

A person who collects, trades, or is passionate about running shoes

An odour that a person continues to smell even in the absence of the original odorant

The 'scientific' view? Isanophobia birthed CAB



Govind Krishnan V.
Several prominent scientists, who were signatories to a recent statement demanding the withdrawal of the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill (CAB), have called the Bill Islamophobic and accused the government of targeting Muslims for electoral gain. They expressed fear that the CAB would be combined with the National Register of Citizens to harass Muslims.

growing among a large number of Indian scientists for some time that the bill is meant to single out Muslims. If the bill is implemented in combination with the NRC, religion will become the criterion for citizenship, except for Islam. The burden of proof will be on Muslims to prove their citizenship. The CAB and NRC both deal with citizenship and are driven by Islamophobia. The present government has enacted several policies that seem to reflect a hatred or dislike of a particular community." Mr Raju, who received the 2019 Italian government-supported ICFP prize for his work on quantum gravity and black holes, said that while discrimination against Muslims has been growing in recent years, the CAB posed a new level of danger. "While incidents like cow-related lynchings have happened in the past, this Bill makes religious discrimination official policy. If this bill is passed by the Rajya Sabha and upheld by the courts, it will set a precedent for other policies that promote discrimination on the basis of

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— Suprat Raju, physicist

The statement, which was issued against the CAB, was signed by almost 1,000 scientists, hundreds of them working at India's premier research institutes. Around 200 scientists from the Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru, and Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Mumbai, the two most prestigious science research institutes in India, signed the petition. The petition also received the support of 140 scientists working at the IISc.

the Raman Research Institute (RRI) in Bengaluru, said there is worrell among a big part of the scientific community that the CAB will be used to target migrant Muslims, especially the poor and socially vulnerable. "The government plans to implement NRC across the country. All illegal migrants from certain countries, but it can affect Muslim migrants in any part of India. There is widespread fear. We have seen that a large part of those left out of the citizenship registry in Assam are Muslims. BJP politicians have said that we intend to get rid of all illegal migrants from India. In the name of illegal migration, Muslim migrants will be harassed. The impact of the CAB is that migrants from other countries will be accepted for citizenship, but Muslims will not be included. It will be the poor who will bear the brunt since they will not have documents to prove their citizenship. Harassment can take several forms and if the police gets involved, it can be very severe," he said.

Mr Sethi believes that the considerations behind the CAB are political and aimed at helping the BJP in the elections. "The bill is part of something larger. Since 2008, given the kind of statements their leaders have made and the way the migrant issue was brought up in the March elections, the onus is upon the government to prove that this is not being done for electoral gains."
Shiraz Minwalla, a physicist who is internationally recognised for his work on Einstein's general theory of relativity, said that the CAB was deeply unconstitutional. Mr Minwalla, who works at the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR) has been awarded the highest science award in India, the Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize. He is also a recipient of the Infosys Prize, and prizes from the Fundamental Physics Prize Foundation and the World Academy of Sciences. "The Bill violates the basic principle on which the Constitution is built. That people of different faiths are legally equal. I am not an expert on India's

legislative history, but it seems likely that this bill is without precedent in independent India's history," Mr Minwalla said.
Some scientists who were spoken to for this story refused to comment on record fearing retaliation from the government. They said more scientists would speak out against the CAB, but were afraid of possible persecution. "Funds for research projects come from the central government and the present government has targeted those who criticise it. Nonetheless, the petition against the CAB garnered close to a thousand signatures in just 48 hours. That is a mark of how deeply uneasy so many people are with this Bill," one of the scientists said.
Govind Krishnan V. is a freelance journalist based in Bengaluru. He has previously worked for Frontline, the Ink, the Sunday Guardian and the New Indian Express. He received the Red Ink Award in 2014 for his work on bonded labour in Tamil Nadu's garments industry.

2020 cyber security policy has to enable global collaboration



Rohan Sethi
When it comes to the private sector, it repeatedly used words such as 'encourage', 'enable' and 'promote', being careful to not make anything mandatory... This is again a pitfall that the 2020 policy must avoid.

"secure computing environment and adequate trust and confidence in electronic transactions, software, services, devices and networks". Since then, certain steps have been taken to operationalise the policy. These include the establishment of the National Cyber Security Coordination Centre and Cyber Swachhata Kendra along with announcements to set up sectoral and state CERTs and expand the number of standardisation, testing and quality certification testing facilities. However, much more needs to be done and that too at a faster pace.

There is an urgent need to set into place domestic frameworks, say for instance with regard to data protection, which will enable broader global collaboration and participation in rule setting

from then and see if they exceeded or fell short of expectations. And the data in this regard is sobering. For instance, in 2018, IBM estimated that India was home to nearly 100,000 trained cybersecurity professionals. What's further alarming is that it estimated the total number needed at nearly three million. The 2020 policy must, therefore, not just identify clear targets but also identify the ways and means through which that target should be met.

basic standards for security and hygiene were met. When it comes to the private sector, it repeatedly used words such as "encourage", "enable" and "promote", being careful to not make anything mandatory. Even when it did mandate something, it was in the form of best practices for cybersecurity to critical infrastructure, it is hard to say how it planned to declare the mandate a success or a failure. This is again a pitfall that the 2020 policy must avoid. The policy must establish or identify standards that the industry should adopt within a fixed timeframe. Also, there is a need for the government to engage with the private sector, particularly when it comes to sharing skills and expertise.

James Forsyth
Despite their consistent poll lead, the Conservative Party is clearly anxious. Election results here, and in many seats the race is far too tight for comfort. Because they stick together Johnson's Remainers, if the Tories win, it will be by the skin of their teeth. I'm told, "There's quite a lot of nervousness at CCHQ," says one cabinet minister sounding decidedly nervous.

The big Tory concern is that the Remain vote is beginning to coalesce around the Labour Party. To date, Remain is split. That, they fear, might change.

the election. With a majority, we can expect him to continue to push his new Toryism. As he set out in his interview with this magazine, the government wants his government to be a continuation of the past nine years, but to offer a different agenda. The Tories will simultaneously spend more money on the National Health Service and take a tougher line on law and order, something that Westminster has not done. The Tories have a right to be nervous. However, the prospect of this new agenda will be infrastructure spending.

The rapid expansion of digital penetration in India brings with it the need to strengthen cybersecurity. The critical nature of the myriad cyber threats that India faces was underscored by the recent breach at the Kudankulam nuclear power plant and the Indian Space Research Organisation. These were just two of the 1,832 cyber-attacks that are estimated to have hit entities in India every minute in 2019. Symantec's 2019 Internet Security Threat Report ranks India second on the list of countries affected by targeted attack groups between 2016 and 2018.

