,000 feet above the Bay of Plenty. Meanwhile, PM Jacinda Ardern said about 100 tourists were "on or around" White Island on Monday when it erupted. —AP

**MARYAM ASKED TO CONTACT INTERIOR MIN**

**ISLAMABAD, DEC. 9:** Pakistan's Lahore High Court (LHC) on Monday declared Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz) vice-president Maryam Nawaz's petition seeking removal of her name from Exit Control List (ECL) as inadmissible and directed her to approach the interior ministry. A two-member bench headed by Justice All Fazlur Najafi conducted hearing on the plea filed by PML-N leader. During the hearing, Maryam's counsel said that the name of his client was placed on no-fly list without hearing her stance. "We don't have any other forum better than the court that's why we have raised this matter here," he said.

**Peaceful Hong Kong march marred by fire outside court**

**Hong Kong, Dec. 9:** Hong Kong protesters set fire outside court buildings, threw petrol bombs and spray-painted graffiti on government buildings, marred what was otherwise a "generally peaceful" march at the weekend, police said. The comments came as protesters called for strikes across the city on Monday. Most railway and transport links ran smoothly during the morning rush hour and there were no initial reports of widespread disruptions. Vast crowds of black-clad demonstrators thronged the streets of the Asian financial hub on Sunday, in the largest anti-government rally since local elections last month and a resounding show of



Police guard in front of a bus stop in Hong Kong on Monday.

generally peaceful, acts of breaching public peace happened afterwards," police said in a statement on Monday. "Some rioters spray-painted the exterior walls of the High Court, threw petrol bombs and set fire outside the Causeway Bay and Wan Chai areas of Hong Kong island. Rioters at the march on Sunday saw graffiti and protesters setting up barricades, but were not in the vicinity of the other incidents." —Reuters

**INDIA ACCOUNTS FOR 1.4% OF TOTAL TOP 100 WEAPONS SALES**

**Arms sales up nearly 5% worldwide**

**DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, DEC. 9:** Arms sales in the world has gone up by 4.6 per cent in the last two years with American companies dominating the Top 5 positions of world's main weapon and military supplies, says a report by prestigious Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI). Eighty of the 100 top arms producers in 2018 were based in the USA, Europe and Russia. Of the remaining 20, six were based in Japan, 3 in Israel, India and South Korea, respectively, 2 in Turkey and 1 each in Australia, Canada and Singapore. Three Indian companies

India accounts for 1.4% of total top 100 arms sales in thindia's purchase of Rafale fighter aircrafts saw a swing in fortune for Dassault Aviation Group which registered a sharp rise of 30% which rose to \$2.9 billion in 2018 even as other French companies saw a decrease in weapon sales — Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) and Indian Ordnance Factory (IOF) — were listed among the Top 100 and accounted for 1.4 per cent of the total top 100 arms sales in 2018 — by 3.5% and 5.9%, respectively. However, these increases were offset by a 27% fall in the arms sales of IOF HAL sale in 2018 was \$2740m (\$2647m in 2016), BEL was \$1460m

(\$1379m in 2017) and that of IOF was \$1650 (\$2258m in 2017). Interestingly, India's purchase of Rafale fighter aircrafts saw a swing in fortune for Dassault Aviation Group which registered a sharp rise of 30% which rose to \$2.9 billion in 2018 even as other French companies saw a decrease in weapon sales. Egypt and Qatar were other buyers of the Top 100 companies based in France were the second highest in Europe. The six French companies accounted for 5.5 per cent of total Top 100 arms sales, SIPRI said. "There were decreases in

the arms sales of three companies. The arms sales of Thales — a systems integrator and the only French company in the top 10 (ranked 10th) — fell by 1.4% in 2018, to \$9.5 billion. The arms sales of Naval Group (ranked 21st) and CEA (ranked 47th) also fell in 2018 — by 4.2 and 0.6%, respectively. These decreases are in contrast to the sharp increase, of 30%, in the arms sales of Dassault Aviation Group (ranked 34th), which rose to \$2.9 billion in 2018. The increase can be largely attributed to the growth in exports of Rafale combat aircraft to Egypt, India and Qatar," the report said.

**carbon footprint**



Climate activists Greta Thunberg, and Luisa Neubauer arrive for a news conference at the COP25 Climate summit in Madrid, Spain.

**Climate scientists must show the way**

**Madrid, Dec. 9:** For years, Kim Cobb was the Indiana Jones of climate science. The Georgia Tech professor flew to the caves of Borneo to study ancient and current climate conditions. She jetted to a remote South Pacific island to see the effects of warming on coral. Add to that flights to Paris, Rome, Vancouver and elsewhere. All told, in the last three years she's flown 29 times to study, meet or talk about global warming. Then Cobb thought about her personal actions were contributing to the climate crisis, so she created a spreadsheet. She found that those flights added more than 73,000 pounds of heat-trapping carbon to the air. Now she is about to ground herself, and she is not alone. Some climate scientists and activists are limiting their flying, their consumption of meat and their overall carbon footprints to avoid adding to the global warming they study

of the solution," she said. "Especially when they spent their whole lives with their noses stuck up against" data showing the problem. Texas Tech's Katharine Hayhoe, an atmospheric scientist who flies once a month, often to talk to climate doubters in the evangelical Christian movement, was blasted on Twitter because she keeps flying. Hayhoe and other still-flying scientists note that aviation is only 3% of global carbon emissions. Over the next couple of weeks, climate scientists and environmental advocates will fly across the globe. Some will be jetting to Madrid for United Nations climate negotiations. Others, including Cobb, will fly to San Francisco for a major earth sciences conference. "People want to be part



**MIND POWER**  
**THEODORE ROOSEVELT NOAM CHOMSKY**  
Nobody cares how much you know,  
until they know how much you care  
There's a tremendous gap between  
public opinion and public policy

# DECCAN Chronicle

10 DECEMBER 2019

## After bypoll triumph, BSY's stock is rising

**W**ith the BJP's unprecedented by-election sweep in Karnataka on Monday, winning 12 of 15 seats, the lone saffron bastion in the South has again bucked the national trend. BSY's stock is rising. BSY's stock is rising. BSY's stock is rising.

But will that mean the Modi-Shah duo will give the party's unquestionable new star, Chief Minister B.S. Yeddyurappa, a free hand now that he has a majority of 117 in the 224-member Assembly?

In winning the "dirty dozen", all former Congress and Janata Dal(S) strongholds, Mr. Yeddyurappa has just wiped out his rivals in the Opposition, he's ended the myth that party affiliations matter more to voters than loyalty to candidates. Not lost in the victory din, he's sent a message to the BJP top brass that his popularity isn't restricted to Lingayat strongholds. This is after all the first time the BJP has made inroads into the Vokkaliga belt in the Cauvery delta, winning K.R. Pete in Mandya. The Congress and the JD(S) both paid the price for over-confidence. The Congress is reduced to just two seats, and JD(S) to zero.

**With this victory, the BJP Chief Minister is hoping he will finally complete a full term in office. He simply cannot be challenged. Not from within. Not from without. And certainly not by the Prime Minister. Or the home minister.**

"margdarshak" club like L.K. Advani and Murli Manohar Joshi, was going to stop him. The BJP's handpicked strategists had seen to it that neither Mr. Modi nor Mr. Shah fully backed the ageing patriarch's plan to topple the H.D. Kumaraswamy's government. But that didn't stop the 75-year-old Lingayat strongman from pulling the rug from under the unnatural JD(S)-Congress setup.

The BJP added insult to injury by appointing not one but three deputy chief ministers to musesmaid him when he did take over the hot seat. That one of them could still be brought in to succeed him is a possibility, but clearly the BJP will do well not to underestimate Mr. Yeddyurappa, who is well aware that the BJP's long-term plan is to bring in a leader who isn't defined by caste, as they did in Haryana and Maharashtra. With this victory, the BJP chief minister is hoping he will finally complete a full term in office. He simply cannot be challenged. Not from within. Not from without. And certainly not by the Prime Minister. Or the home minister.

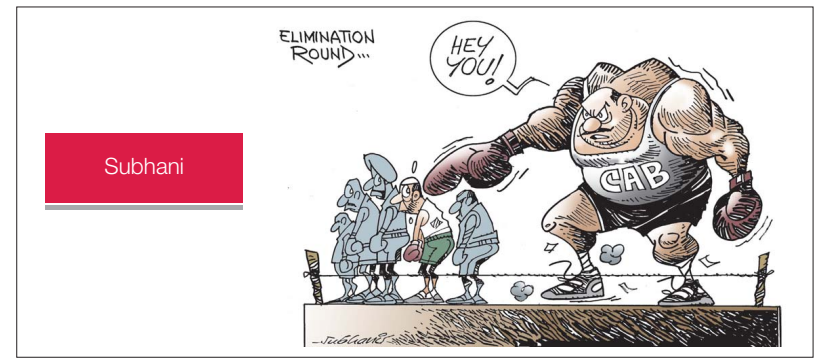
## Blame games and death traps

**D**on't look for me. I won't make it home", a stoic Imran told his desperate father over the phone, waking him up at 5 am on Sunday. A short-circuit triggered a fire in the building he was in. There were over 100 workers in the dingy four-storey structure that had a makeshift bag factory, a clothes workshop, a printing press and a jacket-making unit. It also served as their sleeping quarters. Only 63 survived Delhi's worst fire since the 1987 Uphaar blaze, the city's deadliest.

The building's neighbours on Rani thansi Road were sad but unsurprised. Small accidents occur with a sickening regularity across north and central Delhi, infamous for its overhanging cables and narrow lanes. Half of Delhi is vulnerable, a fireman shockingly said. Anaj Mandi has nearly 1,000 illegal factories, most of them without fire permits or safety equipment. Incredibly, even heritage buildings in Lutyens' Delhi and Central government property like North Block, South Block, the Niti Aayog and Udyog Bhavan don't go by fire safety regulations. The owner of this building, with windows having no panes so the victims couldn't jump, and a blocked staircase — was booked for homicide.

However, the loss of 43 young lives — many of them breadwinners — has not come as a rude lesson to those in authority. The blame games continue. The Centre accused the Delhi government of not moving the workshops to a different location while the Arvind Kejriwal government held the BJP-run municipal corporation responsible for not shutting them down. On Monday, another fire, this time "minor", was reported from the same building in the morning. It reminds us of the adage: History repeats itself, first as tragedy, then as farce!

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## As climate crisis grows, all of us should act now



Indranil Banerjee

**F**ew Indians would be aware that the deliberations of a motley group of little-known experts in an European capital, thousands of miles away, could direct their future. But that is precisely what is happening now. Climate experts, environmentalists and other experts in related fields are huddled at a conference venue in the capital of Madrid, the district of Spain, to decide on the urgent steps necessary to pull the planet out of its perilous descent into ecological catastrophe.

The United Nations Conference on Climate Change, or COP 25, is being called, is being attended by representatives from 200 countries, proving with the notable exception of the United States, whose President has pulled out of the global climate change negotiations.

An unofficial 15-member American delegation headed by House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi has, however, come forward to represent their country. In contrast, the European Union has publicly declared climate change policy as a key priority.

The conference, which stretches from December 2 to 13, is being attended by 29,000 delegates and visitors from 200 countries, proving just how important people across the globe think the climate change issue is. The urgency of the situation was emphasised by UN Secretary-General António Guterres, who warned that "the point of no return was no longer over the horizon".

Sadly, the world as a whole still lacks political will to do the needful. The efforts of governments, corporations and individuals are just not enough to slow down, let alone reverse, the trends in global warming.

They return us to hunger, famines and an economic dead end. Fortunately, India's political leadership is very aware of the threats from climate change and has pledged to keep their part of the bargain. Before the Madrid Conference, Prime Minister Narendra Modi convened a Cabinet meeting to discuss the COP25 agenda and decide on what stand India should take.

