

WEATHER

Max: 29.7°C
Min: 18.6°C
RH: 52%
Rainfall: Nil
Forecast: Partly cloudy sky, Misty/haze likely.
Max/Min temp. 29/18°C

ASTROGUIDE

Vikar: Dakshinayana
Tithi: Margasira Shuddha Chaturdasi till 10:55 am
Star: Rohini till 6:20 am (Thursday)
Varjyam: 10:12 pm to 11:50 pm
Durmuhurtam: 11:47 am to 12:31 pm
Rahukalam: 12 noon to 1:30 pm
BHUJANGA
Rabi-uli-Aker 13:14:41 AH
PRAYERS
Fajar: 5:31 am
Zohar: 12:19 pm
Asar: 4:06 pm
Maghrib: 5:48 pm
Isha: 7:02 pm
SUNSET TODAY 5:07 PM
SUNRISE TOMORROW 6:35 AM
MOONRISE TOMORROW 5:07 PM
MOONSET TODAY 5:31 AM

COUNTER POINT

No quota for Anglo-Indians

New Delhi: The Lok Sabha on Tuesday unanimously passed a Constitution amendment bill to extend reservation to SCs and STs in the Lok Sabha and state assemblies by another 10 years even though the opposition slammed the government for not giving the benefit to the Anglo-Indian community. The quota for SCs, STs and Anglo-Indians given for the past 70 years in LS and assemblies was due to end on January 25, 2020. — PTI

Court reserves Unnao verdict

New Delhi: A Delhi court on Tuesday reserved verdict for next week in the case of alleged kidnapping and rape of a woman in 2017. During in-camera proceedings, District Judge Dharmesh Sharma reserved the judgement for December 16 after hearing final arguments by the CBI and the accused in the case. The judge heard the case on a day-to-day basis from August 5. — PTI

COUNTER POINT

A team of ministers are going on a world tour to make MoUs for onions!

CRPF jawan kills 2 colleagues

Ranch: A "drunk" jawan allegedly shot dead two CRPF personnel, including an officer, and injured another at his camp in poll-bound Jharkhand, officials said on Tuesday, in the second incident of fratricide in the central armed police forces in less than a week. The incident took place at the 'charity' company of the 226th battalion of the CRPF in Bokaro on Monday at 9:30 pm, they said. — PTI

ISB ranked 4th in Asia Pacific

Hyderabad: The Indian School of Business' flagship PCP programme has been ranked fourth best in the Asia Pacific region in the "Bloomberg Businessweek Best B-schools 2019-20". The city-based business school follows Shanghai's China Europe International Business School, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology and National University of Singapore.



WORLD | 9

FBI tried to oust me: Trump



SPORTS | 15

India play Windies in T20I decider today

TABLOID

Saina doesn't give a damn



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Hundreds of students of the Maulana Azad National Urdu University (MANU) demonstrated against the controversial Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2019, at campus in Hyderabad on Tuesday. — DECCAN CHRONICLE

CAB paralyzes Assam

Bandh shuts state, filmmaker pulls out of festival, VIPs change travel plans; all vehicles go off the road

MANOJ ANAND | DC GUWAHATI, DEC. 10

Barely hours after the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill was passed by the Lok Sabha, normal life was paralysed in Assam's Brahmaputra Valley where a dawn-to-dusk bandh was called by the powerful All Assam Students Union (AASU) on Tuesday. However, the bandh failed to evoke much impact in the Bengali-dominated Barak Valley and the two autonomous hill districts of Karbi Anglong and Dima Hasao. Amid the ongoing protests against the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, the National Award-winning filmmaker Jahnu Barua decided not to participate in the 8th Assam State Film Awards and Film Festival that is due to take place in Guwahati on December 26-27. In a major setback for the film festival, Barua, one of Assam's top filmmakers, also decided to withdraw his film *Bhongra Khirkee* (Broken Windows) from being screened at the festival. Barua was not the only artist, many other artists, singers and musicians came out on the streets of Guwahati to register their musical protest by singing motivational songs against the CAB.

In the city's Maligaon area, a government-run bus was pelted with stones and a scooter set on fire. Shops, markets and business establishments kept by shutting down, while educational institutions and banks remained closed for the day. The protesters, raising slogans against the CAB, took out marches in different areas of Guwahati. Security sources said they were forced to change the route of several VIPs including ministers to avoid any clash. The agitators also had a scuffle with the security forces near the Secretariat and Assembly in Guwahati, as they were prevented from entering the high-security zone. Train services across Assam were affected as picketers squatted on the tracks, plied a railway spokesperson said. Others have also planned protests on Friday against the proposed National Register of Citizens (NRC). "We strongly oppose the CAB passed by the Lok Sabha that grants citizenship based on religion against the Constitution's spirit," said Prof Moham-

1,000 scientists, scholars seek withdrawal of CAB

New Delhi, Dec. 10: Over 1,000 scientists and scholars have signed a petition demanding that the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill in its current form be withdrawn, with noted academician Pratap Bhanu Mehta saying the legislation would mark a radical break and would be inconsistent with the basic structure of the Constitution. The Lok Sabha passed the Bill a little past midnight on Monday after a heated debate that lasted over seven hours. It seeks to provide Indian citizenship to non-Muslim refugees from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan after facing religious persecution there. After the passage of the legislation in the Lower House, civil rights activist

Harsh Mander said if the bill is passed, he will practice civil disobedience. "I will officially register as a Muslim. I will then refuse to submit any documents to NRC. I will finally demand the same punishment as any undocumented Muslim — detention centre & withdrawal citizenship. Join this civil disobedience," he tweeted. He said the bill will convert India into an unconstitutional democracy.

■ Page 7: Gaha hits out at Amit Shah

IN PARLIAMENT

Centre expects passage in RS

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, DEC. 10

After being passed by the Lok Sabha, the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2019, is all set to be taken up by the Rajya Sabha on Wednesday. The Bill had a smooth sailing in the Lok Sabha and it looks like the Upper House too won't pose a big hurdle. While the full strength of the Rajya Sabha is 245, its current strength is 240. The Bill has the majority mark. The BJP has 83 MPs in the Upper House. Its allies such as Nitish Kumar's Janata Dal (United), Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) have six and three MPs, respectively. Apart from NDA allies, there are other parties that are likely to support the Bill. These include the AIADMK, which has 11 MPs, National Peasants' BJD and Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy's YSRC, which have seven and two MPs, respectively. The Telugu Desam, which supported the bill in the Lok Sabha, is expected to vote on similar lines in the RS as well. It has two MPs. With the support of other smaller parties, the government is confident of the bill's passage in the Upper House.

The BJP's ally-turned-foe Shiv Sena voted in favour of the amendment in Lok Sabha, however in Rajya Sabha it is expected to vote against the bill. The Sena has three MPs in the Upper House. On the other hand, the Congress (46 MPs), Trinamool Congress (13) and the NCP (4), among others, will be opposing the bill. Mayawati's BSP and the CPDM, with four and five MPs in Rajya Sabha, respectively, are also expected to oppose the bill. The Samajwadi Party (SP) and the National Party (NP), with nine and three MPs respectively, are also expected to vote against the bill. The BJP was hoping to secure the support of the TRS, which opposed the Bill in the LS. But the TRS said its six MPs will oppose the Bill in the Rajya Sabha as well.

■ Page 5: MANUU students burn copy of CAB

CAB triggers protests in city

ATHER MOIN | DC HYDERABAD, DEC. 10

Awaz, a left-wing organisation, demonstrated against the Citizenship Amendment Bill (CAB) at the Ambedkar Statue Tank bund on Tuesday. Others have also planned protests on Friday against the proposed National Register of Citizens (NRC). "We strongly oppose the CAB passed by the Lok Sabha that grants citizenship based on religion against the Constitution's spirit," said Prof Moham-

med Ansari, state president. "The purpose of this Bill is to divide people on religious lines. It encourages migration from neighbouring countries." He contended that the NRC would be out of the country. "We already have trouble with illegal immigration and it would be outrageous for the Union government to try to implement the NRC all over the country. We appeal to all citizens to reject CAB and NRC," he said.

■ Page 5: MANUU students burn copy of CAB

PIL asks HC for CBI probe

Accuses Sajjanar for encounter killings

VUJINI VAMSHIDHARA | DC HYDERABAD, DEC. 10

Projecting Cyberabad police commissioner V.C. Sajjanar as the perpetrator of encounter deaths in the state, the Telangana State Civil Liberties Committee (CLC) on Tuesday filed a public interest litigation at the High Court, urging a CBI investigation into the encounter deaths of the four men accused of raping and killing veterinarian 'Disha'.

Alleging that Sajjanar resorted to fake encounters to eliminate the accused, and forming it as against rule established by law, the petitioner Gaddam Laxman, president of CLC, held that the recent

created an emergency for a law to regulate the safety of accused or prisoners under judicial custody so as to prevent similar "fake encounters" in the guise of retaliation by the accused. Apprehending the constitution of special investigation team (SIT) in the same department, that was an extended arm of the state itself, the petitioner said officials as high as ministers hailed the encounter and it cannot be expected that the SIT would speak against a minister or go against its own officers.

■ Page 2: Celebration of encounter was mockery of justice

Nirbhaya rapist files review plea

Cites Kali Yug, asks SC to cancel death verdict

PARMOD KUMAR | DC NEW DELHI, DEC. 10

Akshay Kumar Singh, who was awarded death sentence along with three others in the 2012 Nirbhaya brutal gangrape that led to her death and caused national outrage, moved the Supreme Court on Tuesday seeking reconsideration of his May 5, 2017, verdict upholding his death sentence. He has, in his petition, challenged the evidence against him, spoken of

reformation in jail. He has also raised the issue of "inhumanity" of death sentence, its inconsistent application by judiciary, and asked the court to reconsider its death sentence awarded to him in view of the short span of human life in Kali Yug. Triggering speculation about their fate, one of the convicts Pawan Kumar Gupta, who was lodged in the Mandoli Jail in Delhi, has been shifted to Tihar

application by judiciary, and asked the court to reconsider its death sentence awarded to him in view of the short span of human life in Kali Yug. Triggering speculation about their fate, one of the convicts Pawan Kumar Gupta, who was lodged in the Mandoli Jail in Delhi, has been shifted to the Tihar jail. Three other convicts — Mukesh Singh, Akshay and Vinay Sharma — are already at the Tihar jail. While the four convicts were given death punishment, the fifth convict, a juvenile, got a three-year imprisonment.

■ More reports on Page 8

MOST POLLUTED | River ranked third in biological oxygen demand; experts claim treatment plants are useless

Musi needs more oxygen to break up organic matter

T.S.S. SIDDHARTH | DC HYDERABAD, DEC. 10

About 854 million litres per day (MLD) of sewage is dumped into the Musi river, making it eighth-most polluted among 46 metropolitan Indian cities. Worse, it has a Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD) range of 8.6-165 mg/litre,

third-highest in the country. BOD is also known as biochemical oxygen demand, and it refers to the amount of oxygen required for the biotic degradation of organic matter. As a pollution parameter, it is used to assess the quality of effluent or wastewater. Untreated wastewater has usually a high

numbering 13. These STPs have the capacity to treat 67.3 MLD of sewage. Experts note that having lots of STPs may not bode well for a river's health, and establish them as money-making models of the government. "If there are so many sewage treatment plants, then why does the river always figure as

one of the most polluted rivers in the country?" B.V. Subba Rao, a noted city-based environmentalist, wondered. Residents along the river bank rue that it has served as a dump for effluents and waste for years. Setting up new STPs would serve no purpose. "This river has been the source

of water for irrigation but with the rising level of pollution, even the agrarian produce harms the human body. What we need is an Effluent Treatment Plant (ETP), not STP. There are farms that produce vegetables with an acid stench," said S. Pilla of Kukkapally, who has been fighting for a cleaner river.

While some residents claim that pollution continues to be the reason, others have blamed the apathy of the powers-that-be and ask them to check emissions. "Where is the technology that they government trumpets for everything? Why isn't it used to clean the river?" questions B Shankar of Etladub.



Hub of assaults

BJP leader D.K. Aruna says KCR turned the state into headquarters for liquor sale and a hub of sexual assaults against women



Police are engaged in serving TRS leaders rather than law and order

—Sridhar Babu Congress leader

SHORT TAKES

SWITZERLAND, TS TO HOST BIOASIA IN FEB

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, DEC. 10

BioAsia 2020, a biotechnology and biosciences event with over 2,000 participants from more than 50 countries will be held in Hyderabad from February 17 to 20, 2020. The Telangana state government will partner with Switzerland in holding this 17th edition of the BioAsia conference. Announcing this, principal secretary, Industries and Commerce, Jayesh Ranjan said, "Prominent personalities of pharma, biotech and related industries will attend this event. Some of them include Novartis CEO Yvan Chavaz and Biocron CMD Kiran Mazumdar Shaw. Sun Pharma chairman Dilip Shangvi and Piramal VC, Swati Piramal."

The principal secretary said pharmaceutical industry has been growing rapidly in the state, with BioAsia contributing a lot to this growth. He said many companies had attended the conference in the past and decided to set up an office in the state after realising what all TS is offering them. Mr Ranjan said the Telangana state government is happy to work with Switzerland, as the latter has an outstanding reputation in launching innovative life science products. "Both Telangana state and Switzerland have inherent strengths in life sciences. Hence, we are delighted to bring Switzerland on board as our country partner," he stated.

Deputy consul-general, Switzerland, Silvana Renggli-Frey acknowledged that Hyderabad is a prominent hub of life sciences and healthcare ecosystem. "As country partner, we will bring in holistic Swiss healthcare ecosystem to the state. We are eager to collaborate with key players in the country," she said.

Speaking on the sidelines of the event, Ranjan said the state government's ambitious Pharma City project is progressing rapidly. "The industrial park is expected to be built over 19,000 acres and will host major pharmaceutical companies. "The first phase of land acquisition is almost done with acquisition of around 10,000 acres. At the same time, we are also working on building the required infrastructure, such as roads and pipelines," he said.

The senior bureaucrat said documentation for permits from government of India will be filed in a few days. "We are hoping to start work officially on the project within the next three months," he added.

■ **THE PRINCIPAL** secretary said pharmaceutical industry has been growing rapidly in the state, with BioAsia contributing a lot to this growth. He said many companies had attended the conference in the past.

YSRC lawmakers 3 in list of 31

3 MPs, 4 MLAs of YSRC, 4 TRS representatives, 1 TD MLA face charges of crimes against women

S.N.V. SUDHIR DC VIJAYAWADA, DEC 10

The YSRC has the third highest number of lawmakers who face charges related to crime against women. The YSRC has seven such elected representatives, according to election watchdog Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR). The BJP tops the list with 21 followed by the Congress with 16. The number of Lok Sabha members with cases related to crimes against women increased from two in 2009 to 19 in 2019, it also said.

Three MPs and four MLAs of YSRC are facing such charges. The main AP Opposition party, the Telugu Desam, has one MP and one MLA facing such charges. The ruling Telangana Rashtra Samiti (TRS) in Telangana state has one MP and three MLAs charged with committing crimes against women.

The ADR data is based on an analysis of affidavits submitted by MPs and MLAs of political parties across the country. ADR and National Election Watch have analysed 4,822 out of 4,896 election affidavits of current MPs and MLAs. It analysed 759 out of 776 affidavits of MPs, and 4,063 out of 4,120 affidavits of MLAs from all states and Union Territories in the last five years (2014-2019). YSRC's Rajahmundry MP Marana Varath faces a charge of cruelty to his wife. The YSRC had fielded nine candidates with

GROWING LIST OF WOMEN ABUSERS

● Out of 756 MPs and 4,063 MLAs analysed with declared criminal cases, 76 MPs/MLAs have declared cases related to crimes against women against them.

● From 2009 to 2019, there has been an increase of 231% in the number of candidates with declared cases of crime against women contesting in Lok Sabha Elections.

● From 2009 to 2019, there has been an increase of 850% in the number of MPs with declared cases of crime against women in Lok Sabha.

● Among these 76 MPs/MLAs with declared cases related to crimes against women, 58 are MLAs and 18 are MPs.

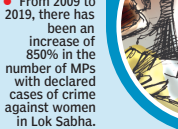
● In last 5 years, there are total 572 candidates with declared criminal cases related to crime against women, have contested in Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha and Assembly elections.

● None of these candidates have been convicted. ● 410 candidates analysed who had declared cases related to crimes against women, were given tickets by recognised political parties. ● Among these candidates, 89 were given tickets by parties for Lok Sabha/Rajya Sabha elections and 321 candidates for state assemblies' elections.

● 162 independent candidates analysed with declared cases related to crimes against women had contested for Lok/Rajya and state assemblies' elections in last five years.

● In the last five years, 35 independent candidates with declared cases related to crimes against women contested in the Lok Sabha/Rajya Elections.

● Among the states, West Bengal has the highest number of MPs/MLAs i.e. 16, followed by Odisha and Maharashtra each with 12 MPs/MLAs who have declared cases related crimes against women.



● About 127 independent candidates with declared cases related to crimes against women contested in the state assemblies' elections.

● This clearly depicts that the political parties are not concerned about the issue of crime against women. Appallingly, parties which are led by women, such as Congress, BSP and Trinamula have been fielding candidates with cases of crime against women.

declared cases of crime against women. YSRC MP from Hindupur Kuruva Gorantla Madhav faces one charge of rape, two charges of criminal intimidation and another charge with the intent of outraging her modesty. YSRC's Dhanuvaraman MLA Kethireddy Venkataraj Reddy is facing a charge of "word, gesture or act intended to insult the modesty of a woman".

and the Domestic Violence Act, 2005. "Then there is Vizianagaram MP Bellana Chandra Sekhara who is charged with assaulting or using criminal force against a woman with the intent of outraging her modesty. YSRC's Dhanuvaraman MLA Kethireddy Venkataraj Reddy is facing a charge of "word, gesture or act intended to insult

the modesty of a woman". YSRC's Macharla N.M. Pinnelli Ramakrishna Reddy, Tadipatri MLA Kethireddy Pedda Reddy and Thambakapalle MLA Peddireddy Dwarakanath Reddy face one charge each of assault or criminal force to woman with the intent to outrage her modesty. The Telugu Desam fielded three candidates char-

ged with committing a crime against women in the just concluded elections, but only Chirala MLA Karanam Balaram won. Mr Balaram faces one charge related to "word, gesture or act intended to insult the modesty of a woman". The TRS fielded six candidates charged with crimes against women. Of

Some victims are harassed, says ADR

DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA, DEC. 10

The report of the Association of Democratic Reforms (ADR) said that all major political parties have given tickets to candidates who have been accused of committing crimes against women, some as serious as rape and assault. This compromises the safety and dignity of women as citizens, the report points out. In some serious cases, charges have been framed against women and decided upon in a time bound manner with a court-monitored, professional, and thorough investigation by the police.

ADR has also made the strong point that voters the system use the influence to interfere with the police investigation, use the judicial delays to their advantage and in some cases continuously harass

the victim and her family, said ADR. ADR strongly recommends that candidates with such criminal backgrounds should be barred from contesting elections. Political parties should disclose the criteria on which candidates are given tickets, and court cases against MPs and MLAs should be fast tracked and decided upon in a time bound manner with a court-monitored, professional, and thorough investigation by the police.

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TUKARAM GATE FILES ZERO FIR ON MISSING GIRL

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, DEC. 10

A Zero FIR was registered at the Tukaram Gate police station of a young girl missing and the case was later transferred to the Malkajgiri police station for further probe. Malkajgiri police said that on December 8, M. Shalini, 18, an intermediate student from the Tukaram Gate area in Secunderabad went missing from her aunt's home in Malkajgiri. A few days before that, she had stopped attending school. The girl's father, M. Mallishetti, said that his daughter had complained that she was not comfortable with the journey to her college located at Chintal. On December 6, the girl's father Mallishetti dropped her at her aunt's house and left for work at Nizamabad. Two days later, he received information from the police station that his daughter had been found at the house and lodged a complaint with the Tukaram Gate police, where a Zero FIR was registered on Monday and the case was transferred to the Malkajgiri police station. A case of missing person has been registered and investigation is on, the police added.

SIT to probe encounter details

JAYENDRA CHATHANYA T. DC HYDERABAD, DEC. 10

The sequence of events in the early hours on December 6 at Chattanpally which led to the Cyberabad police station firing at the Disha case accused would become clear with the Special Investigation Team (SIT) questioning the police officials who were present there. The SIT constituted by the government has held a meeting to distribute the work including establishing the presence of police officials by using their mobile phone signature picked up by cellphone towers. The minute-to-minute happenings after the police took custody of Mohammed Arif, J. Shiva, J. Naveen, and C. Chennakeshavaulu, the places where they were taken for questioning, the time at which the accused were brought to the scene where Disha was set ablaze, would be collected by the SIT. The SIT is set to inspect

the encounter scene at Chattanpally in a couple of days and study the cause and the circumstances that led to the death of the four accused. The team then would recover and preserve the material evidence related to the firing, witness identification and recording of the statements of the police personnel involved in the death of the accused. The SIT will record the statements of Cyberabad police officials who were present at the scene, and

the forensic report on the ballistic examination of the weapons used in the encounter, to identify which weapons the bullets that hit the victim came from. After collecting the details, the SIT will submit a report to the court. When contacted, a senior police official said, "The weapons used in the firing and the empty shells should be submitted to the Forensic Science Laboratory for examination as they are now case property"

NHRC questions 'encounter' cops

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, DEC. 10

The investigative committee of the National Human Rights Commission on Tuesday questioned the eight police personnel who were present at the alleged exchange of fire on the outskirts of Chattanpally village, in which four persons accused in the Disha case were killed by the police. The investigative committee of seven members is headed by a senior superintendent of police, Manzil Saini, and has a forensic expert who has already examined the bodies of the deceased and inspected the scene of the crime and the firing at Chattanpally. On Monday, the NHRC team had questioned the two policemen who were present at the alleged exchange of fire. The questioning took place at the Telangana Police Academy. The policemen were reportedly asked about the sequence of events which led to the firing,

and if the police had taken any steps to stop the accused from escaping. Meanwhile, Cyberabad police commissioner V.C. Sajjanar has left for Delhi to attend the proceedings of the Supreme Court.

and if the police had taken any steps to stop the accused from escaping or catching them alive. They also recorded the statements of the Benauli official who carried out an inquiry before sending the bodies of the four accused for post-mortem examination at Mahabubnagar Government Hospital mortuary.

Meanwhile, Cyberabad police commissioner V.C. Sajjanar has left for Delhi to attend the proceedings of the Supreme Court. The commissioner has submitted a detailed report of the case and the firing in the said report was filed on Wednesday. The report was submitted to the NHRC on Monday. The NHRC team had questioned the two policemen who were present at the alleged exchange of fire. The questioning took place at the Telangana Police Academy. The policemen were reportedly asked about the sequence of events which led to the firing,

Celebration, a mockery

FROM PAGE 1

Celebrating and greeting the officers with garlands and sweets was a mockery of justice, he said, who would gain momentum and if unchecked, would start a bad precedent. "The modus operandi of resorting to street justice or instant justice has assumed an unmistakable pattern which is reinforcing the lawlessness," he said.

and all three accused were put to death instantly without a trial of homage to law or justice. "The thrust of the PIL was so much to suppress the occurrence but to reinforce the rule of law which was getting regularly disrespected and dispensed with. "Time is not far when police will be habitually resorting to instant justice catering to public outcry," the petitioner said. "Citizens are given to understand that Article 21 is the soul of the Constitution." He prayed to the court to register the crime under section 302 IPC against police personnel who took part

in the encounter, and to direct the government not to give them auxiliary promotions or gallantry awards. The state, NHRC Chairman, Sajjanar, and the police are asked to respond to the PIL. Meanwhile, another suo-moto PIL was taken up by the High Court based on a letter by Malguri Sudarshan, general secretary of the Telangana High Court Bar Association. He asked for a judicial commission comprising a sitting judge of the High Court to fix the responsibility and take action against the cops guilty of negligence in preventing crimes against children and women.