While it is no one's argument that state capacity can be augmented overnight, setting clear targets can help drive action towards an identified goal. Moreover, the lack of these in the 2013 policy means that it is extremely difficult today to assess whether the policy had the desired impact. Five-year plans are well written documents, whether or not you agree with the goals they outline. The objective set in the five-year approach is right at all.

Almost everything else in the 2013 document was fairly ambiguous. It contained repeated references to adopt and adhere to global standards for cybersecurity. However, there was no clarity on what specific standards should be followed and how long industry should take to adopt them. This brings us to the second shortcoming. The policy at the time was hoping to balance a trade-off between encouraging innovation while ensuring that

Finally, when it comes to international collaboration, the 2013 policy argued for developing bilateral and multilateral relationships in the area of cybersecurity with other countries and to enhance national and global cooperation among security agencies, CERTs, defence agencies and forces, law enforcement agencies and the judicial systems. Since then, India has entered into a bunch of cybersecurity-related MoUs. However, there is an urgent need to set into place domestic frameworks, say for instance with regard to data protection, which will enable broader global collaboration and participation in rule setting. Unfortunately, this has not been happening. For instance, India was not a signatory to the Paris agreement on the US-initiated CLOUD Act. On a related note, the government also did not sign the Open Skies agreement proposed at the 2019 G20 Summit. These are important dialogues that India must engage in if it needs to build a resilient and thriving cyber ecosystem.

How has Labour managed to pull off this feat? I squeeze, when Jeremy Corbyn himself has said that he would stay neutral during a second Brexit referendum? Perhaps, as one Tory candidate has put it, the Tories have been too effective at framing this as a binary choice. He continues, "If we're going to get Brexit done, then Remain will vote for the other guy, whatever he says."

This, then, is the challenge facing the Tories: the glue sticking together their electoral coalition will have dissolved by January 31 or soon after. Corbyn would not survive losing a second general election, especially one that resulted in a Tory majority. If Labour are defeated again, his departure would become a question of 'when', not 'if'. Equally, if the Tories do get over the line, then the UK leaves the EU, the emotional pull of Brexit will see them home by a reduced.

Can't each of us see God and be God in loving and saving others?



Francis Gonsalves
Since Monday, two persons have etched imprints upon my brain. First, Mushtaq Ali burned in Sunday's Delhi blaze, and made his last call to his brother. "There's no way now. I'm dying. It's God's will." Second, firefighter Rajesh Shukla ran into the inferno, saving 11 lives. Sunday, many must be said to God or Shukla, "Thanks for saving me!"

can be done. Firstly, some money will be doled out after widows, orphans fill scores of forms. Fires, floods, famines, and tsunamis leave us speechless. For many, "43" is a number, a statistic, microscopic among a billion Indians. But the deceased Ali and 42 others have left many fatherless, husbandless, sonless, hopeless, perhaps moneyless too, since they were migrant workers from afar, sharing factory wages not only for backbreaking labour, but also for rest. They were slopping for kids' fees, daughters' weddings, or for Id, Diwali, Christmas.

Being of some Ultimate Being, what about agnostics and atheists who'd probably say, "Keep God out of this" or, "Doesn't this prove that God doesn't exist?" Armchair believers or unbelievers might think and discuss. How about you? For me, firefighter "Rajesh" — loosely translated as "god of kings" — is not just an individual but an archetype of the do-gooder, good samaritan, so to say, who rises up above the petty confines of class, caste and country to save others. Indeed, Rajesh could have lost his life in saving others. Rajesh could've rendered some folks fatherless, husbandless, sonless, etc. But his sense of duty and deep humanness fired his resolve to save those in need. Other anonymous "rajesh-es" also became

"gods"; throwing water, giving wet goods, rushing people to hospital and so on.
Christians worldwide are currently commemorating "Advent", from the Latin, adventus, meaning "coming" or "arrival". Advent is a four-week preparatory period to welcome the newborn Jesus, who is God's son, who "came" into the world some 2,000 years ago, and Christians believe "will come again". Our teacher in a slum said, "We thought you were Christian, but my illiterate papa says, 'You're an avatar of Lord Vishnu!' We try to receive a finer communion."

The writer is a policy analyst at the technology and policy programme of The Takshashila Institution. The views expressed here are personal.

Boris Johnson's real challenge will be to find new ways to keep his coalition together after



Chinese way of winning herdsman

50 YEARS AGO IN DECCAN CHRONICLE

SHILLONG, DEC. 11. The Chinese authorities along the NEFA-Sikkim border are taking advantage of the lush green pastures and using Tibetan Khampas to graze the NEFA herdsman men, who often migrate there, into grazing their cattle, informed sources say.

This changed policy of the Chinese since 1962 aggression has been apparently adopted in such a way that they can no longer use aggression to win over the people on the wide open but effectively guarded border.

The sources assert that in the last year four Tibetan Khampas, who acted as Chinese agents, were approached in the Kameng district forming part of the five-district strategy of the NEFA.

This, they say, goes to prove that the Chinese still have an eye on the area.

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Hamid Karzai says US helped fuel corruption in his nation by spending millions of dollars over the past two decades without accountability

US President betrayed nation, say Democrats

Articles of impeachment charge Trump with power abuse

Washington, Dec. 11: House Democrats announced two articles of impeachment against President Donald Trump, declaring he "betrayed the nation" with his actions toward Ukraine as they pushed toward historic proceedings that are certain to help define his presidency and shape the 2020 election.

The specific charges aimed at removing the 45th president of the United States: abuse of power and obstruction of Congress.



Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, and House financial services committee Chairwoman Maxine Waters at the Capitol in Washington. — AP

crat Joe Biden, while withholding US military aid as leverage. That benefited Russia over the US as America's ally fought Russian aggression, the Democrats said.

Trump then obstructed Congress by ordering current and former officials to defy House subpoenas for testimony and by blocking access to documents, the charges say.

By his conduct, Trump demonstrated he will remain a threat to national security and the Constitution if allowed to remain in office," the nine-page impeachment resolution says.

Speaker Nancy Pelosi, flanked by the chairmen of impeachment inquiry committees at the US Capitol, said they were upholding their solemn oath to defend the Constitution. Trump responded angrily on Twitter: "WATCH HUNTT" Voting is expected in a matter of days by the Judiciary Committee,

which begins deliberations on Wednesday, and by Christmas in the full House. The charges, if approved, would then be sent to the Senate, where the Republican majority would be unlikely to convict Trump, but not without a potentially bitter trial just as voters in Iowa and other early presiden-

tial primary states begin making their choices.

In the formal articles announced on Tuesday, the Democrats said Trump enlisted a foreign agent to "corrupting" the US election process and endangered national security by asking Ukraine to investigate his political rivals, including Demo-



Sergey Lavrov

TRUMP WARNS LAVROV AGAINST POLL MEDDLING

Washington, Dec. 11: US President Donald Trump has warned Russia against any attempt to interfere in the 2020 presidential polls and also urged Moscow to resolve its conflict with Ukraine, the White House has said.