The most important decision taken at this meeting was the need to compel the developed world to do more instead of just talking and blaming poorer countries such as India for not doing enough.

The World Resource Institute (WRI) has estimated that the world's top three emitters — the United States, China and the EU — contribute more than 50 per cent of greenhouse gas emissions. India is in the list among the top 10 emitters, but its per capita emission levels are amongst the lowest in the world.

The two chief problem countries are the United States and China, where increases in emission levels continue to rise instead of declining over time as is happening in large parts of the European Union. The United States has contributed a cumulative 397 gigatonnes of CO2 since 1750 while China's share is 214 GT, Russia's 180 and the EU's collectively far more than the latter two. India is way down, at 51 GT.

The United States, despite being the world's largest polluter, has pulled out of climate control negotiations and tossed aside the Paris Agreement it signed in 2015. This is an example of colossal irresponsibility. The silver lining is that many American politicians, opinion Today, there is global awareness of the planet's problems. What is lacking is greater collective will at all levels — in Western capitals, in our institutions and at the grassroots

## LETTERS

### DRACONIAN BILL

I feel the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill will trigger repercussions for Hindus in foreign countries especially Muslim countries as the bill is religions based (Shah set to move CAB in LS, DC, Dec. 9). The law already exists for foreigners to seek asylum in our country who are prosecuted in their country. This bill should be condemned by all right-thinking people irrespective of party affiliation.

Rajinder Bakshi  
Secunderabad

### INSTANT JUSTICE

What is the time limit for the disposal of a case — civil or criminal? Why are cases pending in Indian courts? What methods are adopted in some countries to render justice within a time frame? What changes are required in our legal system? We should first address all these issues before giving opinion on instant justice is not possible. The righteous opinion of the public on issues like this should be the law which cannot be considered as barbaric.

N. Ramakrishmi  
Secunderabad

Just highlighting one or two cases of instant justice by way of killing accused rapists may not be the problem even if it is admired by the majority. There are scores of victims whose cases are pending for years even in fast-track courts and the culprits are enjoying in jails or even on bail. Parents of these victims want the same punishment as it was done recently. Government should take appropriate action to amend laws and do the needful to the remaining victims immediately on a war-footing.

Dr K. Jayasundar  
Somajiguda, Hyderabad

## 50 YEARS AGO IN DECCAN Chronicle

### Panel to unearth black money mooted

**N**EW DELHI, Dec. 9. The Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, assured an agitated Rajya Sabha today that Government was anxious to get hold of the black money and punish those who were indulging in anti-social activities.

She agreed some of the measures taken by Government had not yielded the desired results. It then checked out the American company Dutch startup called Meatable scoring ten million dollars in funding to produce lab-cultured pork and beef from a Dutch company, Future Meat Technologies, is about to set up its first plant. If you think that is interesting then check out the American company Air Protein which aims to, you've guessed it, make meat out of thin air based on Nasa research in the 1960s.

By arrangement with Dawn



## Is this way to a healthy future?

'Fake' meat, made in a lab

**M**eat is killing the planet, or so we are told. Well, it is not. It is the production of meat is increasingly being said to be untenable given dwindling resources and out-of-control climate change and environmental degradation. There is some truth to this: considerable amount of the total arable land available to us, about 30 per cent is used to provide for the cattle and chickens, etc, that we consume. Going further, we find that producing a pound of beef takes about 1,799 gallons of water which is arguably not exactly very efficient. While corporate livestock farming in the West gets a bad rap — this is largely due to the overuse of antibiotics and the resulting spillover into the environment — it remains more efficient than its counterpart in the developing world because the high nutritional value of the meat per se, but the world means that livestock consumes less than livestock in the developing world. There are some myths though, and one is that livestock are responsible for rising greenhouse gas emissions, an assertion that is based on a 2006 FAO report that claimed that livestock produced 18 per cent of the world's greenhouse gas emissions. Though this was later corrected by the author of that report, the figure is still out there adding to all the hot air floating around. Nevertheless, the search for meat substitutes is speeding up. Now if it was just a question of protein, there wouldn't be that much of an issue as we could all just switch to eating insects which can provide us with the same nutrition as meat with a far lower resource and environmental impact. But since most of the world isn't quite ready for that, our chitinous friends get a break as we look for meat substitutes that still look and (hopefully) taste like meat. Enter the "Impossible burger" and its fellow faux burgers. These burgers are made of plant-based proteins and, if you look at the way they are marketed, you'll see the companies making them have risen, seem to be taking the (Western) world by storm. So much so that the major fast food joints are getting into the act, with McDonalds launching its PLT (plant, lettuce, tomato) burger and Burger King following suit with its Impossible Whopper. But are they actually good for you and good for the environment? Certainly the widespread adoption of these will reduce the environmental impact of the factory farming of meat, and will also help people avoid the risks (cancer and more) associated with the excessive eating of red meat. But there is also criticism to the effect that these burgers are too highly processed, and we already know that processed foods are not good for us. It is also important to note that while this may be a new idea in the West, plant-based meats have been around for centuries in the East, particularly in China. Way back in the 10th century, monks during the Song dynasty made a dish called fangshan cai, which literally translates as "imitation meat dish". Closely linked with the adoption of Buddhism for centuries is the art of imitation meat has been perfected leading to vegetarian meals that are indistinguishable from duck, chicken or even shark's fins. But the march to the future is

relentless, and soon we will see meats that are not made from cows or vegetable substitutes, but instead, grown in a lab. These frankenmeats first debuted in August 2013 when Dr Mark Post from the Maastricht University cooked and ate the world's first lab-grown burger at a press conference. Now the race is on to bring this product to market with nothing but Dutch startup called Meatable scoring ten million dollars in funding to produce lab-cultured pork and beef from a Dutch company, Future Meat Technologies, is about to set up its first plant. If you think that is interesting then check out the American company Air Protein which aims to, you've guessed it, make meat out of thin air based on Nasa research in the 1960s.

By arrangement with Dawn

# Will Friday 1st surprise all: Corbyn at No. 10?



Liam Halligan

Radicalism does not usually work out well for the Labour Party. Michael Foot fought the 1983 general election on a hard-left manifesto famously dubbed "the longest suicide note in history" and saw his party's worst result since the First World War. But as this week's general election is almost here, despite running on an even more sweepingly statist agenda, Labour is rising in the polls. The most left-wing government in British history is now a real possibility.

On the face of it, this makes no sense. Why, after the chaos of the last hung Parliament, would voters choose another one? The prospect of Jeremy Corbyn as Prime Minister, propped up by the Liberal Democrats, the SNP or both plotting second referendums on Brexit and Scottish independence — is too tempting to contemplate. That doesn't mean it won't happen. When was the last time that a major

election delivered the expected result? An important shift in this painful, somewhat surreal election campaign is that while the Tories have already successfully squeezed the Brexit Party's vote, Labour could still take lots more support from the flailing Liberal Democrats. Jo Swinson's "Revoke" policy, of cancelling Brexit without even a second referendum, boosted the Lib Dems when the Tories seemed to be heading for a "No Deal" exit. But after Boris Johnson secured a Brexit deal, "Revoke" looked extreme. Labour's Brexit stance, renegotiation, then referendum — now strikes more Remainers as the more plausible position.

A recent YouGov "super-poll" predicted a healthy 68-seat Tory majority, based on "bottom-up" constituency-level analysis and a huge 100,000-strong voter sample. But in no fewer than 30 constituencies, the Tories were predicted to win by less than five per cent. Losing just a slither of support

could switch enough seats to knock more than 40 off the Tory majority.

A few more near misses, a clear danger with so many three- and four-way constituency battles in the offing, and the Tories would be clinging on to power by a couple of seats.

At best, Boris Johnson would then be back to counting each and every MP to get his legislation through the House of Commons. Brexit would be in doubt — with a handful of rebels able to tip the balance. Cue a debilitating impact on investment and business more generally, to say nothing of the nation's collective psyche.

A hung Parliament would still result in Prime Minister Boris Johnson, because the Conservatives would have no partners. The DUP has made it clear that it can't and won't back the Tory Brexit deal. The Lib Dems would be unlikely to offer a helping hand. So the nightmarish world of real Master Grandpa running the fifth-biggest economy on earth. But the real power would lie with chancellor John McDonnell whose hobbies listed in Who's Who, alongside "gardening" and "reading", include "generally fermenting (sic) the overthrow of capitalism".

To give the Corbynites their due, they mean it. On entering Downing Street, Labour would start immediately to implement its manifesto — knowing

## THE 'BREXIT' ELECTION

**Britain will go to the polls on December 12, just two days from now, in one of its most momentous elections. And the most left-wing government in British history is now a real possibility!**

its time in office could end at any moment. Were that to happen, the UK would be at the mercy of tax-and-spend plans that are similar day-to-day government spending by £83 billion a year, all of it funded by extra taxation. That's almost double what Mr Corbyn promised ahead of the 2017 election. Another £55 billion a year is earmarked for capital spending — three per cent of GDP, financed by more borrowing. Then comes the £400 billion "National Infrastructure Fund", which the party says will "add to the government's debt" but isn't in the related

costings document. And don't forget the proposed nationalisations including rail, water, energy companies, buses and broadband — costing several hundred billion more. These are truly colossal sums.

Labour claims its tax rises "won't hit ordinary people", as they will come entirely from higher taxes on the city, other companies, and people earning over £80,000. "Simply not credible," says the Institute for Fiscal Studies, judging that Mr Corbyn's programme would "involve higher tax burdens on people of average incomes", while leaving Britain with "just about the most punitive corporate tax system in the world".

It would soon backfire. A plunging pound, falling through parity against the euro and the dollar, would spark inflation — wiping out the recent growth in real wages. And Mr McDonnell's many assumptions that large changes have no effect on behaviour: Labour says £8 billion will be raised each year by a financial transactions tax, ignoring that punitive levies cause investors to put their money elsewhere.

Perhaps the most serious of the past few years is that lower tax rates generally mean higher tax yields. As the economy gradually fell under the Tories, from 28 to 19 per cent, the resulting extra activity boost-

ed annual revenues from £43 billion to £55 billion. Labour reckons yanking the rate back to 28 per cent will raise an extra £23 billion — which flies in the face of the economic evidence. It is more likely that an investment and relaxed tax receipts will plummet, as capital flees the UK.

Under Mr Corbyn, state spending would climb towards 50 per cent of GDP. Nations such as France and Sweden have government spending at this level, but their tax takes have been much higher for a generation and more. Moving the UK from a small-state to a big-state model so quickly, in such a nakedly ideological manner, would see government debt balloon, causing a spike in borrowing costs at a time when debt markets are already dangerously fragile.

Perhaps the most extraordinary part of the McDonnell agenda is the plan to seize 10 per cent of the shares in every big company in the country. This straightforward expropriation — the stuff of tinpot dictators — is what young British government did this, our status as a place for world-class investment (and all the related jobs) would vanish. That's the real significance of Mr Corbyn's programme, beyond the gargantuan, pie-in-the-sky spending. It is openly anti-capitalist, confiscating property in a way that will harm those it seeks to help.

As Britain prepares for the most important election in over 70 years, many centrist Conservative voters convinced that Boris Johnson will win — may abstain or cast their vote elsewhere. Yet a Tory victory is as far from assured.

In 2017 a supposedly unelectable Jeremy Corbyn came within a whisker of Downing Street. Just a few thousand extra votes, sprinkled across a dozen constituencies, would have done it. Since this election was called at the end of October, a record 3.9 million people have registered to vote. Over two thirds of them are under 35 years old — a demographic that typically backs Labour, particularly now, when so many young adults are spending half their wages on rent and can't buy a place to live. They can't envisage this situation changing any time soon. Detailed opinion surveys show that more than three quarters of voters think the economy is unfairly rigged in favour of the rich and half worry that young people will have a worse life than their parents. That puts millions in the mood for radicalism.