SC LIKELY TO TAKE UP DISHA CASE TODAY

New Delhi, Dec. 10: The Supreme Court will consider on Wednesday whether to hear a PIL seeking an SIT probe into the killing of four men, who were arrested on charges of Disha gangrape and murder of a veterinarian in Telangana, an alleged encounter by the police. A bench headed by Chief Justice S.A. Bobde took note of the submissions of lawyer G.S. Mani that the plea seeking independent investigation against the police officers involved in the case should be listed for urgent hearing. — FTI

BLUE COLTS STOP MAN ON SUICIDE BID GETTING RUN OVER BY TRAIN

DC CORRESPONDENT KHAMMAM, DEC. 10

Dial 100 saved the life of a person in Khammam. As per the details received, Kothapalli Malliah and his wife, who were living in Kothapalli gadda area, quarrelled with each other on Monday night over a household issue. Malliah left the house and the argument and decided to end his life and proceeded to the railway track. He made a call before committing suicide to his wife by saying "I am going to end myself". Later, he switched off the phone and went to the track. His wife called up 100 and explained the dispute. She also told them of her husband's decision to end his life. The cops, who received the call, informed it to Three Town Police. The Circle Inspector responded and tried to find

■ **HIS WIFE** called up 100 and explained to the cops of a dispute with her husband. She also told them of her husband's decision to end his life.

the location from where Malliah called his wife. He got the location and found that he was at railway track in Sarathinagar. He alerted the Blue Colts who rushed to the spot and noticed that Malliah was lying down on the track, waiting for a train. They asked him to refrain from his act of committing suicide. But, he argued with the police too. Later, they convinced him and brought him to the police station. He was handed over to his family members. Blue Isis police, introduced in 2014, have been working in two shifts — 6 am to 2 pm and 2 pm to 10 pm.

CHANGE OF ORDER

Anglo-Indians feel Centre snatched away their rights

Quota denial disappoints Anglos

SANJAY SAMUEL PAUL DC HYDERABAD, DEC. 10

The Lok Sabha on Tuesday did not extend reservations to the Anglo-Indian community in the Lok Sabha and state legislatures. This has caused considerable consternation in the community. The community has had representatives in the Lok Sabha and the assemblies for 70 years. Ms Christina Lazarus, nominated to represent Anglo-Indians in the Assembly in undivided AP, questioned the basis on which the community was excluded by the legislation passed on Tuesday. "The community has had representatives in the Lok Sabha and the assemblies for 70 years. Ms Christina Lazarus, nominated to represent Anglo-Indians in the Assembly in undivided AP, questioned the basis on which the community was excluded by the legislation passed on Tuesday. "The community has had representatives in the Lok Sabha and the assemblies for 70 years. 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Training for safety

Rachakonda commissioner Mahesh Bhagwat says two girls from every college will be trained as part of the 'SHE for HER' programme



Y.S. Jagan's personal admiration for KCR shouldn't be mixed up with governance

POWER SHUTDOWN

9 am to 5 pm: Sagar Society Colony, Kamalapur Phase-III, Arera Colony, Krishnannaagar, Jubilee Hills Roads No. 2, 5, 9, Jubilee Hills check post; Care Hospital, area, Banjara Hills Road No. 2 and 12, Balakrishna PT, area behind Masji, Water Works area, Vijaya Rama Rao house area; Roads No.10, 14, Nandibagar, Duttai building, Danam Nagender area; Road No. 2, Sony TV showroom, Apple Software Campus, BSNL Exchange, Road No. 62, Ramalayam, area behind LV Prasad Marg; LV Prasad Film Labs, Eye Hospital; Venkatagiri water works; Maruthi showroom area, Shangari La Complex area, Natto area, SBI area, KBR Park area

10 am to 1 pm: Syed Nagar 1, 2, Ahmednagar, First Lancer, Bolanagar, Srinannagar Road, Bazaar, Pochamma Basthi; Masab Tank, Garden Towers, Police Mess, Khaja Mansion, Khadi Board, Khajianagar, Diamond Hotel, Fazal Residency, Banhara Function Hall; Kabrasthan area, Khajianagar, Hasham Compound, Shivani School, Nali Basthi, area along Military Wall

11 am to 2 pm: Pavani Homes, Road No. 70
12.30 to 1.30 pm: Rehatnagar, Bangaru Minsamma temple area, Amar Point Hotel area, Kallu compound area, Mosque area
2 pm to 5 pm: Humayunnagar, Zahra Mosque, Castle Hills, Crescent Hospital, NRI Colony, KGN Hotel, Owasipura, RK Nagar, Nehrunagar, Srinannagar Colony, Masab Tank, Pochamma Basti, MG Nagar, Chachanagar, Wak Nagar, P. Bhanarai Vidya Bhavan Colony, Road No. 72, Mohan Babu guest house area, Pashasannagar, Wak Nagar area, IAS Colony, Filmnagar.

IN BRIEF

SAUDI ENVOY FINDS RARE MANUSCRIPTS

RAJESWARI PARASA HYDERABAD, DEC. 10:

Saudi Arab Ambassador Dr Said Bin Mohammad Al Sati who visited Osmania University on Tuesday said he discovered some rare Arab manuscripts written by Arab scholars during the Nizam period. The rare manuscripts were preserved in the Dairatru Maarifil, the library and research centre of Osmania University. The manuscripts contain vast literature related to health, medicine and education, the varsity officials informed the visiting envoy from Saudi Arab. Dr Said Bin Mohammad Al Sati said it is a treasure trove which requires urgent for the preservation, digitalization and translation of the manuscripts. Osmania university professors and several other government officials were present.

EYE SORE Dip in temperatures triggering conjunctivitis in city Winter seeing higher eye ailments

KANIZA GARARI I DC HYDERABAD, DEC. 10:

The ongoing dip in temperatures is leading to common eye ailments like dry eyes, irritation, infection and conjunctivitis. This is mainly because moisture within the eyes is getting lost due to evaporation. Such dehydration is high in winters but, often, people do not realise it because of the cold season. The city is witnessing considerable cases of conjunctivitis among school-going children. The infection has been spreading from one child to another, as children rub their eyes due to irritation but do not follow any hand hygiene,



leading to the spread of conjunctivitis. The affect of cold on the skin can be seen clearly. But dryness within eyes can be realised only when there is irritation. Rubbing of eyes following such irritation leads to burning and even tearing. Among elderly, this can cause blurry vision. The city is seeing a large number of cases of conjunctivitis in school going children. Excess use of mobile phones adding to problem. Dr Prardhana Reddy, consultant ophthalmologist at 'MaxiVision Super Specialty Eye Hospitals, explains, "Due to cold winds in winter, windows are normally closed, resulting in poor ventilation. The air is also dry. People tend to drink less water because of the cold. As a result, there is insufficient water in the body. This leads to people suffering from dry eyes." Excessive use of mobile phones is also adding to the problem of dry eyes. Dr. Atul Gupta, senior ophthalmologist, explained, "The problem of dry eyes is prevalent among people most of the time during the year as they keep staring at their phones. In winter, this gets aggravated, as the body gets dehydrated due to dry air. This leads to complaints of redness, itching and infections of the eye during winters. Sale of eye drops is very high during this time of the season as doctors increasingly prescribe them for dry eye issues.

Metro Rail services lose steam to RTC

Footfall sees drastic drop as RTC resumes full services

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, DEC. 10:

LIST OF METRO STATIONS UNDER SUGARBOX ZONE

1. Nagole station
2. Uppal station
3. Sec-bad station
4. Begumpet station
5. Ameerpet station
6. Kukatpally station
7. KPHB colony station
8. JNTU station
9. Miyapur Station



HOW DOES SUGARBOX WORK ON HYDERABAD METRO:

- 1) Look for 'SugarBox' in your WiFi settings & Connect
- 2) Open ZEE5 or Freeplay App, register using your mobile number
- 3) Stream & Download movies without buffer or data charges
- 4) SugarBox Zones are set up inside all Metro trains and 9 major stations

A sugary Metro ride on cards

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, DEC. 10:

Metro rides in Hyderabad are set to become a better experience with Hyderabad Metro Rail Limited joining hands with a private agency to furnish trains with a revolutionary technology that allows users to seamlessly access mobile applications. SugarBox 'Zones' have been set up in all trains and at nine major metro stations across the city where commuters can sign in to SugarBox, watch movies and listen to music at the click of a button. SugarBox is a local Wi-Fi network that eliminates the user's dependence on mobile data and provides uninterrupted access to Apps, without any data charges. Currently, users can access content on the Zee5 or the Freeplay App on both Android and iOS. "We are happy to announce Hyderabad Metro's collaboration with SugarBox Networks," said NVS Reddy managing director, Hyderabad Metro Rail Ltd. "This will bring seamless on-the-go entertainment to commuters. As we promised, Hyderabad Metro is becoming technologically advanced day by day." He said, "SugarBox is a local Wi-Fi system where you don't need any mobile data to stream content through partner apps. We are all aware that mobile data costs are increasing and a service like this, which enables consumers to download an entire movie in three minutes, is just what we need. With this new addition, we are confident that Hyderabad will love the metro experience even more."

UOH SETS NEW RECORD IN PLACEMENTS

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, DEC. 10:

University of Hyderabad (UoH) has achieved a new record by achieving the highest domestic placement in terms of number of students and the salary package with ₹22.8 lakh per annum in the last four months of placement season, which is still ongoing. The highest domestic pay package was offered by M/s EA Sports, ₹22.8 lakh per annum by 96 students in domestic category in the history of the varsity. This time about 154 students are placed so far.

Where as for the year 2018-19, till December 2018, only 96 students compared to 154 now, were placed. Overall, more than 340 students were placed at the University during 2018-19 in the pay package ranging from ₹5.50 lakh to ₹14.00 lakh per annum. Some of the companies that students visited the University campus so far are: Teradata, One Convergence, TCS Digital, TCS R&D, Deloitte, Axcion, Zoom Tech, Aganita, Sprint Talent, Core Concepts, Thin Cl, HSB, Synchrony Onix Capital, Bridge i2i, Quadratrix, Zen technology, Hashdin, Westagilez, Venper Academy, Seekers, Dr Reddy's, VKC, Next Educator, Savya Robotic, Life Circle Health, Kims Hospital, Renovo Hospital, Aster Prime Hospital, Data Wise, Invesco, Vedanta, GE to name a few.

Earlier 520 MTech (Integrated Circuits Technology) students of UoH from Centre for Advanced Studies in Electronics Science and Technology (CASEST), School of Physics received the International Placement offers from Silicon Austria Labs (SAL), Austria at a package of ₹45 lakh per annum.

154 students were placed so far. The highest pay (₹22.8 lakh per annum) was offered by EA Sports



Inter Board vows error-free results

RAJESWARI PARASA I DC HYDERABAD, DEC. 10:

For about 9.78 lakh students who will be taking intermediate board exams this time in March 2020, the TS&IE is making sure that there won't be any mistakes in processing the results like last year. For the same, TS&IE has given opportunity for students to verify their details in the website. It was also clarified that Centre for good governance would take the lead in processing the result and the software would also be tested to have a prior check, which was lacking last time year. For verification of details, from 5th to 15th Dec, students can go to tsie.egg.gov.in for verification of the details, first year students can login by entering tenth class hall ticket and second year can enter first year hall ticket number; the results would show, the name of the student, his subject medium, group and other details, in case of any mistakes students can generate a complaint for changing.

The board has also initiated the process to have online grievance system for students to raise the complaints as well. And also to have audio visual content of the lessons for students to check out during exams, however this is still in the planning stage. Where as board would be taking special and remedial classes for students with back logs and who are slow learners.

BEGUMPET RLY STATION GETS IP-BASED VSS

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, DEC. 10:

The Begumpet railway station has been provided with IP-based video surveillance system (VSS) by RailTel Corporation. It is one of the railway stations run entirely by women staff. The VSS has been installed to strengthen security for passengers, and will be provided for from Narihayda Fund.

Excellent Coaching for Bank/COLE/Insurance Exams

1 COURSE FOR ALL

IBPS SBI

S&P

RBI

Phase

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ISB PGP IS FOURTH IN ASIA PACIFIC: BLOOMBERG SURVEY

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, DEC. 10:

The Indian School of Business (ISB) flagship PGP programme has been ranked fourth in the Asia Pacific region in the Bloomberg Businessweek Best B-schools ranking 2019-20. ISB is ranked fourth behind Shanghai's China Europe International Business School, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology and National University of Singapore. ISB scored the highest on 'learning and networking parameters', ranked second on 'entrepreneurship' and fifth in 'compensation'.

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| 1 | Dy. Manager (Quality Management) | 50,000-3%-1,60,000 | 10.3 - 33.1 | 1 | OBC-1 | 35 |
| 2 | Manager (Process Control) | 60,000-3%-1,80,000 | 12.4 - 37.3 | 1 | OBC-1 | 40 |
| 3 | Manager (Quality Management) | 60,000-3%-1,80,000 | 12.4 - 37.3 | 1 | OBC-1 | 40 |
| 4 | Manager (Purchase) | 60,000-3%-1,80,000 | 12.4 - 37.3 | 1 | SC-1 | 40 |
| 5 | Sr. Manager (Mechanical Maintenance) | 70,000-3%-2,00,000 | 14.5 - 41.4 | 1 | OBC-1 | 45 |
| 6 | Sr. Manager (Electrical Maintenance) | 70,000-3%-2,00,000 | 14.5 - 41.4 | 1 | ST-1 | 45 |
| 7 | Sr. Manager (Purchase) | 70,000-3%-2,00,000 | 14.5 - 41.4 | 1 | SC-1 | 45 |
| 8 | Dy. General Manager (Rolling Mills) | 80,000-3%-2,20,000 | 16.5 - 45.6 | 1 | SC-1 | 45 |
| 9 | Dy. General Manager (Refractory Maintenance) | 80,000-3%-2,20,000 | 16.5 - 45.6 | 1 | ST-1 | 45 |
| 10 | Dy. General Manager (Maintenance) | 80,000-3%-2,20,000 | 16.5 - 45.6 | 1 | OBC-1 | 45 |
| 11 | Office Attendant (WG-0) | 18,000-3% | 3.6 | 2 | ST-2 | 30 |
| 12 | Turner (WG-3) | 21,000-3% | 4.2 | 2 | OBC-2 | 30 |
| 13 | Jr. Assistant (WG-4) | 21,900-3% | 4.4 | 2 | SC-2 | 35 |
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Adv. No: MNDHR/BE/NE/4/19 Date: 11.12.2019

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Official visit
Agriculture minister S. Niranjan Reddy pays visit to the Horticulture University in Mulugu



3
Students should pursue research on topics that are helpful to society
— Gangula Kamalakar
BC welfare minister

BRIEF
JEEVAN FOR PERMANENT FAST COURTS

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, DEC. 10

Congress MLC T. Jeevan Reddy alleged that the Telangana police seem to have confined themselves to the services of TRS leaders. He said that the encounter of all four accused in the Disha case illustrates the failure of TRS government and police negligence.

Speaking to media here on Tuesday he said that the encounter cannot cover up failures of the government. He pointed out that the police responded immediately after Disha's parents approached them, the encounter would not have happened.

Mr Reddy alleged that the government is encouraging liquor sale and consumption as it is the main revenue earner for the State. He said that BC and Dalit women are being subject to atrocities. He demanded that the minister should order a probe by an independent agency on all atrocities against women.

Mr Reddy demanded a judicial probe into the Disha case. He said that fast-track courts should be constituted permanently.



A protest held by Awaaz Foundation.

STUDENTS BURN COPY OF CAB AT MANUU

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, DEC. 10

From Page 1

Hundreds of students of the Maulana Azad National Urdu University (MANUU) demonstrated on campus, MANUU Students Union carried out a rally and burnt a copy of the CAB President Umar Farooq, Vice President Inteqab Alam and others addressed the gathering.

Under the banner of the Campus Front, ANSA and ASL a corner meeting was held in the university campus. Students discussed the contentious aspects of CAB and NRC and rejected these exercises. In case the government is adamant on implementing what will come out on the roads to protect the constitution, they said.

Secretary Awami Majlis-e-Amal Mujahid Hashmi said they were contemplating a demonstration against the CAB and NRC in coordination with women's and Dalit organizations on Friday.

Chaitanya Matangi, the student secretary Shilpa said the intention of the BJP-led government was to bring Hindutva Raj in India. The government has carefully brought such laws which deprive fundamental rights of certain sections of the citizens whom it does not like. Women will suffer. She said since the BJP assumed power in the Centre and TRS in Telangana the troubles for minorities, Dalits and women have escalated severely. She said several tribes who live in forest areas will be sent to detention centres as they would not be able to prove documentary evidence of their inhabitancy so that others may grab the forest land and its treasure.

Tehreek-e-Millat, Nizhaban president Mushtaq Malik said he had convened a meeting of social, religious and political outfits on Saturday to chalk out a future course. We decided on a state-level protest in Hyderabad and to conduct awareness programmes at the district level.

Kavitha may get KK's RS seat

TRS secy-general may get ministry or Council; outburst may cost Naini dearly

S.N.C.N. ACHARYULU | DC
HYDERABAD, DEC. 10



K. Kesava Rao

Debates are doing the rounds over the political future of Telangana Rashtra Samiti Secretary-general K. Kesava Rao after he completes his Rajya Sabha term in March. Party sources said that Dr Rao may either be inducted into the Cabinet or be made Chairman of the Legislative Council.

Speculations are rife that Ms K. Kavitha, daughter of Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao, could be sent to the Upper House on the retirement of Dr Kesava Rao. She has just returned to the limelight after being away since

losing the Nizamabad Lok Sabha seat. By appointing former MP B. Vinod Kumar as TRS Planning Board Vice-Chairman with a Cabinet rank, Mr Chandrasekhar Rao has decided to clear the way for Ms Kavitha's Rajya Sabha entry. Dr Kesava Rao had wanted to become Assembly



K. Kavitha

Speaker, a desire he is believed to have expressed to the CM during last year's Assembly elections. In the absence of a safe constituency, Dr Kesava Rao was denied a party ticket. Along with him, three MLCs are also completing their six-year terms in March, including Mr Karne

Council, the incumbent Guttera Sukhender Reddy will be taken into the Cabinet. He did not seek reelection from Nalgonda as he was assured a Cabinet berth. In the changed circumstances, he was made Council Chairman.

Mr Narasimha Reddy may not get a renomination as MLC. He had made some comments against TRS leadership recently and also reacted sharply during the TRTTC strike. Mr Karne Prabhakar is likely to be renominated. Sources close to CM suggest that he wants Ms Kavitha in national politics and son K.T. Rama Rao in the state.

Gangula ministry gives him heft to fight Etala

REDDY SRINIVAS
HYDERABAD, DEC. 10



Etala Rajendar

A cold war seems to have erupted between the two ministers hailing from Karimnagar district. Both ministers are from the Backward Classes community and are trying to establish their dominance in dis-



Gangula Kamalakar

grievance as he was supportive. After Mr Kamalakar became minister, he is said to be gaining support from the community leaders.

Some community leaders still maintain good relations with Mr Rajendar. It is learned that Mr Kamalakar invited BC leaders to a meeting and advised them to approach him if they needed anything done.

Who would get more support has become a matter of discussion. Though Mr Rajendar is aware of the developments and has received information about the leaders who are meeting Mr Kamalakar, he has

remained silent and is observing the moves of his district rival. The associates of Mr Rajendar, however, are worried about Mr Kamalakar trying to gain the upper hand in local politics. This may affect the senior minister, they maintain. The high command has taken note of the cold war between the ministers and its silence is worrying leaders in Karimnagar district.

Mr Kamalakar is said to have told his aides that as he is BC welfare minister, community leaders have started approaching him and it has nothing to do with district politics.

Aruna demands total prohibition

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, DEC. 10



D.K. Aruna

Echoing sentiments of several women, including politicians that liquor consumption was a reason for increasing crimes against women, BJP leader and former minister DK Aruna demanded the State department to ban liquor by imposing total prohibition.

Speaking at the BJP state office in the city on Tuesday, said that heavy liquor sales in the State are leading to crimes against women. She recalled that there were two other incidents along with the Disha case, and each was linked to liquor consumption.

The government should set up fast-track courts to take action against the accused in such cases. She appealed to the government to help fight the crime by providing assistance.

CONG: WHY CAB DURING ONION CRISIS?

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, DEC. 10

TPCC vice president Mallu Ravi has demanded that Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao convene a high-level review meeting to control the rising prices of onions.

Speaking to media at the Bharatnagar on Tuesday, he pointed out that common people have been facing problems with abnormal increase in prices of onions. He charged that prices of the commodity were going up because of failure of the state and central governments in managing the issue.

Mr Ravi criticised the Centre for its hurry in passing the Citizenship Amendment Bill but not bothering about increasing prices of the essential commodities. He said onions were an important food item for people but the government is just not bothered about increasing their supply and bringing down the prices.

TRS leaders take to RTC buses to please the boss

PILLALAMARRI SRINIVAS | DC
ADILABAD, DEC. 10

■ **RTC STAFFERS** equated this trend to celebrities throwing a challenge on social media.

Some Telangana Rashtra Samiti politicians and local body representatives have taken to travelling in RTC buses, inspired by Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao's exhortation to support the corporation. They are sharing pictures of themselves in RTC buses on social media. The trend began after Mr Rao allowed RTC employees to rejoin duty and announced a series

of benefits for them. The TRS contends that Mr Rao is trying to protect the RTC from being privatised. A few days ago, Mandal Prata Parishad (MPP) member from Jainad, Marishetti Goverdhan, shared his photograph of travelling in an RTC bus to Adilabad.

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Hyderabad
IMAGES AND MEMORIES

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We wrapped up our celebrations to mark the 75th anniversary of Decan Chronicle on May 15, by bringing a special compilation of seventy-five stories filled with intrigue and delight from the final days of the Nizamshahi, titled Hyderabad: Images & Memories

From the palace mysteries and murder plots to the Nizam's 3,000 wives and how the ruler fared allegations of kidnapping his bride, all under the watchful eyes of the British, it is all there.

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Resolving issues

ST welfare minister Satyavati Rathod says KCR is trying to resolve the issues faced by weaker sections through SC, ST commission



All citizens are empowered with human rights, they should utilise them

— Peddi Reddy
BJP leader

'CHRIST ON RATION CARDS' SETS OFF ROW

DC CORRESPONDENT
KAKINADA, DEC 10

A ration shop dealer from Peddapuram village in Peddapuram mandal of East Godavari district issued privately printed cards that have the picture of Jesus Christ printed on the cover. This has caused a furore and pictures of the ration cards have gone viral in social media. Many quarters alleged that the Jagan Mohan Reddy government was responsible. It was later clarified that some ration shop dealers from Peddapuram mandal provided beneficiaries with privately printed cards as a duplicate for the original white ration cards. The dealers signed the cards before giving rations. The ration shop owner who caused for the furore, had reportedly printed cards earlier too with photos of religious figures from other faiths. When he used a picture of Jesus Christ for the recent set, it caused a controversy. As reports of the incident came to light, civil supplies department officials issued a probe and noticed that not only the local ration card dealers, also some of the others had printed such cards with pictures of various gods and collected ₹20 per copy from the beneficiaries.

Experts back carrying food to multiplexes

Say unfair to restrict choice; theatres can do better

ADITYA CHUNDURU | DC
HYDERABAD, DEC 10

For long, consumers have cried foul against multiplexes for the high prices of the food and beverages they sell. They have called it "extortion". However, is this outrage fair? Academics and economists say that moves to curtail multiplexes from operating as they like is "anti-business", an attitude that is best for the economy on the whole. It may be noted that a Bombay High Court in 2013 allowed multiplexes in Maharashtra to carry their own food and water. A month ago, a city-based Telangana High Court, hoping for a similar order, Experts cautioned against high-handed restrictions against businesses, thereby creating a hostile atmosphere for them.