However, Lavrov said that the two discuss the US elections during the meeting.

Trump urged Russia to support his administration's efforts to prevent Iran from developing nuclear weapons and the administration's negotiation of North Korea, the White House said. Trump also emphasised his support for an effective global arms control treaty. — AP

More volcanic eruptions in NZ

Wellington, Dec. 11: New Zealand authorities said monitoring equipment on the volcanic island that erupted two days ago has picked up increasing tremors on Wednesday delaying any attempt to access the island to retrieve bodies.

"Seismic signals on the island are escalating at the moment," Graham Leonard, a volcanic geologist at GNS Science, said. "Yesterday there was a high risk of an eruption." Leonard said. "Today there is an even higher risk of an eruption. And the parameters are worsening at the moment."

Just under the surface of the crater, pressure had been building for months. Now the superheated water, about 100 degrees Celsius, or 300 Fahrenheit, burst into a powerful spray. The blast also contained ash, rocks and a few boulders the size of exercise balls, but it was likely the scalding water that was most deadly.

There were 47 tourists on New Zealand's White Island at the time of eruption: 24 from Australia, nine from the US, five New Zealanders and others from Germany, Britain, China and Malaysia. Many had taken a day trip from the Royal Caribbean cruise ship *Queen of the Seas*. Authorities believe 14 people were killed. Those who survived the eruption had terrible burns and some ran into the sea screaming — a screaming that would not stop.

Three weeks ago, New Zealand's seismic monitoring agency had raised the alert level on the island from 1 to 2, on a scale where 5 is a major eruption. The agency had noted the water level in the crater lake had been rising. — AP



Picture shows the eruption of the volcano on White Island, New Zealand. — AP

IN BRIEF

It's impressive that the press is giving space to a brat like Greta

— Jair Bolsonaro, Brazil President

Greta is Time person of the year

New York: Greta Thunberg, the Swedish teenager who became the voice of conscience for a generation facing the climate change emergency, was announced as Time magazine's 2019 Person of the Year. The 16-year-old first hit the headlines for her solo strike against global warming outside Sweden's parliament last year. "We can't just continue living as if there was no tomorrow, because there is tomorrow. That is all we are saying," Thunberg told Time. The magazine interviewed Thunberg aboard the sailboat that took her from the US to Europe after a hectic 11-week trip.

Britain gears up for Brexit polls

Gulisey: Prime Minister Boris Johnson vowed to "fight for every vote" after polls predicted a close finish to Britain's general election aimed at settling the Brexit crisis. Britons head to the polls for the third time in four years on Monday against a backdrop of political deadlock since a 2016 referendum which saw a majority opt to leave the EU. Parliament repeatedly refused to accept divorce terms that former prime minister Theresa May agreed with Brussels, forcing her out and bringing Johnson into the fray with a vow to deliver. The former London mayor and foreign minister has been hammering home his 'Get Brexit Done' message, to win a majority in the would enable him to get the deal approved.

Suu Kyi: Genocide case misleading

The Hague: Myanmar leader Aung San Suu Kyi said the case brought against her country at the World Court was incomplete and misleading as she began her defence to accusations of genocide against the Rohingya Muslim minority in Gambia, a small West African country, has launched a case against Myanmar at the International Court of Justice, the UN's highest court, alleging it has violated the 1948 Genocide Convention.

Myanmar's defence herself at the court in The Hague Suu Kyi, Myanmar's top political leader and a 2012 Nobel prize laureate acknowledged disproportionate force may have been used at times by the military, but said the conflict in the western Rakhine state was 'complex and not easy to fathom'. More than 730,000 Rohingya fled Myanmar after the military launched a crackdown in western Rakhine in August 2017.

PIO ABUSES PATIENTS WITH CANCER FEAR

London, Dec. 11: An Indian-origin doctor, who exploited women's cancer fears to carry out invasive intimate examinations, was found guilty of sexually assaulting multiple women by a UK court on Tuesday.

Manish Shah, a general practitioner or GP, was convicted of 25 counts of sexual assault and assault by penetration on six women at the Old Bailey court in London.

The trial heard how Shah used a news story during court to persuade women to have invasive vaginal examinations, breast examinations and rectal examinations when there was absolutely no medical need for them. It was deducted, prosecutor Kate Bex said, adding, "Fear is an incredible motivator and few health concerners are scarier than cancer. Shah exploited that and used it for his own personal gratification."

Zardari granted bail on medical grounds

SHAFQAT ALI IDC ISLAMABAD, DEC. 11

Pakistan's Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Wednesday granted bail to former president Asif Ali Zardari on medical grounds in two references regarding fake bank accounts in Park Lane and mega money laundering cases. IHC Chief Justice Athar Minallah headed the bench which conducted the hearing. The court directed the erstwhile president to submit two surety bonds worth Rs 10 million each.

Additional prosecutor general National Accountability Bureau directed the medical reports of Asif Ali Zardari, which were submitted during the hearing, upon Justice Athar Minallah directions. According to the reports, the former president is suffering from diabetes and heart disease and needs to undergo angiography, whose complexity may also be required while putting the stents. Zardari's life is in danger

and his treatment is not possible in jail, the report said.

The NAB told the court that two references regarding fake bank accounts in Park Lane and mega money laundering cases had been filed. The court remarked that it means the anti-graft watchdog does not further require custody of the suspect as references have already been lodged.

The trial of Asif Ali Zardari will take time to finish therefore his bail is approved on medical grounds against surety bonds, the IHC said.

Pakistan People's Party chairman Bilawal Bhattu thanked the court for granting bail to his father, Asif Ali Zardari.

"The former president's medical reports were submitted in the court. We are thankful to the IHC for approving bail on medical grounds as Asif Zardari's reports are worrisome. PPP will not come under pressure of anyone. Asif Ali Zardari is a huntsman and he is coming out to hunt down the player

26/11: PAK COURT INDICTS HAFIZ ON TERROR FINANCING

LAHORE, DEC. 11: A Pakistani court on Wednesday indicted Islamist militant Hafiz Saeed, the alleged mastermind of deadly 2008 attacks in Mumbai, on terror financing charges, a government prosecutor and defence lawyer said.

The charges were read as Saeed was present in the court, prosecutor Abdur Rauf Watto said. Defence lawyer Imran Gill said his client pleaded not guilty.

Saeed is the founder of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), or the Army of the Pure, a militant group blamed by the United States and India for the four-day Mumbai siege, in which



Hafiz Saeed

160 people were killed. The deed also included several foreigners, including Americans.

Pakistan's counter terrorism police arrested Saeed in July days before a visit to Washington by Prime Minister Imran Khan. — PTI

Pak court freezes Sharif's properties

A Pakistani accountability court on Wednesday ordered to freeze properties of former Punjab Chief Minister and PML (N) president Shehbaz Sharif and his family members.