So don't think Nightmare on Downing Street could happen, because it could. Coming to a television screen near you — on Friday the 13<sup>th</sup>.

By arrangement with the Spectator

# What is left of India's Left and what lies ahead for it?



John Mary

At a time of tumult in Indian politics, questions abound as to what is left of the Left and what lies ahead for it. Be it the sordid drama to snatch power in Maharashtra or the ongoing national build-up against the compulsory citizens' register, the Left camp, with a mere five MPs in the Lok Sabha, is a pale version of the 62-MP contingent that qualitatively influenced the governance agenda during UPA-1.

The Left's failure to accept the fact that class has been synonymous with caste in the Indian context, its centralised model of class struggle as opposed to democratic non-class movements and the CPI(M)'s use of democracy merely as a passage towards the ultimate goal of proletarian dictatorship have been cited as some of the reasons for the Left being confined to three out of the 28 states.

Socialists have advised the CPI(M) to dump its dictatorial dross, "To the 21st-century mind, the word 'Communist' from its name if it wants to rally the Left in the time of its worst electoral drubbing."

The CPI is more realistic, dropping proletarian dictatorship from its party programme. It accords pri-

ority to the unity of the Left and democratic forces rather than insisting on its own brand of such a combination. But, for the CPI(M), proletarian dictatorship still remains its USP in the party programme.

All along, the parliamentary Left have been hamstringing by their so-called democratic centralisation model of struggle. They shunned participating in any democratic model of struggle, restricting themselves to a narrow class struggle approach.

This centralised model of class struggle has neither the depth of class struggle nor the breadth of mass movements incorporating non-class movements. Late rights activist K. Balagopal, who had broken off with the Maoists in Andhra Pradesh, used to say Marxism never treated democracy as the foundation of modern society. It used democracy as a means to achieve its goals in class struggle. Its goals are towards the dictatorship of the proletariat.

"One of the goals of proletarian dictatorship is to enable workers to participate in decisions affecting their lives in factories and public life in civil society. Barring these goals which are worth cherishing, everything else such as the 'seizure of State power' or 'overthrow of the State machinery by the working class is redundant. An ideological correction is necessary here," says Prof. Arun Patnaik, head of the depart-

## For Indian Communists, US Senator Bernie Sanders, who calls himself a democratic socialist, or British Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn are undesirable manifestations because they are reformists

ment of political science at the University of Hyderabad.

For Indian Communists, US Senator Bernie Sanders, who calls himself a democratic socialist, or British Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn are undesirable manifestations because they are revisionists or reformists, who have lost sight of the ultimate revolution and are in compromise with neo-liberals.

Such blind interpretations have hindered the metamorphosis of Indian Communist parties into modern democratic socialist formations, allowing their cadre to join in mass equity struggles without losing sight of the ultimate objective of revolution.

Prof. Prabhath Patnaik has commented that "the current problem with the Indian Left, and in this term I include all sections of the Left, from the so-called 'parliamentary Left' to the so-called 'revolutionary Left', is in my view, its lack of appreciation of the dialectics between 'reform' and 'revolution'."

"By the dialectics of reform and revolution, we mean the following: revolution is the denouement of a persistent demand for reform and mobilising people, which the system cannot accommodate. Therefore pressing for reform and mobilising people around a demand for

reform is not 'reformism'; it is itself a revolutionary task. The problem with social democracy is that it is avowedly 'reformist' is not that it asks for 'reform' instead of 'revolution' but that being avowedly 'reformist', it tailors and limits its demand for reform only to whatever the system can give it. It does not ask for reforms that push the boundaries of the system".

There is growing realisation that no matter what happens to Communist parties in the country, there will still be the Left in different avatars, fighting neoliberal policies. Even in the right-of-centre BJP, there are Left-minded individuals and groups. Note the resistance mounted by the pro-Sangh Parivar Swadeshi Jagan Manch against the Centre's haste to join the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership.

Such blind interpretations have hindered the metamorphosis of Indian Communist parties into modern democratic socialist formations, allowing their cadre to join in mass equity struggles without losing sight of the ultimate objective of revolution.

The Left's ideas survive and flicker through many forums; regional parties in India through their populist programmes. N.T. Rama Rao and M.G. Ramachandran were classic examples. Through heretofore any Leftist theoretical underpinnings, their pro-people agenda was disarmingly simple. The Lohia and Jayaprakash Narayan too were proponents of a Leftist stand. This stand was not too far from a certain type of leftism in them as they fight the social pyramidical structure. Socialism and Islamism too was to be contained in a

warp. They flow through different political parties.

Says Prof. Arun Patnaik: "In my dialogue with Ram Madhav in 1994, I discovered him as an anti-caste Hindu intellectual like 'Gee' Savarkar. But unlike Savarkar, he is not anti-Muslim. I told him that Muslims too have caste. He was plainly surprised.

"In my view, thus, dialogues across intellectuals of this sort are more meaningful. Madhav told me that he was fighting within the RSS to recognise caste realities all along. He says it has not been easy for him to convince other members. In 2014, recently the RSS brought out an anti-caste special issue of *Organiser* dedicated to Ambedkar. Today Ram Madhav may say that his persistence with caste brought some results in the organisation now. But somebody will have to compare the RSS with the caste among non-Hindus."

"However, a secular recognition of caste across religions is possible on several occasions. A communication with left-wing intellectuals across all ideological positions on several issues, not just caste-related issues. Pro-people elements across the political spectrum are available. A communication is necessary across them to construct a bridge."

Late Prof. Praful Bidwai used to argue for a new Left by re-interpreting Marxism in the post-Marxian situation and reformulate strategy and tactics by the Left to fight the twin enemies of the Left: the bourgeoisie and Hindu religious fundamentalism, based on what he called a "People's Charter perhaps anticipated future alternatives that are resonating around India today."

# Rajaji had sounded the first warning on a 'panned' economy



Mohan Guruswamy

The first Indian government general (1948-50) Chakravarti Rajagopalachari (December 10, 1878-December 25, 1972) was a man who gave more reminders for his elegant and simple rendering in English of the *Mahabharata* (1951) and *Ramayana* (1957) than any other politician known as Rajaji, should be known today as the first one to sound the warning against a bureaucratic, statist and centrally planned economy, naive notions of Fabian socialism.

In 1957, Rajaji broke with Jawahar Nehru over his economic and political prescriptions for India. India consequently came to be governed by a combination of statist and neo-statist Fabian socialism and social democratic inspired policies. In 1959, Rajaji outlined the goals of the Swatantra Party through 21 "fundamental principles" in the foundation document.

The party stood for equality and opposed government control over the private sector. Rajagopalachari sharply criticised the bureaucracy and coined the term "licence-permit raj" to describe the Nehru's elaborate system of permissions and licences required for an individual to set up a private enterprise.

The bureaucratic labyrinth sometimes involved approval by as many as 80 agencies, before a licence could be granted to produce, with the State deciding what to produce, how to produce and how much to produce using State-prescribed sources of capital and on an ever-rising selling price. Profits leading to capital formation and investment were never a consideration. It was set up in 1952 and was ended in 1977 by P.V. Narasimha Rao tentatively embarked on his "reforms".

Prime Minister Nehru once told industrialist J.R.D. Tata who stressed the need for India's public sector to be profitable to beget surpluses for investment: "Never talk to me about profit, Jeh, it is a dirty word."

Consequently, the rate of growth of the Indian economy in the first three decades after independence was derisively referred to as the "Hindu rate of growth" by economists, because of the unfavourable comparison with growth rates in other Asian countries.

The "licence-permit raj" rather than creating a more equitable society actually created a hugely corrupt and inefficient system that created oligarchies and huge inequalities, not just between people but between regions. This might still persist, though with a much less pernicious violence.

Policy 1956 and ushered in what has generally come to be known as "economic reforms". This is still a work in progress. For State control over the economy has more recently been public sector banks and the IDBI and IFCI, perpetuating a newer form of the statist policies of allocation by multi-agency committees, business vulnerable to the caprices of politicians and bureaucrats.

Rajaji may not have been entirely satisfied with the economic policy of Manmohan Singh's hesitant steps in dismantling the State's overarching control over the national economy, but he would have encouraged them to go further and with more daring. He would have done so with Narendra Modi and Arun Jaitley too.

All major economies that have grown rapidly have a high level of fixed investment. There are no examples of major economies that have grown rapidly with low rates of investment. Only 21 countries have achieved eight per cent growth a year sustained over a 20-year period since World War II. The first eight are Asian economies — China, Japan, Singapore, South Korea, North Korea, Taiwan, Thailand and Hong Kong. Their systems varied, but they had one essential commonality. All of them had, during their periods of rapid growth, very high percentages of Gross Domestic Fixed Capital Formation in GDP, between 30 and 50 per cent.

India's capital formation languished in the lower two digit numbers for the first three decades after independence. It began to increase from 17.9 per cent of GDP in 1991 to 22.7 per cent of GDP in 2000 and to peak at 37.6 per cent of GDP in 2008, before declining to 28.7 per cent in 2010. India's GDP growth kept pace with this and rose from 5.2 per cent in the decade 1980-90, to over 6.0 per cent during 1990-2000 and to 7.8 per cent during 2000-10.

Clearly, a high percentage of fixed investment in GDP is an indispensable precondition for high rates of growth. There are no countries with rapid GDP growth and low percentages of GDP deployed to fixed investment. But in countries with high savings rates and less than commensurate growth rates, because public spending is less on investment and more on social spending including subsidies. If Rajaji's rejection of Fabian socialist notions of economic and social development were to be implemented in the late 1950s, it would have given India a head start in capital formation, industrialisation and faster economic growth. But better late than never.

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

# The three stages of God realisation



Sadguru Rameshji

God realisation basically has three stages and these three stages can help us find out how far or nearer we are to Him and where we have to lead ourselves towards:

(1) Tasey Vaham: In this first stage of Tasey Vaham one believes that He (God) exists somewhere; may be up in the sky or in heaven or in His own abode. No one knows where exactly He lives. However it is firmly believed that He exists, and He is the creator who creates the world.

(2) Tamey Vaham: In this second stage of God realisation, we know that God is not far from us and seen before us. With open eyes or in a meditative state we feel His presence all the time around us.

Our conviction of His existence gets proven when we are surrounded by faith, devotion and trust get strengthened.

(3) Tamey Vaham: In this third stage of God realisation we become the God Himself (Enlightenment). This stage comes to those who practice intense spiritual practices (sadhana) i.e. contemplation, comprehension and meditation. The ultimate realization comes down on us with the feeling that we are, in reality, what we have been searching for. The ignorance

of duality and separation from Him is lost and we become one with and in Him. This stage is reached through spiritual terms such as self-realisation, God realisation, nirvana, enlightenment, etc.

In this stage we are free from the clutches of karma as there is no doer and no receiver of result.