Multiplexes: SC stayed outside food in theatres

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, DEC 10

The Multiplex Association of India, on Tuesday reacted to the Hyderabad police's reply to an RTI query filed by a city-based activist. The police had stated that there were no restrictions with regard to customers carrying their own water bottles into multiplex theatres. The association's statement noted that many PILs on this issue have been filed and dismissed by High Courts across the country. "Various PILs, including those before the Bombay High Court, have been transferred to the Supreme Court since they are similar issues. The matter is therefore sub-judice. However, in view of the stay granted by the Supreme Court, multiplexes are allowed to regulate the entry of goods and beverages inside their premises," the statement said. A representative of Inox Leisure Limited, on condition of anonymity, said it was puzzling that police commented on what has become a national issue. "The situation is confusing. When the matter is sub-judice, it is not for the court to decide. If customers are compelled to buy from the multiplex, it is not fair. However, the key point here is quality of the product. Hence, a business driven by this quality instead of external restrictions, will be well-founded." Mr Sudhakar Rao, an academic and director, branding, at ICPAI Business School, said, "In a free market environment, there should always be options for both the customer and

seller. If the quality of food inside a multiplex is good, customers would automatically buy from there. On the other hand, if customers are compelled to buy from the multiplex, it is not fair. However, the key point here is quality of the product. Hence, a business driven by this quality instead of external restrictions, will be well-founded." Mr Sudhakar Rao, an academic and director, branding, at ICPAI Business School, said, "In a free market environment, there should always be options for both the customer and

Dr Narasimha Rao too said that government restrictions might not be prudent for the business environment. "There must be solutions that take into consideration both sides of the coin - consumers and businesses. Favourite items on one side would be foisted," he said. "Also, if a service or good is really essential, care could be made for the government subsidising its cost. Whether such a solution is applicable to this case is debatable, but a discussion won't hurt," Mr Narasimha Rao added.



The PSLV rocket at the Sriharikota spaceport, a day ahead of its diamond jubilee launch on Wednesday. It will be the 50th PSLV to be launched. — DC

Isro set for jubilee launch of PSLV

PATHRI RAJASEKHAR |
NELLORE, DEC 10

The countdown for the landmark launch of the PSLV rocket carrying an Indian and nine foreign satellites at 3:25 pm on Wednesday is proceeding smoothly, the Indian Space Research Organisation said on Tuesday. The PSLV-C48 is the second flight of PSLV in 'QL' configuration, with 4 strap-on motors. As is the tradition, Isro Chairman Dr. K. Sivan offered prayers at the Lord Balaji temple at Tirumala ahead of the launch. He also worshipped at the Chingala Paripawari temple in Sullurpeta, the gateway to the spaceport at Sriharikota. Speaking to mediapersons, he said the countdown which started at 4:40 pm, was proceeding smoothly. The Mission Readiness Review Committee at Launch Authorisation Board gave the green signal to the launch.

HIGH COURT GIVES A BREATH TO FOREST DWELLERS

VUJINI VAMSHIDHARA | DC
HYDERABAD, DEC. 10

The High Court has directed the government not to evict forest dwellers without following the procedure prescribed in the forest dwellers rights Act. Justice Challa Kodanda Ram issued the orders while dealing with a batch of petitions filed by 150 forest-dwellers from villages like 851KW Chowalavaram and Kistaram of Khammam district, Venkatapuram and Madugudem of Mahabubad district, Lingugudem and Vajjavariyudem in Kothagudem.

These petitioners had challenged the forcible evictions being carried out by officials without conducting a grama sabha and contrary to the other procedures laid down in The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006. Mr Ravi Kumar, counsel for the petitioners, said that the Act specified that a grama sabha should prepare a list of inhabitants. The list has to be sent to the committee constituted under the Act at the sub-divisional level which will examine the list and forward it to the district committee. The government without constituting any committees and without distinguishing between a forest dweller and encroacher was resorting to evictions. Counsel for the forest department said that the petitioners had migrated from Chhattisgarh from 2012. The Act covers notified tribes who were residing in the forests before the cut-off date of December 13, 2005. The court told officials follow the procedure to determine whether or not the petitioners were forest dwellers.

MECHANIZED CLEANING OF RANGIYA RAILWAY STATION
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The work of up-keep/maintenance-cum-Mechanized cleaning of Rangiyra Railway Station, Rangiyra, Andhra Pradesh (R4.231.064). Excluding GST, Earnest Money Deposit: ₹3,61,655/-, Cost of tendering: ₹1,200/-. Last date of submission/closing of tender: 15.00 hrs. of 30-12-2019 and opening of the tender: 10.00 hrs. of 30-12-2019. For details please visit www.irpsa.gov.in

ANDHRA PRADESH

Naidu, drought twins: Minister Debate on onion queue death turns slugfest on Heritage

DC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, DEC. 10

AP marketing minister Mopidevi Venkataramana Rao took a jibe at former chief minister N Chandrababu Naidu, saying that drought and Mr were the twins as there was not much rainfall during his tenure. "Taking part in a short discussion in the Assembly on the minimum support price, Mr Rao alleged that Mr Naidu had failed to work for the welfare to the farmers. He said the late Chief Minister Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy and his family included his son and Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy and the god of rain were twins. The state witness good rains which benefits the farmers and the people when they are Chief Minister he said. In a counter-attack, he said that the god of rain, Varuna, feared that he might be taken to jail and therefore made it rain. Mr Naidu was referring to Mr Jagan Mohan Reddy attending hearings in the High Court in Hyderabad every Friday in the disproportionate assets case.

SAMPAT G. SAMRITAN | DC
VIJAYAWADA, DEC. 10

Leader of the Opposition N Chandrababu Naidu dared Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy to prove that Heritage Fresh belongs to him or quit politics after being caught on the wrong side of the onion. Earlier, the Telugu Desam made an issue out of the death of an old man dying in a Bhu Bazar because of cardiac arrest, claiming that he had lost his life while waiting in a long queue at the subsidised price. The ruling party, however, came out with a strong rebuttal that the old

man did not stand in a long queue but suffered heart attack while buying vegetables. Mr Venkateswara Rao, civil supplies minister, even played a video on the large screens in the House in which the kin of the deceased came out strongly against the police trying to capitalise on the death of their relative. Sensing trouble, Mr

Naidu suddenly rose and in a high pitched voice dared the Chief Minister to prove that the firm was owned by him. "I will quit if you prove that Heritage Fresh belongs to my family or else you step down," Mr Naidu challenged Mr Reddy. Finance minister Buggana Rajendranth Reddy quickly turned the tables against Mr Naidu by reading out a news item reporting the acquisition of Heritage Fresh by the Future Group. The minister, quoting the item, said Mr Naidu was given his stake in Future Group as part of the sale of Heritage Fresh. The civil supplies minister then challenged if Mr Naidu would quit after his lies over the death of

a retired employee in Guduvada were busted. The TD members, including Mr Naidu, gave a silent rebuttal to the issue, responding to the challenge, prompting the Speaker to take up the issue. Mr Naidu's assurance scheme. Earlier, the ruling VSRC legislators repeatedly denied the former CM claiming that his firm Heritage was selling the issue. Infuriated by the criticism, Mr Naidu made clear that Heritage Fresh was sold to Future Group. In exchange, they were offered 3.5 per cent shares, which did not belong to promoters, adding that the lock-in period would be over by April.

OFFICERS FORCED TO RETURN FARMER'S BRIBE

DC CORRESPONDENT
JAGTIAL, DEC. 10

Jagtlal district collector Dr A. Sharath has "refunded" bribes that officials of the revenue department had taken from a farmer. The incident came to light on Monday when farmer Andhra Narasimh complained to the collector that he had to pay bribes to get his land. Mr Narasimh owns two-and-a-half-acre and has been cultivating it for 30 years. During the land record work, four guntas was enrolled on the name of another person by mistake. The farmer wanted village revenue officer (VRO) Ramesh Reddy and village revenue assistant (VRA) Mahesh to make the corrections and issue a new pattadar passbook. They demanded ₹18,000 as bribe. Mr Narasimh gave the VRO ₹8,000 and the VRA ₹2,000 but they demanded the full amount. The farmer complained to the collector who made the officials return the money and issued the passbook.

Girl back with her family after 12 years

K. KALYAN KRISHNA KUMAR | DC
VIJAYAWADA, DEC. 10

In the second such instance in less than a week, a family was reunited after 12 years by the police here on Tuesday. Last week, a man in Vijayawada had helped trace his employee's parents and they met after 13 years. On Monday, one Adilakshmi alias Latha, 32, from Tiruvalluvar nagar, Tankkukulam, Madurai, turned up at the police interaction programme "Spandanam" and asked police commissioner Dwaraka Tirumala Rao to help reunited her with her parents. She said she had been taken from her home at the age of seven in 1996, by a woman at a bus station who had sold her to a person in Tamil Nadu. She said that her foster mother bought her for ₹500, but brought her to live her own daughter and got her



Adilakshmi who met her father M. Lakshmi Narayana after 12 years, speaks to Vijayawada police commissioner Dwaraka Tirumala Rao.

— DC
at the age of 4. Mr Narayana claimed it was in 2007, when his daughter was 12. However, Adilakshmi recognised her father, which eased the confusion somewhat. Besides, the father had an FIR lodged with the local police mentioning the missing case. Police verified Adilakshmi's ration card and said that there was much evidence to show that she was the same girl. Because of the discrepancy in the age, police ordered a DNA test, which would put the matter beyond doubt. Police commissioner Tirumala Rao said the police are happy that the family has been reunited after two decades.

Government of India
Department of Atomic Energy
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Centralized Quantity Division

INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST CUM PRE-QUALIFICATION
EOI No. DCSEM/CQD/QSC/GBTs-Tower/EOI/37/2019-20 et. 10.12.2019

Head, Electrical Division, DCSEM, DAE, V.S. Bhavan, Anushaktinagar, Mumbai-94 on behalf of the President of India invites Expression of Interest cum Pre-Qualification from eligible Infrastructure Provider for "Setting-up and management of ground base towers (GBTs) and allied infrastructure for mobile communication services in Anushaktinagar, Mumbai-400094" required for effective mobile coverage in Anushaktinagar, Mumbai, for an initial period of 10 years extendible further based on satisfactory performance.

"Expression of Interest cum Pre-Qualification" documents can be downloaded from DCSEM web-site www.dcssem.gov.in or www.tenderwizard.com/DAE from 11.12.2019 (11.00 hrs.) to 23.12.2019 (15.00 hrs.). The agencies should intimate the Department through e-mail / fax that they have downloaded the document. Pre-bid queries can be forwarded by Email, if any, from 11.12.2019 (12.00 hrs.) to 24.12.2019 (17.00 hrs.). Last date of submission of hard copy of tender along with completed documents to Head, CQD, DCSEM, 3rd Floor, V.S. Bhavan, Anushaktinagar, Mumbai - 400094 upto 30.12.2019 (15.00 hrs.), and tender opening on 30.12.2019 (15.30 hrs.). For any clarification you may please contact 022-32582734/1741617437. Fax: 022-25565382

DEPUTY CHIEF ENGINEER, Track Machines, Roypuram.

Tough talk

Senior Congress leader P. Chidambaram described the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill as "patently unconstitutional"



3

Shiv Sena should not change its stance on CAB under pressure

— Devendra Fadnis Former Maharashtra CM

SHORT TAKES

WB ASSEMBLY SESSION ENDS ABRUPTLY

Kolkata, Dec. 10: The winter session of the West Bengal Assembly was abruptly adjourned on Tuesday amidst a protest and Jhadeep Dhanekar ridiculed the government for working at "snail's pace" and not answering his queries on them.

The issue, which has snowballed into a major political controversy, reached even the floor of Parliament as Trinamul MPs raised the issue in both the Houses and staged a walkout in Rajya Sabha after the party was not allowed to raise the issue.

In West Bengal Assembly Trinamul MLAs, including senior ministers, staged a protest and named Dhanekar over the delay in clearing the Bills and demanded his immediate removal.

MP SEES UNUSUAL MARRIAGE

Bhopal, Dec. 10: A 35-year-old man remarkably got married and also tied the knot with her cousin at the same wedding ceremony in a village in Madhya Pradesh's Mandla district. The unusual ceremony became talk of the town after a video of the twin marriages solemnised on November 26 in Gudawali village went viral.

The man, Dilip aka Deepu Parihar (35), was already married to Vinita, his cousin's sarpanch of Gudawali, about 30km from Bhand district headquarters. Parihar's second wife, Rachana, is Vinita's cousin. In the video, Parihar is seen garlanding both the women.

BHU PROF. QUILTS SVDV DEPARTMENT

Varanasi, Dec. 10: BHU professor Feroze Khan, whose appointment as a teacher of Sanskrit led to protests by some university students, resigned from his post at the SVDV Department and joined the Arts Faculty, BHU sources said on Tuesday.

Sanskrit Vidya Dharma Vignay (SVDV) Department dean Bineswar Prasad Mishra confirmed that Khan has joined the Arts Faculty of the university. This comes amid protest by students, mostly from the ABVP, against his appointment at the SVDV last month. The students had boycotted his classes and staged a dharna outside the vice-chancellor's office. They had on Monday even threatened a fast unto death.



Protesters burn tyres during a strike called by All Assam Students' Union (ASU) and the North East Students' Organisation in protest against the Citizenship Amendment Bill in Guwahati on Tuesday.

JD(U) V-P unhappy with party backing CAB in LS

Party's constitution carries word 'secular' thrice on very first page

NYAYAR AZAD IDC PATNA, DEC. 10

Poll strategist and JD(U) vice-president Prashant Kishor has expressed strong resentment against the Citizenship Amendment Bill (CAB), which was supported by his party in the Lok Sabha.

In a hard-hitting tweet on late Monday night, Kishor said that he is "disappointed to see JD(U) supporting CAB that discriminates right of citizenship on the basis of religion. It's incongruous with the party's constitution that carries the word secular thrice on the very first page and the leader-ship that is supposedly guided by Gandhian ideals"

Last month, after Union home minister Amit Shah gave a statement in the Rajya Sabha and claimed that NRC process will be carried out across the country, Kishor had raised his opposition and said, "His plus states with more than 55 percent of India's population have non-BJP ministers. Wonder how many of them are consulted and are on-board for NRC in their respective states."

His statement was earlier taken as JD(U)'s official line. However, political analysts now feel that his statement could create trouble for the party, which has been working hard to retain power next year.

A section in the party, including Rajya Sabha MP and JD(U)'s national spokesperson Pavan Varma, has also come out and echoed similar views on the issue. Varma urged the party boss Nitish Kumar to reconsider the decision to support the Bill, which is likely to be tabled in the Upper House on Wednesday.

"I urge Nitish Kumar to party support strategy as in the Rajya Sabha. The Bill is unconstitutional, discriminatory and against the unity and harmony of the country, apart from being against the secular principles of the party, according to political analysts, helped Nitish Kumar score a hat-trick as Chief Minister.

However, a large section in the party feels that the decision to support the Bill in the Lok Sabha was taken after analysing all pros and cons and consulting the party leaders, and now they are imposing greater exclusion on them," the AIMM leader said.

Moreover, he also sometimes carries patients from his locality to the hospital on the horse.

Jatish's unique approach has drawn everyone's attention in the village as well as nearby locality. Many villagers are seen stopping by the horse and clicking its pictures.

When asked, Jatish expressed immense relief over the fact that he no more has to worry about traffic rule violation or petrol expenses.

He also believes that by this way he is contributing to a less-polluted environment. "There are several types of traffic violations. Even

Amit Shah is a professed Savarakarite, says Guha

From Page 1

"We can debate the past forever. But with CAB India takes a giant step to officially convert a constitutional democracy into an unconstitutional ethnoocracy," he tweeted.

Academician Ram-chandra Guha hit out at home minister Amit Shah and said he was a professed Savarakarite and had no issue with Muhammad Ali Jinnah's two-nation theory.

"Savarkar, 1945: I have no quarrel with Mr Jinnah's two-nation theory. We Hindus are a nation by ourselves and it is a historical fact that Hindus and Muslims are two nations." The home minister, a professed Savarakarite, has no quarrel with Mr Jinnah's two-nation theory either."

The petition said the idea of India emerged from the Independence movement and as enshrined in the Constitution, is that of a country that aspires to treat people of all faiths equally.

"The use of religion as a criterion for the proposed Bill would mark a radical break with this history and would be inconsistent with the basic structure of the Constitution. We fear, in particular, that the careful exclusion of Muslims from the ambit of the Bill will greatly strain the pluralistic fabric of the country," the petition noted.

The petitioners include those affiliated to Harvard University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the Indian Institutes of Science, Education and Research, Indian Institute of Science, Delhi University, Chennai Mathematical Institute, International Centre for Theoretical Science, Tata Institute for Fundamental Research, the University of Bonn, Hebrew University of Jerusalem and the University of

Oslo. According to the proposed legislation, members of Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain, Parsi and Christian communities, who have come from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan, till December 31, 2014 facing religious persecution there, will not be treated as illegal immigrants but given Indian citizenship.

The Bill, which was passed in the Lok Sabha with 311 members favouring it and 80 voting against it, will now be tabled in the Rajya Sabha on Wednesday for its nod.

Meanwhile, AAIMM chief Asaduddin Owaisi on Tuesday claimed that the government is bringing Pakistan founder Mohammad Ali Jinnah alive with the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill.

Speaking at a conclave, Owaisi said that even if the Bill is passed by parliament, he will "knock on all doors" in the country and keep his point of view in front of the people.

What message do you want to give, Muslims were subject to political marginalisation and now they are imposing greater exclusion on them," the AAIMM leader said.

AFTER SUPPORT IN LS, SHIV SENA SEEKS CLARITY

DC CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI, DEC. 10

A day after voting in favour of the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill (CAB) in Lok Sabha, the Shiv Sena made a U-turn on Tuesday as party chief and Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray said that his party's queries in the Lower House on the Bill remained unanswered.

"We won't support the Bill till we get clarity," he said. Thackeray on Tuesday said that a detailed discussion and debate on the proposed legislation was necessary.

"The Modi government needs to worry about the economy, job crisis and rising cost of living, especially the onions price rise, more than the implementation of the Bill," he said.

"We need to change this notion that one who supports the Bill and the BJP is a patriot and one who opposes it is anti-national," he said, adding that the government should answer all the issues raised on the Bill.

The Shiv Sena in Lok Sabha had demanded that people who get Indian citizenship under the proposed Citizenship (Amendment) Bill should not be granted voting rights for 25 years.

The BJP, meanwhile, claimed that the Sena changed its stance over the CAB due to pressure from Congress.

Meanwhile, the NCP on Tuesday said the two (Sena and NCP) are not possible always for the Sena to hold the same view on all issues.

Moreover, he also sometimes carries patients from his locality to the hospital on the horse. Jatish's unique approach has drawn everyone's attention in the village as well as nearby locality. Many villagers are seen stopping by the horse and clicking its pictures.

When asked, Jatish expressed immense relief over the fact that he no more has to worry about traffic rule violation or petrol expenses.

He also believes that by this way he is contributing to a less-polluted environment. "There are several types of traffic violations. Even

Net suspended in Tripura over CAB

Agartala, Dec. 10: Internet services have been suspended in the entire Tripura for 48 hours from 2 pm on Tuesday in view of the ongoing protests against the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, an official notification said.

The order also prohibits SMS messages of all mobile service providers. The step has been taken to prevent mischief mongers from spreading rumours.

The state home department's notification has been signed by A.K. Bhattacharya, additional secretary, government of Tripura.

"This prohibition shall be applicable to press messages also. Violation of this promulgation will be punishable under Section 188 IPC and also under the relevant provisions of the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 and the Temporary Suspension of Telecom Services (Public Emergencies or Public Safety) Rules, 2017," the notification said.

The notification issued under provisions of Section 5(2) of the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 prohibits the following types of media for the next 48

IT HAS BEEN reported by the DGP, Tripura that rumours are being mongered about ethnic clashes between tribal and non-tribals in Manu and Kanchanpur areas. This has created a violent situation in the entire area.

hours beginning 1400 hours on 10th December 2019 in the entire state of Tripura (i) SMS messages of all mobile service providers (ii) Mobile Internet/Data Service of all mobile service providers, the order said.

"The order said "it has been reported by the director general of police, Tripura that rumours are being mongered about ethnic clashes between tribal and non-tribals in Manu and Kanchanpur areas. This has created a violent situation in the entire area.

It has been noticed that promoters of satyap and social media platforms being used for transmission of fake images which have potential to incite violence at a large rate." —PTI

Pak Hindus in India hail CAB

New Delhi, Dec. 10: When Sonu Das, 42, left his home in Pakistan's Hyderabad state came to Delhi on a cold winter night in 2011, he did not know what would become of him and his family.

After eight years of hardships, Das and family finally have something to cheer about. The Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, which seeks to give Indian nationality to non-Muslim refugees from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan.

The Bill was passed in Lok Sabha on Monday. Around 750 people live in makeshift tents and unplastered walls with metal roofs in Majnu Ka Tila area in Delhi. Most of them work as daily wagers, while a few youngsters have set up stalls to sell mobile covers.

"We cook on earthen stoves and use solar batteries to light up our homes. Only two or three houses have got television sets. Municipal bodies have made arrangement for water. But there is no sewer network," Das said.

Dahramveer Bagri, 43, who led a group of 494 Pakistani students to Delhi in 2013, said, "NGOs have been kind enough to provide us basic healthcare. There are a few good people who have been raising our issues."

"The days of hardships will be finally over "if we get the citizenship", he added. Huddled into small groups, people in the locality on Tuesday welcomed the move by the government and discussed what would change if the Bill is passed in Rajya Sabha on Wednesday.

Bagri said, "What's most unsafe is when Pakistani Hindus are asked to establish their identity when something bad happens, like a theft, for example. Secondly, we do not have regular work. Citizenship will change things for better," he added.

Rajini Bagari, 26, said they would be a lot better with a voter ID card that declares her as an Indian citizen. "There are many government schemes which are out of our reach now. If we get citizenship, political parties and governments will care for us," she said.

The government is hopeful it will be able to pass the Bill in Rajya Sabha, despite a boost in numbers of those opposing it.

Though the Opposition has slammed the Bill, alleging it is discriminatory against Muslims and violates the Constitution, home minister Amit Shah has asserted that people belonging to any religion should not have any fear under the Modi government.

He said we have to differentiate between intruders and refugees.



The CAB is an attack on the Indian constitution. Anyone who supports it is attacking and attempting to destroy the foundation of our nation.

— Rahul Gandhi Congress leader

NOVEL APPROACH Jatish rides a horse to commute and ferry patients to hosp

Man buys horse to escape traffic fines

AKSHAYA KUMAR SAHOJ | DC BHUBANESWAR, DEC. 10

When the groom wrapped the parcel, he found onions weighing around two kg. This started a laugh riot in the middle of the function.

Justifying it, Satosh's friends said onions had become so expensive that they chose to gift them to him on his big day. Incidentally, onions are being sold in the state for prices ranging between ₹100 and ₹160.

With onion prices skyrocketing, social media platforms have been flooded with hilarious memes and jokes on this commodity.

Moreover, he also sometimes carries patients from his locality to the hospital on the horse. Jatish's unique approach has drawn everyone's attention in the village as well as nearby locality.

Many villagers are seen stopping by the horse and clicking its pictures. When asked, Jatish expressed immense relief over the fact that he no more has to worry about traffic rule violation or petrol expenses.

He also believes that by this way he is contributing to a less-polluted environment. "There are several types of traffic violations. Even

if you adhere to the common violations like driving without license and helmet, you will be penalised for other trivial deviations, including riding bikes with your wife and adult child. Besides, you have the worry of riding an old vehicle that requires regular fitness certificates. With my horse, I need not think over all such issues," said Jatish.

The state government has collected ₹1 crore as fine from traffic violators between September and November after implementation of the new Motor Vehicle Act on September 1.



Jatish Mistry with his horse is talk of the town.

Sorry state

Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu expresses concern over high absenteeism in Parliament, describes it as a sorry state of affairs



Political will, setting up of fast track courts is necessary to curb rapes

Ravens Tandon

SHORT TAKES

MAOIST RAMANNA DEAD

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY | DC BHOPAL, DEC. 10

Maoist leader Ravula Srinivas alias Ramanna, 56, the mastermind behind a number of deadly Naxal attacks...

