

THE ASIAN AGE

TABLOID 24

Madhuri Dixit to make a Web debut on Netflix

NEW DELHI TUESDAY 10 DECEMBER 2019



NATION Politics

Discussed weather, says Ajit Pawar on chat with Fadhavis

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RNI No. 57290/94, Regd No. DL-DV-SW-05-4189/15-17

Vol. 26 No. 294 | 32 PAGES | ₹5.00



WINDOWS

Newly-crowned Miss Universe 2019 South Africa's Zozibini Tunzi at a press conference after the pageant in Atlanta, Georgia, on Sunday. — AFP

24 feared dead as volcano erupts in New Zealand

Wellington: The New Zealand police has 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. The police said some 50 people were visiting the island when it exploded — hurling ash and rock high into the air. — AFP

Cops lathicharge JNU students

New Delhi: Scores of JNU students were lathicharged on Monday and several of them detained when they tried to march towards Rashtrapati Bhavan against the hostel fee hike, throwing traffic out of gear and leaving Metro commuters stranded for hours. — AFP

Jaipur theatres stop Panipat's screening

Jaipur: Several theatres in the city stopped screening Ashutosh Gowariker's Panipat on Monday amid criticism by Jat groups over the film's portrayal of Bharatpur's Maharaja Surajmal. The shows were cancelled at Raj Mandir, Cinepollis and Inox theatres. — PTI

COUNTERPOINT



Too bad, now the voters have also defected to the BJP!

WEATHER

Max: 23°C
Min: 8°C
RH: 48%
Rainfall: 10%
Forecast: Sunny

ASTROGUIDE

Vikari: Dakshinayana Tithi: Margasira Shudda Trayodashi till 10.40 am
Star: Kritika till 5.56 am (Wednesday)
Varjyam: 5:27 pm to 7:07 pm
Durmuhurtam: 8:51 am to 9:35 am and 10:51 pm to 11:43 pm
Rahukalam: 3 pm to 4:30 pm
SUNSET TODAY 5:24 PM
SUNRISE TOMORROW 7:02 AM
MOONRISE TOMORROW 4:11 PM
MOONSET TODAY 4:56 AM

Amid protests, LS clears CAB

311 MPs vote in favour while 80 vote against it; RS likely to take up CAB today | Owaisi tears up copy of bill; Shashi Tharoor says CAB 'partitions India's soul'

VIJAYAKRISHNAN
NEW DELHI, DEC. 9

Amid intense debate over its legality and sparring between government and Opposition MPs over the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill (CAB) on Monday, the Lok Sabha passed the contentious Citizenship Amendment Bill (CAB) on Monday. During voting on the bill, 311 MPs voted in favour while 80 voted against it. The CAB seeks to provide citizenship to persecuted refugees from three countries — Hindus, Parsis, Sikhs, Jains, Christians and Buddhists — who live in the tribal areas of Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Tripura and in areas covered under the Inner Line Permit (ILP). Currently, ILP is applicable in Arunachal, Nagaland and Mizoram. He has said, "We have to differentiate between intruders and Muslim refugees of three Islamic neighbouring countries, is expected to come up in Rajya Sabha on Tuesday for its nod. While the Opposition has criticised the CAB as regressive, discriminatory and divisive legislation that is against the basic character of the Constitution, and is a means to target Muslims by treating them as "second-class citizens," Union home minister Amit Shah, while tabling the bill in Lok Sabha, said the CAB will provide safety net of citizenship to persecuted persons and

denied that there is any political agenda behind it. The minister also made it clear that the government is determined to bring National Register of Citizens in the same way. "This will not do injustice to anyone but bring justice to people who have been waiting for 70 years. There is no hidden political agenda. We had declared CAB in our election manifesto based on which 130 crore people have voted us to power. Those who are opposing this bill have an agenda on minorities. This bill has been a demand for years as several were persecuted (in areas covered under the ILP, he is a refugee. You cannot discriminate on the basis of religion — Manish Tewari, Cong MP



Activists of the Krishak Mukti Sangram Samiti take part in a protest against the Citizenship Amendment Bill in Guwahati on Monday. — PTI

This bill violates Article 14, 15, 21, 25 and 26. Equals cannot be treated as unequal. When a person comes to India, he is a refugee. You cannot discriminate on the basis of religion — Manish Tewari, Cong MP

This citizenship bill is not even .001 per cent against minorities. It is against infiltrators. Amit Shah, Union home minister

When you (Amit Shah) talk about minorities, it looks like Satan is preaching gospels. What if Muslims from PoK want to come? What law do you have for that? — Dayanidhi Maran, DMK MP

CAB will replace Citizenship Act, 1955, which says those seeking citizenship should have lived in India for 11 of last 14 yrs

CAB reduces that time to 5 yrs for non-Muslim applicants and proposes to grant them citizenship even if they do not have any documents

These refugees will get immunity from legal cases they are facing as illegal migrants. This protection not extended to Muslim refugees.

Assam braces for mega bandh today

MANOJ ANAND
GUWAHATI, DEC. 9

With the introduction of CAB in Parliament, the 16 Left-leaning organisations, including SFI, DFFI, AIDWA, AISF, AISA and IPTA, demanded "scrapping of the bill" and called for a "12-hour Assam bandh" from 5 am on Tuesday. They claim that CAB is nullifies the Assam Accord of 1985 and say that the legislation, which seeks to make it easier for non-Muslim refugees from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan to gain Indian citizenship, is an "attempt to rob the Northeast of its identity". Krishak Mukti Sangram Samiti and its sister organisations have also extended their support to the bandh. — PAGE 2

Indian Army gets added firepower to hit back at Pak

PAWAN BALI
NEW DELHI, DEC. 9

Indian artillery will now be able to hit Pakistan hard for any ceasefire violations along the Line of Control. The Indian Army on Monday tested newly-acquired GPS guided 155-mm Excalibur precision artillery shells at Pokhran. The Army has bought these GPS guided ammunition from the United States under emergency financial powers after the Pulwama attack in February on a CRPF convoy. These ground-launched precision-guided artillery shells gives Indian guns extended range and the ability to hit targets with very high accuracy. Its makers claim that it can take at least 10 conventional munitions to accomplish what one Excalibur weapon can do. This will also give the Indian Army the capability to hit enemy positions close to populated areas without causing collateral damage. These shells will be used in M-777 Ultra Light Howitzers (ULHs), which are the first modern artillery guns acquired by India in November last year from the US. "Today the Indian Army conducted test-firing of the newly-acquired US Excalibur precision-guided munitions at Pokhran... a new capability that will integrate the US-origin M-777 UltraLight Howitzer of the US embassy said on Monday. "The Excalibur has a range of approximately 40 to 50 km." — Turn to Page 4

Russia banned from Olympics, 2022 Fifa Cup

LENS/REUTERS/MOSCOW, Dec. 9 The World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) 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 executive committee in Switzerland last week announced that Moscow had planted fake evidence and deleted files linked to positive doping tests in laboratory data that could have helped identify drug cheats. "For too long, Russian doping has distracted from clean sport," WADA president Craig Reedie said. "The ban also means that the Russian authorities of RUSADA's reinstatement conditions... demanded a robust response. That is exactly what has been delivered today," he said

Triumph for BSY: BJP wins 12 of 15 K'taka bypolls

AGE CORRESPONDENTS
BENGALURU, DEC. 9

The ruling BJP on Monday swept the Assembly bypolls to 15 seats in Karnataka, winning as many as 12 of them, ensuring a comfortable majority for chief minister B.S. Yediyurappa in the state Assembly with the BJP tally now climbing to 117 seats in the 224-member House, which still has two vacancies. The Opposition Congress had to content with just two seats while the JDS led by former PM H.D. Deve Gowda drew a blank, though it had the consolation of seeing independent candidate in the Hosakote seat, Sharath Bachche Gowda, a BJP rebel, whom it had supported, defeat BJP candidate M.T.B. Nagaraj. The byelections' victory has come as a much-needed breather for the BJP, which had emerged as the single largest party after the 2018 Assembly polls, winning over 100 seats, but still had to make way for a JD(S)-Congress coalition after it fell short of a majority. After the coalition collapsed in mid-September, with the rebellion by a section of Congress and JD(S) MLAs, the BJP returned to power in its southern citadel but was still short

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Karnataka CM B.S. Yediyurappa blesses his son B.Y. Vijayendra in Bengaluru after the BJP's win in the Assembly bypolls on Monday. — PTI

'Hats off' to KCR, T'gana police, says CM Jagan

AMARAVATI, Dec. 9 Andhra Pradesh chief minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu on Monday lauded his Telangana counterpart, K. Chandrabab Naidu, and the state police over the four accused in the gang-rape and murder of a veterinarian being shot dead in an alleged encounter.

Mr Jagan, in an emotion-filled speech on women's safety in the state, said to enact a "strong law to ensure speedy trial of cases of atrocities against women and award of exemplary punishment. "As a father of two daughters, the incident left me deeply agonised. As a father, how should I react to such incidents? What sort of punishment would give a parent relief? We should think about it," the chief minister said. "The incident happened. The media showed the wrong committed. Russia, which has tried to showcase itself as a global sports power, has been embroiled in doping scandals since a 2015 report commissioned by WADA found evidence of mass doping in Russian athletes. — Agencies

By refusing a pre-poll alliance with the BJP, former deputy CM and JASU chief Sudesh Mahato has kept the game wide open as far as the harkhand Assembly polls are concerned. "We are a regional party. Our priorities are based on that. We have to take care of that," he said when asked why he did not get into a pre-poll alliance with the BJP. This in effect indicates Mr Mahato's chief ministerial ambitions as "Ab ki Gaanv ki Sarkar" game is on whether he will bargain hard or pull a Shiv Sena on the BJP. Probed further as to whether the reason was the unpopularity of the raghuvar Das-led BJP government, he said: "Whether Raghuvar Das is unpopular... that the BJP has to decide". Mr Mahato remains PAGE 3

Unpopular CM' Raghuvar likely to harm BJP prospects



CAB is an insult to the country and its Constitution.

— Akhilesh Yadav
SP Leader

BRIEF

Man rams SUV into tree, fined ₹9,500

Hyderabad: A fine of ₹9,500 was slapped on a man for allegedly damaging a tree, planted as part of the Telangana government's green drive, near here on Monday by ramming his car into it. The tree located near a medical college in Siddipet town, fell after being hit by the SUV, official sources said. Police said it was due to negligent driving. The matter was reported to the officials of 'Harita Haram', a massive plantation drive of the state government. An official reached the spot and slapped a fine of ₹9,500 on the driver, the sources said. — PTI

UP gives nod to fast-track courts

Muzaffarnagar: The Uttar Pradesh Cabinet on Monday cleared a proposal to set up 218 fast-track courts for hearing cases pertaining to crimes against children and rape. State law minister Brajesh Pathak told reporters that chief minister Yogi Adityanath has expressed concern over crimes against women. "The UP Cabinet has decided that for hearing of such rapes and crimes committed on children, 218 fast-track courts will be set up. Of these, 144 courts will hear cases of rape, while 74 courts will hear cases in which POCSO Act has been slapped," he said. — PTI

Bouquet 'costs' official ₹5,000

Aurangabad: A civic official in Maharashtra's Aurangabad city, who went to greet the new municipal commissioner on taking charge on Monday, ended up receiving a ₹5,000 fine as his welcome bouquet had plastic wrapping. Indian Administrative Service officer Astik Kumar Pandey took charge as Aurangabad Municipal Corporation (AMC) commissioner and head of the civic body's urban development department on Monday. Ramchandra Mahajan was one of the many colleagues who came to wish him good luck. — PTI