*Sadguru Rameshji is a modern age spiritual guru and the force behind Poorna Ananda, a Hyderabad based organization for spiritual evolution and joyful living. He can be contacted at [www.poornaananda.org](http://www.poornaananda.org)*







Glitches at BSE, NSE cause trouble for investors

Costly bluechips force investors eye midcaps

## quick BITES

| INDICATORS            | %               |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Sensex                | 40487.43 +0.10  |
| Nifty 50              | 11937.50 +0.33  |
| S&P 500               | 3,147.13 +0.04  |
| Dollar (₹)            | 71.03 -0.22     |
| Pound Sterling (₹)    | 93.57 +0.49     |
| Euro (₹)              | 78.69 -0.31     |
| Gold (10gm)* (₹)      | 38,542.32 -0.08 |
| Brent crude (\$/bbl)* | \$64.34 -0.08   |
| IN 10-Yr bond yield   | 6.659 -0.015    |
| US 10-Yr T-bill yield | 1.826 -0.022    |

\* As of 9:30 pm IST

## ■ Karvy Fallout: Lenders may cut exposure to brokers Banks begin fact check on pledged securities

ASHWIN J PUNJEN  
MUMBAI, DEC. 9

As a fallout of the Karvy episode, banks have started sending out letters to brokers to verify whether pledged securities belonged to them or to clients. According to sources, many banks have started relooking at the documentation and other risk management measures required to ensure that the loan against pledged shares is not misused, like in the case of Karvy. Some banks are even considering reducing exposure to smaller brokers. Lenders have turned cautious after Sebi banned Karvy for misusing client securities. Markets regulator Sebi is also considering tightening the rules to prevent misuse of client funds and securities by brokerages. During a study of such market practices, the Sebi had found that clients were compelled to issue irrevocable power of attorneys (PoAs), which



gave broker/s the right to open and close accounts and trade on client's accounts without consent. In most cases, brokers were not even offering services unless clients gave PoAs. Karvy is accused of misusing client securities worth Rs 2,800 crore to secure loan facilities from lenders towards working capital by abusing POAs. The brokerage also sold off client securities and transferred the proceeds to its real estate group company. Following the Sebi directive to transfer securities to the National Securities Depository Ltd on December 2 transferred shares worth Rs 2,013 crore into the accounts of 83,862 Karvy clients, which is almost 90 per cent of the affected clients. Four lenders had approached the Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT) saying the shares were pledged with them and therefore they had the right over these shares. On December 4, the SAT ruled that reversing these transfers was untenable, leaving the lenders with no securities to invoke the pledge.

ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank and Indusind Bank had contended that many of these securities had been used to borrow money from them and had pledged with the tribunal to either get back the securities back to them or put them in an escrow account to protect their funds. BSE and NSE had suspended Karvy Stock Broking Ltd's trading licence for all segments due to non-compliance with exchange and securities markets rules. Besides NSE and the BSE, Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX) and MSEI have also suspended the licence of the brokerage firm. This action follows the November Sebi order which had in its preliminary findings held that the brokerage firm had misused client securities and used it for other purposes. Karvy had sold clients securities and the proceeds were transferred to related party businesses, such as Karvy Realty Ltd.

## LIC mops up over ₹1,380 crore in a day

MADHUSUDAN SAHAO  
NEW DELHI, DEC 9

The numbers are amazing. In a true country's largest insurer, Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), has made a record mop-up, collecting premium on over eight-and-a-half lakh policies, worth more than Rs 1,380 crore in a single day from all its zones, on November 30. The hefty collection came to the insurer for a reason. Just a day before, on November 29, the insurance regulator Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Irdai), asked all the insurers, including LIC, to close all those products and riders that were non-compliant to the new product guidelines by the November 30 deadline. "You may call it magic of the market, but it proved to be a red-letter day for the sale of 56,529 policies (see table). They were able to sell 8,66,628 policies with premium amounting over Rs 1,389

| ZONE-WISE COLLECTION OF PREMIUM ON NOV. 30 |                 |                   |
|--|-----------------|-------------------|
| Name of zone                               | No. of policies | Premium (in ₹ cr) |
| Northern                                   | 118140          | 104.55            |
| N Central                                  | 87468           | 115.96            |
| Central                                    | 59029           | 72.88             |
| Eastern                                    | 127761          | 168.58            |
| S Central                                  | 115698          | 223.82            |
| Southern                                   | 50222           | 89.55             |
| Western                                    | 206584          | 407.12            |
| East Central                               | 103807          | 125.18            |
| Total                                      | 866288          | 1380.87           |

SOURCE: LIC

Director Vipin Anand, said. "It has demonstrated the strength and reach of our field force as well as continues to reach to all segments of the Indian society." Earlier, the Irdai had asked insurers to withdraw products by November 30 and to come up with the revised product from December 1. But this deadline has now been extended to January 31, 2020. Keeping the earlier order of the regulator, all the agents of LIC, however, were on the toes to meet their targets, and successfully wooed their customers to hurry up and buy LIC products before the mad rush among the redesigned products would be costlier for them. Finally, this resulted in the mad rush among the people for cover and they came forward in big numbers to buy expiring LIC products.

## SBI, Bol lower MCLR-based lending rates

State Bank of India reduced its marginal cost of fund based lending rate (MCLR) by 10 basis points across all one-year products, effective Tuesday. The new one-year MCLR has been cut to 7.90 per cent from 8 per cent. Bank of India too revised its one-year MCLR-based lending rates by up to 20 basis points for overnight rates and by 10 bps for all other tenors.

## Former US Fed chief Paul Volcker dies



Former US Federal Reserve Chairman Paul Volcker, who tackled American inflation in the 1970s and '80s and later lent his name to landmark Wall Street reforms, died on Sunday, media reports said. Volcker, who headed the US central bank from 1979 to 1987, was 92. In his long career, Volcker advised US leaders from Richard Nixon to Barack Obama.

## Gold bonds gather less than 1% of total spend in four years

SANGEETHA G  
CHENNAI, DEC. 9

The Centre's ambitious sovereign gold bond (SGB) scheme, rolled out in 2015 with great expectations to cut the demand for physical gold and shift a part of the hoarded gold into financial savings, is almost a no-show. After 33 tranches in four years, just about 28.6 tonnes of gold has been bought by investors through the SGB scheme. This is not even one per cent of the gold demand of these four years. The Centre had introduced SGB scheme in November 2015 in order to provide an alternative investment avenue for gold investors. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had launched the scheme, along with two other gold related schemes, its gold monetisation scheme



aimed at unlocking 20,000 tonnes, or \$800 billion worth of gold lying idle in households and temples; and the national gold coin minted in India with the Ashok Chakra engraved on one side and Mahatma Gandhi on the other side. There have been 33 tranches of SGB since, with three to six tranches issued every year. However, in 2017-18, 14 tranches were

issued. Across all the tranches a total of 28,644 tonnes of gold has been purchased. When compared with the estimated consumption of around 750 tonnes, SGBs account for just 0.9 per cent of the total consumption in these four years. From a returns' standpoint, sovereign gold bond is the best instrument to invest in gold, as it provides an interest of 2.5 per cent over and above the price appreciation of the metal. The interest portion of the returns is taxed, but the capital gains are not taxable. The bonds have a tenure of eight years, with an exit option in the fifth year. According to Anil Rego, CEO, Right Horizons, SGB is an instrument for the long-term investor. However, for an investor who wants to take advantage of the price apprecia-

tion and exit in between, SGBs have not been offering much help. "There are liquidity issues and finding a buyer is difficult if the investor wants to exit the bond in between. Government has also allowed the trading of the bonds in the exchanges. But that has not helped much," said Rego. He finds that the awareness about the bonds itself is very limited among gold buyers. "SGBs were introduced at a time when the gold price was subdued and investors were not quite keen on betting on the metal," he said. Hence, compared to gold exchange traded funds (ETFs), which have a total asset under management (AUM) of about 10 times valued Rs 5,000 crore, SGBs are placed better. Gold ETFs had seen the total asset moving up to Rs 12,000 crore in 2011-12.

## CGST short of estimate by 40%

New Delhi, Dec. 9: The Central GST collection fell short of the budget estimate by nearly 40 per cent during the April-November period of 2019-20, according to the data presented in Parliament on Monday.

The actual CGST collection during April-November stood at Rs 3,28,365 crore while the budgeted estimate is Rs 5,26,000 crore for these months. Minister of State for Finance Anurag Singh Thakur said in a written reply in the Lok Sabha. The minister added that the data was provisional. In 2018-19, the actual CGST collection stood at Rs 4,57,534 crore as against the provisional estimate of Rs 6,05,900 crore for the year, he said. In 2017-18, the CGST collection was Rs 2,05,261 crore. The minister said 999 cases were registered till October for GST evasion. —PTI

## Coffee Day's tech park sale stalls over Yes Bank nod

BAJU KALESH & ANTO ANTONY  
DEC. 9

Belaguered Coffee Day Enterprises Ltd sale of its technology park to Blackstone Group Inc has stalled, as one of its creditors hasn't approved the deal, people with knowledge of the matter said. Yes Bank hasn't issued the so-called no objection certificate as its seeking assurances on repayments of other loans taken by Coffee Day, said the people, asking not to be identified as the information isn't public. All other creditors have approved the transaction, the people said.



Shares of Coffee Day fell 8.9 per cent to close at Rs 43.85. The stock dropped as much as 14.5 per cent on Monday in its biggest intra-day decline since July 31. Coffee Day, which runs India's largest coffee chain, has been trying to sell its assets to repay its debt after the unexpected death of its founder billionaire V.G. Siddhartha. On August 14, the company announced that it has entered into a non-binding letter of intent to sell Global Village Tech Park to Blackstone in a deal valued at Rs 2,600 crore (\$366 million) to Rs 3,000 crore. Tanglein Developments Ltd, a unit of Coffee Day that controls Global Village Tech Park in Bengaluru, owns Yes Bank funds (Rs 7,230.54 crore), according to the people. In addition, Coffee Day also owns the lender about Rs 1,400 crore, the people said. —Bloomberg

## Stock limit on onion retailers tightened to 2 t

The Centre further reduced the stock holding limit for onion to 2 tonnes from 5 tonnes for retail traders as part of efforts to check hoarding and boost supplies. Last week, the ministry had reduced the stock holding limit for retailers to 5 tonnes from 10 tonnes while that on wholesalers to 25 tonnes from 50 tonnes as onion prices were ruling high.

## Tata Steel extends HR benefits to LGBTQ+ staff and partners

Jamshedpur, Dec. 9: Tata Steel on Monday said it has introduced a new human resource policy that enables its employees from the LGBTQ+ community to declare their partners and avail all HR benefits permissible under the law.

With its vision to provide equal opportunity to the employees, it has been an endeavour of the company to create an enabling workforce for all diverse groups, respecting and embracing the differences in the individuals, the steel maker said in a statement. "Partners mean people of same-sex living like a married couple," it said. "LGBTQ+ refers to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, questioning and related communities." Under the expanded diversity and inclusion (D&I) policy, Tata Steel employees and their partners will be able to avail of a host of benefits, including health check-up, medical facilities, adoption leave, new-born parent and child care leave. "Employees will also get financial assistance for gender reassignment surgery and 30 days special leave for it. They will also be eligible for Tata Executive Holiday Plan (TEHP), honeymoon package and domestic travel coverage for new employees, it said. "The company's vision is to be a world-class equal opportunity employer where everyone is respected and every voice is heard. It is a constant

## INCLUSIVE POLICY

► Employees and partners can avail of a host of benefits, including health check-up, medical facilities, adoption leave, new-born parent and child care leave  
► Employees will also get financial assistance for gender reassignment surgery and 30 days special leave for it  
► They will also be eligible for Tata Executive Holiday Plan, honeymoon package and domestic travel coverage  
► They can participate in an event, including corporate events and those in which "only spouses of opposite gender were included" earlier  
Assets under management (AUM) of the mutual fund industry has touched a new peak in November. Large-cap funds could attract inflows of Rs 1,196.90 crore while mid-cap funds received inflows of Rs 965.55 crore. Among the hybrid schemes, the category of arbitrage funds saw inflows of Rs 1,311.65 crore and balanced hybrid funds saw outflows of Rs 4,931.71 crore. Equity assets, however, gained with the Sensex

## MF AUM at a new peak of ₹27L cr; equity inflows dip

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD  
MUMBAI, DEC. 9

Assets under management (AUM) of the mutual fund industry has touched a new peak in November. Large-cap funds could attract inflows of Rs 1,196.90 crore while mid-cap funds received inflows of Rs 965.55 crore. Among the hybrid schemes, the category of arbitrage funds saw inflows of Rs 1,311.65 crore and balanced hybrid funds saw outflows of Rs 4,931.71 crore. Equity assets, however, gained with the Sensex



rising by 1.65 per cent during the month from 40,129.05 as on October 31 to 40,793.81 on November 30. "Equity net inflows have come down sharply in November, partly due to investors booking profits," said S. Venkatesh, CEO, Amfi, said. "Goal-based, long term systematic investment plan (SIP) investments from retail investors continue to grow steadily, with SIP AUM at an all-time high at Rs 3.12 lakh

crore," Venkatesh said. Among the debt-oriented schemes the largest contribution came from overnight funds with inflows of Rs 20,649.14 crore. Inflows were also high in liquid funds (Rs 6,538.14 crore), bond & PSU funds (Rs 7,230.54 crore) and money market funds (Rs 5,135.70 crore). However, credit risk funds saw outflows of Rs 1,886.61 crore and medium duration funds witnessed outflows of Rs 927.85 crore.