Ramanna, who was secretary of Bandakaranya Special Zone Committee...

Known in Maoist circle as ruthless strategist, Ramanna was drafted in 1980...

FACES OF CLASS 4 KIDS 'BLACKENED'

Hisar, Dec. 10: The faces of six Class 4 students of a private school, including two girls, were allegedly blackened...

Her parents told reporters on Tuesday that the family members went to the school to lodge a complaint...

On Monday, the girl's family was joined by some other parents and they held a protest outside the old vegetable market...

In a first, Valley observes a 'silent' Human Rights Day

YUSUF JAMEEL | DC SRINAGAR, DEC. 10

For the first time in three decades, the International Human Rights Day passed off peacefully in Kashmir on Tuesday.

In quite contrast to past practices, no rallies or seminars to highlight the alleged human rights violations taking place in the restive Valley were held on Tuesday.

Fear has taken over the Kashmiri population and people are apparently too scared to voice their concerns on issues

PERVEZ IMROZ human rights activist

Local human rights activists said that the difficult situation set off by 'harsh measures' including arrests, restrictions and communication black-

out ordered by the government ahead of the Centre's stripping Jammu and Kashmir of its special constitutional status...

and people are apparently too scared to voice their concerns on issues. He said, "For past three decades political groups, human rights activists and victims of violations would observe World Human Rights Day in a big way."

SMS SERVICE RESUMES, BUT PARTIALLY

Srinagar, Dec. 10: SMS service resumes, including one time passwords (OTPs), resumed on Tuesday for 40 lakh subscribers in Kashmir following several requests from the public...

Messages from their mobiles, the officials said. The resumption of service messages will help the general public, especially business persons, receive service messages from banks, they said.

Mobile phones in Kaser were buzzed back to life after a gap of 72 days but SMS facilities were stopped within a few hours after the Army claimed terrorists were using SMS services to mobilise people.

NITHYA: 12L WANT TO LIVE AT KAILAASA

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, DEC. 10

Self-styled controversial godman Nithyananda is claiming that as many as 12 lakh people have applied for citizenship to his newly formed 'Hindu sovereign' micro-country in Ecuador.

The 'guru' took to Facebook on Monday to announce the 'milestone' for his 'cosmic country'. In the video, a seemingly pleased Nithyananda says, "Till now we have received 12 lakh applications for citizenship in Kailaasa."

He has also claimed that he has been flooded with emails ever since the announcement, and has further requested people to give him some time to respond to their mails.

A few countries have approached me directly to set up Kailaasa in their country. I do not wish to delve into the particulars but we will be working closely with them to establish Kailaasa," he said.

Thinking those who extended their support to him on details of his renunciation on the auspicious occasion of Kartigai Deepam, which was Tuesday.

Reports also suggest that he has changed his country's name from 'Srikalasha' (Reviving the enlightened civilisation). Nithyananda has several charges against him, including rape and child abuse.

On November 20, Gujarat police claimed that Nithyananda fled India after choosing not to attend several court hearings.

He has also raised the issue of 'inhumanity' of death sentence, its inconsistent application by judiciary and asked the court to reconsider its death sentence awarded to him in view of the short span of human life in Kali Yuga.

The top court had on May 5, 2017 upheld the sentence of Akshay Kumar Singh, who was awarded death sentence along with three others in the 2012 Nirbhaya gangrape that led to her death and caused national outrage, moved the Supreme Court on Tuesday seeking reconsideration of its May 5, 2017 verdict upholding his death sentence.

He has, in his petition, challenged the evidence against him, spoken of his dependence on him and cited his reformation in jail. The plea, strangely, talked about the health risks such as rising pollution level in Delhi and said, "Life is going short to short, then why death penalty?"

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Police personnel detain students during a protest over rape incidents outside the residence of Union minister for women and child development, Smriti Irani, in New Delhi on Tuesday.

Nirbhaya convict seeks review, citing pollution

Akshay Kumar Singh seeks review of death penalty

PARMOD KUMAR | DC NEW DELHI, DEC. 10

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Another Nirbhaya case convict shifted to Tihar

New Delhi, Dec. 10: One of the convicts in the December, 2012 Nirbhaya gangrape and murder case, who was lodged in the Mandoli jail here, has been shifted to Tihar, jail officials said on Tuesday.

Pawan Kumar Gupta, who was lodged in the Mandoli Jail, was shifted to Tihar recently, director general (prison) Sandeep Goel said.

Gupta is lodged in Jail No. 2 of Tihar, where two other convicts in the case are lodged.

Mukesh Singh and Akshay — are also lodged, while Vinay Sharma is in Jail No. 4 of Tihar, another jail official said.

"Nirbhaya," meaning fearless, is the changed name of the 23-year-old case, who was raped and brutalised in a moving bus in south Delhi by six persons, including the bus driver, conductors and helpers, on December 16, 2012 after receiving treatment in New Delhi for a few days, she was transferred to the Mount Elizabeth Hospital in Singapore, where she succumbed to her injuries on December 29, 2012.

On March 13, 2014, the Delhi High Court upheld the verdict and the death sentences. —PTI

Pointing out that "our criminal justice system cannot guarantee the consistent application of legal standards and rule of law," Akshay said, "How can we allow judiciary to decide who will live or die?"

He has, in his petition, challenged the evidence against him, spoken of his dependence on him and cited his reformation in jail. The plea, strangely, talked about the health risks such as rising pollution level in Delhi and said, "Life is going short to short, then why death penalty?"

Verdict in Unnao case on Dec. 16

New Delhi, Dec. 10: A Delhi court on Tuesday reserved verdict in a week in the case of alleged kidnapping and rape of a woman by expelled BJP MLA Kuldeep Singh Sengar in Unnao in 2017.

During in-camera proceedings, district judge Dharmesh Sharma reserved the judgement for December 16 after hearing final arguments by the CBI and the accused in the case.

The judge heard the case on a day-to-day basis from August 5 after it was transferred to Delhi from a court in Lucknow on Supreme Court's directions.

The woman was allegedly kidnapped and raped by Sengar in 2017 when she was a minor. The court has also framed charges against co-accused Shashi Singh in the case. Sengar was expelled from the BJP in August 2019.

The court had on August 9 framed charges (kidnapping or inducing a woman to compel for marriage), 376 (rape) and other relevant sections of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.

On July 28, the car of the woman who had accused Sengar was struck by a truck and she was severely injured. The woman's two aunts were killed in the accident and her family had alleged foul play.

Her father was allegedly framed in an illegal arms case and arrested on April 3, 2018. He died while in judicial custody a few days later, on April 9.

The rest went on trial in a fast-track court. The juvenile was convicted of rape and murder and given the maximum sentence of three years' imprisonment in a reform facility.

On September 10, 2013, the four remaining adult accused were found guilty of rape and murder and three days later, sentenced to death by hanging.

On March 13, 2014, the Delhi High Court upheld the verdict and the death sentences. —PTI

During the trial in the rape case which was held in-camera, 13 prosecution witnesses and nine defence witnesses were examined.

A special court was also held at AIIMS hospital here to record the statement of the rape victim who was admitted there after she was air-lifted from a hospital in Lucknow.

The woman and her family is provided CRP security as per the apex court's orders. They have now been shifted to a state accommodation in the national capital with the assistance of the National Commission for Women. —PTI

VICTIM'S FAMILY REMOVES BRICKS AROUND GRAVE

Unnao, Dec. 10: Family members of the woman victim in a Hyderabad case who she had accused of raping her in Unnao have objected to the district administration's plan to cement the grave of the 23-year-old, saying they won't allow it unless justice is served to the culprits.

They removed the bricks district authorities tried to cement the grave in her village. Vikas Pandey, SHO of the area police station, said he had stopped after the protest.

The elder sister of the gangrape victim, who accused Shashi Singh to a hospital late on Sunday night after she complained of chest pain, threatened she would end her life if her family does not get speedy justice. She has been provided security by the local police at the hospital.

The district administration tried to cement the grave on Monday but the father of the victim objected to it, saying it was against the provisions of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.

Her family has demanded that the accused be handed the punishment in a manner similar to those accused of raping and killing a young veterinarian in Hyderabad.

Four men were arrested in the Hyderabad case on the charges of rape and murder but they were killed by police in an 'encounter'.

The Unnao rape victim was killed by five people, including two men accused of raping her, last week when she was returning to Hyderabad to attend a court hearing.

She suffered 90 per cent burn injuries and was transferred to the Delhi's Safdarjung Hospital but died during treatment. Both the incidents, common to Hyderabad, had triggered outrage across the country. —PTI

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A special court was also held at AIIMS hospital here to record the statement of the rape victim who was admitted there after she was air-lifted from a hospital in Lucknow.

ARMY RESCUES 4 COPS FROM J&K SNOWSTORM

DC CORRESPONDENT SRINAGAR, DEC. 10

The Army on Tuesday said that it rescued four policemen who were caught in a snowstorm along the Srinagar-Leh National Highway in Kargil district of Ladakh.

A statement issued by the Army here said that the policemen were caught in a life-threatening situation when the snowstorm hit them while they were on patrolling duty in the Srinagar-Gumri section of the 434-km long highway near Gumri, 105-km north of Srinagar.

WOMAN | POWER

Journalist says she tweeted about sexual harassment before Priya Ramani

Wahab recounts harassment by Akbar in court

DC CORRESPONDENT WITH AGONY INPUTS NEW DELHI, DEC. 10

A senior woman journalist alleged in a Delhi court on Tuesday that former Union minister M.J. Akbar sexually harassed her in 1997 while she was working in a newspaper edited by him.

"Taking the stand as a defence witness for Priya Ramani in the court of sessions judge, magistrate Vishal Pahuja, Gazala Wahab gave a detailed account of the sexual harassment and the mental trauma she was subjected to as a young journalist by Akbar at The Asian Age.

Akbar has denied all allegations and filed a criminal defamation case specifically against journalist Priya Ramani. He has also submitted that Ramani's tweet led to several women coming forward with their accounts of sexual harassment by him.

Wahab told the court that she had tweeted about the sexual harassment and the mental trauma she was subjected to as a young journalist by Akbar at The Asian Age, Wahab

said, "My desk was right outside Akbar's office in a manner that if his door was slightly open he could watch me. Many a times I saw him watching me. If there was a visitor, the door was closed and when he was alone the door would be open. Later he started sending me private messages on Aston Age's internal messaging service about my clothes and appearance."

Wahab further told the court, "Sometime in August 1997, in the afternoon, Akbar called to his room. As I went in, he asked me to shut the door. Then he asked me to look up a word in the dictionary which was placed on a

low three-legged stool across his desk. It was placed so low that one had to bend down to pick it up, he came from behind and grabbed my waist. He ran his hands from my breasts to my hips. I tried to push his hands away but they were firmly planted on my waist. He then pushed his thumb on my breast. Not only was the door shut, even his back was towards me.

However, this was not the only incident. Ghazala recounted the incident that took place the next day. "The next evening, he called me in his cabin. I knocked and entered. He was standing next to the

door and before I could react, he shut the door, trapping me between his body and the door. I instinctively flinched, but he held me and bent to kiss me. With my mouth clamped shut, I struggled to turn my face to one side. The jostling continued, without much success. I had no space to manoeuvre. Fear had rendered me speechless. As my body was pushing against the door, at some point he let me go. Tear-stricken, I ran out. I was numb with fear and shock," she said.

The woman scribble further told the court that when she narrated the incident to Seema Mustafa, who was the

bureau chief then, "She (Mustafa) said she was not surprised about his behaviour as she had known him to help me and it was entirely my fault and I had to decide what to do."

In November 1997, Wahab said, Akbar sent Venu Sandal, a tarrot card reader, "who told me that he was in love with me and I should stop resisting him."

Ramani's lawyers told that Wahab had described demolished Akbar's claim that he had an "impeccable reputation." The court will further hear the matter on Wednesday, when Wahab is likely to be cross examined by Akbar's lawyers.



Power game

Argentina's President-elect Alberto Fernandez takes charge on Tuesday, returning the Peronist political movement to power amid an economic crisis.



3

Afghan war would end in a few weeks if Pakistan denies Taliban a safe haven.

— Lindsay Graham
Republican Senator

IN BRIEF

Female polo worker shot in Pak

Peshawar: A female polo worker was killed and the driver of the tri-wheeler she was travelling in injured after unknown assailants fired at the vehicle in northwest Pakistan. Bistaj Bibi was killed, while the driver of the vehicle Abanul Karim was injured in the incident that took place in Bannu district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province on Monday. The assailants escaped from the scene and the police have registered a case against unknown people in the incident.

Shootout at Czech hospital, 4 dead

Prague: A gunman killed himself Tuesday after shooting dead four patients at a hospital in the eastern Czech city of Ostrava, in what the premier has called "an immense tragedy". The attacker gunned down people at close range at the trauma ward of the Faculty Hospital in Ostrava, a steel hub located some 60 kilometres east of Prague. Four men and two women died during the assault, which lasted only a few seconds according to police. Two other people were seriously wounded while a third person sustained light injuries. Police said they had not yet determined what drove the 42-year-old to launch the attack. "I was told the dead victims were people sitting in the waiting room of the trauma ward, fortunately there were not as many as usual," Prime Minister Andrej Babis told local media.

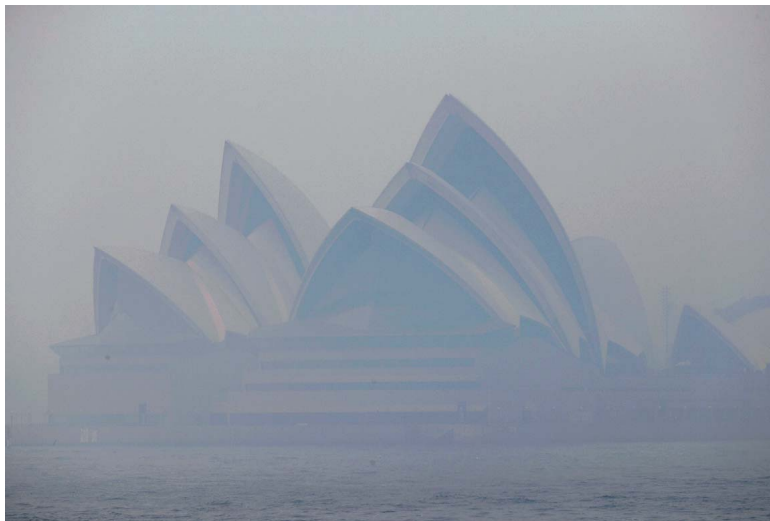
Indian bizman held in drug case in US

Washington: A 37-year-old Indian businessman in the US has pleaded guilty to the charges of importing banned drugs and money laundering conspiracy, US attorney has said. Jeetendra Harish Belani, who hails from Nagpur, was extradited to the US after his arrest in the Czech Republic on June 3 to face the charges contained in an eight-count indictment returned by a federal grand jury on June 26. Belani faces a maximum sentence of 20 years' imprisonment and a fine of USD 1,000,000 for the drug importation conspiracy charge. However, the actual sentence to be served would be based upon the seriousness of the offenses and the prior criminal history, if any, of the defendant, the US Department of Justice said. In his guilty plea, Belani admitted that he operated a drug distribution entity based in India called LeehPL Ventures and an associated website—www.leehpl.com.

Stir fails to move HK's leader

Hong Kong: Hong Kong's leader on Tuesday again ruled out further concessions to protesters who marched peacefully in the hundreds of thousands this past weekend. The six-month protest movement has five demands, including that Hong Kong's leader and lawmakers all be directly elected and that police actions against protesters be independently investigated. The only demand that has been met was the withdrawal of the proposed extradition legislation that triggered the movement in June. But city leader Carrie Lam made clear she would budge on the others. As for other demands, we really have to stick by certain important principles, she said. One of the protest movement's demands is amnesty for the more than 6,000 people who have been arrested during the protests.

Toxic haze in Australia



Thick smoke from wildfires shrouds the Opera House in Sydney, Australia, on Tuesday. Toxic haze blanketed Sydney triggering a chorus of smoke alarms to ring across the city, as 'severe' weather conditions fuelled deadly bush fires. — PTI

FBI TRIED TO OVERTHROW MY GOVT: TRUMP

Washington, Dec. 10: President Donald Trump has welcomed a new report from the Justice Department inspector general on the origins of the investigation into Russia's interference in the US election, saying it showed FBI officials attempted an overthrow of the government by investigating his 2016 presidential campaign.

Justice Department Inspector General Michael Horowitz's lengthy report issued Monday said that FBI agents were not motivated by political bias in deciding to open investigations into Trump campaign associates and aides during 2016 as part of the probe into Russia's election interference. "The inspector general, however, found numerous procedural errors in the handling of the probe, which placed members of Trump's election team under surveillance over their Russian contacts. Reacting to the report, Trump said, "This was an overthrow of the government. This was an attempted overthrow."

"A lot of people who were in on it, and they got caught. They got caught," Trump said. Trump told reporters on Monday at the White House soon after the report was released that he was waiting for answers about their loved ones, with the island deemed too dangerous to search. "Thirteen people are dead or missing, but on-island recovery efforts are on hold as scientists expect the volcano has a 50 per cent chance of erupting again within the next 24 hours. Police want to deploy drones to measure toxic gas levels in the island's atmosphere and determine whether it is safe to return, but windy conditions have so far prevented them from being flown."



Donald Trump

2 impeachment charges unveiled against Trump

Prez accused of abuse of power and obstruction in probe Trump to meet Russian FM

Washington, Dec. 10: Democrats unveiled two impeachment charges against US President Donald Trump Tuesday, accusing him of abuse of power and obstruction in pressuring Ukraine to help him attack his 2020 election rivals. The charges, approved by the House of Representatives in a vote expected next week, would make Trump only the third US president to be impeached and placed on trial in the Senate. "Our president holds the ultimate public trust," said Jerry Nadler, chairman of the House Judiciary Committee. "When he betrays that trust and puts himself before country, he endangers the constitution, he endangers our democracy and he endangers our national security." Adam Schiff, who as head of the House Intelligence Committee oversaw the investigation, said Trump's "continuing abuse of power" had left Democrats no choice.

Washington, Dec. 10: US President Donald Trump will Tuesday welcome Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov in Washington, the White House announced, two years after the US leader was accused of leaking classified information to him. Trump will "discuss the state of the bilateral relationship" in a meeting both with Lavrov and US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, a senior Trump administration official said Monday. The State Department on Sunday had confirmed Lavrov's visit — his first to the US capital since the controversial Oval Office

meeting with Trump in 2017. The talks are expected to focus on hotspots in which both powers are heavily involved including Syria, Iran and North Korea. The US leadership is also expected to speak to Lavrov about breakthrough diplomacy on Ukraine, which is fighting

Russian-backed separatists. Russian President Vladimir Putin on Monday met for the first time with Ukraine's young leader, Volodymyr Zelensky, in a summit in Paris that also involved France and Germany. But Lavrov's visit comes as a cloud still hangs over Trump over his relationship with Russia, which US intelligence concluded interfered in the 2016 election. Trump is facing impeachment over accusations that he improperly held up US aid to Ukraine to press Zelensky to dig up dirt on his domestic rival Joe Biden. — AFP

The evidence of the president's conduct is overwhelming and unprecedented," he said. Nadler said the Judiciary panel would meet later in the week to consider the articles of impeachment. — AFP

Kin face painful wait as volcano rescue stalls

Sydney, Dec. 10: More than 24 hours after New Zealand's White Island volcano erupted, families and scientists expect to be waiting for answers about their loved ones, with the island deemed too dangerous to search. "Thirteen people are dead or missing, but on-island recovery efforts are on hold as scientists expect the volcano has a 50 per cent chance of erupting again within the next 24 hours. Police want to deploy drones to measure toxic gas levels in the island's atmosphere and determine whether it is safe to return, but windy conditions have so far prevented them from being flown."

"We can never say 100 percent, but I would strongly suggest that there is no one that has survived on the island," deputy commissioner John Tims said. Among the 47 people caught on the island during the sudden eruption were 24 tourists from New Zealand hospitals for burns to more than 71 per cent of their bodies. — AFP

13 FEARED DEAD IN ERUPTION

Wellington, Dec. 10: New Zealand police on Tuesday announced an investigation into how an eruption at the White Island volcano led to an estimated 13 deaths. The threat level at the volcano was raised in the week before Monday's disaster, prompting questions about whether aid groups should have been allowed to visit the popular destination off the North Island coast. Police said that they have started an investigation. — AFP



The view from a rescue helicopter as it heads toward the smoldering White Island volcano off the coast of New Zealand's North Island on Tuesday. — AFP

CLEAN GREEN 2030 renewable energy target of the country is rated very high, says report India at 9th spot in climate performance

Madrid, Dec. 10: India, for the first time, ranks among the top 10 in this year's Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) presented on Tuesday at the COP25 climate summit here. The current levels of per capita emissions and energy use in India, ranked 9th in the "high category", are still comparatively low and, along with ambitious 2030 targets, result in high ratings for the green house gas (GHG) emissions and energy use categories, the report released here in the Spanish capital.

However, despite an overall high rating for its Climate Policy performance, experts point out that the Indian government has yet to develop a roadmap for the phase-out of fossil fuel subsidies that would, consequently, reduce the country's high dependence on coal. The authors of the report noted that while the country receives an overall medium rating in the renewable energy category, India's 2030 renewable energy target is rated very high for its well-below 2 degrees Celsius compati-

bility. "National experts commend the government for strong policies to support the expansion of renewable energy, which is needed to meet the ambitious targets as recent renewable energy capacity additions are below the level required," the report noted.

■ **THE CCPI** reflects opposing trends in global climate action: Australia, Saudi Arabia and especially the US give cause for great concern. ■ **WITH THESE** three governments massively influenced by the coal and oil lobby, there are hardly any signs of serious climate policy. The CCPI reflects opposing trends in global climate action: Australia, Saudi Arabia and especially the US give cause for "great concern" with their low to very low performance in emissions and renewable energy development as well as climate policy, the researchers

said. With these three governments massively influenced by the coal and oil lobby, there are hardly any signs of serious climate policy in sight, they said. On the other hand, global coal consumption is falling and the boom in renewable energy continues, the authors noted. In 31 of the 57 high emitting countries assessed, the index jointly presented by Germanwatch, NewClimate Institute and Climate Action Network (CAN). "However, several large countries are still trying to resist this trend, above all the US. We see opportunities for a halt to rising global emissions, but much will depend on developments in China and the polls in the USA," Hagen said. — PTI

Indo-Americans slam PIO Senator

INDIAN-ORIGIN SIKH CABBIE ASSAULTED IN US

New York, Dec. 10: Members of the Indian-American community say they feel betrayed, cheated by Indian-American Democratic Congressman Pramila Jayapal, who has introduced a Congressional resolution on Kashmir, saying that the lawmaker is "pandering for political advantage through it. Jayapal on Friday introduced a Congressional resolution urging India to end the restrictions on communications in Jammu and Kashmir as swiftly as possible and to preserve religious freedom for all residents. The Indian-American community, which has strongly supported the Democrats in the United States over the decades, are voicing their anger and hurt over Jayapal moving ahead with introducing the legislation even though Indian-Americans had urged her against it. In a strong criticism of Jayapal, an Indian-American activist Ravi Batra told PTI that "her resolution mocks America and interferes in a bilateral relationship between India and the US. I look upon as Pramila Jayapal as completely unprincipled, un-American, anti-Hindu and pro-terror, who is shamelessly pandering for political advantage, Batra said. Quoting the American Declaration of Independence, Batra said the historic document sequentially talks about preservation of life, liberty and pursuit of happiness. She has introduced this resolution about rights, Batra said, adding that America's Founding Father Thomas Jefferson wrote in the Declaration of Independence that first comes the preservation of lives, then comes liberty and only when there is freedom, can there be rights. The (Narendra) Modi government passed the laws based on the Constitution of India. What is her problem, he said. Vibhuti Jha, Executive Director and board member of the National International USA, said Jayapal is trying to sermonise the human rights through the suspension of communications in Jammu and Kashmir. Human life takes precedence over human rights. He added that the Democratic party has lost its mooring. — PTI

After a struggle, the driver, who was not identified, managed to escape from his car, left the rider inside and called 911 for help, the Komo News said. The taxi driver told the police that he believes his race promoted the attack. — PTI

freedom, can there be rights. The (Narendra) Modi government passed the laws based on the Constitution of India. What is her problem, he said. Vibhuti Jha, Executive Director and board member of the National International USA, said Jayapal is trying to sermonise the human rights through the suspension of communications in Jammu and Kashmir. Human life takes precedence over human rights. He added that the Democratic party has lost its mooring. — PTI

ASK INDIA TO LIFT CURBS IN KASHMIR: PAK TELLS WORLD

Islamabad, Dec. 10: Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan on Tuesday appealed to the international community to press India to lift the restrictions in Jammu and Kashmir, which has entered the fourth month. The restrictions were imposed on August 5 when the central government had announced the abrogation of the special status given to Jammu and Kashmir under the Article 370 and 35A of the Indian Constitution. In a tweet on the Human Rights Day, Khan said he was "concerned" about the atrocities inflicted on the people in Kashmir. He said Pakistan stands resolute with the Kashmiri people. — AFP

CHILE PLANE MISSING WITH 38 ON BOARD

Santiago, Dec. 10: Chile's air force lost contact with a transport plane carrying 38 people on a flight Monday evening to the continent's southern base in Antarctica, and authorities indicated several hours later that they were not optimistic about the aircraft's fate. The military said earlier that it had declared an alert and activated search and rescue teams.