SC TO HEAR DMK PLEA AGAINST EC'S POLL ORDER

New Delhi: The Supreme Court will hear on Wednesday a plea by DMK challenging the latest notification for holding party poll in Tamil Nadu after top court had directed the State Election Commission to hold rural bodies elections excluding nine newly carved out districts. A top court bench headed by Chief Justice S. A. Bobde agreed to hear the plea also backed by the Congress, Marumalarchi Dravidia Munnetra Kazhagam and the Communist Party of India after a mentioning by senior counsel Abhinav Manu Singhvi. Mr Singhvi told the court that in the fresh notification the reservation of seats is based on 1991 population census ignoring the latest 2011 census. He said it appears as if for the SC the 2011 census had not taken place. He said that the new delimitation of constituencies in the State was completed in 2018 based on 2011 census. The top court had on December 6, 2019, directed that the chayat election in Tamil Nadu would take place at village, intermediate and district level in 27 districts while excluding nine recently reconstituted districts. The fresh notification issued on December 7 in the wake of top court direction of December 6 said that the reservation of wards in the SC/ST and women would be on the basis of an earlier notification. — PTI

Assam braces for mega bandh

16 Left-leaning outfits call for 12-hour agitation to protest CAB

MANOJ ANAND GUWAHATI, DEC. 9

With the introduction of the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill in Parliament, students of Northeastern states have intensified their agitation with 16-left leaning organisations also calling for a 12-hour Assam bandh on Tuesday to protest against the legislation. The North East Students' Organisation (NESO) has already called for an 11-hour Northeast bandh from 5 am on Tuesday on the same issue. Krishak Mukti Sangram Samiti (KMSS) and its sister organisations have also extended their support to the bandh called by the NESO. However, a bandh called

by various tribal students' bodies such as Soota, Moran and Koch-Rajbongshi on Monday failed to make any major impact. The bandh was supported by the KMSS also. In a joint statement, 16 left-leaning organisations, including the SFI, DYFI, AIDWA, AISF, AISA and IPTA, demanded "scrapping of the bill" and called for "the 12-hour Assam bandh" from 5 am on Tuesday. The Assam State Jamiat Ulama Hind has also supported the North East bandh, called by the NESO on Tuesday. However, Nagaland has been exempted from the purview of the ongoing Hornbill Festival. "Bigger and better" mass resignation and

Assamese actor Ravi Sarma has resigned from the BJP in protest of the CAB
Gauhati University decided to postpone examinations in order to avoid untoward incidents

protest at various places, the Assam Gana Parishad (AGP) on Monday decided to postpone its general council meeting, which was scheduled to take place on December 11. The regional AGP MP, Birendra Prasad Baisya, who was avoiding arrest before the media on Monday said, "I oppose the CAB as CAB. It violates the Assam

accord, which had assured a Constitutional safeguard and protection to indigenous people." Meanwhile, Assamese actor Ravi Sarma resigned from the BJP in protest of the CAB while the Gauhati University decided to postpone examinations in order to avoid any untoward incidents on campus as students have intensified their agitations. Protesters also pasted anti-CAB posters outside the residence of chief minister Sarbananda Sonowal and his Cabinet minister Himanta Biswa Sarma while others blocked trains at various places. Maulana Badrudin Ajmal on Monday staged a protest against the CAB at Jantar Mantar.

The Assam Jatiyatibadi Yuba Chatra Parishad (AJYCP) has also extended its support to the Assam bandh called by the NESO and its youth body will stage a protest at Dispur on December 12. The All India United Democratic Front (AIUDF) led by A delegation of the Assam Pradesh Congress Committee, as part of its outreach programme on the issue, on Sunday met former Assam pro-vice president Assam pro-vice president Krishna Deka, educationist Udayaditya Bharali and senior journalist Manoj Kumar Goswami. The Assam Nagarik Samaj also took out a rally from Lakhidhar Bora Kshetra to Chhaygaon in Kamrup district to sensitise the public about its harmful impact of the Bill.

CAB, NRC two sides of same coin: Didi

RABJ CHOWDHURI KOLKATA, DEC. 9

Equating the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill (CAB) with the National Register of Citizens (NRC), Rabj Chowdhury described them as "two sides of the same coin" on the day Union home minister Amit Shah pitched for the CAB after introducing it in Parliament. The Trinamul Congress supremo also suggested the Centre to offer "deemed citizenship" by issuing a "green card" to the immigrants in an oblique reference to the US model while reiterating the fierce opposition by her party and government against the CAB and NRC in the state. Exuding confidence, she affirmed that no would be able to enforce the CAB and NRC on the people of the state while her party is in power. Ms Banerjee was addressing her "thanksgiving" rally which she kicked started from Kharagpur in West Midnapore on Monday as the Trinamul has snatched the assembly constituency from the BJP in the recent by-elections.

"All of us are equal. Come, let us stay united. Not a single person would be allowed to be thrown out. No NRC, no CAB, no division. No divide and rule. Nothing can be greater than the country irrespective of political slogans of any party. Be it the CAB or the NRC, they are the two sides of the same coin," she said. Sending a stern message to the Centre, Ms Banerjee elaborated, "All of us are citizens because we cast our votes. Everyone has ration cards or school certificates or something else. So where does the question of the citizenship issue arise then?"



All-Assam Students' Union activists hang the effigies of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, home minister Amit Shah and Assam chief minister Sarbananda Sonowal during a protest against the Citizenship Amendment Bill in Guwahati on Monday.

There's no slump in employment: Labour minister

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, DEC. 9

The government on Monday denied that demonetisation had anything to do with the loss of jobs in the country and claimed that, on the contrary, several steps had been taken to generate employment. Responding to queries from members in Lok Sabha during the Question Hour, Union labour minister Santosh Gangwar mentioned government schemes such as Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana and Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana in this regard. He said under the mudra scheme, people have received more loans than the target and under the rural skill development plan, several youth from rural areas have found jobs. "There is no reason that employment has come down (*aisa koi karan nahi hai ki rogar kam hua hai*)," the minister said. During the Question Hour, members had raised the issue of job losses and increasing

unemployment particularly due to demonetisation. Trinamul Congress MP Kalyan Banerjee said thousands of labourers in his constituency, who make gold jewellery have lost their jobs due to demonetisation. "Since November 2016, industries have been collapsing and many labourers have been out of employment. In my constituency, use of a place called Domjur, there were 50,000 workers, 45,000 have gone out of employment and only 5,000 remain employed... By the reason of demonetisation, industries have collapsed," Mr Banerjee said.

He said under the mudra scheme, people have received more loans than the target and under the rural skill development plan, several youth from rural areas have found jobs. "There is no reason that employment has come down (*aisa koi karan nahi hai ki rogar kam hua hai*)," the minister said. During the Question Hour, members had raised the issue of job losses and increasing

Govt plans to appoint 'its men' with eye on wealth, says BJP

BJP sees red in Nath's temple plan

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY BHOPAL, DEC. 9

In an interesting development, the Kamal Nath government has set in motion a move to appoint 'qualified' priests in temples in Madhya Pradesh, raising many eyebrows here. The state government has the most given final shape to its proposal to fix a criteria for people desirous of serving as priests in Hindu temples and head of math (religious institution) in MP. A priest needs to be strictly a vegetarian, well versed in Hindu religious scriptures and should have a minimum educational qualification of

class eight pass, according to the criteria set for the appointment of priests in the temples. "The move will pave the way for government-controlled temples and religious institutions in the state to become litigation free, besides serving the purpose of protecting the Sanatan Dharma in the long run," a senior officer of the state spiritual department said. According to him, many temples in the state have been found to be in legal battles over its properties. The move will help the government phase out the unwanted elements serving as priests of the temples and appoint qualified priests in the interest



Kamal Nath

of the particular places of worship. "The state government is going to bring the plan into force shortly, he said. The Opposition to BJP, however, saw a political motive in the move. "The state government eyes wealth of the temples by appointing 'its men' in the management of the temples. Besides, the move

will facilitate rehabilitation of Congress workers. It will politicise the temples. It amounts to encroaching in religious affairs of Hindus," BJP spokesperson Rajneesh Agrawal said. Incidentally, the state government has recently invited the honarium for the priests of government controlled temples to worship. There are around 25,000 priests in government-managed temples in MP. The Opposition to BJP, however, saw a political motive in the move. "The state government eyes wealth of the temples by appointing 'its men' in the management of the temples. Besides, the move

'Peeved' Khadse hints he may look for other options

AGE CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI, DEC. 9

Amid speculations over his future in the party, Maharashtra BJP veteran Eknath Khadse on Monday left for Delhi to meet central leaders. Mr Khadse has warned the party that he would have to think about alternatives if the party continues to disrespect him. He has an appointment with meeting any leader, except NCP chief Sharad Pawar. "Mr Khadse has sought an appointment with senior leaders of the BJP in Delhi. The chief talking point of his meeting would be about ending his alienation in the party," said a close aide of the former minister. Mr Khadse has been critical of the state leadership after the Assembly polls. The senior leader has been vocal of late against some of the party's decisions after the BJP's below par show in the October Assembly elections. "He claimed that Mr Khadse might discuss with Delhi leaders how the party's treatment of

him was causing "unrest" in the party. The Other Backward Class (OBC) leadership, Eknath Khadse leader belongs to the Leva Patil community, which is part of the OBC community in the state. The former Leader of Opposition in the Assembly had told reporters that he had been kept out of the core

committee's meetings and decision-making process of the state BJP. "I am not God. I am a human being and have emotions. I don't want to leave the party for whose growth I worked hard for more than four decades. I am still ready to work for the party," Mr Khadse told reporters. "But I continue to face humiliation of being kept away from decision-making. I will have to think differently," the senior leader warned.

permission for the same as she was. Khadse had spoken to Pankaja Munde before coming to Aurangabad for the meeting. She is ill. Moreover, preparations are going on for the December 12 rally," Mr Patil told reporters. Mr Patil said he would meet Ms Munde.

BJP seeks apology for 'attacking posture'

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, DEC. 9

The government on Monday sought an apology from two Congress Members of Parliament for their alleged misbehavior in Union minister Smriti Irani in Lok Sabha on Friday. The BJP has accused Congress MP Deen Kurukose and TN Prathapan of adopting an "attacking posture" towards Irani when she was speaking in the House. Parliamentary affairs minister Pralhad Joshi while raising the issue said the Congress MPs are yet to apologise despite a direction from the Speaker. He added the matter can be resolved by a simple apology as the government does not have an intention to move motion for suspension of any MP. The BJP has moved a motion for suspension of the two MPs for the remaining part of the ongoing session.



A person's 10,000th day since birth Books, films or games that apply fantasy elements to historical settings that display an art deco aesthetic

THE ASIAN AGE

TUESDAY | 10 DECEMBER 2019 | NEW DELHI

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



John Mary

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 buildup 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 dictatorship fixation and even drop "Communist" from its name if it wants to rally the Left in the time of its worst electoral drubbing. "To the 21st-century mind, the word 'Communist' is indelibly associated with tyranny and authoritarianism. On the other hand, the word 'socialist' is more benign," says historian Ramachandra Guha.

The CPI was 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 leadership 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 hamstrung 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 uses 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 'perspective' of state 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. Prabhat 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 I mean the following: revolution is the *denuement* of a persistent demand for reform on the part of the 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 which 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 agree to. It does not ask for reforms that push the boundaries of the system".

But there is a 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 Jagran Manch against the Centre's haste to join the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership.

Ayushman Bharat, a major BJP initiative, a health insurance plan for almost half the population, and Congress-led UPA's Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee programme are examples of equity-oriented welfare initiatives promoted by parties that pursue free market policies.

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. Though bereft of any Leftist theoretical underpinnings, their pro-poor agenda was discernible. Ram Manohar Lohia and Jayaprakash Narayan too were proponents of the Leftist stand. Caste-based parties too have a certain tinge of leftism in them as they fight the social pyramidal structure. Socialism and Leftism are too vast to be contained in a

warp. They flow through different political parties.

Says Prof. Arun Patnaik: "In my dialogue with Ram Madhav in 1984, I discovered him as an anti-caste Hindu intellectual like Veer 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 necessary. Ram 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 convince the RSS to recognise caste among non-Hindus."

"However, a secular recognition of caste across religions is necessary for all ideological convictions. A communication with left-wing intellectuals across all ideologies is possible 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-Marxist situation and reformulate strategy and tactics by the Left to fight the twin enemies of the neo-liberal economic order and Hindu religious fundamentalism, based on what he called a "People's Charter".