The NAB had filed a petition seeking to freeze properties belonging to Shehbaz Sharif and his family members.

The court, in its verdict, directed concerned authorities to freeze all assets of Shehbaz Sharif, Hamza Shehbaz, Suleman Shehbaz. The court also announced to freeze assets of Shehbaz Sharif's both wives Nusrat Shehbaz and Tehmina Durran.

The family members of Shehbaz Sharif have been given 14 days to file objections. Meanwhile, a violent clash erupted between hundreds of lawyers and doctors left at least four people injured as a protest was also thrashed when the charged lawyers stormed into the hospital.

BOUGAINVILLE WORLD'S NEWEST NATION: THINGS TO KNOW

THE SOUTH PACIFIC ARCHIPELAGO OF BOUGAINVILLE VOTED TO BECOME INDEPENDENT OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA, BECOMING THE WORLD'S LATEST TERRITORY TO SEEK SECESSION.

- Buka town houses the government headquarters.
- Around 300,000 people live in the territory, mostly in villages outside Buka and the two other main towns of Arawa and Buin. A 2011 census recorded the population as 2,49,358.
- More than 2,00,000 voters were registered to cast ballots in the referendum, a significant increase in the electoral rolls.
- Bougainvilleans are mostly Melanesian and the local language is Tok Pisin, a Papua New Guinean pidgin English, though there are at least 19 distinct indigenous languages.



■ Bougainville island was named after French navigator Louis Antoine de Bougainville, who sailed along its east coast in 1768.

■ In the 19th century, Bougainville was colonised by Germany. It was used by Japan as a military base during World War II and after, was administered by Australia until Papua New Guinea (PNG) gained independence in 1975.

■ There is uncertainty over how an independent Bougainville could fund itself, as it now relies on support from PNG

6 KILLED IN NEW JERSEY GUNBATTLE

Jersey City, Dec. 11: Six people, including a police officer and three bystanders, were killed in a furious gun battle that filled the streets of Jersey City with the sound of heavy fire for hours, authorities said.

The dead included the two gunmen, Jersey City Police Chief Michael Kelly said.

The slain officer, detective Joseph Seals, 40, was credited by his superiors with having led the department in the number of illegal guns removed from the streets in recent years, and might have been trying to stop an incident involving such weapons when he was cut down by gunfire that erupted near a cemetery, authorities said.

The shooting then continued at a kosher supermarket about a mile away, where five more bodies were found, Kelly said.

MEDIA | CURBS

Dragon nation displaces Turkey as most oppressive place for profession: Press watchdog

China imprisoned more journalists than any other nation

Washington, Dec. 11: China imprisoned at least 40 journalists in 2019, more than any other country, displacing Turkey as the most oppressive place for the profession, a report by the Committee to Protect Journalists report said on Wednesday.

At least 250 journalists worldwide this year, according to the report, which the committee compiles annually.

The total last year was 255, said the report by the New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ).

China's total rose by one since last year. The report noted that "a number of Muslim ethnic groups have been sent to internment camps" has led to the arrests of dozens of journalists, including some apparently jailed for journalistic activity years earlier, the report said.

Asked about the report by a regular briefing in Beijing on Wednesday, foreign ministry spokesman woman Hua Chunying said US-based institutions had no credibility.

■ THE report noted that the number has steadily increased since President Xi Jinping consolidated political control of the country

When asked about the number of journalists jailed in China, Hua said she could not confirm the figure, adding that China was a country where the

rule of law prevailed and no one was above the law. "You should feel lucky that you work in Beijing and not in Washington," she told reporters.

Turkey imprisoned 47 journalists in 2019, down from 68 last year. Saudi Arabia and Egypt, both with 28; Eritrea with 16; Vietnam, with 12 and Iran with 11 were the next-most oppressive countries for journalists, the report

said. It noted that "authoritarianism, instability, and protests" this year had led to an increase in the number of journalists imprisoned in the Middle East.

About 8% of those imprisoned globally are women, down from 13% last year, the report said. Politics, human rights and corruption were the subjects most likely to land journalists in jail, it said.

The report is a snapshot

of the journalists imprisoned on Dec. 1 each year, the committee said. It does not include those who have been released earlier or journalists taken by non-state entities such as militant groups.

Many of those imprisoned face "anti-state" charges or are accused of producing false news, the press freedom watchdog CPJ report said.

— Agencies

Microsoft will notify users with its full-screen pop-ups about the end of Windows 7 support from January 15

SHORT TAKES

AirDrop. APPLE FIXES VULNERABILITY IN AIRDROP. Hyderabad, Dec. 11: Apple has fixed a bug in iOS 13.3 which let anyone temporarily lock users out of their iPhones and iPads by forcing their devices into an inescapable loop.

According to Techcrunch.com, a bug was found in AirDrop which allows users to share files between iOS devices. However, the bug let him repeatedly send files to all devices able to accept files within wireless range of an attacker.

When a file is received, iOS blocks the display until the file is accepted or rejected. But because iOS didn't have a limit on the number of file requests a device can accept, an attacker can simply keep sending files.

The Pirate Bay. PIRATE BAY ALLOWS LIVE STREAMING. Hyderabad, Dec. 11: Torrent site The Pirate Bay has long been infamous for allowing people to download pirated movies and TV shows. But now, it looks like it's giving users a new option: streaming.

Chrome rolls out password protection. Hyderabad, Dec. 11: Many of us have encountered malware, heard of data breaches or even been a victim of phishing, where a site tries to scam us into entering our name and other sensitive information.

Attorney general says Big Tech probes to be over in '20

Official says delays will have a cost to the marketplace and businesses

Washington, Dec. 11: US attorney general William Barr said on Wednesday that he hoped to have justice department investigations of the big tech platforms — Facebook, Alphabet's Google, Amazon.com and Apple completed next year.

"We started in earnest in July. It's been moving very quickly," Barr told the Wall Street Journal CEO Council.

"I'd like to have it completed some time next year. I think it's important to move quickly on these things," Barr said.

Barr said that the Justice Department review was not limited to antitrust, but that looking for anti-competitive behavior was "front and center."

"The question is that when you have the kind of market power that some companies have in their market, then some conduct that may have made sense at the time they were the insurgent company in a growing industry may become anti-competitive because it ends up fortifying the monopoly," he said.

The attorney general, however, also cited his previous work for Verizon Communications, in arguing that big companies provided some benefits to consumers, particularly in telecommunications.

"Big is not bad," he said. "I think in certain network industries you can be too Balkanized and no one has the scale necessary for the kind of innovation that we're seeing."