The C-130 Hercules carried 17 crew members and 21 passengers, including three civilians, the persons, who were to check on a floating fuel supply line and other equipment at the Chilean base. President Sebastian Piera said via Twitter that he was with his defense and interior ministers at the air force headquarters monitoring developments. A statement early Tuesday, the air force said the plane had not been heard from in more than seven hours and likely would have run out of fuel around 12:40 a.m. The air force launched a search in the sector where communication with the aircraft was lost, in order to rescue potential survivors, the statement said. The plane took off at 4:30 a.m. from Punta Arenas, which is 3,000 km from the capital of Santiago. — AFP

MIND POWER

HARRY S. TRUMAN

Always be sincere, even if you don't mean it

AUNG SAN SUU KYI

Freedom and democracy are dreams you never give up

DECCAN Chronicle

11 DECEMBER 2019

Govt misleading nation on Cong and Partition

In its revised form, the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill was passed by the Lok Sabha on Monday, as expected, this was not due to any merit in this proposed legislation or because of BJP President and Union home minister Amit Shah's powers of persuasion or recounting of (phony) history. The reason was the ruling party's overbearing numbers.

The most stunning argument the home minister made was that the Congress Party had divided India on the basis of religion in 1947, and that if that had not been the case there would be no need for the bill (if that country had remained one). This is a sheer lie. It is a matter of fact that India, of any Indian of any worth, for it plays into the hands of colonial historiography. However, the communal understanding of history is not markedly different in many important respects from the colonial one and the home minister's understanding causes no surprise.

Left to the British themselves or to Jinnah, Pakistan would have been a larger entity and would have included the great port city of Calcutta (now Kolkata) but for spirited intervention by the nationalist movement

British rule, Savarkar, in fact proposed the two-nation theory before Mohammed Ali Jinnah did. The home minister deserves to be reminded that neither the RSS nor Savarkar expressed any view on the Partition plan, the "Rajaji formula" of June 3, 1947.

This envisaged that only Muslim-majority districts in Muslim-majority provinces of British India would constitute the new Dominion of Pakistan. Left to the British themselves or to Mohammed Ali Jinnah, Pakistan would have been a larger entity and would have included the great port city of Calcutta (now Kolkata) but for spirited intervention by the nationalist movement.

Mr Shah's bill brings in alleged religious persecution of the "minorities" in Afghanistan too. This catches him out. His argument that if India had not been divided on religious lines, the present bill would be unnecessary is shown to be too clever. The home minister glosses over history in order to present the RSS-BJP as a so-called keeper of "Hindu" interests everywhere. But is there a "Hindu" interest that is separate from India's interests in an India which is the common home of people of many faiths.

Quasi ban means nothing

Russia has been formally banned for four years from international sporting competition, including the 2020 Tokyo Olympics and the football World Cup in Qatar by WADA, the anti-doping authority. But the ban is by no means a blanket one, that means clean Russian athletes will be allowed to compete, even if under a neutral flag like that of the IOC. It's bit of a sham arrangement by which the Russian national soccer team can qualify and compete in Qatar, but not officially as Russia.

The major charge is that Russia was complicit in covering up systemic support for sportsmen doping up to enhance performance and denying honest athletes. The Russian secret service was caught surreptitiously replacing urine samples tainted by performance-enhancing drugs with clean samples at the Sochi Winter Olympics, on which a whistleblower who defected to the US threw light and on other forms of systematic cheating.

Russia is certain to appeal to the Court of Arbitration for Sport, as its sports minister hinted, while Vladimir Putin has condemned the action outright as politically motivated. He makes the point that any punishment should be individual and can't be collective and apply to those who have nothing to do with violations. The problem is that the state-sponsored cheating of the Communist era isn't over yet in Russia.

Global sport is rife with doping in track and field as well as many other disciplines. Even as testing gains greater sophistication, cheats manage to stay a step ahead in a complex world of blood doping to the extent that there's no such thing as a clean or untainted competition. However, if WADA is serious in its mission of preserving the integrity of sport it should have banned Russia altogether. This quasi ban serves no purpose.

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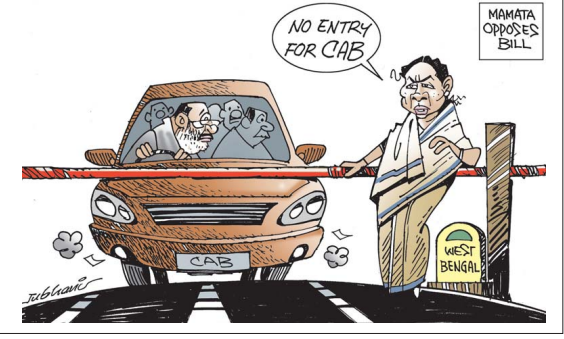
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Subhanti



We are all at risk if we ignore the rule of law



Sharmistha Mukherjee

The drama that unfolded in the two weeks or so since the brutal gangrape-murder of a young veterinarian from Hyderabad could well have been material for a badly-scripted horror movie. But the real horror of the entire episode was that it was not a movie or a work of fiction. It happened in real life! Since the Nirbhaya case seven years ago, which shook the collective conscience of the nation and brought the issue of rape into the forefront of public discourse, there have been regular public outbursts protesting against rising crimes against women, especially rape. Incidents like Kathua, Unnao and the latest being the Hyderabad gangrape-murder brought angry people into the streets in cities across India. What followed was as shocking as the gruesome rape-murder itself. The four suspects were taken to the crime scene, ostensibly for a reconstruction of events as part of the investigation. Going by the police version, all four were shot dead when they allegedly snatched guns from the police, attacked them and tried to escape.

The media kept showing scenes of celebrations in Hyderabad and elsewhere hailing the police action, women dancing to beating drums and tying "rakhis" to policemen, treating them as heroes!

That sane, rational citizens of a matured democracy would applaud a summary "execution" of suspects without a trial is inexplicable. But public outrage had been growing over the incidents of rapes. The lackadaisical attitude of the government, with its knee-jerk reactions and the absence of any serious

efforts to curb crimes against women has been adding fuel to the fire. As a result, the public anger and frustration over its inability to do anything other than protest turned overnight into a mass hysteria of celebration over an action that appears to be nothing but a staged encounter. Any extra-judicial killing, even that of a criminal, is unacceptable. It is not only a gross violation of human rights, it goes against the core principles of democracy that is founded and operates on the premise of the rule of law. The public euphoria over the Hyderabad killing of suspects raises an extremely pertinent question. Are people losing faith in the institutions and systems meant to deliver justice? While there can't be any instant "Nescafe" justice, more so in cases involving capital punishment, the inordinate delay in the process of investigations, trial, and execution, which wears out public patience and reasserts its belief in the inefficiency of the established instruments for delivering justice. Justice delayed is justice denied! Seven long years have passed since the Nirbhaya incident. While one of the convicts tried under the juvenile law (since then amended and made more stringent) was released after he completed a few years of punishment and another hanged himself, the verdict of capital punishment for the others is yet to be implemented. Activists across the world would agree that it is not the severity of punishment but the certainty of it, along with quick dispensation of justice, which is a greater deterrent for the prevention of crime. The alarming pendency of

cases in India's courts system that leads to excessive delays in delivering a final verdict is a matter of great concern. In answering a Parliament question, the law ministry said that as on November 1, 2019, the number of cases pending in the Supreme Court is nearly 60,000; as on November 28, 2019, nearly 45 lakh cases are pending in high courts and over 30 million cases are pending in the district and sessions courts. The high rate of vacancies of judges, around 410 in the high courts and over 5,000 in the subordinate courts, create tremendous additional pressure and delays in trials. The courts are closed for considerable periods during summer, Christmas, Diwali and other local holidays. In 2018, the Supreme Court worked on 193 days, high courts on an average for 210 days and the subordinate courts on an average for 245 days. Given this humungous backlog, it might be wise to cut down on court holidays, especially ones like summer holidays. With all due respect to "My Lords", judges are not school children who need such long breaks. The process of justice can't be suspended for a holiday.

Along with judicial reforms and building of judicial infrastructure, police reforms and sensitisation is equally necessary. Difficulties in lodging FIRs due to general reluctance to file complaint and legal complications and insensitivity towards rape victims are some of the principal obstacles a victim faces at the very first point of contact with the justice delivery system. Governments need to recruit more

police personnel and invest heavily in their training and sensitisation to handle cases of crimes against women. But what is required most is the political will to fight crimes against women, which is shamefully missing. In a shocking revelation, the data tabled by the ministry of women and child development states that as of November 2019, more than 91 per cent of the money sanctioned to the states and UTs out of the Nirbhaya Fund, that was created for taking measures for prevention of crimes against women, lie unutilised. Out of Rs 1,672 crores allocated by the ministry, only Rs 147 crores have been used. Delhi, which is notorious as the nation's rape capital, has utilised only five per cent of the allocated budget. Another set of statistics reveals that in the schemes and UTs out of the Nirbhaya Fund, that was created for taking measures for prevention of crimes against women, lie unutilised. Out of Rs 1,672 crores allocated by the ministry, only Rs 147 crores have been used. 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Trump's 'America First' opportunity for India



Sreeram Chaulia
Foreign Pulse

ensions at last week's Nato summit in London reflect underlying doubts about the leadership and commitment of US President Donald Trump to trans-Atlantic security. Mr Trump's insistence that the United States "cannot continue to be the policeman of the world" causes repudiation in European nations, Japan and South Korea, which are dependent on American security and economic guarantees. But his abandonment of the liberal international order also presents a historic opportunity for independent rising nations like India, Turkey, Brazil and Nigeria to fill the vacuum being left by a tired US. These countries have strong anti-colonial traditions and ambitions to transform and lead their regions in the wake of Mr Trump's "America First" apathy and an expansionist China.

If Mr Trump's disinterest in multi-lateral coalition-building to check Russia is troubling its Nato allies in Europe, his intent to pull American troops out of Afghanistan and indifference about countering China in the Indo-Pacific region by rallying

the US strategic partners in Asia, are reasons for disquiet in India.

India has tried to work around by networking with liberal internationalist elements within the Trump administration and in the broader American polity. External affairs minister Subrahmanya Jaishankar's remark that his job was "to convince the American system that we have common interests" makes an obvious distinction between Mr Trump and his isolationist populist faction on one side, and the permanent American "Deep State" on the other.

Still, manoeuvring within Mr Trump's "two-track presidency" is not enough for India, which fears an increased jihadist threat from a crumbling Afghanistan and worries about China's encroachment around its natural sphere of influence in South Asia and the Indian Ocean.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is investing diplomatic energy in bringing India all-weather partner Russia back into the Pacific and deepening military cooperation with France in the Indian Ocean. He is also strengthening ties with the endogenous small group coalitions in Asia with the Asian member states and Japan to try and stem the tide of Chinese influence. Simultaneously, Mr Modi has attempted rapprochement with China through risk-reducing "informal summits" with President Xi.

Since Mr Modi cannot count on the populist Mr Trump to stabilise Afghanistan, he is also looking to the Islamic world, particularly to Pakistan and Iran as part of India's planning for a post-American sce-

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nario in Kabul. In the Middle East, Mr Trump's recent chaotic order for US troops to exit northern Syria was a boon to America's Nato ally Turkey, but the long estranged Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan was not totally satisfied. He apparently flung Mr Trump's letter admonishing him, "It's not a fail", into the dustbin and warned that Turkey would never forget this insult.

Following that, Turkish forces and the Arab militias which invaded northern Syria committed war crimes against civilian Kurds, openly defying Mr Trump's verbal threat to "totally destroy and obliterate the economy of Turkey".

The tragedy in northern Syria illustrates dramatic changes in the US-Turkey alliance under Mr Trump and how the US President's overturning of prior American policies in the Middle East have left Mr Erdogan emboldened.

Mr Trump's populist approach to the Middle East is a double-edged sword that threatens Turkey but also creates possibilities for Turkey to act as a regional leader. But this chance is going wasted under Mr

Erdogan, whose foreign policy has degenerated from the early halcyon days of coalition-building with the virtues of coalition-building with Arab, Persian and Jewish powers.

Turkey has erred under Mr Erdogan by earning the enmity of its neighbours today. In Latin America, Brazil has swivelled from being a wary competitor of the US to a willing junior partner of Trump's America, thanks to the uncanny ideological camaraderie between Mr Trump and President Jair Bolsonaro. The "Trump of the tropics" is trying to redefine Brazil in a far-right image inspired by Mr Trump. He has sought to reverse Brazil's time-tested foreign policy model based on South-South cooperation and has positioned Bolsonaro as a leader among developing countries.

Piggybacking on Mr Trump's US is a guaranteed path to Brazil's decline. Like in Asia, China is rapidly advancing its footprint in Latin America, but Mr Trump lacks the appetite or long-term vision to counter it. Mr Bolsonaro is a fundamentalist integrationist who by China's encroachments in the Western hemisphere but turning to Mr Trump will not solve Brazil's structural problems.

Mr Trump's rhetorical swipes against the dictatorship in Venezuela are driven by domestic American political calculations. If Mr Bolsonaro could tag team with Mr Trump and usher in regime change in Venezuela, it was a bad bet. Mr Trump will never commit the US to any foreign regime change operation if it costs the American taxpayer's money or troops. So, the onus is on Brazil to return to the South-South approach and to retake the lead it had in Latin America as an independent and self-reliant power. Mr Bolsonaro himself is a far-right populist and will not go that way. Much depends on other more sagacious factions within his administration, as well as Brazil's civil society and intelligentsia, to regain its lost glory in the region.

In Africa, Mr Trump is plainly disinterested. He has cut foreign development assistance and pulled back troops from hotspots on the continent. His neglect and racist stereotyping of Africans have serious implications for Africa's number one economy and most populous country, Nigeria.

President Muhammadu Buhari is realising how Nigeria cannot rely on the US any more for its geopolitical and economic rise. Be it tackling jihadist extremism of the Boko Haram or other groups menacing the Sahel region, counterbalancing France in the La Princesse zone of West Africa, or securing greater market access and trade privileges globally, Mr Trump's US is not a catalyst for Nigeria.

Under President Buhari, Nigeria is refocusing on the rest of Africa to build its leadership potential instead of looking to the West for assistance or intervention. Mr Buhari is pursuing the dream of Nigeria enshrouding "Pax Africana" — an Africa that is self-reliant to solve its problems. In 2017, Mr Buhari took the initiative to put together a regional coalition to overthrow the Yahya Jammeh dictatorship in Gambia and oversee its transition to democracy.

Yet, domestic governance challenges have held back Nigeria from leading the continent. The long delay in Nigeria signing up to the African Continental Free Trade Agreements was a disappointment. Mr Trump's populist foreign policy should be the trigger for Nigeria to assume greater responsibilities to stabilise Africa.

The solution to a withdrawing and isolationist US under Mr Trump is not a return to a single global order under a revived US interventionism or a new Chinese order, but "post-American" regionally-based multiple orders.

America's retreat from upkeep of the international system stems from the clash between Mr Trump's "nationalism" and the liberal "globalism" of the US establishment. But the key to the multipolar world lies in tracking "regionalism" and rising powers, none of which are perfect but all of whom are starting at a rare window of opportunity created by Mr Trump. They must rise to the occasion.

The writer is a professor and dean at the Indira School of International Affairs and the author of a book published by Trumped: Emerging Powers in a Post-American World

Turkey's post-Brexit challenge for Britain and Europe, for good

Robert Tombs

This election campaign feels unreal. Commentators focus on spending plans and personal foibles, but what will make next week's vote historic is something other, something so momentous that we draw back from discussing it seriously. The Lib Dems boast of Stopping Brexit, knowing that as things are now they will never have to try. Jeremy Corbyn pleads neutrality: the first leader not sure if he is the leader on since poor Henry VI in the Wars of the Roses. The Conservatives, whose hopes of office depend entirely on this issue, downplay its importance: "Get Brexit Done", ministers repeat, as if it were a tiresome distraction from real politics. Perhaps it is, if "real politics" is only about mending pot-holes and recruiting nurses. But however much we wish it were, and perhaps voters, would prefer it all to go away, this election will change us and Europe, and have an impact on the wider international system.

First and most obviously, it will decide whether one of the world's most famous and powerful states is still independent, or whether it has in reality become a sub-ordinate component of a larger foreign entity. Our independence is a matter of psychology. Britain voted in 2016 by a clear majority to be an independent state. If Boris Johnson fails to win a majority to "get Brexit done", it will show that the British electorate has backed away from that decision, perhaps through fear of the consequences following a constant battering with anti-Brexit propaganda, perhaps through the coming of age of a new genera-

tion for whom independent national democracy appears to have little meaning.

At the moment, this seems unlikely to be the outcome. Despite a humiliating trial of mismanagement, the 2016 vote will be confirmed by an electorate angry at being despised. This means that most of those who govern us — or governed us in politics, the media, the quangocracy and the universities will have been defied. They will have lost. What we have seen emerge — as in a bloodless War of the Roses — is a divided elite. On one hand, a national elite that bases its legitimacy on its identification with the nation and the majority will. On the other, a transnational elite — far bigger, more determined, and more confident of our constitution than we could have imagined in 2016 — which draws authority and legitimacy from the multiple links with the EU. Defeat of the transnational elite will be a kind of peaceful revolution, and like any revolutions, its outcome is unpredictable and for some unpleasant. Most, like the Abbe Sieyès, who said his great achievement during the French Revolution was to have survived, will accept the new reality, and will go into internal exile and try their best to make trouble.

The effect of a Johnson victory in this election will also be momentous for the EU, despite the whistling in the dark of Europhilies who affect indifference. Brexit will be the greatest setback both material and psychological, to the vision of European integration since its inception. Eurosceptics elsewhere are lying low. Moreover, Britain will no longer be the main barrier against a further

THE 'BREXIT' ELECTION

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they eroded EU's legitimacy, we sidestepped with little material consequence. Anti-EU elections in Greece and Italy were more brutally stamped on. Similar tactics are tried with Britain, with the conviction of the transnational elite, there was not even the offer of cosmetic reforms to save the electorate's face. The intention was that domestic political chaos would nullify any similar tactics tried with Britain, with the conviction of the transnational elite, there was not even the offer of cosmetic reforms to save the electorate's face.

There is no way the European Union can replace the loss of the UK. It will be permanently diminished in the future. Britain is the equivalent of the 18 smaller members combined. Militarily, it is Europe's only real power. British troops are guarding the Baltic. Culturally, it is the most influential globally. The EU will still have to use the English language, and its brightest young people will still scramble to study and work here.

Yet paradoxically, in the short term Brexit has given a boost to federalism. The chaos and division it has provoked is serious deterrent against any other nation's exit. Even if Britain finally asserts its sovereignty, Eurosceptics elsewhere are lying low. Moreover, Britain will no longer be the main barrier against a further

centralisation of power. Federalists, led boldly by Emmanuel Macron, argue that the effectiveness and even survival of the EU demand financial and military integration — two fundamental prerogatives of sovereignty. They may well try to force an irrevocable British government to accept an ambassadorial position under an EU Defence Union as a condition for a Free Trade Agreement. But a great leap forward may be more than the EU's shaky political structure can stand. Will Brexit be a new beginning for Europe, or the beginning of the end of its great power ambitions?

The same portentous question is often asked of the UK. But the answer is not an economic disaster — which disinterested analysis discounts the Union will be strengthened. That is why the Welsh and Irish nationalists loathe Brexit, as only the EU offers them any hope, however fanciful, of ending the oppression of their country, or their neighbourhood or Slovenia. A greater challenge to the Union, and to our very idea of ourselves, will be the future of the rest of the world. Opponents of Brexit predict it will diminish our status while they accuse its supporters of nostalgia for a lost world. Reality, Brexit signals our real embrace of a post-imperial role — an optimistic yet realistic decision.

When the American Secretary of State Dean Acheson quipped in 1982 that Britain had lost an empire but not found a role, most of the British political class thought that Europe was the answer. Europe would provide a substitute for empire, a source of influence that would allow Britain to remain in contact with the Americans and the Commonwealth — in short, to "punch above our weight".

This was always an elite view, never vouchsafed to the multitude, for whom empire was of no great importance. The British elite made a similar calculation, and they, unlike us, are sticking with it, perhaps because they have used the EU more single-mindedly to serve their own interests.

Britain's haste to find a substitute empire was suffused with pessimism. It had fled postwar fear of economic decline, which has simply proved false. British economic growth has matched that of the US since the 1950s and exceeded that of most of Europe since the early 1980s. Second is the assumption that it was only possession of a large empire that had made Britain significant, and that she lost colonies it was spent force. This still lingers: Jeremy Hunt, speaking of our duty to support the democracies, said that it was none other than saying, "Although we no longer have an empire..." But the empire was not a source of strength, but a drain on it. It dispersed our resources, distorted our defences, and was terribly vulnerable.

It is not necessary to substitute empire or an economic crutch in the form of European integration in the 1980s. We still do not need to realise it.

The British have been adept at escaping empires, including the one: Adam Smith said Benjamin Franklin predicted that we would be part of a trans-Atlantic empire governed from New York, so the American Declaration of Independence in effect liberated Britain too. We made far less effort than the French to keep an empire after 1945. We seem to be about to escape again, this time from Mr Verhofstadt's empire.

By arrangement with the Spectator

How to start your own country: All you need is 'friends'



Shiban Mehta

The Gujarat police reported last month that Nithyananda had fled from India. The latest string of charges made against the godman includes abduction, child labour, criminal intimidation and causing hurt, adding to the already long list of alarming crimes. Adding another layer of complexity is a recent discovery that Nithyananda has set up his own Hindu nation, Kalaasa, located off the coast of Ecuador. This is not a new religion, but a set of official languages and even set up a department for homeland security and defence. To all appearances, it seems like a legitimate country and may inspire others to establish their own. But creating a new country is not as easy as you would think.

recognise other claimants of statehood.

The current view is currently in prominance. However, it is probably just beginning its decline in favour of the constitutional view, a popular argument that favours international recognition to be a necessary condition is that it provides legitimacy. Bosnia and Herzegovina's claim to statehood was buttressed by widespread recognition despite not being recognised perfectly. Recognition, however, is complicated. During the Cold War, for instance, the legitimacy of both North and South Vietnam depended on which side was asked. Even today Palestine, Taiwan, Tibet, Liechtenstein and other entities that are recognised by some but not by others. With strong arguments on both sides, the struggle to get a country to emerge superior will not end soon.