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## Yamaha rolls out R15V 3.0 BS-4 bike

MICHAEL GONSALVES  
PUNE, DEC. 9

Yamaha Motor, the Japanese giant motorcycle maker, on Monday introduced a new BS-VI norm compliant YZF-R15 Version 3.0 motorcycle model with price starting from ₹1.45 lakh at Delhi showroom to boost sales in Asia's third biggest economy. The top-end model costs ₹1.47 lakh. Yamaha YZF-R15 Version 3.0 comes as the third BS-VI compliant model from the brand after FZ FI and FZS FI motorcycles priced between ₹1.20 lakh and ₹1.02 lakh, which were launched last month.

The upgrade to BS VI technology has resulted in a price increase of around ₹4,420 over the BS IV model.

"With Yamaha continuing to perk up track performances with the R series, the new YZF-R15 Version 3.0 with BS VI-compliant engine and new features will be able to create optimum excitement in India in its category," Motomichi Shitara, Yamaha Motor India chairman, said.



Walmart's Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of International Division Judith McKenna lights an oil lamp during an event in New Delhi on Monday. — AFP

## SFIO probes 12 cases in last 3 years

FC BUREAU  
CHENNAI, DEC. 9

Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO) has been assigned investigations in 12 cases involving fraud and misappropriation by companies in the past three years. Out of 12 investigations, prosecutions have been filed against 3 companies by SFIO. A total of 55 research reports were prepared by Market Research and Analysis Unit (MRAU) and submitted to the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA).

In 41 cases, investigations have been ordered by the Ministry to be conducted by Regional Directors (RDs) and Registrar of Companies (ROCs). Ministry has ordered inspections in 81 cases to be conducted by regional directors or ROCs and inquiry has been ordered against 27 companies by ROCs for violations of various provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 and the cases are at different stages before various courts.

## Centre hikes MSP for toria oilseeds

FC BUREAU  
NEW DELHI, DEC. 9

Providing a partial relief to the farmers in the country, the government on Monday hiked the minimum support price (MSP) of toria oilseed similar to rapeseed by ₹25 per quintal to ₹4,425 for the current year. Toria and mustard are the third most important edible oilseed crops of the world after soybean and oil palm. The MSP of toria was fixed at ₹3,900 per quintal for 2019-20 rabi season. "The MSP has been fixed for the toria crop grown in 2019-20 rabi season, which is under way, and to be harvested in 2020-21," the agriculture ministry said.

"The government has taken this decision due to severe loss incurred by the farmers following heavy rains and floods in their kharif crops. Toria being a rabi crop, we have seen its sowing as slow as the US Environmental Protection Agency. As this crucial rabi oilseed is sown during September-October and harvested from November onwards, the farmers will get better price then."

## Investors consider betting on small, mid-sized companies

# Costly bluechips force investors eye midcaps

Mumbai, Dec. 9: Investors are starting to weigh the merits of rotating into small and mid-sized Indian stocks after a few large companies drove a record-breaking rally in the main equity index.

"Leadership in India's rally has been very narrow," Tim Mooe, chief Asia Pacific equity strategist for Goldman Sachs Group Inc., said in a research note. "Valuations are at the high end of the range, both in historical terms and relative to the rest of the world."

The S&P BSE Sensex has risen about 12 per cent from a low in September, with three members—Reliance Industries Ltd., ICICI Bank Ltd. and HDFC Bank Ltd.—accounting for 61 per cent of all the gains. The broader market has lagged behind, leaving the valuation gap between smaller firms and the gauge at close to its widest in a decade.

"Many of India's large caps are overvalued," said Sunil Singhania, founder of Mumbai-based Abacus Asset Manager LLP. "Most of them are unlikely to grow at the rate expected of them. Abacus has about 75 per cent of its \$300 million in assets invested in



small and medium-sized stocks. The firm earlier this year said some quality stocks are likely in a "bubble zone."

Investors have taken shelter in some of the South Asian nation's biggest companies amid a credit crunch and the slowest economic growth in six years. That's added to an extended underperformance by small stocks that go back to 2017.

Still, Chandresh Nigam, who oversees \$14 billion of assets at Axis Asset Management Co. isn't convinced that there's value in small caps. It is worth paying more for shares of high-quality businesses, he said in an interview in November.

Quality can be expensive, with the Sensex trading at 19 times 12-month blended forward earnings. That's close to a level that's proved

the ceiling for gains in the past few years.

Yet, the bet has paid off for Axis, with the money manager's largest equity fund beating 96 per cent of peers in the last five years. For market breadth to widen, economic outlook needs to improve. Analysts at Goldman Sachs predict the growth is set to return. High valuation has partly pushed the Sensex into a recovery, with the MSCI India Index trading at 1.2 standard deviations above the 10-year mean, they wrote in a note.

There are signs investors are warming up to mid-cap stocks. The Nifty Midcap 100 edged out the benchmark index since the start of October, rising 6.3 per cent versus a 4.8 per cent gain for the Nifty 50 Index. The Sensex was little changed at 9,377 a.m. Monday after losing 0.8 per cent last week, its first weekly loss in more than a month.

"Early signs point to a change in market undercurrent," Navneet Munot, chief investment officer at SBI Mutual Fund said in a note on Tuesday. "Value stocks have significantly outperformed quality over the past two months." — Bloomberg

## Engg. students learn Japanese

SANGEETHA G.  
CHENNAI, DEC. 9

Since Japan opened its doors for foreign skilled workers, engineering graduates in the country are queuing up to learn the Japanese language.

In October last year, Japan had unveiled a plan to attract around five lakh foreign workers as the world's third-largest economy is battling labour shortage in different sectors caused by an ageing population and lower birthrate.

The country also has shortage of over 1.7 lakh IT engineers. Qualified aspirants are required to have undergone Japanese language training. "Japan has been looking at countries like Vietnam and Philippines to fill the labour gap. But in recent times, there has been some improvement in the bilateral relations between Japan and India and now the East Asian country is viewing us as a potential source market for qualified workers," said Dr S. Saravanan, Head for Photonics and Nanotechnology Research Centre, Sona College of Technology in Chennai, which is the convener for Japanese Language Course.

After the launch of Japanese learning centre by Sona Yuki, the skilling arm of Sona College, Salem became the first tier-2 city to offer the course last year. There are eight centres in India, mainly in the metro cities, which are providing Japanese language training. Earlier, Japanese language learners used to pursue it from an academic stand point. Now, the majority learners are taking up the course from a career perspective.

According to Mr Saravanan, the centre is not just for language learning and the demand is coming largely from engineering students. Several engineering students are taking up Japanese lessons along with their course. "They are mostly IT engineering students and some are from mechanical and civil branches as well. Japanese companies require graduates skilled in latest technologies like AI, Machine Learning, etc.

## Yes Bank may reject Erwin's \$1.2b bid

Mumbai, Dec. 9: Yes Bank Ltd. is likely to reject an offer that made up more than half of its planned \$2 billion capital raising, and is talking to institutional investors about making up the shortfall, according to a person familiar with the matter.

At a meeting on Tuesday, the board is expected to reject an offer from Canada's Erwin Singh Braich and Hong Kong-based SPGP Holdings to raise \$1.2 billion toward the fund raising, according to the person, who asked not to be identified because the discussions are private. After initially dropping on the news, Yes Bank shares reversed the losses to trade 1.8 per cent higher. They announced the names of the investors for its proposed preferential issue at the end of last month.

India has committed to cutting its emissions intensity—the amount of greenhouse gases released for each unit of economic growth—by about a third from 2005 levels by 2030, under the Paris Agreement. A series of scientific reports that show nations aren't doing enough to avert a devastating increase in the Earth's temperature has triggered calls by younger activists at the United Nation's COP25

health impacts versus global warming," said Deepak Krishna, a Bengaluru-based associate director with World Resources Institute India. "India has committed to cutting its emissions intensity—the amount of greenhouse gases released for each unit of economic growth—by about a third from 2005 levels by 2030, under the Paris Agreement. A series of scientific reports that show nations aren't doing enough to avert a devastating increase in the Earth's temperature has triggered calls by younger activists at the United Nation's COP25

## Glitches at BSE, NSE cause trouble for investors in OFS

ASHWIN J. PUNNEN  
MUMBAI, DEC. 9

Glitches at BSE and NSE are causing trouble for investors in Offer For Sale (OFS) trading at the closing time of a trade.

"Exchanges were not able to broadcast the actual price of OFS at the closing time as it happened in the case of HDFC Asset Management Company's OFS. Brokers were not able to get the actual price of the OFS after 3:20 pm and exchanges updated prices and volume after 30 minutes," the source said.

According to sources, exchanges system is not able to handle such a large number of transactions at the closing time. "Main problem is due to frequent modification in the OFS bidding price and the deletion of trades in the last five minutes to avail OFS arbitrage between the cash price and the OFS' weighted average price. It is observed that many times that the system of an exchange is not able to

### LAST HOUR RUSH

Exchanges were not able to broadcast the actual price of Offer For Sale at the closing time as in HDFC AMC's OFS.

Systems at the exchanges were not able to handle a large number of transactions at the closing time.

The main problem is frequent modification in the OFS bidding price and the deletion of trades in the last five minutes to avail OFS arbitrage between the cash price and the OFS' weighted average price.

Under Sebi rule, it is mandatory for companies to offer a minimum 10 per cent reservation for retail investors. Unlike IPOs, no documents are required to bid in an OFS. All you need to provide is the quantity and price you are ready to pay for the OFS issue.

Under Sebi rule, it is mandatory for companies to offer a minimum 10 per cent reservation for retail investors. Unlike IPOs, no documents are required to bid in an OFS. All you need to provide is the quantity and price you are ready to pay for the OFS issue.

## Salary delays cause default in loan EMIs

Mumbai, Dec. 9: Salary delays are the biggest reason for loan defaults by individual borrowers, followed by business downturns, says a survey.

The survey comes months after official data showed that unemployment is at a four-decade high, the pace of economic growth slipping to a six-year low, and banks increasingly rely on retail loans to expand books as corporate credit demand is a far cry. "The current slowdown is affecting debt recovery across the country," Paytm-backed financial technology firm Creditease said in a report on Monday.

The report, based on the data of 2 lakh loans from 40 lenders RTI lenders, mostly NBFCs, across 30 states over the past six months, has found that salary delays are the major culprit for the delayed repayments in as much as 36 per cent of the cases, followed by business downturns at 29 per cent. — PTT

### India's Richest Real Estate Entrepreneurs

| Rank | Name                          | Net Worth (₹ Crores) | Main Company         | Residence |
|------|-------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-----------|
| 1    | Mangal Prabhat Lodha & family | 31,960               | Macrotech Developers | Mumbai    |
| 2    | Rajiv Singh                   | 25,080               | DLF                  | New Delhi |
| 3    | Jitendra Virwani              | 24,750               | Embassy              | Bengaluru |
| 4    | Niranjan Hirani               | 17,030               | Hirani Communities   | Mumbai    |
| 5    | Chandra Raheja & family       | 15,480               | K Raheja             | Mumbai    |
| 6    | Vikas Oberoi                  | 13,910               | Oberoi Realty        | Mumbai    |
| 7    | Raja Bagmane                  | 9,960                | Bagmane Developers   | Bengaluru |
| 8    | Suresh Hirani                 | 9,720                | House of Hirani      | Singapore |
| 9    | Subhash Runwal & family       | 7,100                | Runwal Developers    | Mumbai    |
| 10   | Ajay Piramal & family         | 6,560                | Pitam Realty         | Mumbai    |

Source: Hurun Research Institute. 2019 GRIHE HurunIndia Real Estate Rich List 2019. PPT GRAPHICS

## Fighting coal pollution may increase greenhouse effect

Mumbai, Dec. 9: India's fight against deadly air pollution may come with an unintended consequence: increased emissions of greenhouse gases.