Pratul Bidwai's People's Charter perhaps anticipated future alternatives that are resonating around India today.

Rajaji had sounded the first warning on a 'planned' economy



Mohan Guruswamy

India's first Indian governor-general (1948-50) Chakravarti Rajagopalachari (December 10, 1878-December 25, 1972) was a man who is today more remembered for his elegant and simple rendering in English of the *Mahabharata* (1951) and *Ramayana* (1957). But Rajagopalachari, popularly known as Rajaji, should be known today as the first one to sound the warning against a bureaucratically controlled State and centrally planned economy, and political prescriptions for India. India consequently came to be governed by a combination of protectionist, import substitution, 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 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 often even the selling price. Profits leading to capital formation and investment were never a concern. It was set up in 1952 and was ended in 1991 when 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 begot 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 also between regions. This blight still persists, though with a much less pernicious virulence.

Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao took the first steps to dismantle the "licence-permit raj" in 1991 when his government effectively dismantled the Industrial Licensing

Policy 1956 and ushered in what generally come to be known as "economic reforms". This is still a work in progress. For State control over industry persists with its list of 14 public sector banks and the IDBI and IFCI, perpetuating a newer form of the statist policies of allocation by making industry and business vulnerable to the caprices of politicians and bureaucrats.

Rajaji may not have been entirely satisfied with Narasimha Rao's and 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 80-90 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 28.9 per cent of GDP in 2008, due to the loosening of constricting State controls. 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 a rapid rate of growth - there are no countries with rapid GDP growth and low percentages of GDP deployed to fixed investment. But we have 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 official policy 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

(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 of the universe.

(2) Tamey Vaham: In this second stage of God realisation, we know who God is! He is clearly perceived 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 beyond doubt, and thereby faith, devotion and trust get strengthened.

(3) Tvamey 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 realisation dawns 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 Him. This state is described by spiritual terms such as self-realisation, God realisation, nirvana, enlightenment, etc.

In this state we are freed 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 centre for spiritual evolution and joyful living. He can be contacted at www.poornaananda.org

Procreate

Cool features

Procreate 5, Savage Interactive's newest iOS update is now available. It brings features like Photoshop (ABR) brush import, custom brush creation and CMYK mode

THE ASIAN AGE

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SHORT TAKES

Apronix

APTRONIX TO LAUNCH 15 STORES BY JUNE

AGE CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, DEC. 9

Undaunted by the fact that Apple will soon open its own premium flagship stores in the country, premium Apple reseller Apronix hopes to expand its presence further in the country, according to a top official. Speaking to Deccan Chronicle, Mr Suddhir Singh said, "While we have a strong presence in south India already, we are looking to bolster our presence further by opening another 15 stores across the country by June, next year." He added that Apple is likely to open its store in Mumbai and NCR only. However, there is a big demand for the premium Apple devices in the country and the recent moves from Apple will only boost the demand for iPhones and other devices. While the expanded store count will help Apronix hit 50, the Hyderabad-based firm has plans to expand its services network, which will further help meet the demand. However, despite the consumer sentiment in the country being on a downward spiral, Mr Singh, didn't seem to be bothered as he said that Apple regularly corrects its prices to keep the demand intact. Citing the example of iPhone XR's correction in price, he said that Apple devices will continue to be in demand.

NEW MAC PRO UP FOR ORDER FROM TODAY

Mumbai, Dec. 9: According to an email, spotted by Marques Brownlee, that Apple has sent out to customers, orders for the high-end new Mac Pro and Pro Display XDR can be placed from December 10. The hardware devices were announced at the Apple Worldwide Developers Conference (WWDC) 2019 in June. The new release by Apple is being seen by experts as the first major upgrade to the device since 2013, in an attempt to win back professionals who have migrated to more powerful Windows machines. It can be ordered with an optional 8-terabyte SSD storage drive option. Also, it will now be able to handle six simultaneous streams of 8K video.

PUBG MOBILE TO GET FASTER FRAME RATES

Mumbai, Dec. 9: PUBG Mobile will finally get one of the most sought-after features this year, the support for 90FPS. The game developer, Tencent, has confirmed that the game, which offers various settings options that let players tweak the graphics, will gain the support. PUBG Mobile stands as one of the most popular smartphone games of the year, with over 400 million total players. At present, the best possible settings are HDR and Ultra, which is a simulated HDR look at 60FPS. The high refresh rate displays, especially on gaming smartphones, has been another growing trend this year. — Agencies

Data sharing to curb unfair biz

Global body looks to save interests of banks

London, Dec. 9: Google, Alibaba and other 'Big Tech' companies could be forced to share data on financial services customers with banks and financial technology firms to prevent unfair competition. The FSB's plan for its Libra 'stablecoin' faces scrutiny, a global body of regulators from the world's main financial centres said that Big Tech's growing tentacles raised questions for financial stability, competition and data privacy.

The Financial Stability Board (FSB) called in a report released on Sunday for "vigilant monitoring" of Big Tech's shift into financial services, which it said could crimp the ability of banks to generate capital through retained profits. While still only "nascent" in most countries, Big Tech's financial centres in Europe and elsewhere are already required to share customer data with third party fintech companies that want to offer rival payments services, and this may need to be the case with Big Tech too, the FSB said. "Big Tech firms' ability to leverage customer data raises the question of whether — and the degree to which — authorities could consider the potential to promote the mobility of data between the various actors that are involved in the provision of financial services," the FSB said. "Doing so may help encourage competition and help ensure a level playing field amongst market participants." Regulators may also need to replicate their approach to insurers and asset managers by focusing on "activities that have implications for financial stability" rather than a focus solely on the size of the firm, the global body of regulators said. — Reuters

BUGS SPELL A BAD YEAR FOR INTEL

For Intel, 2019 has been a bad year. From bugs such as Spectre and Meltdown to the company's inability to meet the market demand for new chips. So, if you're looking for alternatives, here are a few AMD-powered mid-range laptops to choose from:

HP Envy x360 13

If you are looking for a stylish Ryzen laptop that can flip over backward to work in a tablet mode, then the HP Envy x360 13 is a good choice. Powered by AMD Ryzen 5 2500U and Radeon Vega 8 with 8GB RAM, this slim and sleek device aims to find a perfect balance between performance and portability. The HP Envy x360 13 not only caters to the needs of everyday computing, but is an all-in-one device for entertainment, casual gaming and is a great option for professionals across fields. The laptop is priced at ₹72,990.



ASUS ZenBook 14:

The most recent entrant, the ASUS ZenBook 14 is an ultrathin device that emphasises on creativity, style and innovation. The ZenBook 14 heralds a new era of ultraportable design, with an ultracompact and ultralight chassis. The device doesn't sacrifice performance for size. Powered by AMD Ryzen R5-3500U and integrated Radeon Vega 8 graphics, it is cleverly designed to give the best user experience whether creating complex documents or mining data, the ZenBook lets the user do more and do it quicker. The price of the laptop is ₹59,990 onwards.



Acer Nitro 5

A delight for gamers who seek high performance computing, this AMD Ryzen 7 3550H quad-core CPU and Radeon RX 560X GPU powered Acer Nitro 5 is a complete package on the table that provides casual esports gamers the ultimate gaming experience. With 8GB of memory (RAM) installed and two memory slots, the device enables gamers with speed, performance and multitasking options. It also complements creative professionals who use task heavy apps on a daily basis with its large memory and storage benefits. The laptop is priced at ₹65,999.

Lenovo IdeaPad C340

Powered by AMD Ryzen 7-3700U processor and 8GB RAM, the Lenovo IdeaPad C340 is a mainstream yet lightweight device that is catered towards working professionals and individuals who are always on the move. It provides up to 8 hours of battery life and lets you work, play, and stay in the loop all day, from anywhere. Extremely versatile and functional, everyday computing can be done in laptop mode, tent mode is best suitable for sharing things, stand mode for binge-watching, or tablet mode for more intuitive interaction, you can have your pick. The laptop is priced at ₹44,000.



Dell Gaming G3 3590

Intel Core i5 9th Gen ₹65,990

Asus ROG Strix G Intel Core i5 9th Gen ₹57,990

Acer Nitro 5 Intel Core i5 9th Gen ₹49,990

Lenovo IdeaPad L340 Intel Core i5 9th Gen ₹65,390

HP Pavilion Gaming Intel Core i5 9th Gen ₹59,990

PARANOID ABOUT PRIVACY?

In the era of Data Economy or Surveillance Capitalism, privacy of users is a rare thing. While one may debate the pros and cons of each new technology, Supreme Court has ruled that privacy is a right of each citizen. So, if you are wary of a big brother like scenario, there is a whole new industry catering to your safety. Here are our top pick of gadgets that may help you.

- Mic-Lock microphone blocker**
 - Plugging it into any 3.5mm microphone/headphone port can trick your device into thinking that a microphone is connected, blocking potential audio recordings.
- Webcam covers**
 - It offers a physical way to disable the webcam using a plastic cover across the camera.
- Lindy USB port locks**
 - USB ports can be locked to prevent data theft or unauthorised devices from being plugged into PCs or laptops.
- Tableau forensic bridge kit**
 - Users can get deep into forensic analysis of hard drives and USB devices with this professional kit. With this kit, users can
- PortaPowUSB data blocker**
 - It is advisable to use a USB condom while using a public USB charging point to protect devices from malware and unauthorised access.
- Anti-Spy RF scanner**
 - This RF scanner can be used to sweep homes or offices for spy cameras or bugs.
- Faraday fabric for EM/RFID shielding**
 - Create shielded pouches for your devices with the Faraday fabric.
- Panasonic call blocker**
 - This helps in allowing only those calls that user's want to take.
- StarTech 1.5 USB flash drive duplicator and eraser**
 - It offers several different wiping protocols, depending on how secure a wipe you want. It can also be used to duplicate flash drives.
- Lowell Destruct hard drive eraser**
 - Plug this into a PC, boot the PC up off the USB drive, and it will safely and securely wipe the data off it. It's quick, easy to use, and very reliable.
- StarTech 4-bay drive eraser**
 - This single unit can wipe up to four drives simultaneously using several wiping methods, depending on user's needs.
- Apricorn Aegis Padlock Fortress FIPS USB 3.0 hard drive**
 - The keypad offers a convenient, hardware-based way to secure your data, and as brute-force protection

SNAP TO ADD CAMEO, A TOOL LIKE BITMOJI

Mumbai, Dec. 9: Snapchat is planning to launch an exciting new feature. Snapchat Cameos, that uses selfies to replace the faces of people in videos. In essence, the feature is a simplified way to deepfake users into GIFs. Snapchat Cameos are an alternative to Bitmoji for quickly conveying an emotion or reaction in Snapchat messages. Some users in France have already received a test version of the feature. Snap enthusiasts revealed. According to TechCrunch, Snapchat confirmed the existence of Cameos, and that the feature is currently testing in limited availability in some international markets. The company said, "Cameos aren't ready to take the stage yet, but stay tuned for their global debut soon!" The new feature allows you to give inputs to Snapchat about your appearance. Cameo can be accessed in the Bitmoji button in the Snapchat messaging keyboard. The company has made a bunch of looping video clips with a range sounds from which users can choose from. Snapchat will stretch and move selfies to create different facial reactions that Cameo can apply to faces of persons in the videos. Instagram and WhatsApp having inspired by its Stories, Cameo, it is believed, will keep Snapchat messaging interesting and making it ahead in the chat business. — Agencies

Huawei plans to promote new OS

Mumbai, Dec. 9: Chinese government organisations are required to replace their foreign hardware and software in their respective inventories. Meanwhile, Chinese officials have ordered all government offices and public institutions to replace their foreign hardware and software with Chinese alternatives within the next three years. The mass replacement process was detailed in a government directive issued to public institutions earlier this spring. The directive is internally known as '3-5-2' based on the percentage targets the Chinese Communist Party intended for government organisations. In 2020, the first year of the directive, government organisations are required to replace 30 per cent of their foreign hardware and software in their respective inventories. For 2021, the target is 50 per cent and then 20 per cent in 2022. The stance remained consistent in the past week when its existence leaked to the Financial Times. The news agency said it confirmed the new directive with employees of a private cyber-security firm, who were also aware of the new policy after interacting with their respective government clients. The new 3-5-2 policy is expected to severely impact companies like HP, Dell and Microsoft, known suppliers for the Chinese government. — Agencies