BIG TECH FACES UPHILL LEGAL TASK IN 2020

THE GLOBAL MOVEMENT TO CONTROL BIG TECH COMPANIES HAS GROWN IN RECENT YEARS WITH THE GROWTH OF GIANT CORPORATIONS IN SILICON VALLEY. SPECIFICALLY FACEBOOK, GOOGLE, AMAZON AND APPLE. LAWMAKERS ACROSS THE WORLD HAVE TAKEN NOTICE OF THE POWER WIELDED BY TECH GIANTS AS REPORTS OF COMPANIES VIOLATING USER PRIVACY LAWS, POSSIBLY PARTICIPATING IN UNFAIR TRADE PRACTICES, STIFLING FREE SPEECH, AND PLAYING GROWING ROLES IN ELECTIONS. THE AGES WILL SET TO CONTINUE NEXT YEAR. EXPERTS SUGGEST, AS WE NEAR THE END OF 2019, HERE ARE THE LEGAL ISSUES FACED BY THE BIGGEST TECH COMPANIES.



The US Federal Trade Commission hit Facebook with a \$5 billion fine this year for privacy violations. However, the amount barely affected its business. The penalty against is the largest ever imposed on any company for violating consumers' privacy and almost 20 times greater than the largest privacy or security penalty ever imposed.

Google and its subsidiary YouTube were asked to pay a record \$170 million to settle allegations by the Federal Trade Commission that the New York Attorney General that the YouTube video sharing service illegally collected personal information from children without their parents' consent.

Apple and Qualcomm have agreed to settle all ongoing lawsuits, putting an end to the blockbuster legal battle that's seen the two tech giants sue one another across the globe. As part of the settlement, Apple agreed to make a payment to Qualcomm for an undisclosed amount.

FB, Apple grilled by US panel

San Francisco, Dec. 11: US senators grilled Apple and Facebook over their encryption practices on Wednesday and threatened to regulate the technology unless the companies make encrypted user data accessible to law enforcement.

At a US senate judiciary committee hearing, Democrats and Republicans presented a rare, united front as they invoked child abuse and mass shooting cases in which encryption had blocked access to key evidence and stymied investigations.

"You are going to find a way to do this or we are going to do it for you," said senator, Lindsey Graham. "We're not going to live in a world where a bunch of child abusers have a safe haven to practice their craft. Period. End of discussion."

Facebook has been wrestling with multiple governments since announcing its plan to extend end-to-end encryption across its messaging services earlier this year. Its WhatsApp messaging app is already encrypted.

U.S. GOVT. SET TO REVIEW GOOGLE-FITBIT DEAL

Washington, Dec. 11: The US justice department will review plans by Alphabet-owned Google and Fitbit for possible antitrust issues, a source told Reuters on Wednesday.

The \$2.1 billion deal will give search and advertising giant Google the capability to take on Apple and Samsung in the crowded market for fitness trackers and smart watches. It was announced on Nov. 1.

bureau of investigation sought access to an iPhone owned by slain sympathizer of Islamic State in San Bernardino, California, who had murdered county employees.

"That stand helped bolster the company's reputation for protecting user privacy, while Facebook has been mired in a series of scandals in recent years over its handling of personal data.

In their testimony, Facebook's messaging privacy chief Jay Sullivan traded barbs with Apple privacy head Erik Neunerschwander. Each suggesting lawmakers focus their scrutiny on the other company's business.

California not to extend digital law deadline of Jan. 1

Washington, Dec. 11: California's attorney general is not planning an extension of a January 1 deadline to comply with the state's new digital privacy law but said enforcement efforts by his office will be assisted by companies showing a willingness to comply.

The California Consumer Privacy Act (CCPA), is a landmark digital privacy law that allows US citizens to request their data be deleted from e-commerce websites and social media, and opt out of having data sold

to third parties. The law is likely to impact a broad swath of companies from Facebook and Alphabet's Google, to retailers like Walmart and Amazon, beginning next year.

Indications of how the state will handle enforcement is being tracked closely as companies scramble to invest in compliance.

■ An economic impact assessment found compliance with the regulations will cost businesses between \$467 million and \$16.5 billion.

ne general Xavier Becerra told Reuters in an interview. "If they are not (operating) properly, I will descend on them and make an example of them, to show that if you don't do it the right way, this is what is going to happen to you."

compliance deadline of January 1, 2020. The state proposed draft regulations around CCPA in October 2019 and opened them to public comment until December 6. It will be enforced by July 1, 2020.

Companies have asked the attorney general to give them a seal of approval, which would allow consumers to know if a company's privacy program meets state standards, but Becerra dismissed the idea.

forming to what the seal represents," Becerra said. An economic impact assessment prepared for the AG's office by an independent research firm found compliance with the regulations will cost businesses between \$467 million and \$16.5 billion between 2020 and 2030.

Federal lawmakers are looking at California as a guide as they consider a federal privacy law. Reuters reported in September that a federal privacy bill is not likely to come before Congress this year.

Company says it fixed a bug and all impacted ads in United Kingdom have been restored

Political ads on FB go missing ahead of UK polls

San Francisco, Dec. 11: Thousands of UK political ads were missing from Facebook's searchable advertising database on Wednesday, hampering the company's ability to track ads two days before Britain's general election.

The problem, first reported by Sky News, affected ads from the ruling Conservative Party and Brexit Party and the Liberal Democrats. It was not immediately clear if any Labour party ads were

affected. "We have fixed the bug and all of the ads missing from our network back in the ads library," Facebook said in a statement.

A spokesman also confirmed that some ads in the US were affected, but declined to answer questions on the scale of the issue there. Facebook's ad library has been a cornerstone of the social media giant's efforts to be more transparent about its role in elections, but researchers say it is poorly maintained and fails to provide detailed targeting data — for example, how political advertisers target UK voters

EMPLOYEE SACKED FOR AD POLICY VIOLATIONS

● A Facebook employee was fired for accepting bribes in exchange for reactivating an ad account that violated the company's policies.

● The employee reportedly accepted a payment from a marketing firm called Ads Inc., which ran ads with fake claims about celebrities. The ads would lure Facebook users to a site where Ads Inc. ran a free trial scam.

● A Facebook spokesperson said the employee was fired after the initial report prompted an internal investigation.

ers geographically. Tristan Hotham, a research consultant with WhoTargetsMe, an advocacy group that tracks digital political advertising, called the ads' effective disappearance "a catastrophic failure." "If you are a researcher you expect to be able to go back and check the data. You don't expect the library to suddenly lose half its books," Hotham told Reuters in a phone interview. During the problem, certain ads appeared to be back and check the data. He said the original ad, but not by the usual methods of searching for names or keywords, Reuters found.

Japan's NEC to invest in D-Wave

San Francisco/Tokyo, Dec. 11: D-Wave Systems, a Canadian quantum computer firm backed by billionaire Jeff Bezos, Wall Street titan Goldman Sachs and others, said Japan's NEC Corp will invest in it as part of a fundraising round and will also help it develop software.