THE INTERNATIONAL CLUB OF COUNTRIES

For a state to be initiated into the international community at present, it must have some degree of recognition at least. There is no better, more significant stamp of international legitimacy than United Nations membership. Admittance to the UN is a form of approval as a full member of the international club of countries. While the process for gaining membership is fairly simple to follow — only treaties, Kalaasa passes the muster and has successfully joined the ranks of Transnistria, Sealand, Somaliland, and a host of other countries. Unfortunately, it won't see its flag waving at the Olympic Games any time soon.

If team Nithyananda had not skipped the fine print like most of us do when it comes to agreeing to terms and conditions before a software update, it could realise that establishing a country requires more than creating a website. There are two competing international law theories on state recognition. The declaratory theory, on which the Montevideo Convention is based, holds that recognition by other countries is irrelevant because the status of statehood is based on fact and not on discretion. Diametrically opposing the declaratory theory is the constitutive theory that postulates that recognition of an entity as a country is not based on the declaration. A state is only a state when it is recognised as such and other states. This assumes that existing countries have considerable discretion to

Meditate and celebrate your original being



Swami Chaitanya Keerti

Some Western news agencies have reported that scientists can now "upload knowledge to your brain". Many people feel this is good news, I don't consider it good news if this process transforms a human being into a machine that has been wired, and some outside agency can control it. This may transform human beings into slaves, totally dependent on scientific masters. There is a

grave danger — that of an individual being hijacked by his super-efficient brain, and getting lost in the wonders that it can perform. He will completely forget his soul that already remains sleepy most of the time.

Speaking in psychology, nothing comes to the fore every human being, from his childhood, has always been fed with all kinds of religious beliefs — of Hinduism, Islam, Buddhism, Christianity, etc. — that makes a human being into a machine. Religious leaders have done it successfully even before modern science could think of it. Researchers claim to have developed a simulator that can

feed information directly into a person's brain and teach new skills in a shorter amount of time. They believe it could be the first step in developing advanced software that will make Matrix-style instant learning a reality. This is certainly exciting, but it is not a happy thing. The inner bliss that happens when one gains a new knowledge discovered through meditation, one does not gain any borrowed knowledge discovered by others, but you attain self-knowledge. This is the approach that is not life imitating art or science, but the art of living a life of originality. A life of imitation is a life of impersonation and imprisonment — not

the real self and the free spirit. You believe your traditions, your scriptures, your religions — all are closing your being from all sides. No fresh air, no sun, no rays of fragrance coming with the air, no life dancing inside you with the sun's rays — how can you be happy? You can you be blissful? You have carved a grave for yourself. Alive, you are living inside the grave.

The brain with consciousness is a mere computer, and may function very efficiently, but it is the awakening of consciousness that matters most.

Swami Chaitanya Keerti, editor of Osho World, is the author of Mindfulness. Master Key

Japanese market for Indian goods assured

BOMBAY, Dec. 9. THE third joint meeting of business co-operation committees of India and Japan got off to a good start with the Japanese delegation promising to promote the import of Indian industrial products in 2020.

The Japanese delegation also expressed its willingness to promote more private capital investment in India. This is the first time that a country is not based on the declaration. A state is only a state when it is recognised as such and other states. This assumes that existing countries have considerable discretion to

to promote imports.

Shiban Mehta is a policy analyst with the geopolitical programme at The Takshashila Institution in Bengaluru



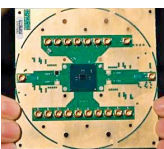
Domain demand

Social media influencer Rossi Lorathio Adams II gets 14 years in prison for his role in a plot to steal a domain name at gunpoint

SHORT TAKES

NOBEL WINNER ARNOLD TO SERVE ALPHABET

Mumbai, Dec. 10: Google parent Alphabet Inc. on Tuesday appointed Nobel Prize winner, Frances Arnold, to its board, filling a vacancy left by the retirement of fellow academic Shirley Tilghman. Arnold, who manages a research group at the California Institute of Technology, will serve on the technology giant's nominating and corporate governance committees. Alphabet said she will receive an initial equity award of \$1 million in the form of restricted stock units. Arnold won the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 2018 for pioneering science in enzymes and antibodies. Tilghman, a molecular biology professor, retired from Alphabet's board in February last year. — Reuters



INTEL CHIP TO AIDE QUANTUM COMPUTERS

Mumbai, Dec. 10: Quantum computers aim to carry out tasks in just a few minutes that would take today's best conventional computers thousands of years. But in nearly every photograph of the devices, there's a tangle of wires in the background connected to equipment that controls the quantum computer. Intel on Tuesday announced a chip that it says will change that. The Santa Clara, California-based chipmaker announced a chip called 'Horse Ridge' designed to take all the work being done by the wires and shrink it down to a chip and electronics about the size of a teacup saucer. Quantum computers remain years away from everyday use but have drawn the interest of major technology companies. In October, researchers at Alphabet Inc.'s Google said they had created a machine that can outpace conventional computers. Other major technology firms such as IBM and Microsoft are also pursuing the technology. Intel has two quantum efforts, each examining a different way of building the core of a quantum computer. That central part of a quantum machine uses what are known as qubits. In many quantum computers, the qubits must be kept very cold, near the temperatures where atoms stop moving, inside a special refrigerator. That makes it very difficult to connect wires to the qubits to send and receive information. Most of those wires and additional electronics have to sit outside the special refrigerator. — Agencies

INCognito MODE IN GOOGLE MAPS FOR IOS

Mumbai, Dec. 10: In a pleasant news to Apple users, Google rolls out Incognito mode for Google Maps on iOS. Google announced the feature at its I/O developer conference in Ma, and it is already available for Google Maps on Android. Incognito mode works, to a large extent, like it does in the Chrome browser. When users search for a location while going into Incognito mode, Google won't save the information in the user's Google account. — Agencies

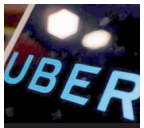
Robo Chassis



Cougar launches its new computer casing, Conquer 2, styled to look like a robotic head.

Apple to return to CES after 28 years

Mumbai, Dec. 9: After a no show at the Consumer Electronics Show (CES) for nearly three decades, Apple is finally making a comeback to the biggest tech trade show in the world. CES posted its speaker agenda, in an apparent indication that Apple will have an official presence at the event. The company won't have a product booth and isn't expected to announce anything major at the event. It is learnt that Apple will be at the event to discuss issues on privacy. The last time Apple made an appearance at CES was in 1992, when former CEO John Sculley introduced the Newton. Even though the company hasn't had an official presence at the event since, its influence on CES has still held strong. Many Apple employees attend the event every year. Also, Apple posted a giant billboard about privacy in Las Vegas for CES 2019. Jane Horvath, Apple's senior director of global privacy, will appear at a roundtable panel discussion on January 7. She will be joined by executives from Facebook, Procter and Gamble and the commissioner of the FTC. Horvath's panel will discuss how companies build privacy at scale and have to regulate it along with what consumers want. — Agencies



UBER CLOSE TO ACQUIRING FORESIGHT

Uber Technologies is in advanced negotiations to acquire Foresight, a startup that develops simulation software. The Information reported on Tuesday, citing a source familiar with the matter. The report did not mention the deal terms but said the price mainly covered the cost of hiring the team behind the simulation software. The Information reported on Tuesday, citing a source familiar with the matter. The report did not mention the deal terms but said the price mainly covered the cost of hiring the team behind the simulation software. The Information reported on Tuesday, citing a source familiar with the matter. — Agencies

Bug that bypasses antivirus spotted

Mumbai, Dec. 10: In an act never witnessed before, makers of the Snatch ransomware are using a trick to bypass antivirus software and encrypt files in target devices without being detected. According to zdn.net, the trick relies on rebooting an infected computer into safe mode and running the ransomware's file encryption process from there. The loophole lies in the fact that most antivirus software do not start in Windows safe mode, a state meant for debugging and recovery of a corrupt operating system. However, the Snatch crew discovered that they could use a Windows registry key to schedule a Windows service to start in Safe Mode. This service would run their ransomware in safe mode without the risk of being detected by antivirus software and having its encryption process stopped. The service mod trick was discovered by the incident response team at Sophos Labs, who were called in to investigate a ransomware infection in the past few weeks. Its research team says it is a trick that could be rapidly adopted by other ransomware crews as well. — Agencies

Google faces investigation over firing four employees

Mumbai, Dec. 10: US agency National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) is investigating whether Google broke the law when it fired four employees who were involved in organizing a union, CNBC said. A spokesperson of the NLRB confirmed the probe and said the agency will examine whether the company discouraged employees from union activity. Google said the employees, dubbed the 'Thanksgiving Four', were fired for violating the company's security policy. But the employees wrote on Medium last week that organizing a union caused the dismissals. "We've all been subjected to interrogations, some of us for hours, and all of us had our reputations smeared in the press as Google spread rumors that we were rule-breaking troublemakers who 'leaked' sensitive information," the sacked employees wrote. "This is flatly untrue, and in violation of our meetings with HR and Google's internal investigations team, the company acknowledged this. A careful reading of their statements will only confirm this." — Agencies

EMAILCEPTION: YOU CAN NOW EMAIL YOUR EMAILS IN GMAIL

In Gmail's next update, an upgrade that allows users to send emails as attachments without having to forward or download will be added. In Google's words, "You can now attach emails to other emails in Gmail." This means users can attach as many emails as they want. The attached emails will appear as .eml files. Users who like to have multiple tabs open can access the attachment in a new window. Google says users demanded a solution for situations where attaching emails makes more sense than forwarding separate emails, like wanting to forward multiple messages related to a single topic. With the new feature, users can send emails as attachments, write a summary email message to recipients and attach a set of supporting emails that recipients can directly open in their mail client. — Agencies

GOOGLE MAKES STRIDES WITH ITS ARCore

Mumbai, Dec. 10: Ever since the official launch of ARCore last year, Google made a lot of progress to improve its augmented reality platform. The company said it is now ready to unveil some of the next-generation upgrades to the depth detection and physics it has achieved. The upgrades will make experiences with augmented reality seem much more realistic in the future. According to The Verge, the upgrades, part of ARCore's all-new Depth API, will soon allow developers to perform what's known as occlusion, which is when an artificial object can be blocked from view by other real-world objects in a scene. For example, if a toy cat is placed in a room, it would disappear when the camera is angled in a way that a bed or table or some other object is placed in front of it. The depth detection allows a smartphone to understand how every object in a scene and how far apart each object is from one another. Google says it is able to do this after it optimised its existing software. Hence there would be no need for a phone with a specific sensor or a type of processor. — Agencies

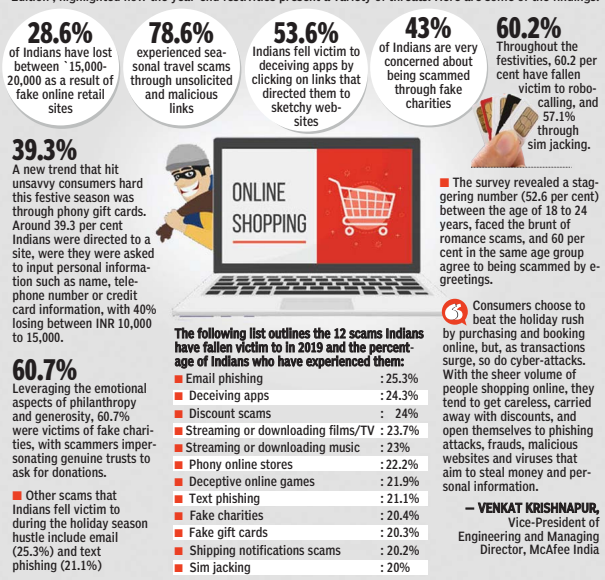
Child content rules to be changes soon

Mumbai, Dec. 9: Google asked the US Federal Trade Commission (FTC) to eliminate rules that categorise anyone watching 'child-directed' content online as under 13 while regulators revamp privacy regulations that could have a sweeping impact on the company's YouTube video service. The Alphabet Inc. unit filed comments with the FTC as the agency considers changing its rules under the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA) which regulates how Internet companies collect data on young people. In September, Google agreed to pay \$170 million to resolve the FTC's claims that YouTube violated COPPA by serving targeted advertisements to children under 13. In response, YouTube agreed to end personalised ads on any videos that are meant for children, a potential hit to sales for the company and its thousands of video creators. The Federal Trade Commission settlement also holds creators on the site responsible for future violations, sparks panic among some producers. — Agencies

We dismissed four individuals who were engaged in intentional and often repeated violations of our longstanding data security policies — GOOGLE

56.1% INDIANS FELL PREY TO DISCOUNT SCAMS

In a shocking revelation, one in every three Indians confessed to have been conned by discount scams, where a malicious file was downloaded onto their device. McAfee's recent survey, 'A Christmas Carol: Scam Edition', highlighted how the year-end festivities present a variety of threats. Here are some of the findings:



Company says it lost the deal due to the US President's personal vendetta against Bezos

Amazon names Trump for losing Pentagon bid

Washington, Dec. 10: Amazon says President Donald Trump's "improper pressure" and behind-the-scenes attacks harmed its chances of winning a \$10 billion Pentagon contract. The Pentagon awarded the cloud computing contract to Microsoft in October. Amazon argues, in a lawsuit unsealed in the US court of federal claims, that the decision should be revisited because of "substantial and pervasive errors" and Trump's interference. Amazon and its founder, Jeff Bezos, are a frequent target of Trump. Bezos personally owns The Washington Post, which Trump has referred to as 'fake news' whenever the defense department's bid was published about him. Amazon said it lost the deal due to Trump's "personal vendetta" against Bezos, Amazon, and The Washington Post. Pentagon spokeswoman Elisabeth Smezer said in a statement: the decision to select Microsoft "was made by an expert team of career public servants and military officers" and without external influence. Formally called the Joint Enterprise Defense Infrastructure plan, or JEDI, the military's computing project would store and process vast amounts of classified data. The defense department has said it will help speed up its war planning and fighting capabilities and enable the military to advance its use of Artificial Intelligence. Amazon and Microsoft became the finalists after Oracle and IBM were eliminated in an earlier round of the contract competition. Oracle has also sued, arguing the bidding was rigged in Amazon's favour. Trump publicly waded into the bidding process over the summer, saying he heard complaints and wanted the Pentagon to take a closer look. "The department is confident in the JEDI award and remains focused on getting this critical capability into the hands of our warfighters as quickly and efficiently as possible," Smith said. Microsoft said in a statement it has "confidence in the qualified staff at the department of defense, and we believe the facts will make little sense without detailed, thorough and fair process." Charles Tiefer, a government contracting law professor at the University of Baltimore, said it would be an "uphill battle" for Amazon to win the lawsuit. The company must prove real influence by the President beyond his tweets and campaign speeches. Emails and other documents would have to prove that Trump's views toward Amazon were on the mind of officials in charge of awarding the contract. "That's hard to show," Tiefer said. "But it's not impossible." Amazon makes the case in the lawsuit that its cloud services were a better fit for the project because of its speed, efficiency and experience securely handling classified government data. "Basic justice requires re-evaluation of proposals and a new award decision," the Amazon lawsuit said. "The stakes are high. The President of the United States should be allowed to use the budget of defense department to pursue his own personal and political ends." Amazon Web Services has been the industry leader in moving businesses and other institutions onto its cloud — a term used to describe banks of servers in remote data centers that can be accessed from almost anywhere. — AP

KEY CONTRACT

personally owns The Washington Post, which Trump has referred to as 'fake news' whenever the defense department's bid was published about him. Amazon said it lost the deal due to Trump's "personal vendetta" against Bezos, Amazon, and The Washington Post. Pentagon spokeswoman Elisabeth Smezer said in a statement: the decision to select Microsoft "was made by an expert team of career public servants and military officers" and without external influence. Formally called the Joint Enterprise Defense Infrastructure plan, or JEDI, the military's computing project would store and process vast amounts of classified data. The defense department has said it will help speed up its war planning and fighting capabilities and enable the military to advance its use of Artificial Intelligence. Amazon and Microsoft became the finalists after Oracle and IBM were eliminated in an earlier round of the contract competition. Oracle has also sued, arguing the bidding was rigged in Amazon's favour. Trump publicly waded into the bidding process over the summer, saying he heard complaints and wanted the Pentagon to take a closer look. "The department is confident in the JEDI award and remains focused on getting this critical capability into the hands of our warfighters as quickly and efficiently as possible," Smith said. Microsoft said in a statement it has "confidence in the qualified staff at the department of defense, and we believe the facts will make little sense without detailed, thorough and fair process." Charles Tiefer, a government contracting law professor at the University of Baltimore, said it would be an "uphill battle" for Amazon to win the lawsuit. The company must prove real influence by the President beyond his tweets and campaign speeches. Emails and other documents would have to prove that Trump's views toward Amazon were on the mind of officials in charge of awarding the contract. "That's hard to show," Tiefer said. "But it's not impossible." Amazon makes the case in the lawsuit that its cloud services were a better fit for the project because of its speed, efficiency and experience securely handling classified government data. "Basic justice requires re-evaluation of proposals and a new award decision," the Amazon lawsuit said. "The stakes are high. The President of the United States should be allowed to use the budget of defense department to pursue his own personal and political ends." Amazon Web Services has been the industry leader in moving businesses and other institutions onto its cloud — a term used to describe banks of servers in remote data centers that can be accessed from almost anywhere. — AP

Slump pulls down power demand in November

Data Bill gives backdoor access to all private info

Overleaf

quick BITES

| INDICATORS | % |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| Sensex | 40,239.88 -0.61 |
| Nifty 50 | 11,856.80 -0.68 |
| S&P 500* | 3,136.44 +0.02 |
| Dollar (₹) | 70.92 -0.14 |
| Pound Sterling (₹) | 83.50 -0.07 |
| Euro (₹) | 78.60 -0.08 |
| Gold (10gm) (₹) | 38,460.95 -0.24 |
| Brent crude (\$/bbl)* | 64.33 +0.08 |
| IN 10-Yr bond yield | 6.703 +0.66 |
| US 10-Yr T-bill yield* | 1.84 +2.0 |

* As of 9:30 pm IST

Yes Bank to consider \$500 mn Citax group offer

The Yes Bank board is willing to favourably consider the offer of \$500 million investment by Citax Holdings and Citax Investment Group, the lender said. The \$1.2 billion binding offer of Erwin Smit, former Braich/SPGP Holdings continues to be under the board's consideration, it said. The board will decide action next to Citax in the next meeting.

Sikka joins Oracle's board of directors



Vishal Sikka, the ex-Infosys CEO and a global expert in artificial intelligence, has been nominated to the board of directors of global technology major Oracle. Sikka, 52, is among the world's leading experts in AI and machine learning and he would be helping Oracle in the business value, the company based in Redwood Shores, California, said in a statement.

Cyril Amarchand takes over M&E Practice of Parekh

Law firm Cyril Amarchand Mangaldas said it has acquired the Media and Entertainment Practice of Ashni Parekh, who has joined the firm as senior advisor. Parekh, a media and entertainment lawyer, has been associated with Bollywood production houses and directors. The buyout is in keeping with the firm's focus on scaling its technology, Cyril Shroff said.

Huge savings from linkage rationalisation

Coal India said about 58 thermal power plants in the country are saving Rs 3,770 crore per annum in coal transportation cost after CIL had implemented the fuel linkage rationalisation. A total of 63 million tonne of coal movement is involved under the rationalisation policy. The linkage rationalisation refers to transfer of coal supply source of a power plant from a far end mine to the nearer one.

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Bank would have made ₹6,968-cr net loss instead of profit SBI under-reported close to ₹12,000 cr bad loans

FALAKNAAZ SYED MUMBAI, DEC. 10

The country's largest lender, State Bank of India (SBI), on Tuesday disclosed that the central bank's inspection has found that it had under-reported bad loans by Rs 11,932 crore in 2018-19.

While the gross non-performing assets (GNPA) reported by the bank as on March 31, 2019 was Rs 1.72 lakh crore, the GNPA as per the Reserve Bank of India's risk assessment report (RAR) for the same period was Rs 1.84 lakh crore, SBI said in a notification to the exchanges.

This divergence in GNPA for the year stood at Rs 11,932 crore, it said. Similarly, the net NPAs disclosed by the bank for FY19 stood at Rs 65,865 crore while the regulator's assessment of net NPAs was at Rs 77,827 crore.

The bank had provided Rs 1.06 lakh crore for the



bad loans but the provisions as assessed by the RBI was Rs 1.18 lakh crore. The central bank found that the divergence in provisioning for stressed assets (NPAs) stood at Rs 12,036 crore in FY19.

If the bank had made the provisions as assessed by the RBI, it would have reported a net loss of Rs 6,968 crore for the FY19 as opposed to a profit of Rs 862 crore, the lender said.

Among these, Yes Bank, with a gross NPA divergence of Rs 3,277 crore, was the highest. Anil Gupta, Vice President and Sector Head, Financial Sector Ratings at Ica Ltd said, "Given that the recognition for stressed assets at the system level has been largely done, the GNPA divergence for banks in FY18 was limited and is expected to be limited for FY19 also. However, on the provisioning side, the divergence was elevated during FY18 and is expected to remain elevated for the review period of FY19 too.

Divergence in bad loans and provisions arise when a bank's and RBI's assessments differ.

In October, the Sebi asked banks to disclose the divergence in asset classification and provisioning immediately upon assessment of the RBI's final risk assessment report.

E-ride overtakes e-food in volume terms in Q2

SANGEETHA G CHENNAI, DEC. 10

E-ride or e-food? In the race between the two, the winner is e-ride.

The newer models in online mobility services are growing rapidly but the average order value of food aggregators is rather shrinking. This helped e-mobility to move ahead of food tech in volume of transactions. The average order value of food tech has also been coming down over the last few quarters.

In the September quarter, online mobility platforms recorded a total of 1.3 billion annualised trips, while food tech apps witnessed 1.1 billion annualised orders. While both the segments have been registering growth, food tech saw slower growth in the September quarter and e-mobility retained its pace of growth, finds RedSeer Consulting. According to the



Bengaluru-based consultant, the growth in e-mobility is currently driven by alternative mobility services like e-bikes and e-autos as cab services have become expensive. In the case of food tech, the average order value has been coming down quarter after quarter.

"For the longest while, India's ride-hailing space was dominated by four-wheeler cabs, which are expensive and less available. However, our research shows that this is no longer the case. Autos market has grown to become significantly big in alternative mobility space and bike hailing is catching up rapidly as well. Other segments are much smaller but growing

steadily and likely to continue accelerating going forward," says RedSeer.

Autos and bikes have already grabbed 11 per cent of the online mobility market. Both bikes and autos are addressing a few pain points relating to affordability, availability and convenience as they manoeuvre traffic in congested metros. E-bikes are 26 per cent cheaper than cabs.

Apart from high double-digit growth in rides, expansion of operations to additional cities is also helping the overall growth of bikes and autos.

On the other hand, in food tech, the average order value (AOV) of aggregators have been falling due to flat-priced meals and affordable single-serve meals, which are priced Rs 80-150. The contribution of these orders is increasing. The AOV has come down from Rs 380 in Q4 2017 to Rs 260 in Q3 2019.

MICHAEL GONSALVES PUNE, DEC. 10

Passenger vehicle sales in Asia's third biggest car market resumed their declining trend in November after a blip in the preceding month, indicating automakers are yet to recover from the worst auto slowdown in India in more than a decade.

Passenger vehicle sales, which include cars, utility vehicles and vans, fell 0.4 per cent year-on-year to 2.64 lakh units in November, the latest official data by the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers, or Siam, the top trade lobby, showed on Tuesday.

While car sales were down 11 per cent over the year to 1.60 lakh units, utility vehicle sales rose 32.7 per cent to 92,739 units, according to Siam, bringing some cheer to the slowing segment. "There is some recovery in the passenger vehicle

Securitisation shores up retail loan growth figures

FALAKNAAZ SYED MUMBAI, DEC. 10

Despite consumer spending slowing down sharply, banks have continued to report double-digit growth in retail loans. How? Retail securitisation transactions is the actual reason for the bump up in the retail credit numbers and the rise in borrowings does not mean that the money was lent to individuals. If the lending for securitisation is removed from the bank retail credit growth numbers, there would actually be a decline in retail loan growth.