PRODUCT REVIEW Users can experience spatial 3D audio can in the Augmented Reality-powered device

Bose Noise Cancellation 700, the best on offer

AARON ALMEDA MUMBAI, DEC. 9

Bose had always been a name synonymous with audio products, and it had cemented itself as the go-to brand for premium noise-cancelling earbuds and headphones. The brand's QuietComfort line had been the industry standard. However, in the last couple of years, Bose had been beaten at its own game by the Sony WH-1000XM3. This option from the Japanese tech giant showed the world that stylish need not be compromised in favour of specifications. In 2019, Bose went back

to basics and launched the Noise-Cancelling 700 headphones, a pair of premium cans where audio tech was given the prime focus with a design that's not just contemporary but also functional. No more do we find the horrendous pleated earpads, unsightly hinges or any untoward bulk in the hardware department. These wireless headphones feature Bose's new design thinking and it sure is a stunner. The Bose NC 700 is built around a stainless steel headband that features a matte finish and a beautifully shift from a flat to a cylindrical shape. The height adjustments here

can be easily altered by merely sliding the cups up and down the headband. Bose has absolutely filled the NC 700 to the brim with technology and these ranges from intuitive touch-sensitive controls to Augmented Reality. To get

the most out of the Bose NC 700, you will need to install the Bose Music app for Android or iOS. With the Bose Music app, you can also adjust the level of noise-cancellation from 0 to 10. This provides you with complete control

over how much of ambient sound you want in. Another interesting feature that the app has to offer is Bose AR. Yes, these headphones come with Augmented Reality. The app allows you to access several AR apps that are

available on the Apple App Store which allows you to experience spatial 3D audio and hear sounds by moving your head. The Bose NC 700 is hands-down the best noise-cancellation headphones available in the market currently and it has bested the competition in a way that only Bose knows how. The major determining factor of these headphones is the refined noise-cancellation on offer, which is one of the primary reasons why people would opt for this pair. The Bose NC 700 is easily one of the best headphones that are currently available and they come



PRICE: ₹34,500 RATING: ★★★★★



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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	-0.922

* As of 9:30 pm IST

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 7.50 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.

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 to wholesalers to 25 tonnes from 50 tonnes as onion prices were ruling high.

Parliament approves ship recycling bill

Parliament approved a legislation to regulate recycling of ships with a view to make India an attractive ship-breaking destination. The Recycling of Ships Bill, 2019 was passed in the Rajya Sabha by a voice vote on Monday. The Lok Sabha had cleared the bill last week. Replying to a debate, Shipping Minister Mansukh L. Mandavkar said the bill would protect the interest of labourers.

Printed & Published by T Venkateswarlu on behalf of Deccan Chronicle Holdings Limited. Printed at BFL Infotech Ltd, C-9 Sector 3, Noida-201301. Published at 215, N D Tiwari Bhawan, Deen Dayal Upadhyay Marg, New Delhi-110002. Editor: T Venkatesan Reddy, RNI Registration number 30074/09, Air-charge Re. 1. All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission of The Editor. Financial Chronicle ® is prohibited.

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. Sebi is also considering tightening the rules to prevent misuse of client funds and securities by brokers. 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 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.

The numbers are amazing, but true. The 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 with the new product guidelines by the November 30 deadline. "You may call it magic of the fear factor, but it proved to be a red-letter day for the 1,180 lakh-odd policies with central zone got only Rs 72.89 crore premium for the sale of 56,929 policies (see table). Commenting on the commendable achievement by the insurer, LIC Managing

MADHUSUDAN SAHOO NEW DELHI, DEC 9

Director Vipin Anand, said, "It has demonstrated the strength and reach of our field force as well as commitment of our agents and development officers to ensuring that the message of life insurance reaches 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 products from December 1. But this deadline has now been extended to January 31, 2020.

Costly bluechips force investors eye midcaps



Overleaf

LIC mops up over ₹1,380 cr in a day

ZONE-WISE COLLECTION OF PREMIUM ON NOV. 30

Name of zone	No. of policies	Premium (in ₹ cr)
Northern	18148	194.55
Central	41648	115.96
Eastern	12710	168.50
S Central	15698	223.82
Southern	5022	89.55
Western	29524	403.12
East Central	19307	125.18
Total	84628	1380.67

Source: LIC

Keeping the earlier order of the regulator, all the agents of LIC, however, were on the toes to meet their targets, and successfully wooed its customers to hurry up and buy LIC products before the close, claiming that 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.

God 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 part of the imported gold into financial savings, is almost a flop by investors.

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; the 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 28.64 tonnes of gold has been purchased. When compared with the annual 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," said Rego. He 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. However, compared to gold exchange traded funds (ETFs), which have a total asset under management (AUM) of about 13 tonnes in India, SGBs are placed better. Gold ETFs had seen the total AUM grow 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 budgeted 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 5,29,000 crore for these months. Minister of State for Finance Anurag Singh Thakur said in a written reply to 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 6,03,900 crore for the period. He said in 2017-18, the CGST collection was Rs 2,02,261 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

BALU KALESH & ANTO ANTONY DEC 9

Beleaguered Coffee Day Enterprises Ltd's 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 it's 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 earlier 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 2,800 crore (\$366 million) to Rs 3,000 crore. Tanglin Investments Ltd, a unit of Coffee Day, had acquired Global Village Tech Park in Bengaluru, owes Yes Bank over Rs 100 crore, according to the people. In addition, Coffee Day also owes the lender about Rs 1,400 crore, the people said. —Bloomberg

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 and people of diverse gender, questioning and embracing the differences in the individuals, the steel maker said.

Employees will also get financial assistance for gender reassignment surgery and 30 days special leave for the same, the steel maker said. 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

endeavour of the company to create an enabling workplace for all diverse groups, respecting and embracing the differences in the individuals," the statement said. Besides, this policy entitles them to be equally eligible for participating in any event, including an official gathering or an offshore corporate event, where earlier "only spouses of opposite gender were included" earlier.

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD MUMBAI, DEC 9

Assets under management (AUM) of the mutual fund industry has touched a new peak in November, crossing the Rs 27-lakh crore mark for the first time, aided by good inflows in debt income/debt-oriented schemes. This, despite tepid inflows in equity funds in select equity schemes. Data released by the Association of Mutual Funds in India (Amfi) shows the mutual fund industry AUM grew by 1.7 per cent month-on-month as of November 30 to Rs 27,04 lakh crore against AUM of Rs 26,32 crore in October.

Inflows to income/debt-oriented schemes of Rs 51,427.58 crore helped industry AUM cross Rs 27 lakh crore milestone. Growth/equity-oriented schemes inflows fell sharply to Rs 1,311.65 crore against inflows of Rs 1,626.38 crore in October while hybrid schemes saw outflows of Rs 572.16 crore compared to

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

inflows of Rs 314.40 crore in the previous month. Large-cap funds could add a new peak in November, crossing the Rs 27-lakh crore mark for the first time, aided by good inflows in debt income/debt-oriented schemes. This, despite tepid inflows in equity funds in select equity schemes. Data released by the Association of Mutual Funds in India (Amfi) shows the mutual fund industry AUM grew by 1.7 per cent month-on-month as of November 30 to Rs 27,04 lakh crore against AUM of Rs 26,32 crore in October.

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rising by 1.65 per cent during the month from Rs 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," N.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 of Rs 3.12 lakh crore," Venkatesh said. Among the debt-oriented schemes the largest contribution came from overnight 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.

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 India's third biggest economy. The top-end model costs ₹1.47 lakh. Yamaha YZF-R15 Version 3.0 comes as the third BS-VI norm compliant model from the brand after FZ FI and FZS FI motorcycles priced between ₹99,200 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 its performance 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 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

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 Moe, chief Asia Pacific equity strategist for Goldman Sachs Group Inc., said last week in Mumbai. "Valuations are at the high end of the range, both in historical terms and relative valuation compared with the region as a whole."

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 cap stocks are trading at a premium," said Sunil Singhania, founder of Mumbai-based Abakus Asset Manager LLP. "Most of them are likely to grow at the rate expected of them." Abakus 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 goes back to 2017.

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, with the index priced in the expected recovery, with the MSCI India Index trading at 1.2 standard deviations above its 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 NSE Nifty 50 index. The benchmark index changed at 9.37 a.m. Monday after losing 0.9 per cent last week, its first weekly loss in more than a month.

"Early signs point to a change in market sentiment," said 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.

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 a shortage of over 1.7 lakh IT engineers. Qualified aspirants are largely from engineering students. They are required to have undergone Japanese language training.

"Japan has been looking at countries like India 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, Sonal College of Technology in Chennai.

After the launch of Japanese learning centre in Chennai, the centre is offering 100 per cent placement for its students either in Japan or in Japanese companies in India," he said.

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 Branch in Hong Kong based SPGP Holdings to contribute \$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 rose 1.9 per cent higher. They are down 17 per cent since it announced the news. It is a proposed preferential issue at the end of last month.

Doubts over key foreign bidders have triggered concerns that the RBI might not allow them to take ownership. A series of similar bids by the lender Branch has battled members of his family and creditors in numerous lawsuits, according to a Bloomberg

person. "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 Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning and Robotics as well as traditional technologies. Around 800 students have been enrolled for the course and the centre is witnessing 100 per cent placement for its students either in Japan or in Japanese companies in India," he said.

— Bloomberg

Glitches at BSE, NSE cause trouble for investors in OFS

ASHWIN J. PUNNIM
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 after 3.20 pm and exchanges updated prices and volume after 30 minutes," the source said.

According to sources, the exchange 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

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

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broadcast the correct and actual price of OFS in the closing time. It makes many retail investors suffer.

Lot of brokers who trade in their own account also participate in OFS by using their clients' account to avail benefits of discount in the retail category.

In fact, many prop brokers offer ₹500 per PAN of an individual retail client. By using a retail PAN number, prop brokers make

Salary delays cause default in loan EMLs

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

The survey comes months after official data showed that unemployment is at 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 Creditmate said in a report on Monday.

The report, based on the analysis of 2 lakh loans from 40 lenders RPT led, mostly NBFCs, across 80 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 downturn at 29 per cent. —PTI

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 of fraud, 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 agencies to inspect 231 cases to be conducted by regional directors or ROCs and inquiry has been ordered against 27 companies by ROCs. Prosecutions have been ordered against 27 companies by ROCs. Prosecutions have been ordered against 27 companies by ROCs. Prosecutions have been ordered against 27 companies by ROCs.

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 announced the minimum support price (MSP) of toria, an 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 2018-19 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.

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.

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 Krishnan, a Bengaluru-based associate director with World Resources Institute India.

India's Richest Real Estate Entrepreneurs

Rank	Name	Net Worth (in ₹ 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 Hiranandani	17,030	Hiranandani 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	Surendra Hiranandani	9,720	House of Hiranandani	Singapore
9	Subhash Runwal & family	7,100	Runwal Developers	Mumbai
10	Ajay Piramal & family	6,560	Pitambar Realty	Mumbai

Mangal Prabhat Lodha

Source: Hurun Research Institute 2019 GROHE HurunIndia Real Estate Rich List 2019

PTI GRAPHICS



meeting in Madrid for more extreme solutions than the actions to which nations have already committed. Union power and environmental ministries, the two agencies involved in the implementation of the pollution control devices, were

unable to respond to requests for comment. India's environment ministry 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 FGD system that uses limestone as a reagent, according to Qian Zhu, an analyst at IEA Clean Coal Centre in London. Power ministry officials confirmed that is the type of pollution devices likely to be installed at the country's coal plants.

SO2 emissions control is important because it damages human health, farming and infrastructure, according to Zhu. The scale of any additional CO2 emissions from the pollution devices should be small enough not to cause any concern," she said.