The government-mandated pollution control devices for coal-fired power plants, which reduce deadly sulphur dioxide pollution, could also boost carbon dioxide emissions at individual plants, according to a report by the US Environmental Protection Agency. That may impede India's ability to meet international commitments to reduce carbon-emissions intensity. "It'll come down to a trade-off between local

health impacts versus global warming," said Deepak Krishna, a Bengaluru-based associate director with World Resources Institute India. "India has committed to cutting its emissions intensity—the amount of greenhouse gases released for each unit of economic growth—by about a third from 2005 levels by 2030, under the Paris Agreement. A series of scientific reports that show nations aren't doing enough to avert a devastating increase in the Earth's temperature has triggered calls by younger activists at the United Nation's COP25

meeting in Madrid for more requests for compensation. India's environment minister in December 15 imposed caps on emissions of toxic gases, including SO2 and nitrogen oxides from power plant stacks, allowing the operators two

years to retrofit facilities. But the deadlines have been extended by as much as five years as the distressed generators face financing challenges. A more practical approach would be to prioritize requiring so-called flue-gas desulfurisation units, or FGDs, in areas that are critically polluted with high levels of sulfur dioxide levels, said R. Srikanth, a professor for energy and natural resources at Bengaluru-based National Institute of Advanced Studies. The most widely used SO2 reducing technology is the limestone-based scrubbers typically adds 1 per cent to the total CO2 emissions of

plants that burn low sulfur coal, according to the US EPA report. Extra electricity consumed by the pollution units can be 1 per cent-2 per cent of the gross output of the generation unit, according to the analysis, which was published in 2010. The values in the report would still hold true for today, Enesta Jones, an official for the agency said in an email. "We will increase CO2 emissions per unit of electricity generated, which will ultimately lead to a global outcry for closure of thermal power plants" in India, said Srikanth. — Bloomberg

## OPENING BEL

PROJECTION FOR TODAY

## Market may look for signals from macro data

The markets ended marginally higher after a volatile session with the Sensex and Nifty closing in the green with gains of 0.1 per cent at 40,487 and 11,938.

Sectorally it was a mixed bag with auto recording the pack with gains of 0.8 per cent, followed by metals, oil and gas and energy.

On the other hand, reality was the biggest loser followed by media, IT and FMCG. The market was range-bound as it turned cautious ahead of important events this week including the release of the global report on China trade deal.

The momentum indicators are also suggesting some corrective action. Thus traders should look to remain short at the current levels for the corrective move. Overall trend is still bullish, analysts said. The market has closed in the positive territory in the last trading session; however, the momentum is negative. The daily as well as weekly charts. The Index has formed lower tops and lower bottoms. This structure isn't violated the overall chart set-up is negative. So, the trading strategy is to remain on the sell side for the target of 11800 with a stop loss pegged above 12000. On a technical note, Jay Thakkar, CMT, head technical and derivatives research, ANAD Rathi Shares and Stock Brokers.

"Market was range bound as investors are closely watching the economic macro like CPI inflation and IIP data for any signs of progress in the government's effort to revive the economy. FIIs are likely to turn risk averse in domestic market as strong US job data, progress in trade talks and the expectation of status quo policy from US Fed will add impetus to global market, said Vinod Nair, the head of research at Geojit Financial Services.

Going forward, market participants would keep a close watch on CPI, IIP and WPI numbers scheduled to release this week. On the global front, trade deal developments between US-China would be a key determinant in the near term as the direction for India as well as global markets.

— Ashwin J Punnen





### Long innings

Veteran opener Wasim Jaffer on Monday became the first player in Indian cricket to feature in 150 Ranji matches during Vidarbha's match against Andhra in Vijayawada

**3** We want to play good cricket in Pakistan and hope they give us some good security. — Dimuthi Karunaratne, Sri Lanka skipper after landing in Islamabad for a Test series

### SHORT TAKES

#### Mickil captain of Hyd U-23 team

**DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, DEC. 9** Mickil Jaiswal will lead the Hyderabad Under 23 cricket team in the Col. C. K. Nayudu tournament to be played in Shimoga from Wednesday. Ajay Dev Goud has been named his deputy, and he made optimum use of the opportunity. Shaw, who is eyeing the third opener's slot in Tests, made a quick 50 off 62 balls. After opting to bat, openers Jay Bista (18) and Shavji conjured a Prasad, Santosh Goud, Samith Reddy, Standbys: Junaid Ali, Krishna Chari, Ranajit Teja, Ashish Srivastava, Yash Agarwal, Preeti, Charan.

### Kirsten is open to helping Proteas

**New Delhi:** With Cricket South Africa (CSA) in disarray, former opener and coach Gary Kirsten could return to help the Proteas. A mentor's role for the series against England, "I would always be willing to help where people think I can add value. It would, however, have part of a bigger process to the commitment to rebuild a solid system," Kirsten told ESPNcricinfo. The dark clouds are all over CSA at present, but the suspension of chief executive Thabang Mosele also has a silver lining as this could mean the speeding up of former South Africa skipper Graeme Smith's appointment as Director of Cricket. — Agencies

### Will step aside if I fail, says Misbah

**Karachi:** Pakistan's head coach and chief selector Misbah-ul-Haq has hit back at criticism of the under-performing national team, saying he does not have a magic wand to revive its fortunes instantly and will step aside if he fails to deliver after some time. Misbah, a former captain, was speaking at a media conference in Lahore to announce the 16-member squad for the two-Test home series against Sri Lanka and seemed to snip were questions were thrown at him about Pakistan's underwhelming Test performances. "What do you want," Misbah responded when a reporter asked if he agrees with the criticism being directed at him and whether he intends to step down as some of the former players have demanded. "...you have to understand I don't have a magic wand," he said. — PTT

### LANKA LAND IN PAK FOR TEST SERIES

**Islamabad:** Sri Lanka embarked on the first Test tour of Pakistan in 10 years on Monday following the deadly 2009 attack on their team that plunged Pakistan into sporting isolation. "Touchdown Islamabad" test in Lahore in March 2009. "This is my first tour to Pakistan," said Sri Lanka skipper Dimuthi Karunaratne, who opted out of the team's recent limited-overs tour of Pakistan. "After the 2009 incidents players were scared to visit Pakistan but in the last two years or so Sri Lanka and other teams have toured Pakistan." — AFP

# Mumbai on song as Shaw, Rahane hit half centuries

## Ranji Trophy season kicks off in style at various venues

**Vadodra, Dec. 9:** Test specialist Ajinkya Rahane and young opener Prithvi Shaw struck gritty fifties as Mumbai ended day one of their Ranji Trophy lunch opener against Baroda at 382/3 here on Monday. While Rahane's patient 79 off 145 balls pulled Mumbai out of the ruble, bowlers Shantnu Thakur (64) and Shams Mulani (66 not out) contributed with the bat slugging half centuries as they ensured Mumbai ended the first day with a decent score on the board. This was Shaw's first first-class game after serving a eight-month ban for doping, and he made optimum use of the opportunity. Shaw, who is eyeing the third opener's slot in Tests, made a quick 50 off 62 balls. After opting to bat, openers Jay Bista (18) and Shavji conjured a Prasad, Santosh Goud, Samith Reddy, Standbys: Junaid Ali, Krishna Chari, Ranajit Teja, Ashish Srivastava, Yash Agarwal, Preeti, Charan.



Andhra's Hanuma Vihari en route to his half-century against Vidarbha.

Aditya Tare fell cheaply as Mumbai were in a spot of bother 182-5. Then Rahane, who hammered 10 boundaries, showed his mettle and held one end. He first got support from Akash Parkar (12), and later from Malani. After his dismissal, Mulani and Shardul took the game away from Baroda with their half-centuries. Mulani hit seven fours and two sixes in his unbeaten knock, while Thakur smashed 11 fours and a six. Mulani and Shashank Attarde (5 not out) will resume Mumbai's innings on Tuesday. For Baroda, Bhargav Bhatt grabbed three wickets but gave away 110 runs. **Uthappa hits ton** At Thumba (Kerala), Delhi coach KP Bhasakar's play of using four-pronged spin attack

### BRIEFS SCORES

**Group A: At Thumba:** Kerala 276/3 (Robin Uthappa 102, Ponnambal 97, Pradeep Sangwan 1/31, Tejas Barokar 1/62, Vikas Mishra 1/45) vs Delhi. **At Vijayawada:** Andhra 211 (Hanuma Vihari 83, Aditya Sarwate 4/50) vs Vidarbha 26 for no loss. **At Hyderabad:** Hyderabad 233 in 88 overs (Kolla Sumanth 69, C. V. Milind 47, Piyush Chawla 3/61) vs Gujarat. **Group B: Mumbai 362/8** (Ajinkya Rahane 79, Prithvi Shaw 56, Shardul Thakur 64, Bhargav Bhatt 3/10) vs Baroda. **At Dindigul:** Karnataka 259/6 (Devdutt Padikkal 78, Pavan Deshpande 65, M Siddharth 2/33, Baba Aparajith 1/24) vs Tamil Nadu.

Nadu), half centuries by in-form batsman Devdutt Padikkal (78) and Pavan Deshpande (65) helped Karnataka reach 259/6 on the opening day of their Elite Group B Ranji Trophy game against Tamil Nadu. India opener Mayank Agarwal, who plays for Karnataka, however failed to convert his start as he was dismissed on 47 runs. For Tamil Nadu, ace off-spinner R Ashwin finished the day with figures of 1-68. Opting to bat at the NRP Colaba ground here, Karnataka lost opener Deva Nischal (4) early. Agarwal, who had scored a memorable test double hundred against Bangladesh, joined hands with Padikkal (78, 182 balls, 2x4), as the two put up 67-run stand for the second wicket. — PTT

# Cricket



Preeti (left), Hyderabad Under 23 cricketer and Sarojini Cricket and Fitness Academy trainee, is felicitated by SCSA secretary and former national volleyballer Kiran Reddy (centre) on her selection for the T20 tournament.