Data shows that in the first half, retail credit of banks grew 16.6 per cent, or at twice the speed of overall bank credit growth, and apace with the average growth of the past three years. Of the incremental retail loans disbursed by banks, a chunk was to buy 'pools' of loan receivables of non-banks. Such pools or packages of receivables from retail loans disbursed by non-banks are sold to investors. These are called demand securitisation transactions and these get classified as retail bank credit.

With conventional sources of funding—bank loans, bonds and commercial paper—becoming difficult to access, many non-banks (NBFCs) have been rushing to securitise their receivables, especially after the credit crunch post the IL&FS crisis in September 2018.

Consequently, the retail securitisation volume doubled last fiscal, and has soared 39 per cent in the first half. Overall, lending for securitisation started up to 31 per cent of incremental bank credit last fiscal, compared with 17 per cent in 2017 and 11 per cent in 2015. In the first half of this fiscal, the number climbed to 37 per cent. About half of the securitisation transactions were home loan receivables, while a quarter was vehicle loan receivables and 11 per cent was microfinance loan receivables. If these are taken off, there would be a dip in lending growth. "The growth in lending from retail loans disbursed by non-banks are sold to investors. These are called demand securitisation transactions and these get classified as retail bank credit.

growth in the last five years, according to Crisil Research.

"Consumer behaviour in the past 18 months throws up an unusual trend: spending has slowed, but borrowings remain robust. Private consumption decelerated to 4.1 per cent in the first half of this fiscal, nearly halving on-year. Indeed, for a while now, indicators have been suggesting consumers have turned chary of spending. Then why are they borrowing?..So, to arrive at the true picture of bank retail credit growth, we removed the lending-for-securitisation data, and...Vollat The growth in retail lending emerged in sharp relief," wrote DK Joshi, Chief Economist and Dipi Deshpande, Senior Economist at Crisil Ltd in their report, Quickonomics.

That (numbers reflecting) securitisation has been corroborates with the situation on the ground—sales of automobiles have been plummeting, while those of consumer durables, housing and several other consumer-oriented sectors have been sluggish," the economists said.

Vehicles back in slow gear; total sales down 12% in Nov.



segment but it is too early to say if the worst is behind us," Rajesh Menon, Director General at Siam, said.

He said utility vehicles had started doing very well last month itself and that is the reason why the passenger vehicle segment is showing a lesser decline, alongside the drop in the low-cost segment, he pointed out.

"New product launches are driving consumer demand and that is clearly helping the market," Menon said. However, commercial vehicles and two-wheelers

remain a concern for the industry. "Commercial vehicles and two-wheelers are continuing to show negative growth, which means infrastructure is yet to pick up and rural demand is still lagging," Menon added.

According to McKinsey & Co, the Indian automobile sector, employing million and contributing more than 7 per cent to India's GDP has been grappling with slowing sales since the Diwali festival season last year.

In fact, the worried and struggling automakers in the country were forced to

lay-off contract workers, and dealerships also shut showrooms.

While deep discounts among aggressive promotions lifted sales during this year's festive season in October, they were lower than last year, analysts pointed out.

The overall downturn in the industry continued unabated with November total vehicle sales declining 12.05 per cent to 17,92,415 units, down from 20,38,007 units sold in November 2018.

Commercial vehicle sales, the barometer of economic activity in the country, fell 15 per cent over last year to 61,907 units, while two-wheeler sales declined 14.90 per cent year-on-year to 8.94 lakh units. Two-wheeler sales fell 14.30 per cent.

Banks cut MCLR rates after RBI nudges on transmission

FALAKNAAZ SYED MUMBAI, DEC. 10

A few days after the central bank nudged banks to cut lending rates, a host of lenders have announced a cut in their marginal cost of funds based lending rate (MCLR). Bank of Baroda, the second largest public sector bank, Union Bank of India and UCO

Bank announced a cut in MCLR on Tuesday. Other banks such as State Bank of India, HDPC Bank and Bank of India have also announced a reduction in their MCLR rates on Monday. A cut in MCLR makes old home loans and other retail loans linked to MCLR cheaper.

Bank of Baroda's one-year MCLR will be 8.25 per cent, 5 basis points (bps) below the existing level, effective December 12. There is a 20 basis points reduction in overnight and one-month MCLR from 7.85 percent to 7.65 percent and a 10 bps reduction in three months and six months MCLR from 7.90 percent to 7.80 percent and 8.20 percent to 8.10 percent, respectively.

Similarly, Union Bank of India said cut one-year MCLR rate to 8.20 per cent, down 0.05 percentage point and reduced MCLR by 5-10 bps across all tenors.

Insecticide banned in West still used in India

RITWIK MUKHERJEE KOLKATA, DEC. 10

Even as the European Union late last week decided to no longer permit sales of the widely used insecticide chlorpyrifos after January 31, 2020, in India, the insecticide's residues in fruit and vegetables are still found to be above safety limits by the National Institute of Occupational Health.

Chlorpyrifos and chlorpyrifos-methyl have been identified as possible causes of neurological damage in children.

After a vote last Friday by its 28 member states, the European Union said that the risks of exposure to the chemical were of particular concern when it came to children's health. Chlorpyrifos is an organophosphate pesticide (OP), banned in America for non-agricultural use. Ironically, several studies have found that OPs are indiscriminately being used in India even on fruits and vegetables, for which they have not been approved.



fourth most used pesticide in India and due to indiscriminate use of chlorpyrifos and other chemicals for agriculture and termite treatment of the foundations of new buildings, the air, drinking water, milk, fruit & vegetables contain chlorpyrifos, endosulfan, DDT, HCH, other organochloride and organophosphate pesticide residues much above the limits set by the World Health Organization.

For instance, last year, scientists at the National Institute of Nutrition Hyderabad had done a study on urine samples of children for presence of OPs. The study revealed that samples contained 10 to 40 times more OPs compared to their counterparts in the US and Europe. This means that Indian children are more prone to the risks of organophosphates exposure.

A separate study by Jaipur Agricultural University (AAU) and the National Institute of Occupational Health (NIOH), Ahmedabad also found toxic residues in vegetables and 817 samples collected from the market, farms and organic produce. The pesticide residues were detected in 24.3 per cent of farm gate samples, 39 per cent of market samples and 1.7 per cent of organic samples. Chlorpyrifos was among the most commonly found pesticides. In samples of pulses, chlorpyrifos residues were found to be above safety limits in green gram.

WTO tariff freeze on digital trade extended till June '20

EMMA FARGE GENEVA, DEC. 10

World Trade Organization (WTO) members agreed on Tuesday to renew a 20-year moratorium on placing tariffs on digital trade for six months, allaying fears that people would have to pay duties on e-books and software for the first time.

The moratorium on digital trade worth an estimated \$225 billion a year has been in place since 1998, but was due to expire in December and required unanimity at the WTO for renewal.



Members agreed to maintain the current practice of not imposing

trade officials said. Several countries, including India and South Africa, have expressed interest in lifting the moratorium as they develop their digital economies and seek to recuperate lost customs revenue as more trade becomes digital. Some said this could lead to tit-for-tat tariffs on the internet.

John Denton, Secretary General of the International Chamber of Commerce, welcomed the decision and said it indicated "the continued value of the WTO as a forum for multilateral trade policy making" after members failed to resolve a crisis at its top court on Monday.

- Reuters

OPENING
BELL
PROJECTION FOR TODAY

Japan mart watchdog fines Nissan

Tokyo, Dec. 10: Japan's markets watchdog said on Tuesday it has recommended that Nissan Motor Co Ltd be fined about 2.4 billion yen (\$22 million) over the under-reporting of former chairman Carlos Ghosn's compensation.

The fine would cover the four financial years from April 2014 to March 2018, markets watchdog the Securities and Exchange Surveillance Commission (SESC) said in a statement.

Ghosn was arrested in Tokyo in November last year over allegations of financial misconduct, including understating his salary by around 9.1 billion yen over a period of nearly a decade and temporarily transferring personal financial losses to the books of Nissan. He has denied wrongdoing.

Due to the statute of limitations, Nissan is not liable for under-reporting before the financial year starting in April 2014, an SESC official told a press briefing. Japan's financial regulator will make a final decision on the fine.

— Reuters

India asks Japan to cut trade surplus

New Delhi, Dec. 10: India asked Japan on Tuesday to take steps to reduce the Japanese trade surplus and sought more market access for Indian goods and services, a government statement said, before Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's visit next week.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Abe plan to hold a summit in Guwahati on December 15-16. During Modi's visit to Tokyo last year, they agreed to seek closer economic and military ties as both countries are wary of China.

Bilateral trade between the two countries rose to \$173 billion in 2018/19 from \$109 billion in 2008/09. The trade balance widened to \$7.9 billion in favour of Japan.

Despite India's decision to walk out of an ASEAN-led East Asian regional free-trade pact, Japan is still hopeful that Modi will receive a protectionist framework for India as it fixes obligation of data fiduciary (that is entity collecting, storing, processing and sensitive information of children, while mandating the processing of "critical personal data" only in India. But data concerning health services and for complying with any law or court orders should be processed without the consent of the owner, the draft bill said.

It also gives power to the government to decide from time to time on the exemption list.

The draft bill, cleared by the Cabinet last week, aims to create a "strong and robust" protectionist framework for India as it fixes obligation of data fiduciary (that is entity collecting, storing, processing and sensitive information of children, while mandating the processing of "critical personal data" only in India. But data concerning health services and for complying with any law or court orders should be processed without the consent of the owner, the draft bill said.

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— Reuters

Jewellery exports fall 4.7% in Nov.

Mumbai, Dec. 10: Led by a steep 25.5 per cent fall in cut and polished diamonds exports, the overall gems and jewellery exports fell 4.74 per cent to ₹18,136.2 crore in November, according to data given by the Gems & Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC).

Overall exports declined by 4.85 per cent to ₹17,650.39 crore between April and November 2019, from ₹1,85,543.57 crore a year ago.

The decline is mainly due to poor consumer confidence in the export markets, GJEPC said in a statement on Tuesday.

Cut and polished diamonds exports declined 25.49 per cent to ₹8,341.88 crore from ₹11,155.52 crore in November 2018. The shipments of Cut and polished diamonds in the April-November period also dipped 18.21 per cent to ₹94,274.13 crore.

— PTI

Summ pulls down power demand in Nov.

■ Except Tamil Nadu, all major industrialised states witnessed decline in electricity usage

New Delhi, Dec. 10: India's power demand fell 4.3 per cent in November from a year ago, representing the fourth straight month of decline, government data showed, essentially reflecting a worsening industrial slowdown which has stifled overall economic growth.

In October, the country's power demand fell 13.2 per cent from a year ago, its steepest monthly decline in more than 12 years, as a growth slowdown in Asia's third-largest economy deepened.

An official at India's ministry of power attributed the tepid electricity demand to an onset of winter and high rainfall, which he said has reduced the need for air conditioning.

However, electricity demand from industries account for over two-fifths of India's annual electricity consumption, according to government data, with residences accounting for nearly a fourth and commercial establishments for another 8.5 per cent.

Commercial establishments account for a bulk of the electricity demand for cooling, and air conditioning in India is still largely restricted to cities.

Electricity demand fell to 94.60 billion units in November, from 98.84 billion units during the same period last year, data compiled by the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) showed.

For the eight months ending November 30, India's electricity demand was up 1.2 per cent, the CEA said. Demand rose 6.4 per cent during the eight months ended November 30, 2018.

"Power demand can decline for two reasons: one is the existing projects not performing and second due to new projects not coming up. Both seem to be the case here," said N.R. Bhanumath, a professor at the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy in New Delhi.

Electricity demand is seen by economists as an important indicator of industrial output and a deceleration could mean a further slowdown.

India's overall economic growth slowed to 4.5 per cent in the July-September quarter, government data last month showed, the weakest pace since 2013 as consumer demand and private investment weakened.

Slower economic activity has resulted in a fall in sales of everything from cars to cookeries, prompting some large scale industries such as the automobile sector to slash jobs.

With the exception of Tamil Nadu in the country's south, demand fell in all large and industrialised states, Energy requirement fell across all regions in the country, the data showed.

India's most industrialised and electricity hungry state of Maharashtra saw demand fall 8.1 per cent, the lowest among large states such as Madhya Pradesh fell 13.9 per cent, while power requirement in Rajasthan fell 5.7 per cent.

ECONOMIC INDICATORS

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Demand from large states such as Madhya Pradesh fell 13.9 per cent, while power demand from Rajasthan fell 5.7 per cent.

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Electricity Authority 1.2 per cent, the CEA said. Demand rose 6.4 per cent during the eight months ended November 30, 2018.

Personal Data Bill gives backdoor access to all private info

New Delhi, Dec. 10: The much-talked about legislation to protect personal data will allow processing of private data without explicit consent of the owner of the information for credit scores, debt recovery, security operation of search engines and whistle blowing.

The draft Personal Data Protection Bill, 2019 which is likely to be introduced in the Lok Sabha in the next couple of days, bars storing and processing of personal data by entities without the explicit consent of an individual.

It, however, provides for exemptions for "reasonable purposes" such as "prevention and detection of any unlawful activity including fraud, whistle blowing, merger and acquisitions, network and information security, credit scoring, recovery of debt, processing of publicly available personal data and operation of search engines."

The legislation provides for stringent guard rails for processing of personal and sensitive information of children, while mandating the processing of "critical personal data" only in India. But data concerning health services and for complying with any law or court orders should be processed without the consent of the owner, the draft bill said.

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— Reuters

NO CONSENT REQUIRED

- Prevention and detection of any unlawful activity including fraud
- Whistle blowing
- Merger and acquisitions,
- Network and information security
- Credit scoring
- Recovery of debt
- Processing of publicly available personal data
- Search engines
- Data concerning health services and for complying with any law or court orders.
- Government can access any anonymised or other non-personal data

USER VERIFICATION
Social media entities with large user base — categorised as significant data fiduciaries — will enable the users in India to voluntarily verify their accounts. Any user undergoing such voluntary verification will have to be provided with a mark of verification that is visible to all users of the service.

It's like writing a blank cheque to govt: Experts

ARCHAK SENGUPTA | DC HYDERABAD, DEC. 10

Hot on the heels of the Central Information Commission to make it mandatory to link Aadhaar or any other government IDs to social media accounts, privacy enthusiasts have a new thing to worry about. Yes, it's the Personal Data Protection Bill, 2019. After all, the Bill, once touted to be a Trojan horse, seems to be a Trojan horse.

Justice B.N. Srikrishna Committee, does not require data fiduciaries (companies) to report to data principals (users) about data breaches.

"There is potential for misuse of data almost every time it collected at a large scale. Also, anonymized data may not be able to help identify individuals on its own. However, it can help identify whole communities," Mr Seth said.

However, the main revelation is that the Bill, which is meant to ensure Indian citizens have autonomy on their personal data, said that wherever the Central government is satisfied that it is necessary in the interest of sovereignty and integrity of India, the security of the state, public order, friendly relations with foreign states, it can direct that all or any of the provisions of this Act shall not apply to any agency of the government in respect of processing of such personal data.

Yes, say hello to Big Brother. And if that wasn't enough to send a shiver down the spine, then here's yet another revelation.

The Bill, similar to the one released last year by Justice B.N. Srikrishna Committee, does not require data fiduciaries (companies) to report to data principals (users) about data breaches.

"There is potential for misuse of data almost every time it collected at a large scale. Also, anonymized data may not be able to help identify individuals on its own. However, it can help identify whole communities," Mr Seth said.

Also, combining that with pre-existing datasets (gathered for the purposes of state functioning) can also result in profiling. Secondly, there is a chance that the DPA may not be able to help identify individuals in the bill is deeming it out to be.

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— ROHAN SETH, Policy expert

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Washington, Dec. 10: US and Chinese officials are working on a deal to postpone a round of tariffs set to hit Chinese imports in five days, according to a *The Wall Street Journal* report on Tuesday.

Delaying the new duties, which cover about \$150 billion in imports, including consumer favorites like mobile phones, could help reassure markets the two sides are making progress towards ending their trade war.

Officials on both sides say they now expect to continue talking past December 15, when the tariffs are due to kick in, the report said.

— AP

US tariff deadline hits global stocks

Beijing, Dec. 10: Stock markets around the world fell sharply Tuesday as nervous investors watched a rapidly approaching deadline for more US tariffs on Chinese imports.

Markets also have their eyes on American and European interest rate decisions coming this week and the outcome of Britain's general election on Thursday amid uncertainty over plans to leave the European Union.

Benchmarks in London and Frankfurt were down in midday trading. Tokyo and Hong Kong finished with losses while Shanghai closed higher after spending most of the day in negative territory. Wall Street appeared set to open lower.

Washington is due to impose new tariff hikes Sunday on \$160 billion of Chinese goods in a fight against Beijing's technology ambitions and trade surplus. Investors expect US President Donald Trump to tweet off or scrap the hikes.

China's technology ambitions and trade surplus. Investors expect US President Donald Trump to tweet off or scrap the hikes.

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US, China try to push deadline

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— AP

Investors should look for stock specific bets

The markets ended marginally higher in Asia after a volatile session. Demand for Nifty closing in green with gains of 0.1 per cent at 40,467 and 11,838.

Several shorts was a mixed bag with Auto leading the pack with gains of 0.8 per cent, followed by metals, oil and gas and energy.

On the other hand, reality was the biggest loser followed by media, IT and FMCG. The market was range-bound as it turned cautious ahead of important events this week both domestically and globally. Further with US reporting strong jobs data and China reporting weak exports, investors are worried again over US-China trade deal.

According to analysts, the market is likely to remain range-bound in the near term. Nifty valuation captures the sharp earnings recovery expected in FY21 and election mood is room for upside. Going forward, market would be driven by CPI, IIP and WPI numbers. Expectations to release this week, on the front of US Fed and ECB meeting, along with Brexit and trade deal developments would drive the markets.

The momentum indicators are also suggesting some corrective action. This traders should look for a correction in the current levels for the corrective move. Overall trend is still bullish, analysts expect a recovery in the last trading session; however, a sharp dip is still well on the daily as well as weekly charts. The index has formed a peak above 12000 on a closing basis, Jay Thakkar CMT, head, technical and derivatives research, AVP equity research, Anand Rathi Shares and Stock Brokers.

"Markets are range-bound as investors are closely watching the upcoming economic projections in CPI inflation and IIP data for any signs of progress in government's effort to revive the economy. Investors are likely to turn risk averse in domestic market as strong US job data, projected CPI inflation and expectation of status quo policy from US FED will add impetus to global market. On the global front, a close watch on CPI, IIP and WPI numbers scheduled to release this week. On the global front, trade deal developments between US-China would be a key determinant in deciding the direction for Indian as well as global markets.

— Ashwin J Punnen

Morgan Stanley fined for rigging bond prices

New York, Dec. 10: Morgan Stanley has been fined 20 million euros (\$22.2 million) in France over accusations its London desk manipulated the price of futures on French debt, the enforcement committee of the Autorite des Marches Financiers said.

However, the main revelation is that the Bill, which is meant to ensure Indian citizens have autonomy on their personal data, said that wherever the Central government is satisfied that it is necessary in the interest of sovereignty and integrity of India, the security of the state, public order, friendly relations with foreign states, it can direct that all or any of the provisions of this Act shall not apply to any agency of the government in respect of processing of such personal data.

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EU plans carbon tax on imports to protect its firms

Brussels, Dec. 10: The European Commission plans a carbon border tax aimed at shielding European steel producers and other energy-intensive industries against cheaper imports from countries with less strict climate policies.

The EU executive's president Ursula von der Leyen, who took office on December 1, is due to unveil on Wednesday her "Green Deal", a package of regulations meant to significantly reduce carbon emissions of the 28-nation bloc. The package will include a proposed "carbon border adjustment mechanism" for selected sectors to be introduced by 2021, according to a leaked Commission document, although design and feasibility details are still being worked out.

The plan could initially be tested on industries including steel, cement and aluminium, a second EU document said. It, however, is likely to face legal, economic and political constraints.

Under this option, EU importers of steel, aluminium and other goods produced with high carbon footprints would have to buy carbon allowances, as EU producers do under the EU

rules, which require equal treatment of similar products and no discrimination between domestic and foreign producers.

Compliance with WTO rules could be easier if the import levy was matched by a carbon tax on all goods, including those produced in the EU.

Under this option, the carbon leakage issue could be addressed because foreign producers would face a higher levy if they pollute more than other producers.

But EU producers would then face problems, as the prices of their exports would rise, making them less competitive abroad.

That could have a sizeable impact on some sectors. EU steelmakers, for instance, export more than 10 per cent of production.

An EU-wide tax would also need unanimous backing by all EU member states, contrary to most other EU decisions that are decided by a majority. Past attempts to introduce levies across the bloc have failed as governments are wary of the revenue-raising powers to Brussels.

Either option would require approval of the EU's Emissions Trading System (ETS), which currently grants favourable treatment to energy-intensive

industries that struggle to compete with imports from countries with more lax climate rules.

Under EU regulations, steel, mining and cement are among EU sectors that benefit from free carbon allowances until 2030, because they are deemed at risk of carbon leakage.

With a new carbon tax, those exemptions would need to be scrapped. EU growth to competitors that could be challenged at the WTO and could also cause retaliation from the US and other partners. Reuters

Emissions Trading System. This would effectively introduce an import tax and raise the price of imported goods, boosting the competitiveness of metals and other goods produced in the EU. The aim would be to counter "carbon leakage" whereby EU industries are penalised by cheaper imports from countries that apply less strict rules to trade climate change.

However, such a move risks breaching World Trade Organisation (WTO)

Ruled out

West Indies allrounder Fabian Allen has been ruled out of the third and final T20I against India on Wednesday as he is yet to regain full fitness after recovering from a knee injury



It is great to be back to our home grounds and I hope that Test cricket returns regularly to Pakistan now.

— **Azhar Ali**, Pakistan captain, on Test cricket returning to Pakistan

SHORT TAKES

Pak's Jamshed pleads guilty

London: Former Pakistan batsman Nasir Jamshed pleaded guilty on Monday to a conspiracy to bribe fellow cricketers as part of a Twenty20 spot-fixing coup. Jamshed, 34, had originally denied being involved in a plan focused on the Pakistan Super League but changed his plea during a court hearing in Manchester. Two other men, Yousef Anwar, 36, and Mohammed Ijaz, 34, admitted last week to offering financial advantages to PSL players with the intention of inducing them to perform improperly by failing to play completely in good faith. All three will be sentenced on a date to be fixed in February. Prosecutors told the court an undercover police officer had unearthed evidence by pretending to be a member of a corrupt betting syndicate. The policeman's efforts then led to the discovery of an attempted fix in the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) late in 2016 and an attempt to fix the PSL in February 2017. In both cases, an opening batsman in the Twenty20 tournaments had agreed to not score during the first two balls of an over in return for payment. — AFP

Mayank likely to replace Dhawan

New Delhi: India Test opener Mayank Agarwal is likely to replace Shikhar Dhawan in the upcoming three-match ODI series against the West Indies after the senior batsman failed to recover from his knee injury. India coach Ravi Shastri said he will play three ODIs against the West Indies in Chennai (December 15), Visakhapatnam (December 18) and Cuttack (December 22). Dhawan sustained a deep gash on his knee during a Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy game and was subsequently ruled out of the match. The 34-year-old Dhawan would have recovered from the injury but it seems more serious than what was apprehended earlier. "The selection committee has recommended Mayank's name as Shikhar's replacement after consultation with the team management. Dhawan is currently undergoing rehabilitation," a senior BCCI source said. Mayank, who is currently playing Ranji Trophy match against Tamil Nadu in Dindigul, will join the national team in Chennai before the first game. With injured KL Rahul also in the ODI side to partner vice-captain Rohit Sharma, Mayank may have to wait for his white-ball debut unless someone else is injured. Agarwal had earlier come in as a late replacement for injured Vijay Shankar during the ODI World Cup in England but he didn't get any game time. The 28-year-old Bengaluru man has been a revelation in the Test arena with 872 runs in 9 Tests matches including three centuries and three half-centuries at an average of over 67.