Dan Cohrs, chief financial officer at D-Wave, told Reuters on Wednesday NEC has committed to investing \$10 million in the fund-raising round which could close in January. He declined to say how much D-Wave was raising and the valuation it aimed for but said some existing investors have committed to participate.

Bezos Expeditions, Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos' personal investment fund, in Q.T. Co. and some intelligence agency's venture capital firm, Fidelity Investments are among D-Wave's investors. Once the funding is finalized, Cohrs said NEC and D-Wave will work together to develop software and applications that can work on NEC's supercomputers and D-Wave's quantum computers.

An NEC spokeswoman said the company is in talks with D-Wave about the partnership, adding that the investment is subject to certain conditions. Researchers believe quantum computers, which harness the properties of sub-atomic particles, could operate millions of times faster than today's advanced supercomputers, making potential tasks, ranging from mapping complex molecular structures and chemical reactions to boosting the power of artificial intelligence possible.

AMAZON RECTIFIES FLAWS IN BLINK CAMERA SYSTEMS

● Amazon said it had issued a fix to rectify security flaws in some of its Blink home camera systems after a cyber-security firm found vulnerabilities that could let hackers hijack the device.

● Tenable Inc, which discovered the issues, said seven severe vulnerabilities in Blink's X2 camera systems could have given attackers full control over the device and allow them to view the camera footage remotely.

Intel to help small bizmen adapt tech

New Delhi, Dec. 11: Tech major, Intel, in association with the ministry of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) has launched a nationwide initiative to enhance technology adoption among small and medium enterprises, according to India SME Forum.

A survey conducted by the forum across 19 states also showed that over 34 per cent of the overall 1.29.537 MSME respondents are employing digital means for communicating with employees, customers and suppliers, whereas only seven per cent have fully embraced digital technology or SaaS solutions.

Over half of the MSMEs highlighted several benefits, including higher profitability, operational efficiency and improved customer engagement. However, 70 per cent cited lack of knowledge as key barrier for wider adoption of technology. Major causes of low technology adoption cited in the survey are lack of understanding and guidance of business benefits, resistance to incurring upfront investment-related costs to implement technology, lack of skilled/trained manpower to manage technology.

Political ads on FB go missing ahead of UK polls

In October, London-based privacy advocacy group Boris Johnson's Facebook page on December 4 asking voters to "end the chaos, respect the referendum and get it done" could only be located earlier on Tuesday by searching a 15-digit ID number in the database. Social media companies have been sharing more information about political advertising after US intelligence agencies found that Russia targeted US voters with social media ads, including ads, to try to influence the 2016 election. Russia has denied the allegations.

Facebook has also come under fire in recent months over its decision not to fact-check political ads, chief executive Mark Zuckerberg has defended that stance by arguing Facebook does not want to stifle free speech, but the social media platform will look at how the policy could be refined.

NHAI gets nod to pool in small money for projects

Cars to become costlier from January



quick BITES

| INDICATORS | % |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| Sensex | 40412.57 +0.43 |
| Nifty 50 | 11910.15 +0.05 |
| S&P 500 | 3,134.07 -0.46 |
| Dollar (₹) | 70.84 -0.09 |
| Pound Sterling (₹) | 93.15 -0.35 |
| Euro (₹) | 78.54 -0.06 |
| Gold (10gm) (₹) | 38,486.73 +0.18 |
| Brent crude (\$/bbl) | 63.74 -0.60 |
| IN 10-Yr bond yield | 6.76 +0.84 |
| US 10-Yr Tbill yield | 1.81 -0.30 |

* As of 10:30 pm IST

US, Mexico and Canada reach trade agreement

The United States, Mexico and Canada signed a deal on Tuesday to finalise their new trade agreement, paving the way to ratification after more than two years of arduous negotiations. US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer said the new additions to the US-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) made it the "best trade agreement in history."

Zydus Cadila launches cheaper diabetic tablets



Zydus Cadila said it has launched its affordable anti-diabetic Vinylin brand tablets, available in two formulations, in India. As the product patent on popular diabetes drug Vildagliptin has expired in India on December 9, some domestic drug firms have launched the generic versions of the drug that are much cheaper than the patented medicine.

Air India seeks ₹2,400 cr govt guarantee

Facing acute financial crunch, Air India has sought Rs 2,400 crore guarantee from the government to raise fresh funds to mainly meet its operational needs. An airline official said there is a delay in payment of salaries for Nov, and would be paid on Thursday. They said the amount of Rs 2,400 crore is part of the Rs 7,500 crore guarantee offered for the fiscal.

Advertiser Saatchi slumps as founder quits

Shares in troubled advertising group M&C Saatchi slumped after co-founder Maurice Saatchi quit the group over accounting issues. Maurice started the advertising giant with brother Charles in 1995. In August it revealed accounting irregularities. M&C Saatchi was formed after the brothers were ousted from their advertising group Saatchi & Saatchi in 1994.

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Additional cess being mulled to raise revenue Move on to increase GST rates, cut slabs

MADHUSUDAN SAHOO NEW DELHI, DEC 11

The common man has a reason to worry as his household budget may go for a toss if the GST Council meet next week decides to raise the duty slabs. It is expected that the current 5 per cent GST on essential food products and services may be increased to 6 per cent or 8 per cent. Similarly, the 12 per cent tax slab may be raised to 15 per cent. There are also proposals to merge some tax slabs and impose cess on more items to increase government revenue. At present, the 5 per cent goods and services tax (GST) slab includes essential commodities such as food items, footwear and basic clothing. Key commodities such as tea, coffee, frozen vegetables and medicines also fall in this basic tax slab. Any increase in the slab is not to mention the step 8 per cent duty being mulled, will burn a deep hole in the common man's pocket. "With pressure on revenue collection, the GST rates and slabs may be raised during the GST Council meeting on December 18. The council is expected to increase the basic tax rate to 6-8 per



cent," a top source told this newspaper. "Increasing the basic GST rate from the 5 per cent to 6 per cent is expected to bring an additional revenue of Rs 1,000 crore per month into the government kitty, assuming GST collection of Rs 1 trillion, while raising it to 8 per cent will mean an additional collection of Rs 3,000 crore per month," the source said. The government's move comes in the backdrop of concern at the Centre and states over the lower-than-expected GST collections and pending compensation to many states. "A group of tax officials from the Centre and states will finalise recommendations for rate rationalisation. It is learnt to have considered various options, including raising rates from 5 per cent to 8 per cent and 12 per cent to 15 per cent," the source added. However, a detailed framework on rate rationalisation will be discussed during the GST Council meeting and the council is also likely to deliberate on raising the cess on some products. As of now, there are four slabs under the GST regime - 5, 12, 18 and 28 per cent, while goods and services under the 28 per cent category attract additional cess that ranges between 1 per cent and 25 per cent. The council can also explore possibility of merger of slabs to bring

down the number of slabs to three," sources said, adding that it may revisit the exemption list and explore whether cess can be levied on some services. Meanwhile, Kerala Finance Minister Thomas Isaac opposed the proposal of tweaking the lower slabs, saying that it is a bizarre proposal. "It will be injustice. I will not accept increasing the tax burden on the poor, rather raise the upper slab, if needed," he said. "If the 18 per cent slab can go up to 22 per cent or to 25 per cent, it means an additional drop up of Rs 13,000 crore per month," said Isaac. Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Suresh Modi said raising the 5 per cent slab would not help meet the objective. "Although I would not like to comment on the matter till a final proposal comes, hiking the 5 per cent slab will make little difference. It is touching the 18 per cent slab which may help, but difficult to say if it's feasible," he said. Punjab has proposed a two-slab formula of clubbing the 5 per cent and 12 per cent slabs, and raising 18 per cent and 28 per cent to simplify the GST rate structure and improve revenues. —PTI