— Bloomberg



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

— Elizabeth Warren Democratic Prez candidate

IN 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 Centre 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 became 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 tourists back to France on Monday, the country's interior ministry said. "Eleven French citizens have been escorted to their home country," it said. Ankara has lambasted Western countries for refusing to take back their citizens. "We have a lot of work to do to rebuild trust," Marin said, while deflecting questions about her age. At 34, Marin also became one of the world's youngest state leaders, ahead of Ukraine's PM Oleksiy Honcharuk, who is 35.

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 an election for a new prime minister ruling Labour Party. Testimony by the self-confessed middleman in the murder plan has led to people in the prime minister's inner circle to attempt at a cover-up. About 100 protesters surprised policemen and soldiers as they forced their way into the 16th century building. Valletta from a side entrance, armed with drums, whistles, flags and loud hailer. They then sat down and blocked the entrance, chanting for Muscat to quit. He was not in the building at the time.

CHINA WILL RUN XINJIANG CAMPS

Beijing, Dec. 9: People who were at vocational training centers in China's far west Xinjiang have all 'graduated' and are living happy lives, an official said. But Uighurs and other predominantly Muslim ethnic minorities from the region say their lives are not as good as they are being portrayed. Uighur governor made the remarks as part of a strident propaganda campaign launched following US Congress approval last week of the Uighur Human Rights Policy Act. "When the lives of people of all ethnic groups in Xinjiang were seriously threatened by terrorism, the US turned a deaf ear," Zaker said, adding, "On the contrary, now that Xinjiang society is steadily developing and people of all ethnicities are working and working in peace, the US feels uneasy, and attacks and smears Xinjiang."

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 of the minority community

VOLCANIC ERUPTIONS IN NZ

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

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 steam and ash, besides spewing car-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.

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.

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



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 early 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. "I've got to consider

the number still on the island was in double digits. Police said that despite several aerial reconnaissance flights to try and find those trapped "no signs of life have been seen at any point." Based on the information we have, we do not believe there are any survivors on the island. Police is working urgently to confirm the exact number of those who have died. "As night fell, deputy commissioner John Tims said volcanic activity made rescue attempts by land too dangerous. "It is very much an evolving situation and of course all our thoughts are with those affected."

— JACINDA ARDEN, 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 Royal Caribbean — who had billed the trip to White Island as "an unforgettable guided tour of New Zealand's most active volcano" — said "a number of our guests were touring the island" but 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 smoldered, the sky filled with white debris. An ash-caked helicopter lay damaged nearby. Volcanic Air 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 Whakatanu 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 Arden said about 100 tourists were "on or around" White Island volcano when it erupted on Monday. — AFP

MARYAM ASKED TO CONTACT INTERIOR MIN

Shafqat Ali 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 Ali Baqir 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 not been raised in 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 showed up for the pro-democracy movement. While the march appeared to be largely peaceful, it was marred to other mass

demonstrations over the last six months, where protesters fought pitched battles with police authorities said there was some damage after it ended. "Although the event was 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 High Court and the Court of Final Appeal, damaging government properties and seriously challenging the spirit of the rule of law," police said, adding that shops and banks were vandalised in the Causeway Bay and Wan Chai areas of Hong Kong island. Reuters at the march on Sunday saw graffiti and protesters setting up barricades, but were not in the vicinity of the other incidents. — Reuters

was 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 High Court and the Court of Final Appeal, damaging government properties and seriously challenging the spirit of the rule of law," police said, adding that shops and banks were vandalised in the Causeway Bay and Wan Chai areas of Hong Kong island. Reuters at the march on Sunday saw graffiti and protesters setting up barricades, but were not in the vicinity of the other incidents. — Reuters

US hold wanes under Trump

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 US has less of a central role. And in many ways, that's just fine with the White House. Trump campaigned on an America First foreign policy and says a strong US will mean a stronger world. "The future doesn't belong to globalists," Trump told

the UN General Assembly in September. "The future belongs to patriots." Trump insists he's abandoning globalism for bilateral ties more beneficial to the US. But there's little sign of that. Instead, once-close allies — France, Egypt, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Mexico, Turkey, Germany and more — have quietly edged away from Washington over the past three years. Sometimes a TV camera caught a cluster of European leaders grinning as Canadian PM Justin Trudeau appeared to mock Trump. — AP

Climate scientists struggling to cut their carbon footprints

Experts must practice before preaching

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. 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. Cobb will fly just once next year, to attend a massive international science meeting in Chile.

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. Cobb will fly to San Francisco for a major earth sciences conference her last for a while. "I feel real torn about that," said Indiana University's Shaheen Attari, who studies human behavior and climate change. She calls Cobb an important climate communicator. "I don't want to clip her wings. I want her to fly, but she has to be judicious about it." But Cobb and Hayhoe are judged by their audiences on how much energy they use themselves, she said. Attari's research shows that audiences are turned off by scientists who use lots of energy at home. Listeners are more likely to respond to experts who use less electricity. — AP

NORTHERN RAILWAY OPEN TENDER NOTICE (E-TENDER)

For and on behalf of President of India, the Sr. Divisional Mechanical Engineer (Proc), Northern Railway, Delhi Division invites bids for following work from experienced and capable tenderers. 1. Tender No. 197/S232/Proc of Work activity/FND/L1/19M/19/2. Name of work: Provision of Working axles in Farukhanganj rolling stock Depot division for two years. 2. Advertised Tender Value: Rs. 37,83,999.41. (including GST). 3. Earnest money in favour of Sr. DFMNR, New Delhi: Rs. 75,700/- (Note: It should be in form of net banking or otherwise. For details see EMD for and on behalf of the President of India, invites tenders through E-Procurement system for supply of the following items:-

S. E-Tender No.	Description of Item	Qty	Due Date
1. A3P901MCD2019	HYDRAULIC PUMPS AND MOTOR PULSASSER OR BOSCH REKHIT/IT	03	03/01/2020 at 11:30 hours
2. A419901MCD2019	SPARE PARTS FOR TRUCK MACHINE	05	03/01/2020 at 11:30 hours
3. A4D0901MCD2019	SPARE PARTS FOR TRIT MACHINE	06	07/01/2020 at 11:30 hours
4. A2SP905MCD2019	BOX TYPE GAUGE CUM LEVEL WITH SPRING LEVEL	50	10/01/2020 at 11:30 hours
5. A42P901SFD2019	SPARE PARTS FOR TRUCK MACHINE	04	03/01/2020 at 11:30 hours
6. A46P901MCD2019	SPARE PARTS FOR TRUCK MACHINE	16	16/01/2020 at 11:30 hours

Note: - 1. The complete information of above E-Procurement tenders is available on website: www.bids.gov.in. The bids, who desire to participate against E-Tenders, are advised to electronically register themselves on the above website for which they would be required to create a digital signature. Non-crediting agencies authorized under I (Ad) 2003, by Govt. of India. Mandates against E-Tenders will not be accepted. Notice No. 219-S1/19M/2019-20 dated 09/12/2019 39267019

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE



Never been drunk

Australian actor Rebel Wilson opened up about her drinking habits and said that she's never actually been drunk in her life

3

Some people say I look better now than I did then. I am not bragging...

— Jennifer Lopez, American actress

SHORT TAKES

Dhoni to back show on Army officers

Mumbai: Former Indian cricket team captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni will co-produce an anthology series chronicling stories of decorated army officers. Dhoni holds the honorary rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the Territorial Army unit of the Parachute Regiment. The show, currently being scripted, will be made by Studionext in collaboration with Dhoni. "The show will bring forward the unique anthology of episodic stories of the brave Param Vir Chakra and Ashok Chakra awardees," a production source said. — PTI

Star Trek actor Auberjonois dies

Los Angeles: Actor Rene Auberjonois has passed away at the age of 79, his son Remy Auberjonois confirmed. Remy Auberjonois said that the Tony-winning actor died on Sunday. The cause of death was metastatic lung cancer, he added. In a statement, Remy Auberjonois called his father a "proud progressive and consummate professional and craftsman." He also praised the work his father did for Doctors Without Borders. "He was a dedicated father and grandfather..." he added. — PTI

MISS SOUTH AFRICA CROWNED MISS UNIVERSE



South Africa's Zozibini Tunzi has been crowned Miss Universe for the year 2019, beating more than 90 contestants, including Miss India, from around the globe. The 26-year-old Tunzi was declared the winner at a televised event, hosted by American comic-turned-TV

personality Steve Harvey, held at Tyler Perry Studios Atlanta on Sunday. Indian contestant Vartika Singh crashed out of the world's biggest beauty pageant after securing a place in the top 20. Hailing the power of dreams, Tunzi took to

Twitter to express gratitude over her victory. "Tonight a door was opened and I could not be more grateful to have been the one to have walked through it," she said. Miss Puerto Rico Anderson was named 1st runner-up and Mexico's Alvidrez as the 1st runner-up. — PTI



Gender segregation at Saudi restaurants ends

No clarity on seating restrictions inside eateries

Riyadh: Restaurants and cafes in Saudi Arabia are no longer required to have gender-segregated entrances, officials said, in a further easing of social restrictions in the ultra-conservative Islamic kingdom.

Eateries have long required one entrance for single men and another for women and families, in a country where the once-powerful religious police zealously enforced sex segregation in public places for decades.

The ministry of municipalities and rural affairs said on Twitter Sunday it was eliminating several requirements for restaurants, including the need for "an entrance for bachelors and a separate entrance for families".

It was unclear whether a restriction on seating inside restaurants will also be removed.

Restaurants are currently segregated into a "family" section for those accompanied by women and a "singles" area for men, though many have quietly taken down the barriers in recent years



A board separates women, families from men at Riyadh's McDonalds

The latest reform was hailed by young Saudis but dismissed by arch-conservatives on social media, with one Twitter user saying it goes 'against sharia', or Islamic law.

amid the kingdom's sweeping liberalisation drive. The latest reform was hailed by young Saudis but dismissed by arch-conservatives on social media, with one Twitter user saying it goes 'against sharia', or Islamic law.

Saudi Arabia's de facto ruler, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, has sought to project a moderate, business-friendly image of his austere kingdom as he seeks to boost investment.

Prince Mohammed has clipped the powers of hardline clerics as he pursues a modernisation drive that has allowed mixed-gender music concerts and ended decades-

long bans on cinemas and women drivers. Until three years ago, the religious police elicited widespread fear in the kingdom, chasing men and women out of malls to pray and berating anyone seen mingling with the opposite sex.

The hardline enforcers of public morality, whose powers began waning even before Prince Mohammed rose to power, are now largely out of sight. But the reforms have been accompanied by a crackdown on activists, including women urging faster reform, some of whom have accused interrogators of sexual harassment and torture. — AFP

4-year-old twins free selves & climb to safety after car crash

Seattle: Washington state authorities say 4-year-old twins freed themselves from their car seats and climbed an embankment seeking help following a car crash that killed their father.

KING-TV reported 47-year-old Corey Simmons of Langley died when the vehicle with his daughters in the backseat crashed on Whidbey Island around 6 pm

Friday. Family members say the girls climbed about 200 feet (61 meters) up to the road after the accident 34 miles (55 kilometers) north of Seattle. Authorities say Simmons was not wearing a seatbelt when the car crashed into trees and went down the embankment. The police say the girls were transported to a hospital with minor injuries. — AP

'SNL had very sexist ambience'

Los Angeles: Veep star Julia Louis-Dreyfus has opened up about her time at Saturday Night Live, which she says was very sexist, brutal but informative.

Louis-Dreyfus says being miserable on the comedy show taught her to value the "fun-meter" of her subsequent jobs and that helped her a lot in navigating her showbiz career, reported Entertainment Weekly.



Julia Louis-Dreyfus

"I was unbelievably naive and I didn't really understand how the dynamics of the place worked. It was very sexist, very sexist. People were doing crazy drugs at the

time. I was oblivious. I just thought, 'Oh wow. He's got a lot of energy,'" she told Stephen Colbert during a Q&A at the Montclair Film Festival held in Montclair, New Jersey. Louis-Dreyfus joined the variety show in 1982, becoming SNL's youngest female cast member at that time. She went on to share the stage with the likes of Eddie Murphy, Martin Short, and Billy Crystal. — PTI

#MeToo has given voice to women across the globe: SRK

Mumbai: Superstar Shah Rukh Khan believes the #MeToo movement may have started in the West but it has given voice to the women across the globe, including India, to share their stories of abuse and harassment.