India, West Indies lock horns in series-finales today

Mumbai, Dec. 10: India will have to address the many inadequacies laid bare by a resolute West Indies in the second T20 International when the two teams made up of power-hitters square off in what promises to be an enthralling series-finales here on Wednesday.

The rubber is locked 1-1 after two-time world champions West Indies turned on the style in the second T20 International in Thiruvananthapuram following a Virat Kohli special in the lung-opener in Hyderabad.

For India, the focus will once again be on young guns like off-spinner Washington Sundar and under-fire wicket-keeper-batsman Rishabh Pant. The spotlight on Pant, especially, has been obsessive and it is expected to be no different when the team takes the field at the Wankhede Stadium. As for Sundar, it would be interesting to see whether the team management persists with him or gives chinaman bowler Kuldeep Yadav a game. Sundar has taken only three wickets in the last five T20s that he has played (two against West Indies and three against Bangladesh) and leaked 144 runs in 23 overs that he bowled.

He also ended up wicketless in the two T20 Internationals against South Africa. Sundar's fielding is another aspect about which skipper Virat Kohli would be worried. In the last game, he dropped a sister of Lendl Simmons, whose 45-ball 67 laid the foundation of the West Indies' eight-wicket triumph. Kuldeep last played a T20 against New Zealand in Hamilton back in February. He warmed the benches in the first two games. For Pant also things are only getting tougher. The focus on him has been unrelenting and it won't be easy for him to recover from the early form that made him seem like a prodigy.

Kuldeep Yadav last played a T20I against New Zealand in Hamilton back in February. He warmed the benches in the first two games against West Indies.



Rohit Sharma (from left), Shivam Dube and Shreyas Iyer. — TWITTER

WT20 is long way away, focus on present: Rohit

Mumbai, Dec. 10: The Indian team might be treating every bilateral T20 assignment as an audition for next year's World Cup but vice-captain Rohit Sharma prefers to focus on the present instead of losing sleep over a marquee event, which is still 10 months away. "See, I don't want to keep saying that we are trying to build a squad for the (T20) World Cup. It is still a long, long way ahead. We just need to focus on winning the series and that will keep

us in good state, moving forward," Rohit said. "If we keep winning games, keep doing the right things on the field, the composition of the team will take care (of itself)," Rohit added. The stylish batsman then gave his rationale for why he wants to take one series at a time. "We are playing against a quality team and hereafter Sri Lanka is coming, then we go to New Zealand and thereafter there are a lot of T20s to focus on. If we focus on the present, that will help us more than

anything else." "Right now, we need to see what are the mistakes we are making so that when we come back out to play every fresh game, we look like a different side." Talk about chasing, Rohit agreed that India have been better while batting second compared to defending totals as one found out in the first two games in Hyderabad (won while chasing) and Thiruvananthapuram (lost while defending). "Yes, of late our chasing has been good compared to posting targets." — PTI

No one can mess with MSD: Shastri

New Delhi, Dec. 10: India coach Ravi Shastri says none can "mess around with" Mahendra Singh Dhoni if he decides to be in contention for next year's T20 World Cup but the enigmatic former captain would "never impose himself" on the team. Shastri was asked about the much-speculated future of Dhoni, who has been on a sabbatical ever since India's semifinal exit from the ODI World Cup in England earlier this year. "That (Dhoni) guy is a legend. The last thing he will want is to impose himself on an Indian team, having known him. He is wanting to take a break but he is going to play the IPL," Shastri said on the show 'The Inspiration'.

Asked if he isn't ruling out a comeback by the 38-year-old, Shastri answered, "The amount of sport he has played... if he puts himself in contention... if he feels after the IPL that I am good enough to play for India, don't mess around with that." Dhoni, after maintaining a stoic silence on his future plans for months, had recently stated that, "Don't ask anything till January." National selection committee chairman MSK Prasad has, however, made it clear that the panel has "moved on" and Dhoni is aware of its intent to blood youngsters such as Rishabh Pant keeping in mind next year's T20 World Cup in Australia. Pant hasn't exactly capitalised on the chances that have come his way and has coped criticism for sloppy work behind the stumps. Recently, Pant also drew flak for poor DRS calls, something that the seasoned Dhoni had aced. Dhoni was seen training with Jharkhand's under-23 team in Ranchi last month, triggering a fresh round of speculation on a possible comeback. The veteran has played 50 Tests, 350 ODIs and 98 T20 Internationals for India, accumulating over 17,000 runs. — PTI

HIGHEST INNINGS TOTALS

India 192-2 in 20 overs vs Windies in 2016
Windies 196-3 in 19.4 overs vs India in 2016

LOWEST INNINGS TOTALS

India 177-8 in 20 overs vs England in 2012
Windies 183-4 in 18.1 overs vs England in 2016

HIGHEST INDIVIDUAL SCORES

India 89* Virat Kohli vs Windies in 2016
Windies 100* Chris Gayle vs England in 2016

BEST BOWLING FIGURES

India 3-17 Yuvraj Singh vs England in 2012
Windies 2-36 Andre Russell vs England in 2016



Ravi Shastri

LIVE on TV

India vs West Indies
3rd T20I
on STAR Sports 1, HD
@ 7 PM

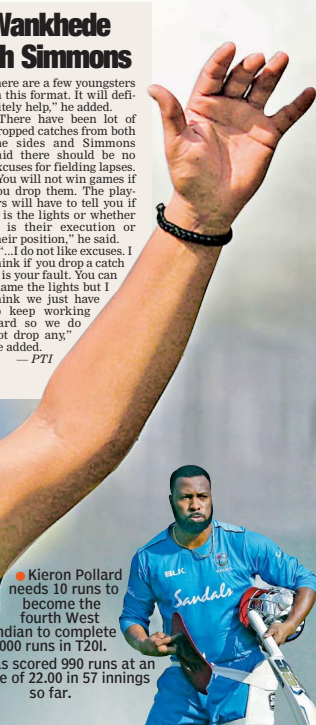
Pollard's IPL experience at Wankhede will help Windies, says coach Simmons

Mumbai, Dec. 10: West Indies coach Phil Simmons on Tuesday said the team would be banking heavily on skipper Kieron Pollard in the series-deciding third T20 International against India as his understanding of the pitch due to IPL exposure will be "invaluable" for the bowlers. Pollard has played a lot at the Wankhede Stadium as he has been part of the Mumbai Indians IPL squad and Simmons said his experience will help the visiting bowlers. "Kieron" Pollard has played a lot at this venue, the others have not played that much. I think there are a few youngsters in this format. It will definitely help," he added. There have been lot of dropped catches from both the sides and Simmons said there should be no excuses for fielding lapses. "You will not win games if you drop them. The players will have to tell you if it is the lights or whether it is their execution or their position," he said. "...I do not like excuses. I think if you drop a catch it is your fault. You can blame the lights but I think we just have to keep working hard so we do not drop any," he added. — PTI



Phil Simmons

experience which they have got from here is invaluable and especially the captain (Pollard) as he has been here for 10 years," Simmons said. "He knows things inside out and that will definitely help our bowlers mainly,



Kieron Pollard needs 10 runs to become the fourth West Indian to complete 1,000 runs in T20I. He has scored 990 runs at an average of 22.00 in 57 innings so far.

Gowtham scalps three wickets as Karnataka keep TN at bay

Dindigul, Dec. 10: Off-spinner K. Gowtham (3 for 61) with a three-over spell on Tuesday helped Karnataka seize the advantage against Tamil Nadu at stumps on the second day of the Ranji Trophy Group 'B' match here with the hosts still trailing by 171 runs. "The experienced Ganesha Karthik (23 batting) holds the key for Tamil Nadu, which finished the day at 165 for 4 in response to Karnataka's first innings score of 336 all out. Test spinner Ravichandran Ashwin (4 for 79) was on a hat-trick before being denied by No.11 V Koushik and helped the team end

Karnataka's resistance. The home team appeared to be in a creaky position as Abhinav Mukund (47) and Murali Vijay (32) appeared untroubled while adding 81 runs. Mukund was on the lookout for runs and played some superb shots while Vijay took his time to get going. Gowtham provided the breakthrough for Karnataka by having Vijay before he was caught behind by BR Sharath one run later. Captain Vijay Shankar, promising innings was cut short when he was adjudged leg before off Gowtham on 12 when

BRIEF SCORES

Group B: KARNATAKA 336 in 110.4 overs (Devdutt Padikkal 78, Pavan Deshpande 65, K Gowtham 51, R Ashwin 4/79, M Siddharth 2/47, K Vignesh 2/55) vs **TAMIL NADU** 165 for 4 in 107.4 overs (Abhinav Mukund 47, B Aparajith 37, M Vijay 32, Dinesh Karthik 23 (batting), K Gowtham 3/61).

Mumbai 431 (Shams Mulani 89, Ajinkya Rahane 79, Yusuf Pathan 3-26, Bhargav Bhatt 3-125) vs Baroda 301/9 (Kedar Devdar 154 not out, V Solanki 48, Shams Mulani 5-99). Jagadeesan (batting on 6) were at the crease when stumps were drawn due to bad light with a little over 15 minutes to be bowled. Earlier, the hard-working R Ashwin, who bowled 33.4 overs finished off Karnataka's lower-order by

Group A: At Thumba: Kerala 525/9 decl. (Sachin Baby 155, Robin Uthappa 102, Ponnambalagan 97, Salman Nizar 77, Tejas Baroka 3/128, Shivan Sharma 2/112, Vikas Mishra 1/07) vs Delhi 23/2. At Vijaywada: Andhra 211 all out vs Vidarbha 268/4 (Ganesh Satish 113 (batting), Mohit Kale 82, Chepurapalli Stephen 3/76). At Hyderabad: Hyderabad 233 vs Gujarat 295/9 (Manprit Juneja 94, Ruhal Bhatt 65, Mehidy Hassan 4/78).

R Ashwin got the wickets of Mathias and Ronit More off successive ball but Koushik denied him a hat-trick. MUMBAI ON VERGE OF TAKING LEAD At Vadodara, domestic giants Mumbai are on the cusp of getting a first-innings lead after reducing Baroda to 301/9 despite a valiant unbeaten 100 by their opener Kedar Devdar. Resuming on their overnight score of 362/8, Mumbai added 69 runs to their tally as their innings folded up at 431. For Mumbai, spinner

Shams Mulani shone with both the bat and ball, as his 89 helped them cross the 400-run mark. Mulani, who was unbeaten on 56, added 33 runs to his score and eventually fell at 89. He hammered 11 fours and two sixes in his 141-ball knock. Mulani played responsibly with the tail-enders Shashank Attarde (22) and Tushar Deshpande (18 not out), and was the last man to be dismissed, as he missed what could have been a terrific 100. For Baroda, opener Kedar Devdar (154 not out) staged a lone battle as Mulani (6-99) ran through their batting line up. Devdar was

the cynosure of eyes at the Reliance Stadium here, as he took the Mumbai attack to cleaners on the second day of the four-day game. Devdar has struck 20 fours and a six in his 194-ball stay at the crease so far. It will be an uphill task for Baroda if they want to go past Mumbai's first innings total. Devdar got support only from Vishnu Solanki at the top, as the other opener Aditya Wagmode, Deepak Hooda, skipper Prathal Pandya and Yusuf Pathan fell cheaply. Vijay Bhosale played his part as he supported Devdar, but the stumper failed to convert his start. — PTI



Top show

Bianca Andreescu was awarded the Lou Marsh Trophy. The US Open champion became the first tennis player to win the Canada's top athlete award



I think we dominated the game for 60 minutes and after that in 10 minutes we lose the game — Manuel Pellegrini, West Ham manager after losing their EPL match against Arsenal

SHORT TAKES

Vedanta shines as Mumbai go top

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, DEC. 10

Resuming Day Two on seven for no loss, Mumbai managed to reach 233 in 94.5 overs, grabbing a crucial lead of 63 run, in their under-16 Vijay Merchant Trophy semifinal against Hyderabad on Tuesday. Vedanta Gadla top-scored for Mumbai with 69 runs while Musheer Khan played second fiddle with 36. W. Swamy added 36 to the team's tally in Una, Himachal Pradesh. For Hyderabad, Nitin Sai Yadav emerged the pick of the bowlers with 4/70. **BRIEF SCORES (Day-2):** Hyderabad 170 in 44 overs. S. Rohit Reddy 22, Mayank Gupta 50, Nitin Sai Yadav 34, Prince Badani 5/53 (25-9-53-5), Anurag Singh 4/25 (14 overs). Ravi Kumar 2/50 (14 overs). Yadav 4/70, Muragan Abhishek 2/65, Ashwadh Rajiv 2/13.

Hyderabad are badminton champs

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, DEC. 10

Om Prakash put up a splendid show winning both his singles and doubles matches to help Hyderabad beat Ranga Reddy in the final of the under-14 Telangana State schools badminton championships held at Mahabubnagar on Tuesday. In the singles final, Om had a tough outing against Sangshetty. Om had to pull out his top game to ensure a 24-22 win over his Ranga Reddy opponent. In the doubles title clash, Om teamed up with Mohit Kumar to get the better of Ashu and Yasvardhan 21-13 and with this win, seal the title. **THE FINAL RESULTS:** Hyderabad bt Ranga Reddy 2-0 (Om Prakash bt Sangshetty 24-22, Mohit Kumar/Om Prakash bt Ashtirith/Yasvardhan 21-13).

Osmania lose in volleyball quarters

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, DEC. 10

The girls from Osmania University, Hyderabad, went down to SRM from Tamil Nadu in the quarterfinals of the South Zone Inter-University volleyball tournament being played at the SRM Institute of Science and Technology in Chennai. Making their first last-eight stage of the event, OU were not able to get off the blocks as they went down in straight games 4-25, 3-25, 12-25 to the hosts. Earlier, the girls from OU defeated Allagappa, Tamil Nadu, Kovempu University, Vellore Institute of Technology and Kalasalingham University in the league stages of the event. For Osmania University, S. Meghna, P. Srikrishna and P. Sumalatha were pick of the performers as they shouldered the team all the way until the quarterfinals.

THE RESULTS

- **QUARTERFINAL:** SRM (Tamil Nadu) bt Osmania University 4-25, 3-25, 12-25. ■ **LEAGUE STAGE:** Osmania University bt Kalasalingham University (Tamil Nadu) 25-4, 25-9, 25-7; OU bt Vellore Institute of Technology University (Tamil Nadu) 25-5, 25-11, 25-21; OU bt Kovempu University (Kar) 25-3, 25-9, 25-8; OU bt Allagappa (Tamil Nadu) 25-22, 25-19, 25-21.

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Arsenal's Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang (second from left) scores against West Ham United on Monday. — AP

Arsenal relieved

Gunners' worst winless run since 1977 ends at West Ham

London, Dec. 10: Arsenal caretaker manager Freddie Ljungberg believes a weight has been lifted off his players' shoulders after a three-goal blitz in nine second-half minutes beat West Ham 3-1 on Monday to end the Gunners' worst winless run in 42 years. Another miserable night for the Swede seemed in store when the visitors trailed to Angelo Ogbonna's deflected header.

THE RESULT

West Ham (Ogbonna 38) 1 Arsenal (Martinelli 60, Pepe 66, Aubameyang 69) 3

making five changes with Martinelli and Pepe among those coming into the side. Pepe's inability to make an impact has been one of the major reasons for Arsenal's struggles, but the Ivorian looked a new player after curling home his first Premier League goal from open play 24 minutes from time. Not much had improved in Ljungberg's first two games since replacing the sacked Unai Emery and it was the same tame and lifeless Arsenal for the first hour against a West Ham side that have won just once in their last 11 games. Another home defeat means the Hammers have taken just one point from their last five games at the London Stadium and the home side were booed off at full-time. "You understand the boos because the last five games we played here we didn't win," added Pellegrini. — AFP

Atletico eye quarterfinal berth

Madrid, Dec. 10: Diego Simeone has called it a transition season for Atletico Madrid but while he was the best man before, results have raised doubts about whether he is right for what comes next. A 0-1 defeat at home to Barcelona this month crushed Atletico's chances of retaining La Liga's title race before a draw away at Villarreal on Friday might have made it impossible for another year. Yet less than an hour after Lionel Messi darted inside and fired a winner into Jan Oblak's bottom corner, Simeone was framing Atletico's season in a way he had never done previously. Atletico play Lokomotiv Moscow, needing a victory to guarantee second place in Group 'D' and a spot in the last 16. Anything less at the Wanda Metropolitano and they will have to match what Bayer Leverkusen



Xavier Hernandez (centre), former Spanish World Cup winner and coach of Qatar, addresses a press conference with player Kranti (right) on Tuesday, eve of his side's FIFA Club World Cup match against New Caledonia's Hienghene Sport, winners of the Oceania Football Confederation's Champions League, at the Jassim bin Hamad Stadium in Doha, Qatar. — SNAP5 INDIA

manage at home to Canadian teenager Alphonso Davies started life in a refugee camp, but is now starring in the Champions League for Bayern Munich. The German champions

are already through to the last 16 as Group 'B' winners and Bayern could become the first German club to win all six of their group matches when they host Tottenham. — AFP

Live on TV

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

- Shakhtar Donetsk vs Astana from 11.25 pm on Sony Ten 1, HD
- Dinamo Zagreb vs Man City from 11.25 pm on Sony Ten 2, HD
- Club Brugge vs Real Madrid from 1.30 am (Thursday) on Sony Six, HD
- Atletico Madrid vs Lokomotiv Moscow from 1.30 am (Thursday) on Sony Ten 3, HD
- Bayer vs Juventus from 1.30 am (Thursday) on Sony Ten 1, HD
- PSG vs Galatasaray from 1.30 am (Thursday) on Sony ESPN, HD
- Bayern Munich vs Tottenham from 1.30 am (Thursday) on Sony Ten 2, HD

Russia furious over dope ban

Lausanne, Dec. 10: 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, prompting an angry response from President Vladimir Putin. WADA's executive committee, meeting in Lausanne, handed Russia the "robust" four-year suspension after accusing Moscow of falsifying data from a doping testing laboratory that was handed over to investigators earlier this year. The toughest ever sanctions imposed on Russian state authorities will see government officials barred from attending any major events, while the country will lose the right to host or bid for tournaments. "For too long, Russian doping has detracted from clean sport," WADA president Craig Reedie said. "Russia was afforded every opportunity to get its house in order and join the global anti-doping community for the good of its athletes and of the integrity of sport, but it chose instead to continue in its stance of deception and denial," Reedie added. Under the sanctions, Russian sportsmen and women will still be allowed to compete at the Olympics next year and the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics, but only as neutrals and if they can demonstrate that they were not part of what WADA believes was a state-sponsored system of doping. The significant extent of state-sponsored doping in Russia, notably between 2011 and 2015, was revealed in the independent report by sports lawyer Richard McLaren, released in 2016. It led to the Russian Anti-Doping Agency (RUSADA) being suspended for nearly three years. — AFP

There is nothing to reproach the Russian Olympic Committee for and if there is no reproach towards this committee, the country should take part in competitions under its own flag.

— VLADIMIR PUTIN, Russian President on WADA's ban

This is the continuation of this anti-Russian hysteria that has already become chronic.

— DMITRY MEDVEDEV, Russian Prime Minister on WADA's ban

Euro 2020 — and Saint Petersburg's hosting of four matches — is not affected by the ban because it is not defined as a "major event" for anti-doping purposes. Speaking in Paris, Putin slammed the decision as a "politically motivated" ruling that "contradicted" the Olympic Charter. "There is nothing to reproach the Russian Olympic Committee for and if there is no reproach towards this committee, the country should take part in competitions under its own flag," Putin said.

Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev also said the ban was politically motivated. "This is the continuation of this anti-Russian hysteria that has already become chronic," Medvedev told domestic news agencies. The significant extent of state-sponsored doping in Russia, notably between 2011 and 2015, was revealed in the independent report by sports lawyer Richard McLaren, released in 2016. It led to the Russian Anti-Doping Agency (RUSADA) being suspended for nearly three years. — AFP

Russia will still be allowed to compete in qualifiers for the 2022 football World Cup, but WADA director general Olivier Niggli added that should they progress to the finals in Qatar, "the team there will not be representing the Russian Federation". Russia's participation in state-sponsored doping in Russia, notably between 2011 and 2015, was revealed in the independent report by sports lawyer Richard McLaren, released in 2016. It led to the Russian Anti-Doping Agency (RUSADA) being suspended for nearly three years. — AFP

Different strokes



Australia's top-ranked tennis player Ashleigh Barty hits a golf ball to a green in the Yarra River at the launch of the Presidents Cup golf tournament in Melbourne on Monday. The Presidents Cup is to be played at the Royal Melbourne Golf Club from December 12-15. — AFP

2K and counting



Jockey Sural Narreddu poses with his horse Guiding Force and family after winning the Crown Treasures Plate in Hyderabad on Monday to register the 2,000th win of his career. Suraj posted his first win in 1995 with a stream of records against his name, winning several Classic Races, 15 Derbies and 2 Indian Derbies. He notably is the only Indian to win a Grade 2 race overseas.

Jwala launches an academy in Hyd

DEEPIKA DAS | DC NEW DELHI, DEC. 10

Doubles specialist Jwala Gutta, who has been always vocal about the doubles category getting step-motherly treatment from the badminton fraternity in India, has come up with a new solution to the problem. The former India star has started her own school to groom doubles players. The two-time Olympian announced the launch of Jwala Gutta Academy Of Excellence in outskirts of Hyderabad on Tuesday. "It's a dream for me. My father has put in a lot of effort. We are still half way through. If I manage to groom medals winners at my academy, then I can say my dream is truly fulfilled. This is just the start," Jwala said in a press conference in New Delhi. "I will give priority to both singles and doubles. In fact, doubles needs more attention as there are not much results coming in... it's high time. Being a doubles player I would love it if our country gets more results in doubles," Jwala told this newspaper. "My role is to be the mentor, to coaches, players and parents. It is a 65-year-old property since any pollution. There will be no constructions allowed around that place. It's a beautiful place with beautiful atmosphere. There's education as well. You can train and take education under one roof," the 36-year-old said. Comprising 14 courts in total and with a seating capacity of over 600 people, the academy is located in Sujatha High School, Gachibowli. Not just badminton, the complex also has training facilities for a plethora of sports, including cricket and swimming. Funding was a major issue for Jwala in her quest to start the academy. After she was denied any help from the government, Jwala's father Kranti sold his house and put in his lifetime savings on the line to fulfil his daughter's dream. Asked about the academy being compared to the Pulella Gopichand Academy based in the same city, Jwala said competition is always good and will bring out better results. "One academy competing with another is good as long it is healthy. We can upgrade and improve and that should be the mindset when it comes to sport. I think we need more academies given the demand in Hyderabad, which is my hometown," she said. There is dearth of academies in our country to groom new players and more medals," the 2010 Commonwealth Games gold medalist said.

HI SUSPENDS 11 PLAYERS FOR NEHRU CUP VIOLENCE

New Delhi, Dec 10: Hockey India Disciplinary Committee on Tuesday suspended 11 players and two team officials for their respective roles in the recent violence that broke out during the 56th Nehru Cup Final between Punjab Armed Police and Punjab National Bank. The Players of the two teams had exchanged blows and fought with sticks inside the turf during the Nehru Cup finals last month. After reviewing the report and viewing the video evidence, the committee, chaired by Hockey India Vice President Bhola Nath Singh, unanimously decided to suspend players from Punjab Armed Police and Punjab National Bank for a period of 12-18 months and 6-12 months respectively. "The Committee placed Punjab Armed Police players Hardeep Singh and Jaskaran Singh under an 18 months suspension while Dupinderdeep Singh, Jagmeet Singh, Sukpreet Singh, Sarvanjit Singh and Balwinder Singh have been suspended for 12 months with a release from 11 December 2019," Hockey India said in a tweet. — PTI