**ANDHRA PRADESH MEDICAL SERVICES & INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**  
2nd Floor, Plot No.9, Survey No.49, TF Park, Mangalagiri - 522 503  
Ph.No. 8978680708, email: apmhids@gmail.com  
**Tender Notice No.10/APMSIDC/Equipment/2019-20, Dated:09.12.2019**  
APMSIDC invites tenders through e-procurement platform for Technical Support Unit (TSU) to work with Project Coordination Cell (PCC) for World Bank Andhra Pradesh Health Systems Strengthening Project (2nd Call). For detailed notification and further details please visit the web site <http://mhids.ap.nic.in> & [www.tenders.approcurement.gov.in](http://www.tenders.approcurement.gov.in). APMSIDC will reserve the right to cancel the tender at any time without assigning any reasons. Sd/- for Managing Director

**INDIAN RAILWAYS**  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
Ministry of Railways (Railway Board)  
No. RSP/J01/S0605/11/2019, New Delhi, dated: 09.12.2019  
CORRIGENDUM No. 1  
Attention is drawn to e-Tender Notice No. 2019 POC TC for procurement of Primary Oils in three items viz. LCO, FC & SFO of Ministry of Railways (Railway Board) issued on 09.12.2019. Following Corrigendum to 'date of submission of tender' is hereby authorized: **Ministry of Railways (Railway Board)'s e-Tender Notice No. 2019 POC TC for procurement of Primary Oil i.e. three items viz. LCO & SFO.**  
FOR READS  
Last date and time for submission of tender: 10.12.2019 at 14:30 hrs.  
All other terms and conditions of Tender Notice shall remain unaltered.  
328219 SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
Tender Notice  
Chief Engineer/TMC, North Railway, Headquarters, Baroda House, New Delhi-110001, for and on behalf of the President of India, invites tenders through E-tendering system for supply of the following items:  
S. No. E-Tender No. Description of item Qty Due Date  
1. A439P00TC2019 HYDRAULIC PUMPS AND MOTOR PUMPS FOR TRACK MACHINES 06 03.01.2020  
2. A419P00TC2019 SPARES PARTS FOR TRACK MACHINES 15 03.01.2020  
3. A409P00TC2019 SPARES PARTS FOR TRAM MACHINES 15 03.01.2020  
4. A259P00TC2019 BOX TYPE GAUGE CUM LEVEL WITH SPIRIT LEVEL 30 16.01.2020  
5. A429P00SD2019 SPARES PARTS FOR TRACK MACHINES 15 16.01.2020  
6. A469P00TC2019 SPARES PARTS FOR TRACK MACHINES 15 16.01.2020  
Note: 1. The complete information of above E-procurement system is available on website [www.meps.gov.in](http://www.meps.gov.in). The firms, who desire to participate against E-tenders, are advised to electronically register themselves on the above website for which they would be required to have a class-I digital signature and a valid agency agreement authorized under IT Act 2008, by Govt. of India. Manual offers against E-tenders will not be accepted. Notice No. 219 SPT/2019-20 Dated: 09.12.2019. 328219  
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE  
Government of India  
Bhabha Atomic Research Centre  
BARC Facilities, Visakhapatnam

**TSRTC**  
e-TENDER NOTIFICATION  
No. M2/22/2019-20, Dated: 08.12.2019  
e-Tenders are invited for leasing of containers/stalls/open spaces in the various bus stations of Hyderabad Region. For details please visit website <http://www.tsrtc.co.in>. **TSRTC** reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reasons therefor. **328219**  
**EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY**  
CORRIGENDUM  
Open Tender Notice No. SGOSEOT/1219  
Name of Work - Associated S&T work in MPO-MGS section for various Engg. Stock renewal/ replacement / joint. G/JSE/EC work.  
The cost of Tender document may please read Rs. 10,000 in place of Rs. 5,000.  
Divnl. Signal & Telecom. Engineer-I  
PR/1825/MGS/S&T/19-2016

## Snake at Andhra-Vidarbha game

**DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA, DEC. 9** The season-opening Ranji Trophy cricket match between Andhra and Vidarbha was interrupted for a while on Monday by an unexpected guest arriving at the Mulapadu Cricket stadium here. Vidarbha won the toss and chose to field first. However, shortly afterwards, a snake appeared on the ground, causing the fielding players worry. The umpires stopped the game. The match resumed after the snake was driven out of the stadium. Speaking to DC a senior member of ACA said that the snake belonged to the Vidarbha team as their logo itself is a snake. He also opined that the Vidarbha team felt happy with the welcome as they entered the ground, and also played with confidence. Vidarbha was the champions for the past two seasons. A Vidarbha fielder watches the snake that entered the ground during their match against Andhra in Vijayawada on Monday.

**OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL PROJECT ENGINEER PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, PIU KALA MANDIR ROAD SWAGAT BHAWAN, REWA (M.P.)**  
E-mail: [piurewa@gmail.com](mailto:piurewa@gmail.com) Phone: 07662-406750  
NIT No. 17/2019/CENTRALISED TENDERING/APD/PIU/1659 REWA, DATE 28-11-2019  
Notice bids for the following works are invited for registered contractors and firms at pre-tendering registration criteria:

| S. No. | Tender No./Port ID | Name of work  | District | Probable Amount (Rs. in lakh) | Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (in Rs.) | Cost of Bid Document (in Rs.) | Period of completion (in months /c Rainy Season) |
|--------|--------------------|---|----------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| 1      | 2019/PW/PIU/1659/1 | Construction of New Shramodaya PW/PIU, PW/PIU, Distt. Rewa Including Water Supply, Sanitary Filling and Electrification Work (First Call) | Rewa     | 4587.62                       | 229380.00                            | 50000.00                      | 24 /c Rainy Season                               |

1. All details relating to the Bid Document (s) can be viewed and downloaded free of cost from the website <http://mptenders.gov.in>.  
2. Bid Document (s) can be purchased after making online payment of portal fees through Credit/ Debit/ Cash Card/ Internet Banking.  
3. The Bid Document (s) can be purchased only online from 9.00 AM (time) 02.12.2019 (date) to 06.00 PM (time) 14.12.2019 (date). Other key dates may be seen in Bid Data Sheet.  
4. Amendment (s) to NIT, if any, shall be published on website only and not in newspaper.  
Sd/- DIVISIONAL PROJECT ENGINEER  
P.W.D. REWA (M.P.)  
G-20091

**Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation**  
NT NO. NAME OF WORK Estimate Start/End Last Date Name Address Officer  
02030/MWP/EE/02/2019-20 VCCO, Compound Wall, Grewalia (P) Works, etc. 892.20 11.12.19 at 3:00 PM E-44P/EE-02/2019-20 G.H.M.C. Secy  
02030/MWP/EE/02/2019-20 Maintenance Works, CC Road-13, Fozdarji-3 (Works), etc. 498.10 11.12.19 at 3:00 PM E-44P/EE-02/2019-20 G.H.M.C. Secy  
02030/MWP/EE/02/2019-20 Development & Maintenance (S) Works, etc. 135.00 11.12.19 at 3:00 PM E-44P/EE-02/2019-20 G.H.M.C. Secy  
02030/MWP/EE/02/2019-20 Supply Delivery of the 'Water Under Sale' City Project Hyderabad at all 02030/01 11.12.19 at 3:00 PM BELD/NO/02/2019-20 G.H.M.C. Secy  
02030/MWP/EE/02/2019-20 Laying of VCCO Road, Laying of MDC Road/Water Tapping, Repairing 02030/02 11.12.19 at 3:00 PM BELD/NO/02/2019-20 G.H.M.C. Secy  
02030/MWP/EE/02/2019-20 Construction New Fences and boundary surrounding existing 02030/03 11.12.19 at 3:00 PM BELD/NO/02/2019-20 G.H.M.C. Secy  
02030/MWP/EE/02/2019-20 Laying of CC Road, Paving/Repairing/Providing Sewerage 02030/04 11.12.19 at 3:00 PM E-44P/EE-02/2019-20 G.H.M.C. Secy  
02030/MWP/EE/02/2019-20 (1) Development Water Supply New line work of Construction 02030/05 11.12.19 at 3:00 PM E-44P/EE-02/2019-20 G.H.M.C. Secy  
02030/MWP/EE/02/2019-20 Street Bridge Over the Ganga Yati, T.R. G.H.M.C. etc. 135.00 11.12.19 at 3:00 PM E-44P/EE-02/2019-20 G.H.M.C. Secy  
02030/MWP/EE/02/2019-20 Electric Street Lighting (S) Works, etc. 135.00 11.12.19 at 3:00 PM E-44P/EE-02/2019-20 G.H.M.C. Secy  
02030/MWP/EE/02/2019-20 Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract (AMC) for B.S.200/2.0 MAX 02030/06 11.12.19 at 3:00 PM E-44P/EE-02/2019-20 G.H.M.C. Secy  
02030/MWP/EE/02/2019-20 Current Mapping including the (Various) schemes is as per and 02030/07 11.12.19 at 3:00 PM E-44P/EE-02/2019-20 G.H.M.C. Secy  
02030/MWP/EE/02/2019-20 and Existing works of the various schemes is as per and 02030/08 11.12.19 at 3:00 PM E-44P/EE-02/2019-20 G.H.M.C. Secy  
Directorate of E&TM, G.H.M.C. etc.  
For further details and for any clarifications, please contact:-  
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**RE-DEVELOPMENT OF CHILKALGUDA AND RIFLE RANGE RAILWAY COLONIES IN SECUNDERABAD FOR 99 YEARS LEASE PERIOD**  
PRE-BID MEETING ON 20th Dec. 2019 AT 11:30 HRS  
PRE-BID MEETING WILL BE HELD AT HYDERABAD (VENUE WILL BE NOTIFIED SEPARATELY)  
Last Date of Submission of Bids: 02.12.2019  
For further details of the project, please visit our website [www.rida.raildev.gov.in](http://www.rida.raildev.gov.in) or e-procurement Portal [www.tendersindia.gov.in/RLDA](http://www.tendersindia.gov.in/RLDA)  
Under the heading "Railways" For any clarifications, may please contact:-  
JGMW/RLDA 95830 74290 Mr. Sat Vivek (Consultant/RLDA) 85343 88907  
JGMW/RLDA 95830 74290 Ms. Srividya Krishnan (Consultant/RLDA) 96326 36530  
JGMW/RLDA 95830 74290 (JPMNS, RLDA, RPD, CDD/22 OF 2019 DATED 29.11.2019)  
Note: Any Corrigendum or Addendum shall be published only on RLDA's website. DGM/Tender (M) 7703918078





### Messi to miss

Barcelona star Lionel Messi will not make the trip to Italy for Tuesday's Champions League game against Inter Milan

# Four-year exile for Russia

## Russia banned from Tokyo Olympics, 2022 Fifa World Cup over doping

Lausanne, Dec. 9: The World Anti-Doping Agency on Monday banned Russia for four years from major global sporting events including the 2020 Tokyo Olympics and the 2022 World Cup in Qatar, over manipulated doping data.

Wada's executive committee, meeting in Lausanne, handed Russia the four-year suspension after accusing Moscow of falsifying laboratory doping data handed over to investigators earlier this year.

Not only will Russia be ruled out of the next Olympic cycle, but Russian government officials will be barred from attending any major events, while the country will lose the right to host, or even bid, for tournaments.

Wada's executive committee approved unanimously to assert a non-compliance on the Russian anti-doping agency for a period of four years, Wada spokesman James Fitzgerald said.

Under the sanctions, Russian sportsmen and women will still be allowed to compete at the Olympics next year and the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics but only if they can demonstrate that they were not part of what Wada believes was a state-sponsored system of doping.

It will be up to Fifa to stipulate how a team of Russian players can take part in the qualifying matches for the 2022 World Cup.

Euro 2020, in which the Russian city of Saint Petersburg will host four matches, is not affected by the ban because it is not defined as a "major event" for anti-doping purposes.

"They are going to have prove they had nothing to do with the non-compliance, (that) they were not involved in the doping schemes as described by the McLaren report, or they did not have their samples affected by the manipulation," Fitzgerald said.

The independent report by sports lawyer Richard McLaren, released in 2016, revealed the significant extent of state-sponsored doping in Russia, notably between 2011 and 2015.

It led to the Russian Anti-Doping Agency (RUSADA) being suspended for nearly three years previously over revelations of a vast state-supported doping programme.

Full disclosure of data from the Moscow laboratory was a key condition of Russia's controversial reinstatement by the Wada's executive committee.

Russian athletes at the Sochi Games. **AUG 2017** Although Russia was banned from international athletics, 19 Russian athletes were allowed to compete at the world championships in London under the IOC flag.

**DEC 2017** The Russian Olympic Committee was suspended and banned by the IOC from the 2018 Pyeongchang Winter Games. But Russian athletes were allowed to compete as neutrals after satisfying anti-doping norms.

**FEB 2018** Two Russians — medal-winning curler Alexander Krushelnitsky and bobsledder Nadezhda Sergeeva — tested positive at the 2018 Winter Games.