The 54-year-old actor

says movement has shone a light on the mistreatment of women in work space. "It started from there... in the West and it gave voice to women to come out and talk about something that may have happened some years back..." Shah Rukh said in an interview with BBC journalist and Talking Movies host Tom Brook. — PTI

SAFETY, CONVENIENCE, COMFORT

100 MORE NEW BUSES ON DELHI'S ROADS

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- Hydraulic lift for differently abled
- GPS
- CCTV
- Panic Button
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FLAG-OFF CEREMONY

Tuesday, 10 December 2019 at 04:00 pm
Rajghat Cluster Bus Depot

Chief Guest
Arvind Kejriwal
Chief Minister, Delhi

Guest of Honour
Kailash Gahlot
Transport Minister, Delhi

दिल्ली सरकार
Transport Department, Government of NCT of Delhi

NEW DELHI TUESDAY 10 DECEMBER 2019

**SPORT | Cricket**

Wash out to make a name for himself

14**SPORT | Basketball**

Lakers ride on Anthony heroics for fine win

15**GUIDE TO FORTUNE**

Tick the answer and check them below.

1 During which dynasty did Confucianism become the orthodox philosophical system of the Chinese empire?

- The Qing
- The Shang
- The Han

2 Who founded Apple Computer?

- Steve Jobs
- Bill Gates
- Stephen Hawking

3 A network designed to allow communication within an organization is called:

- The Internet
- The World Wide Web
- An intranet

SHORT TAKES**6 arrested for smuggling liquor**

Noida: A gang that smuggled liquor in ambulances and milk vans was busted and six people arrested in Greater Noida, police said on Monday. The gang was held on Sunday night in Badliapur area and more than 350 cartons of liquor were seized from their possession, a senior officer said. Varieties of liquor seized from them were meant for sale in Arunachal Pradesh and Haryana but were illegally being sold in UP, SP, Greater Noida, Ranvijay Singh said. "The liquor they sold was adulterated. The gang would take out some liquor from each bottle and refill it with water. They would then add urea or fertilizer in it in order to give an intense taste," he said. 15 kg of urea has also been recovered. Packaging material in including caps and wrappers were also recovered that were used by the gang for filling the bottles, the official said.

Man held for trying to enter Parliament

New Delhi: In a major security breach, a 39-year-old man tried to enter the Parliament complex in New Delhi by masquerading as a Member of Parliament (MP), police said. The incident took place on Monday when the parliamentary session was going on. "The man, identified as Varun, a resident of Janakpuri area, was detained by security personnel at the reception before he could enter the building. He was then handed over to the Delhi Police," a senior police officer said. The police is investigating the matter and verifying the reason why he was trying to enter the complex, they added.

Fire breaks out in Burari, 2 rescued

New Delhi: Three persons, who were trapped in a fire at a house in Burari, were rescued on Monday by the Delhi Police. On the early hours of Monday, the MPV staff comprising of ASI Jitender and ASI Bharat Singh received a call regarding a fire at a house in Kaushik Enclave, Burari. The staff reached the spot where they noticed heavy smoke coming out from the first floor of the building. Further, it was found that the fire was coming out from the LED TV in the hall of the building. The staff extinguished the fire with dust and water and rescued the three people before the fire tenders arrived at the spot. Deputy commissioner of police (PCR) Sharat Kumar Sinha said.

THE ANSWER TO TODAY'S GUIDE TO FORTUNE

- An Intranet
- Steve Jobs
- The Han

**JNU students lathicharged, detained; refuse to end stir****AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, DEC. 9**

Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) students, on Monday, alleged that the Delhi police resorted to lathicharge on them near Bhikaji Cama Place Metro station while they were marching towards the Rashtrapati Bhawan as they sought an appointment with the President over the hostel fee hike issue. However, the Delhi police denied such claims.

According to the police, students leading to the campus were shut for traffic and appeals were made to students to protest peacefully. However, students moved towards AIIMS which led to traffic chaos in South Delhi.

According to JNU Students' Union (JNUSU) president Aishwarya Ghosh,

According to the police, roads leading to the campus were shut for traffic and appeals were made to students to protest peacefully. However, students moved towards AIIMS which led to traffic chaos in South Delhi.

several students, including girls, have been detained by the police who brutally attacked the protesters asking them to go back to campus. "The police had deployed five district police personnel and nine companies, including three women companies from the Central Reserve Police

Force (CRPF), to handle the crowd. The police has not detained any students," a senior police official said.

Following the protest, entry and exit at three Metro stations in Central Delhi, which were closed for over four hours following instructions from the Delhi police, are now open, according to officials at Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC).

The Uttar Bhawan Lok Kalyan Marg, and Central Secretariat Metro stations were closed at 1.15 pm on Monday in view of multiple protests near the stations. The students have also called for boycott of the upcoming semester exams despite repeated appeals by the administration asking them to return to classes. The HRD ministry had

set up a three-member committee to look into ways to restore normal functioning in Jawaharlal Nehru University and mediate between the agitating students and the administration. The panel submitted its report to the ministry but no call has been taken yet.

The students' agitation over the hike in hostel fee escalated on November 11 when thousands of them clashed with the police outside the All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE) premises, where the university's convocation was held. The JNU's executive council had announced a partial rollback of the hike for students belonging to the BPL category and not availing any scholarships. However, it "eye-wash,"

Factory owner, manager sent to 14-day custody**AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, DEC. 9**

A day after a massive fire at an illegal manufacturing unit took the lives of 43 innocent labourers in Delhi's Anaj Mandi area, the Delhi police crime branch unit, on Monday, collected evidence using 3D laser scan technology in order to reconstruct the sequence of incident of fire at the building.

A team from the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) also visited the site and collected samples from the four-storey building that housed a number of illegal manufacturing units and had stored flammable raw material such as cardboard boxes, plastic sheets, and Rexine.

After families object, bodies to be taken home by road

New Delhi, Dec. 9: Bowing to pressure from those whose relatives were killed in the Anaj Mandi fire on Sunday, the Bihar government has decided to send the bodies of the state's residents home by road instead of a train. "Earlier, it was decided that the railways would carry the bodies in the seating-cum-luggage rake (SLR coach) by train," said Kumar Digvijay, joint labour commissioner, Bihar Bhawan. — PTT

This is the second time that the Delhi police is using the 3D laser scan technology for investigation. The police had used the same technology to probe the massive fire in February in Karol Bagh's Hotel Arpit Palace that killed 17 people.

Meanwhile, on Monday, a Delhi court sent the property owner, Rehan, and manager of the building, Furqan, to 14 days' police custody.

On Sunday, the police had arrested Rehan and Furqan after registering a case under Section 304 (culpable homicide not

amounting to murder) and 285 (negligent conduct with respect to fire) of the IPC at the Sadar Bazar police station. The case was later transferred to the crime branch.

The Delhi government, on Sunday, had also ordered a magisterial probe into the tragedy—the worst fire incident in the national capital since the 1997 Uphaar Cinema blaze in Delhi that claimed 63 lives—and sought a report

NHRC: Anaj Mandi fire was disaster waiting to happen

New Delhi, Dec. 9: Describing the Anaj Mandi fire incident as a "catastrophe" that was waiting to happen, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) on Monday issued notices to the Delhi government, the police chief and the North Delhi civic body and sought a detailed report in six weeks. The NHRC has taken suo motu cognisance of media reports that at least 43 people were killed in the Anaj Mandi area in Central Delhi early Sunday morning when a blaze caused by a short-

within seven days. It took over 150 fire fighters nearly five hours to douse the blaze. As many as 63 people were pulled out of the building. While 43, including one minor, died, 16 were injured. Two fire department personnel were hurt while carrying out rescue work, officials said. All the deceased were migrant labourers hailing from Bihar and Uttar Pradesh.

The police and fire department officials said that many of the fatalities had died because the migrants took place owing to insufficient attention as the people were sleeping when the fire broke out around 5.00 am on Sunday on the second floor of the building that did not have fire safety clearance.

The Commission has issued notices to the chief secretary of the Delhi government, the Delhi police commissioner and the commissioner of the North Delhi Municipal Corporation. It has sought a report within six weeks along with action taken against the errant officials, and details of relief and rehabilitation provided at the next of kin of the deceased and the injured, it said in a statement. — PTT

SC partially lifts ban on construction activities

Allows it from 6 am to 6pm in Delhi-NCR

New Delhi, Dec. 9: The Supreme Court on Monday allowed construction activities in Delhi-NCR region between 6 am and 6 pm, partially lifting its complete ban on it. The apex court perused the report filed by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), which said that construction activities should not be allowed between 6 pm to 6 am.

A bench, comprising justices Arun Mishra and Deepak Gupta, was informed by additional solicitor general A.N.S. Nadkarni that the Centre has constituted a high-level committee following the apex court's direction to examine the feasibility of using technology like smog towers to combat air pollution. The bench also directed the governments of Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and Haryana to furnish before it the updated report on stubble burning up to December 11.

The 10p court said it would hear the pollution-related matters on

The bench also directed the governments of Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and Haryana to furnish before it the updated report on stubble burning up to December 11

December 16. The court had on November 25 directed the Centre to constitute a high-level committee with in three days to consider and work out modalities regarding other technologies to help combat pollution, and said that a report be filed before it within three weeks on this issue. It had asked the Delhi government to apprise it of the steps taken with regard to anti-smog gun which sprays atomized water 50 metres in the air to bring down pollutants and had said CPCB should be associated on the issue of anti-smog guns.

The court had asked all the states to explain within six weeks as to why they should not be made liable to pay compensation to persons affected by their air quality since it is their bounden duty to provide basic civic amenities, clean air and drinking water to citizens.

It had also issued notices to all states seeking various details, including air quality index (AQI), managing air quality and disposing of garbage. The court had asked the Centre and the Delhi government to sit together and take a decision within 10 days with regard to the installation of smog towers in Delhi-NCR, which would assist in combating air pollution. It had said that "right to life of human is being endangered" by the bad air quality and water pollution and the states have to bring up the situation as "life span is being shortened" due to this. — PTT

Sanjay Singh: CAB is BJP's attempt to end democracy**AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, DEC. 9**

The AAP will oppose the Citizenship Amendment Bill in Parliament, the party's Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh said as he claimed that the legislation is BJP's attempt to end democracy in India. The contentious Citizenship (Amendment) Bill seeks to grant Indian citizenship to non-Muslim refugees from Bangladesh and Afghanistan escaping religious persecution there.



"CAB is being opposed from Assam to Tamil Nadu. AAP will oppose it," he said. AAP has four MPs in Parliament — three in Rajya Sabha and one in Lok Sabha. Expressing

Satender replaces Jai Prakash as city BJP V-P**SHASHI BHUSHAN NEW DELHI, DEC. 9**

In a significant political move, the Delhi BJP president, on Monday, appointed Satender Singh as vice president of the party in place of Jai Prakash, who is considered a close aide of the party's in-charge, Rajya Sabha MP Vijay Goel. Sidelining Mr Prakash is being interpreted in the political circles as an attempt by Manoj Tiwari sending a clear message to his rivals that those who do not toe his line could be axed from the state organisation.

Soon after Mr Tiwari tweeted about the new appointments he had made, the organisational set up, some party workers were of the view that the step had been taken to send a clear message to all with- out the need to follow his dictates.

Apart from Mr Singh, Mr Tiwari also appointed Vijay Prakash and Pawan Rathi as president and general secretary of the party's Mehrauli district. The new appointments came as a surprise for both Mr Shyam Jai, the party's in-charge of Delhi unit, and Mr Goel. Interestingly, Mr Tiwari's camp claimed that no new appointments within the organisation were also raised about the timing of Mr Prakash's resignation when it was earlier conveyed that no new appointments would be made till a party leader.