ADB cuts growth estimate to 5.1%

New Delhi, Dec. 11: The Asian Development Bank (ADB) on Wednesday lowered India's economic growth forecast for FY20 to 5.1 per cent on slowing job prospects, rural distress exacerbated by poor harvest and credit crunch. The multilateral bank, however, expects the growth to pick up to 6.5 per cent next year on supportive government policies. India's growth is now seen at a slower 5.1 per cent in fiscal year 2019 as the founding of a major non-banking financial company in 2018 led to a rise in risk aversion in the financial sector and a credit crunch. "Also, consumption was affected by slow job growth and rural distress aggravated by a poor harvest. Growth should pick up to 6.5 per cent in fiscal year 2020 with supportive policies," the ADB said in a supplement to the Asian Development Outlook 2019 Update. Earlier in September, it had trimmed India's GDP growth to 6.5 per cent from the earlier estimate of 7 per cent. —PTI

Fuel demand hits 23-month high in Nov.

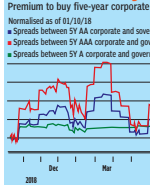
ELLEN SORENG DEC. 11
India's fuel demand grew by 10.5 per cent in November from a year earlier, its fastest pace since January 2018, driven by higher consumption of transport fuels diesel and petrol, and cooking gas. Consumption of refined fuels, a proxy for oil demand in the economy, totalled 18.77 million tonnes in the month, preliminary data from the Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell (PPAC) of the oil ministry showed on Wednesday. Diesel consumption, which accounts for about two-fifths of India's overall refined fuel demand, reversed the declining trend of the previous three months and rose by 8.8 per cent to 7.55 million tonnes in November from a year earlier, also its highest rate since January 2018, the data showed. Although fuel consumption normally reflects industrial activity in India, industry officials linked the annual increase in November to a low base last year, when sales of the fuel plunged during the month due to the late falling of festivals. During festival season road and other infrastructure related construction work temporarily comes to a halt, and also movement of transportation vehicles—mainly trucks—get restricted," an official at one of the state refiners told Reuters. "Last year's festival season was in November when diesel sales growth was negative while this year's festivals were in October, so we are seeing high growth in November," he added. "Part of this fiscal year beginning April, India's diesel sales have remained subdued due to various factors, including a prolonged monsoon season and softening industrial activities. Analysts expect the trend to continue until the second half of 2020. Between April and November, diesel consumption grew by about 1 per cent year-on-year. Sales of petrol, rose 9 per cent from a year earlier to 2.53 million tonnes. —Reuters

Credit crisis easing, spreads are back at pre-IL&FS crisis levels

RAHUL SATJIA & ANURAG JOSHI DEC. 11

India's credit crisis appears to be winding down for the safest borrowers, but it's hardly time to celebrate as weaker firms still struggle. Policy makers here are fighting to prevent debt markets from seizing up since the shock collapse of IL&FS Group last year. They can take some cheer in this: spreads on top-rated corporate bonds have dropped back near where they were in the market before it began in September last year. Recent note sales show that a testing ground for top-rated companies. Housing Development Finance Corp, India's largest mortgage lender, recently issued a two-year note with a 6.99 per cent

Rush to safety



coupon. That's significantly lower than the 9.11 per cent coupon it paid on a ₹1,000 crore note that matured in October 2018. Much work remains to be done. Lower-rated companies are still struggling with a cash squeeze and

rising borrowing costs. Economic growth slowed to 4.5 per cent last quarter, the lowest in more than 20 years. Corporate financial health has deteriorated to the worst in at least seven years, according to a Care Ratings index. A series of defaults are keeping investors on edge, said Anil Gupta, a Vice-President at credit rating firm ICRA. The cash squeeze in the nation's shadow banking industry, which leads to everyone from street vendors to property tycoons, shows few signs of abating. Issuers with ratings at or above A- have sold a record Rs 5.8 lakh crore (\$82 billion) of notes this year. The market, dominated by firms with lower ratings has slid to a six-year low of Rs 18,200 crore so far in the market, according to Bloomberg. As policy makers assess the challenges ahead in 2020, the market, grappling with the financing needs of weaker borrowers that are yet to benefit as much from government support this year. —Bloomberg

NBFCs raise ₹14,000 cr via securitisation in H1

SANGEETHA G CHENNAI, DEC. 11

The liquidity concerns in the market are increasing, driving NBFC-MFIs into securitisation. NBFC-MFIs raised Rs 14,000 crore through securitisation in the first half of the fiscal, which was double the amount raised in first half of last year. As per data collated by the Reserve Bank of India, NBFC-MFIs (non-banking finance company; micro-finance institution) tapped the market for ₹14,000 crore in H1 FY20, nearly two times the amount raised in H1 FY19. Securitisation values for NBFC-MFIs are expected to cross Rs 30,000 crore in the current fiscal compared with Rs 26,000 crore in FY19. —Business Correspondent model.



The rise in securitisation is being driven by the inadequate funding available to NBFC-MFIs from conventional sources, finds ICRA. "Asset quality of NBFC-MFIs remains vulnerable to natural calamities and political & communal risks. The impact of recent cyclone and floods in several affected parts of the country and political/commercial risk in certain geographies remains a key monitorable," said Abhishek Dabria, Vice President and Head-Structured Finance at ICRA. However, he finds that systemic risk is limited. "The rated securitised corporate bonds are usually well diversified and carry high credit enhancement to take care of temporary dips in 1-3 per cent. Hence, the systemic risks should be limited," he said.