Russia's anti-doping agency (RUSADA) director general Yuri Gansus holds a press conference in Moscow on Monday. — AFP

## 'ANTI-RUSSIA HYSTERIA BEHIND DOPING BAN'

Moscow, Dec. 9: Russia reeled from a four-year ban from global sports on Monday with athletes in shock and the government quick to blame "anti-Russian hysteria".

While admitting there have been instances of doping, Russian officials say the country is no worse than any other. Some have accused other countries of pursuing the ban to remove Russian athletes from competition.

Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev said on Monday that it was "impossible to deny" that doping had taken place but that those involved had already been punished.

"This is the continuation of this anti-Russian hysteria that has already become chronic," Medvedev told news agencies, saying on Monday they were preparing to send athletes to the 2020 Olympics under a neutral flag.

The country's athletes must go to the Olympics whatever the situation," said the head of Russia's swimming federation, Vladimir Salnikov.

"Of course we'd prefer that our athletes participate under the Russian flag and hear their national anthem. But the circumstances may be different... (and) no one has the right to deprive innocent athletes of their dreams," he told state news agency RIA Novosti. — AFP

## HOW RUSSIA WILL BE AFFECTED

- Russia will be ruled out of the next Olympic cycle, and its government's officials will be barred from attending any major events, while the country will lose the right to host, or even bid, for tournaments.
- Under the sanctions, Russian athletes will still be allowed to compete at the Olympics next year and the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics but only if they can demonstrate that they were not part of what WADA believes was a state-sponsored system of doping.
- An official linked to the World Anti-Doping Agency said on Monday Russia can participate in qualifying for the 2022 World Cup despite receiving a four-year ban from major global sporting events.
- The sanctions against Russia, the host of last year's soccer World Cup, also bar it from hosting major sporting events for a four-year period or applying to host new events in that period.
- Russia's participation at Euro 2020, in which Saint Petersburg will host four matches, is not affected by the ban because it is not defined as a "major event" for anti-doping purposes.

How can you mock athletes who have been preparing all their lives for this? Unfortunately this is politics, I don't smell any sport here.

— Aslanbek Khushitov, Russia's 2008 Olympics gold medalist wrestler on country's four-year ban

### SHORT TAKES

#### Jr shuttlers gear up for Asian meet

Surabaya, Indonesia: Young Indian shuttlers will look to put up a good show and better the country's medal tally when they start their campaign at the Asia Junior U-17 and U-15 championships here on Wednesday. India had won one gold medal in the last championships held in Myanmar last year with Gujarat's Tasnim Mir and Meghana Reddy of Telangana emerging champions in U-15 girls doubles. All eyes will be on Tasnim as she has been given the top seeding in the U-15 category in the five-day competition, which is scheduled from December 11 to 15. Maharashtra's Vanu Kapur and Tanmay Boruah of Assam also got top seeding in the U-17 and U-15 boys singles draws respectively. — Agencies

#### JFC STEAL A POINT FROM CHENNAIYIN

Jamshedpur: Jamshedpur FC and Chennaiyin FC settled for a point each at the end of a thrilling Indian Super League encounter which ended 1-1 here on Monday. Chennaiyin took the lead through Nerjus Valakis' fine strike in the 26th minute. However, Jamshedpur denied Chennaiyin a win by equalising in the 89th minute through Issac Vanniaswamy. With this draw, Jamshedpur is in the fourth position with 12 points while Chennaiyin FC are still ninth with six points from seven games. Antonio Brown made a start to Sumet Passi in the absence of the injured striker Sergio Castel. Meanwhile, Owen Coyle made an unchanged eleven for Chennaiyin which started against Odisha FC last month. Jamshedpur had the first chance of the game in the 13th minute when C.K. Vineeth found himself with a lot of space down the left, but only had to find Passi or Faruk Choudhary inside the box. However, his cross was misdirected. The breakthrough Chennaiyin desperately sought came in the 27th minute through Nerjus Valakis who bagged his fourth goal of the campaign. — PTI

#### Salzburg pose serious threat to Liverpool

London, Dec. 9: Liverpool travel to Salzburg on Tuesday needing to avoid defeat to the confident Austrian champions to guard against an embarrassing Champions League group stage exit for the holders. Jurgen Klopp's men are used to getting through the knockout stages the hard way in each of the past two seasons they have needed home wins to secure a place in the last 16 before going on to make the final. However, the spectre of a free-scoring Salzburg, led by the Champions League's top scorer in Erlin Braut Haaland spells trouble for an injury-hit Liverpool backline that has consistently leaked goals this season despite streaking clear at the top of the Premier League. The Reds' recorded a first clean sheet in 14 games in Saturday's 3-0 win at Bournemouth, but lost another centre-back as Dejan Lovren limped off in the first half. Should the Croatian miss the trip to Austria, Joe Gomez will be Klopp's only fit partner for Virgil van Dijk in central defence. Salzburg have scored 87 goals in 24 games in all competitions this season, 28 of which have come from Norwegian wonderkid Haaland in just 21 appearances. — AFP



Liverpool's Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain (left) and Mohamed Salah at a training session in Liverpool, on Monday, the eve of their Champions League Group E match against Salzburg. — AFP

### Live on TV

**CHAMPIONS LEAGUE**

**Salzburg vs Liverpool** from 11:25 pm on Sony Ten 2, HD

**Napoli vs Genk** from 11:25 pm on Sony Ten 1, HD

**Chelsea vs Lille** from 1:30 am (Wednesday) on Sony Ten 1, HD

**Dortmund vs Slavia Praha** from 1:30 am (Wednesday) on Sony ESPN, HD

**Lyon vs RB Leipzig** from 1:30 am (Wednesday) on Sony SIX, HD

**Ajax vs Valencia** from 1:30 am (Wednesday) on Sony Ten 3, HD

**Inter Milan vs Barcelona** from 1:30 am (Wednesday) on Sony Ten 2, HD

Tuesday, Abraham is just 22 and is playing only his second season in the top-flight, but the England international's huge value to Chelsea was clear to see over the last 10 days. — AFP

## Ankit, Kalaiyani dig more gold for India

Kathmandu, Dec. 9: India clinched the gold on the penultimate day on the penultimate day of competitions to inch closer to 300-mark as the country is poised to finish on top spot for the 13th time on the trot in the South Asian Games. With just a few events — including seven boxing finals — left on the closing day on Tuesday, India is unlikely to cross the 300 total medals won in Guwahati and Shillong in the last edition in 2016 but may go past the 300-mark. India has topped every edition of the South Asian Games since its inception in 1984. Boxers gave India the maximum medals on Monday with six gold and one silver. National champion Ankit Khatana (men's 75kg), Vinod Tanwar (men's 49kg), Sachin (men's 56kg), Gaurav Chathan (men's 91kg), Kalaiyani Srinivasan (women's 48kg) and Parveen (women's 60kg) bagged a gold each while World Championships bronze medalist Manish Kaushik (men's 64kg) settled for a silver medal on the first day of the finals. In wrestling, Indians won both the gold on offer on Monday with Gaurav Balyan and Anita Sheoran registering comfortable victories in men's 64kg and women's 68kg respectively to complete their stupendous show. Indian encers also won all the three gold on offer, winning the top prizes in men's team foil, women's team foil and women's team saber events. It was a near clean sweep for Indian fencers as they clinched 11 of 12 gold on offer in the discipline. The country also clean sweeps in kabaddi and bas-

**SOUTH ASIAN GAMES**

● The Indian women's football team won their third consecutive gold medal at the South Asian Games after beating hosts Nepal 2-0 in the summit clash on Monday.

keball 3x3 also as the men's and women's teams in both the disciplines won a gold each. In shooting, India won a gold in the air pistol mixed event through the pair of Anuraj Singh and Shrawan Kumar. The country completely dominated the shooting range by winning a whopping 18 gold, 5 silver and 4 bronze medals. The Indian women's football team won their third consecutive gold medal at the South Asian Games after beating hosts Nepal 2-0 in the summit clash on Monday. Basu Devi was the star of the show again as she struck a brace on either side of the half-time to complete a dominant victory over the home side in the final. The 29-year-old striker also ended as the top-scorer of the tournament, netting five goals in four matches. — PTI





### Pioneer

Former Australia wicketkeeper Julia Price has been appointed as Brisbane Heat's assistant coach, marking the first instance of a female taking up a coaching role of a men's team in the BBL

### Life partner



Shuttler Sai Praneeth and wife Swetha pose at their wedding reception at a convention centre in Gachibowli, Hyderabad, on Monday. They got married in Kakinada on Sunday. Praneeth is currently India's best male shuttler, ranked No.11 in the world. — R. PAVAN

## India will roar back: Shivam

Thiruvananthapuram, Dec. 9: Allrounder Shivam Dube believes India, who faced a crushing defeat in the second T20I against the West Indies, will bounce back strongly in the series decider to be played in Mumbai. India, who had registered their highest-ever successful chase in the shortest format of the game in Hyderabad, faced a crushing eight-wicket defeat in the second T20I on Sunday evening. Dube scored his maiden half-century and scored 54 runs to help India put a decent total of 170 runs on the board. However, West Indies batsman Lendl Simmons' 67 not out guided his side to the victory. "It is really special for me because it is the first 50 from my side to the Indian team. But not happy because winning the match is more important for me," Dube told reporters after the match. The Indian team came out with a below-par performance in the field for the second consecutive match. They dropped two catches in the fifth over, offering openers Simmons and Evin Lewis a life each. — Agencies

### RISHABH NEEDS TIME TO MATURE, SAYS PIETERSEN

New Delhi, Dec. 9: Former England captain Kevin Pieteresen believes that under-fire Rishabh Pant needs to be given time to mature as there is still some years before he can realise his full potential. The 22-year-old is enduring a woeful run of form and has struggled to make an impact both with the bat and behind the stumps. Pant also coped criticism for bad DRS calls. "He is young and he has that energy and enthusiasm, he plays in the IPL, and he plays for India and is just living his dream. There will be a lot of critics around him, he's only 22," Pieteresen said. "I observed him very closely during the IPL and he kept making the same mistake and when you do that continuously then pundits, experts and people who have played the game want to criticise you because you should be learning from your mistakes," he said. — PTI

## Daman, Akanshi are champions

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, DEC. 9

After finishing second-best in the first edition, Daman Raj Kumar and Akanshi Baliyan from Chandigarh upped the ante to emerge champions in the second edition of the Red Bull Shuttle Up, India's exclusive women's doubles badminton tournament, which concluded at the Railway Sports Complex in Secunderabad.



Ashwini Ponnappa takes a selfie with Red Bull Shuttle Up national finalists at the Railway Sports Complex in Secunderabad.

In the title round, the winners were made to work hard by Delhi's Kavya Gandhi, 18 and Rageshri Garg, 19 before they clinched the tie 10-11, 5-11, 11-10 in a closely-fought encounter.

Earlier in the semi-finals, the Chandigarh duo got the better of Nikita Ramakrishna and Jagrity Pandey of Bangalore 11-10, 11-6

11-7. The national finals were played in a league-cum-knockout format. Two groups of three teams were

formed and each team played two games in the group phase. The top two teams from each group qualified for the semifinals. The tournament aims to further boost and improve participation of aspiring women players.

### THE RESULTS

Final: Daman Raj Kumar/ Akanshi Baliyan (Chandigarh) bt Kavya Gandhi/ Rageshri Garg (Delhi) 10-11, 5-11, 11-10. Semifinals: Kavya Gandhi/ Rageshri Garg (Delhi) bt Saloni Ambawane/ Jesmi Sojan (Mumbai) 11-5, 11-7; Daman Raj Kumar/ Akanshi Baliyan (Chandigarh) bt Nikitha Ramakrishna/ Jagrity Pandey (Bangalore) 11-10, 11-6.

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