Of late, there have been differences between Mr Tiwari and Mr Goel over a host of issues concerning the organisational set up in the party. There have been occasions when Mr Goel has held protests over differences issues independently and Mr Tiwari openly conveyed his displeasure.

Friend vows to take care of victim's family**GAURAV SAINI NEW DELHI, DEC. 9**

The heart-wrenching last telephonic conversation between a mother and her 33-year-old son, who died in a fire, was recorded "by chance".

The telephonic conversation was later aired on television news channel and shared on social media. As he gave up on life surrounded by toxic smoke, Ali had said, "I have a small business. I want to take care of my family — it's elderly mother, wife and two children aged below eight — after his death."

On Monday, Aggarwal accompanied his mother to Delhi to claim his body. Asked if he intentionally recorded the phone call, Aggarwal said, "It happened by chance. I believe my finger touched the recording button while I flipped open the phone cover."

Friend vows to take care of victim's family

On Monday, Aggarwal accompanied his mother to Delhi to claim his body. Asked if he intentionally recorded the phone call, Aggarwal said, "It happened by chance. I believe my finger touched the recording button while I flipped open the phone cover."

"I only got to know about it through a notification after the call ended," Aggarwal said. Hailing from Uttar Pradesh's Bijpur district, Ali and Aggarwal weathered good and bad times together. "Our houses are in the same lane. We would talk for hours, discuss everything under the sun. We stood by each other through thick and thin," he said. "Musharraf Ali before he choked to death in the Anaj Mandi fire was recorded 'by chance'."

Wounded tigers

India will roar back to win the final T20I, says Dube

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, while 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



Support has been pouring in for Rishabh Pant is struggling to fit into the shoes of M.S. Dhoni. — AP

We want to play good cricket in Pakistan and hope they give us some good security.

— Dimuth Karunaratne, Sri Lanka skipper after landing in Islamabad for a Test series

SHORT TAKES

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 his 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 snap were questions were thrown at him about Pakistan's underwhelming Test performances. The most recent of such performances was a Test series loss in Australia some days ago.

"What do you want? I would respond 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 to make everything right just like that. The players need a process to settle down and perform," he said. Misbah said he wouldn't preside over Pakistan's decline and would do his best to make things right. — PTI

Kirsten open to helping Proteas

New Delhi: With Cricket South Africa (CSA) in disarray, former opener and coach Gary Kirsten could return to help the team in a mentor's role for the series against England. Kirsten always been willing to help where people think I can add value. It would, however, have to be a bigger process to the commitment to rebuild a solid system," Kirsten told ESPNcricinfo.

The dark cloud over CSA at present, but the suspension of chief executive Thabang Moreo also has a silver lining as this could mean the stepping up of former South Africa skipper Graeme Smith's appointment as Director of Cricket. SA's title sponsors Standard Bank on Friday announced the end of their partnership once the current deal ends next year on April 30. CSA president Chris Nenzani is expected to meet with former ICC chief executive Dave Richardson to discuss the issue. — Agencies

dropped two catches in the fifth over of West Indies' chase, offering Simmons and Evin Lewis — a life each during the powerplay. While Lewis, who was dropped on 17 off the fourth ball of the over, carted three sixes thereafter en route his 35-ball 40, Simmons, who was dropped two balls earlier, went on to steer the chase with an unbeaten 46-ball 67.

Talking about India's fielding, Dube said had the team hung on the catches, the result could have been different. "Yes, we dropped some catches but I think it is part of the match and even they dropped some catches," he said.

— Agencies



Shivam Dube

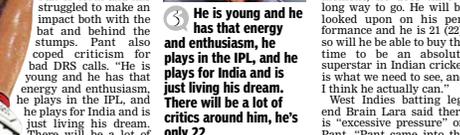
Pant needs time to mature: Pietersen

New Delhi, Dec. 9: Former England captain Kevin Pietersen 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," Pietersen said.

He added that former players and experts criticise Pant because they want him to learn from his mistakes.

"I observed him very closely during the IPL and he kept making the same mistake and when you do that continuously, then pundits,



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. — KEVIN PIETERSEN, Former England skipper

added. Last week, Indian skipper Virat Kohli had asserted that the youngster can't be isolated to such an extent that he starts feeling nervous on the field and Pietersen feels Pant has a long way to go.

"If you look at all the mistakes he has made and the position he is in, with the team and Virat backing him and with MS out at the moment, he does have a long way to go. He will be looked upon on his performance and he is (22), so will he be able to buy the time to be an absolute superstar in Indian cricket is what we need to see, and I think he actually can."

West Indies batting legend Brian Lara said there is "excessive pressure" on Pant. "Pant came into the game creating a lot of excitement, he had a lot of aggression and the Indian public expects someone to replace Dhoni immediately and in the same fold but he is a totally different player."

Lara also concurred to Kohli's decision of backing Pant to allow the young wicketkeeper batsman to mature. — PTI

Walsh out to make a name for himself

Thiruvananthapuram, Dec. 9: "People, my father is not Courtney Walsh," is what Hayden Walsh has to keep reminding anyone who thinks that he is a progeny of one of West Indies' pace bowling greats.

However after an impactful performance against India, the 27-year-old leg-spinner is confident that he will now be able to carve an identity of his own, where deceptive googlies will be discussed more than lethal bouncers.

"I was playing in the Canada T20 league for someone called me Courtney Walsh. But I guess now they will now find out who I am and who is my father," Walsh, who had figures of 2/28,



Hayden Walsh

including wickets of Shivam Dube and Shreyas Iyer said after the match.

He foxed a rampaging Dube with a loopy one outside the off-stump, a trait he has developed bowling to southpaws like Evin Lewis and Nicholas Pooran. "I was bowling a lot to Evin (Lewis) and Nicholas (Pooran) in the nets. I was a bit confident coming in to bowl to him (Dube)." Walsh said. — PTI

Lanka begin first Pak Test tour since 2009

Islamabad, Dec. 9: Sri Lanka embarked on the first Test tour of Pakistan in 10 years on Monday following the deadly 2009 attack on their team that killed Pakistan into sporting isolation.

"Touchdown Islamabad," tweeted the Pakistan Cricket Board, along with video of the players at the airport, while Pakistan Cricket Board chief executive Waaseem Khan called their arrival a "historic occasion."

Sri Lanka will play two Tests under heavy security one in Rawalpindi — where Pakistan's army is headquartered — and the second in Karachi, ending a decade-long absence for cricket's five-day format since the attack.

Eight people were killed and several players and officials were wounded when militants opened fire on a convoy of buses travelling to a Test in Lahore in March 2009.

"This is my first tour to Pakistan," said Sri Lanka skipper Dimuth Karunaratne, who opted out of the team's recent limited-overs tour of Pakistan. "After the 2009 incidents players were scared to tour Pakistan but in the last two years so Sri Lanka and other teams have toured Pakistan."

He added: "We want to play good cricket in Pakistan and hope they give us some good security." The 2009 attack slammed the door shut on international sporting fixtures in cricket-loving Pakistan as foreign teams refused to visit over security fears. — AFP



Paramilitary soldiers take positions outside the Pindi stadium in Rawalpindi on Monday. — AP

Mumbai on song as Shaw, Rahane hit half centuries

Vadodra, Dec. 9: Test specialist Ajinkya Rahane and young opener Prithvi Shaw struck gritty fifties as Mumbai ended day one of their Ranji Trophy lung opener against Baroda at 382/3 here on Monday.

While Rahane's patient 79 off 146 balls pulled Mumbai out of the rubble, bowlers Shardul Thakur (64) and Shams Mulani (56 not out) contributed with the bat slamming half centuries as they ensured Mumbai ended the first day with a decent score on the board.

This was Shaw's 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 66 off 62 balls. After opting to bat, openers Jay Bista (18) and Shaw captured a 74-run stand for the first wicket. After that, all-rounder Shubham Ranjane was promoted up the order at number three but he fell to convert his start and was dismissed for 36 off 59 balls.

Shaw, who was going all guns blazing, was certainly poised for a bigger score. He smashed 11 fours and one six as he tore into Baroda attack. But right-arm pacer Abhinay Rajput cut short Shaw's stay and cleaned him up in the 18th over, with Mumbai at 85-2. Then in walked Ranjane, who in the end rescued India on numerous occasions.



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

Rahane first added 57 runs with Ranjane to steady Mumbai's ship. However, Baroda pegged back Mumbai by removing two quick wickets — Ranjane and skipper Suryakumar Yadav (0), who had a rare failure. Even the experienced Aditya Tare fell cheaply as Mumbai were in a spot of bother 182-6. Then Rahane, who hammered 10 boundaries, showed his mettle and held one end. He

first got support from Akash Parkar (12), and later from Mulani.

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 Thumma (Kerala), Delhi coach KP Bhaskar's ploy of using four-pronged spin attack backfired badly as Kerala comfortably reached 276 for 3 riding on a patient hundred from Robin Uthappa on the first day of their Ranji Trophy group A encounter.

Uthappa, who has

ended a slump in form during the past few seasons, scored 102 off 221 balls with seven fours and three sixes, added 118 runs for the second wicket with opener Ponnann Rahul (97).

Rahul missed his ton by three runs but Uthappa completed his 22nd hundred before being dismissed in the final over of the day by comeback-man Pradeep Sangwan (131 in 91 overs).

In the process, he also added 90 runs for the third wicket with skipper Sachin Baby (38 batting).

KARNATAKA POST 259/6
At Dindigul (Tamil 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 43 off 78 balls.

For Tamil Nadu, ace off-spinner R Ashwin finished the day with figures of 1-68. Opting to bat at the NPR College ground here, Karnataka lost opener Degan Nischal (4) early Agarwal, who had scored a memorable test double hundred against Bangladesh, joined hands with Padikkal (78, 182 balls, 8x4), as the two put up 67-run stand for the second wicket.

— PTI

Jaffer first to feature in 150 Ranji matches

Vijayawada, Dec. 9: Veteran opener Wasim Jaffer on Monday became the first player in Indian cricket to feature in 150 Ranji matches.

The 41-year-old from Maharashtra, who has been an important part of the title-winning Vidarbha team in the last two years, achieved the rare distinction during their Group A opener against Andhra Pradesh here. The former India opener is now just 850 runs away from completing 20,000 runs in first class cricket. — PTI



Wasim Jaffer

in a delay of few minutes. "SNAKE STOPS PLAY! There was a visitor on the field to delay the start of the match," BCCI Domestic tweeted a 13-second video. The official Twitter handle of BCCI Domestic posted a video in which the snake can be seen gliding on the field while seven to eight groundsmen trying to ensure that it slithers away. — PTI

Snake delays Vidarbha vs Andhra game at Vijayawada
Vijayawada, Dec. 9: In a bizarre incident, the start of a Ranji Trophy match between Vidarbha and Andhra on Monday was delayed by a few minutes after a snake entered the ground here.

Vidarbha captain Faiz Fazal won the toss and elected to field. However, as the players made their way to the middle, a snake was spotted on the field and it resulted



Doll Toll

APOEL parted ways with coach Thomas Doll, two days after the defending champions' first loss in the Cypriot league to Olympiakos Nicosia



I will remember this day for the rest of my life.

—Joaquin, Real Betis captain after becoming the oldest player to score a hat-trick in the Spanish league at 38 years and 140 days, during his team's 3-2 win over Athletic Bilbao

SHORT TAKES
Batra meets Shah for Youth Games

New Delhi: Indian Olympic Association (IOA) president Narinder Batra on Monday met Home Minister Amit Shah to seek government support for hosting the 2025 Youth Olympics.

England to host Italy in warm-up

London: England will step up their preparations for the Euro 2020 finals with a friendly against Italy at Wembley in March, the Football Association announced on Monday.

ORGANIC TIPPED TO WIN DELHI FEATURE

Organic is favourite to win the President of India Cup, the feature event of the Delhi races on Tuesday. The first race will begin at 1.30 pm.

Davis scores a fifty
Lakers ride on Anthony heroics for fine win

Los Angeles, Dec. 9: Anthony Davis scored 50 points to power the Los Angeles Lakers to a 142-125 victory over the Minnesota Timberwolves on Sunday that gave the Western Conference leaders the best record in the NBA.



Anthony Davis (right) of Los Angeles Lakers shoots against Jarrett Culver (23) of Minnesota Timberwolves during their NBA game in Los Angeles on Sunday. The Lakers won 142-125.

Davis unleashed his aggression to notch the fourth 50-point game of his career and his first with the Lakers. He connecting on 20 of 29 shots from the field — with 16 baskets in the paint and not a single three-pointer.

Karl-Anthony Towns and Andrewiggins scored 19 apiece and the Timberwolves led by five late in the second quarter.

Herro's heroics included a three-pointer with 7.1 seconds left in regulation, which ended with the score tied at 97-97.

He made three more from beyond the arc in the extra session — including one to tie the game and one to give the Heat the lead for good as Miami improved to 10-4 on this season and 17-6 overall.

My teammates trusted me with the ball. Every time I get a shot, I have confidence. The 19-year-old reserve guard said.

In Dallas, Luka Doncic scored 27 points with seven rebounds and eight assists for his 19th

lift the Heat to a 110-105 victory over the Chicago Bulls. Herro's heroics included a three-pointer with 7.1 seconds left in regulation, which ended with the score tied at 97-97.

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In Dallas, Luka Doncic scored 27 points with seven rebounds and eight assists for his 19th

straight game of at least 20 points, five rebounds and five assists. He passed NBA icon Michael Jordan for the most such games in a row since the NBA/ABA merger in the 1970s, but it wasn't enough to deliver a victory for the Mavs, who fell 110-106 to the Sacramento Kings.



Olympique Marseille's Serbian forward Nemanja Radonjic (left) shoots and scores a goal past Bordeaux's French goalkeeper Benoit Costil (second from right) during their French league match at the Velodrome Stadium in Marseille, southern France, on Sunday. Marseille won 3-1.

Hat-trick for old fox Joaquin

Madrid, Dec. 9: Real Betis captain Joaquin became the oldest player to score a hat-trick after he inspired his team to beat Athletic Bilbao 3-2 on Sunday.

At 38 years and 140 days old, Joaquin hit his first ever hat-trick and surpassed Real Madrid great Alfredo Di Stefano, whose record as the oldest scorer of one in La Liga had stood for 52 years.

At the break the coach told us to do more, to get the Velodrome right behind us, said Sanson, whose 60th-minute strike put Marseille ahead after they had fallen behind to Yacine Adli's superb first-half opener.

While a real challenge to PSG's domestic supremacy will be difficult, a return to the Champions League is looking increasingly likely after another exciting performance led by Dimitri Payet.

With three teams qualifying for Europe's premier competition, Marseille are seven points ahead of their local rivals Sevilla, meanwhile, lost ground at the top as they could only manage a 1-1 draw away at newly-promoted Osasuna.

Munir El Haddadi curled in a brilliant opener for Sevilla in the 11th minute but they were unable to find a winner after Ezequiel Avila equalised for Osasuna on the stroke of half-time.

The draw means Sevilla stay third, three points behind Barcelona and Real Madrid, who play a game in hand against each other on December 18.

Cologne started stronger, dominating possession and forcing two fine saves out of Rafal Gikiewicz, including one from Birger Verstraete's superbly taken free-kick in the 26th minute.

However, Andersson drew first blood for the hosts four minutes later, heading in from a corner to score his seventh of the season.

Inter Milan remain top after their goalless draw against Roma on Sunday with champions Juventus two points behind after falling to their first defeat of the season 3-1 at Lazio on Saturday.

Sassuolo, in 14th, had been two goals behind Domenico Berardi struck in the seventh minute before then being involved in Filip Djuricic's goal after 36 minutes.

The fifth and final day of the boxing programme climaxed with the 20th SEA Games' very own Thrilla in Manila in front of a raucous home crowd.

Gold medalers were up for grabs at the Southeast Asian Games on Monday, and it was Filipino fighters who set the pace in the early bouts.

Milan move into top half of Italy table

Milan, Dec. 9: Daniele Ragatzu struck late as Cagliari snatched a 2-2 draw at Sassuolo to reclaim fourth spot in the Italian league on Sunday.

AC Milan beat Bologna 3-2 to return to the top half of the table. But Fiorentina fell to their fourth consecutive defeat, 1-2 at Torino, with coach Vincenzo Montella under increasing pressure with the Tuscan side just five points above the relegation zone.

Cagliari again left it late thanks to Ragatzu's 90th-minute equaliser. The Gardiniano side move fourth, four points behind third-placed Lazio, and level on 29 points with fifth-placed Roma.

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Boxers punch big at SEA Games

Clark (Philippines), Dec. 9: The biggest and final day of the boxing programme climaxed with the 20th SEA Games' very own Thrilla in Manila in front of a raucous home crowd.

Gold medalers were up for grabs at the Southeast Asian Games on Monday, and it was Filipino fighters who set the pace in the early bouts.

The fifth and final day of the boxing programme climaxed with the 20th SEA Games' very own Thrilla in Manila in front of a raucous home crowd.

Seven of the last 11 home nations have finished top of the medals table at the SEA Games, where the flexible sporting programme is traditionally heavily weighted towards the home team.

Swimming finale The final evening of swimming at the aquatics centre at the main Games hub in New Delhi featured Olympic champion Joseph Schooling in the 4 x 100m relay, and the Singaporean will be looking to finish his disappointing competition on a high.

Schooling has vowed to fix his bumpy start by winning only one individual gold medal at the SEA Games, where the flexible sporting programme is traditionally heavily weighted towards the home team.

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Messi to miss

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



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.

— **Astanbek Khushlov**, Russia's 2008 Olympics gold medalist wrestler on country's four-year ban

SHORT TAKE Jr shuttlers gear up for Asian meet

Sarabaya, 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-18 championships here on Wednesday. India had won one gold medal in the last championships held in Myanmar last year with Gujarat's Tassim Mir and Meghana Reddy of Telangana emerging champion boys and girls doubles. All eyes will be on Tassim as she has been given the top seedings in the U-17 and U-18 boys singles draw 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 Valskis' fine strike in the 19th minute. However, Jamshedpur denied Chennaiyin a win by equalising in the 89th minute through Issac Vannalsawma. With this draw, Jamshedpur are in the fourth position with 12 points while Chennaiyin FC are still ninth with six points from seven games. Antonio Iriando handed a start to Sumest Passi in the absence of the striker Sergio Castel. Meanwhile, Owen Coyle named 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 and had to find Passi or Faruk Choudhary inside the box. However, his cross was misdirected. The Chennaiyin defence Chennaiyin desperately sought came in the 27th minute through Nerjus Valskis who bagged his fourth goal of the campaign. — **PTI**

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 sports and women's 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-



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

How Russia will be affected

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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.

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'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 Russian news agencies. Many in Russian sports agreed.

"The decision that was taken today was political and not simply about sports," the head of Russia's Biathlon Union, Vladimir Drachev, told Russia-24 state television.

The scandal has tainted Russia's sporting reputation since the revelation of large-scale state-sponsored doping aimed at improving its medal performance at the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi.

Russian track and field athletes were barred from competing at the 2016 Rio Olympics although Russians

This is the continuation of this anti-Russian hysteria that has already become chronic. The decision that was taken today was political and not simply about sports.

— **DMITRY MEDVEDEV**, Russian Prime Minister

competing in other events were allowed to take part. The ban was widened to include all events at the 2018 Pyeongchang Winter Olympics. Though Russian competitors who could prove they were above suspicion were able to compete in trials under the Olympic flag.

The heads of several Russian sports federations said on Monday they were preparing to send athletes to the 2020 Olympics under a neutral flag.

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

"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 deny the best athletes of their days," he told state news agency RIA Novosti. — **AFP**

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

Wada in September 2018.

"A TRAGEDY" RUSADA chief Yuri Ganus told AFP Monday that his country had "no chance" of winning an appeal against the ban, dubbing it tragic for clean athletes.

"There is no chance of win-

ning this case in court," Ganus said, with RUSADA's supervisory board set to meet on December 19 to take a decision on whether to appeal the ban.

"This is a tragedy," he added. "Clean athletes are seeing their rights limited." The WADA decision was widely predicted, with the body's president, Craig Reedie, having made a presentation Saturday to the Olympic Summit, participants of which strongly condemned those responsible for the manipulation of the data from the Moscow laboratory.

"It was agreed that this was an attack on sports and these actions should lead to the toughest sanctions against those responsible," the IOC said, asking that the Russian authorities deliver the "fully authenticated raw data". — **AFP**

A TIMELINE OF CASES AND COVERUPS

NOV 2015 An independent WADA mission found "deeply rooted culture of cheating" in Russian athletics, with alleged collusion of Russian government. The commission recommended that Russia should be banned from international athletics.

MAY 2016 A New York Times report said that dozens of Russian athletes were part of a state-run doping program ahead of the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi.

DEC 2017 Following the New York Times report, an independent commission was set up to investigate the allegations. The commission reported evidence of widespread state-sponsored doping by

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.

FEB 2019 The IOC reinstated Russia after the tests of the remaining Russian athletes at the Pyeongchang Winter Olympics all returned negative.

SEPT 2018 WADA's executive committee voted to reinstate Russia before it had fulfilled the requirements of a compliance roadmap which included access to data stored at Moscow's anti-doping laboratory.

JULY 2018 WADA extracted more than 2,000 samples of doping data from the discredited Moscow laboratory three weeks after the deadline it had set for Russia.

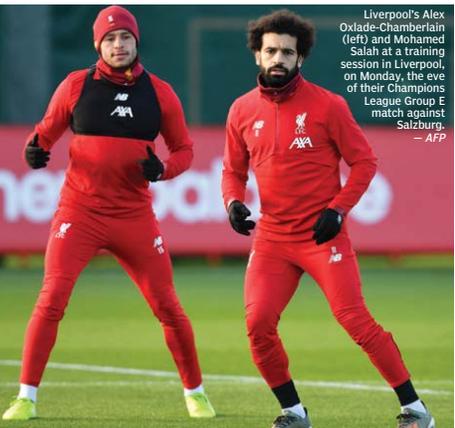
SEPT 2010 WADA alleged inconsistencies in historical data supplied by Russia's anti-doping authority. Russia was kept out of the world athletics championships in Doha as the IAAF maintained its ban.

NOV 2010 A WADA compliance committee recommended a four-year Olympic ban for Russia as part of sanctions to punish the country for providing the agency with doctored and incomplete laboratory data.

2017-2018 Using the neutral status from the 2018 Winter Olympics as a template, WADA bans Russian teams from major events for four years. Russia can appeal the ruling.

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 unbeaten crossing Champions League group stage exit for the holders.



Liverpool's Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain (left) and Mohamed Salah at a training session in Liverpool, on Monday, the eve of their Champions League Group F 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

Ankit, Kalaiyani lead India to 6 boxing gold

Kathmandu, Dec. 9: India clinched 42 medals, including 27 gold, on the penultimate day of competitions at the 2019 Asian Boxing Championships as the country is poised to finish on top for the 13th time on the trot in the South Asian Games.

SOUTH ASIAN GAMES

The Indian athletes also won 12 silver and 3 bronze to end Day 9 with 294 medals (159 gold, 91 silver and 44 gold) to further widen the gap with second-placed Nepal who have collected 195 medals (49 gold, 54 silver and 92 bronze). Sri Lanka are third with 236 medals (39 gold, 79 silver and 118 bronze). 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 the last edition in 2016 but may go past the 300-mark.

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.

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 Chauhan (men's 91kg), Kalaiyani Srinivasan (women's 48kg) and Parveen (women's 60kg) bagged a gold each while World Champion Shreshth Kaushik (men's 64kg) settled for a silver medal on the first day of the final. In wrestling, Indians won both the gold on offer on Monday with Gaurav Balian and Anita Sheeran registering comfortable victories in men's 74kg and women's 68kg respectively to complete their stupendous show. Indian fencers also won all the three gold on offer, winning the top prizes in men's team foil, women's team epee and women's individual sabre 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-