Netflix tests cheaper subscription plans in india

Bengaluru, Dec. 11: Netflix Inc is testing longer subscription plans in India as it looks to attract more users in a highly competitive market where smartphone and internet usage is soaring. New users of Netflix in India may have the option to choose from three, six and 12-month plans at discounts of up to 50 per cent, a person familiar with the matter told Reuters. The Los Gatos, California-based company has previously used India as a testing ground for new features, launching a mobile-only monthly plan starting at Rs 159 (\$2.79) this year. Including the mobile plan, the company currently offers four plans in India, with its premium plan costing Rs 799 per month. "We believe that our members may value the



flexibility that comes from being able to pay for a few months at once. As always, this is a test and we will only introduce it more broadly if people find it useful," a spokeswoman for Netflix India said in an email, but declined to give further details. The US video streaming company is spending \$15

billion on content as it battles Amazon.com Inc's Prime Video service, Hulu, and Disney's newly launched streaming service for subscribers. Netflix Chief Executive Officer Reed Hastings said last week the company was spending about \$420 million on content for India, where it has already launched original series such as gangster drama 'Sacred Games' and police procedural 'Delhi Crime'. Hastings also said the company's first animated series from India, 'Mighty Little Bheem', had been watched by 27 million households worldwide, a sign of the country's importance to Netflix's plans for global expansion. The producer of original series such as 'The Crown' and 'Sex Education' Netflix has nearly 160 million paying users worldwide, but has not disclosed subscriber figures for India. The trial three-month plans will be offered at a 20 per cent discount to original prices, the source said. —Reuters

Locust attack in Pak's Punjab, Sind hurts crops

ISMAIL DILAWAR DEC. 10

Pakistan's efforts to turn around its economy after winning bailout funds from the IMF face a new threat—from crop-eating pests. Swarms of locusts are fanning out through the South Asian nation, gorging on wheat, cotton, mustard and other crops. That, together with unseasonal rain and a scourge of low quality seeds, has hit major crops in the largest producing regions of Punjab and Sindh. Cotton production in the current crop year is forecast at 10.2 million bales, or 20 per cent short of the 12.7 million bales target, according to the state-run Pakistan Central Cotton Committee. The pest outbreak has the potential to hurt farm production that accounts for about a fifth of the economy's output. While cotton is Pakistan's top farm export, wheat is the staple food crop in the country where more than 40 per cent of the labour force depends on agriculture for a living. Prime Minister Imran Khan's government is targeting economic growth of 3.5-4 per cent in the current fiscal year ending June, but a lower cotton output could shave off as much as 25 basis points, said Ahsan Mehani, Chief Executive Officer at Arif Habib Commodities. Among the top five cotton producing nations, Pakistan may find itself importing a record quality of the fibre, shanabab will this year have to spend more than \$1.7 billion to purchase about 6 million cotton bales, according to the Karachi Cotton Broker's Forum. Wheat crop spread across at least 10,000 acres have been destroyed so far by locusts in the Sindh province, said Zahid Haneef, General Secretary at the Sindh Chamber of Agriculture. "Wheat has been damaged. Mustard has been damaged," he said. Authorities tasked with protecting crops are in the process of hiring aircraft to spray pesticides in the worst-affected regions in at least 13 districts, including Karachi, Tharparkar and Sukkur. "We are having an emergency-like situation," said Pakistan D.G of crop protection at the Ministry of Food Security and Research. Naz said last week Pakistani authorities also met their Indian counterparts at Khokhrapara Munabao border point to deal with these crop-eating insects also threatening crops in the Indian state of Rajasthan. —Bloomberg



FoF infuses ₹700cr in startup cos

SANGEETHA G. CHENNAI, DEC. 11

Fund of Funds for Startups set up by the government has provided around ₹700 crore to SEBI registered Alternate Investment Funds, which in turn invests in startups. Department for promotion of industry and internal trade (DPIIT) had established Fund of Funds for Startups in June 2016 with a corpus of ₹1,000 crore to boost the startup ecosystem. These Fund of Funds (FoF) managed by SIDBI provide capital to SEBI-registered Alternate Investment Funds (AIFs), which in turn invest money in growing Indian startups through equity and equity-linked instruments. Till November, SIDBI has committed ₹3,123.29 crore to 47 SEBI registered AIFs. These AIFs have raised a corpus and ₹25,729 crore, of which ₹696 crore have been drawn from the FoFs for Startups. The AIFs have invested ₹2,669.83 crore into 279 startups.

Yes Bank shares fall 15%

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD MUMBAI, DEC. 11

Yes Bank shares fell over 15 per cent on Wednesday with market's growing disappointment over the bank's failure to rope in quality investors and a also potential investor backing out. With Tuesday's over eight per cent fall the share of the bank are down over 23 per cent in the last two sessions as the shares closed 15.33 per cent lower at ₹42.80 on the BSE and at ₹43.55 on the NSE. Yes Bank after the board meeting on Tuesday had informed stock exchanges about its recent dealing with potential investors in the bank's ongoing capital raising plan that offers worth \$500 million of Citix Holdings and Citix Investment Group and \$1.2 billion of binding offer submitted by Erwin Singh Braich / SPCF Holdings. But another potential investor Rakesh Jhunjhunwala offer to invest \$25 million has been held under doubtful due to uncertainty over the bank's capital raising plans.

L&T Finance plans to raise ₹500 crore

FC BUREAU MUMBAI, DEC. 11

L&T Finance, a wholly owned subsidiary of L&T Finance Holdings, announced ₹500 crore secured redeemable non-convertible debentures (NCD) public issue with an option to raise the oversubscription up to ₹1,000 crore, opening on December 16. The NCDs of face value of ₹1,000 each offer coupon rates in the range of 8.25 per cent to 8.65 per cent for different maturities of 36 month, 60 month and 84 months available to all four categories of investors – retail, high net-worth, non-institutional and institutional investors. The NCDs have been rated AAA by rating agencies Crisil, Care and India Ratings with regards to safety regarding timely servicing of financial obligations. "The issue opens on December 16, 2019 and closes on December 30, 2019, with an option of early closure or extension," it said. Net proceeds will be used toward lending, etc.

NHAI gets nod to pool in cars to become costlier from Jan.

Plans to attract investment from long-term small investors

New Delhi, Dec. 11: The government on Wednesday gave its nod to the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) to set up Infrastructure Investment Trust (InvIT) and monetise national highway projects. InvITs are instruments on the pattern of mutual funds and are designed to pool small sums of money from a number of investors to invest in assets that give cash flow over a period of time.

"The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has given its approval to the proposal of the ministry of road transport and highways authorising NHAI to set up InvIT as per InvIT Guidelines issued by SEBI," said a ministry spokesman. Roads and highways are the lifeline of the economy, connecting remote and far-flung areas and ensuring efficient transportation on regional as well as pan-



(for say 20-30 years) to the Indian highway market, as these investors are averse to construction risk and are interested in investment in assets which provide long-term stable returns, it said.

It will also facilitate retail domestic savings and corporate public sector banks (such as mutual funds, PFRA, etc.) to be invested in infrastructure sector through InvIT. Roads and highways are the lifeline of the economy, connecting remote and far-flung areas and ensuring efficient transportation on regional as well as pan-

India basis, it said. Development of national highways has a multiplier effect in terms of facilitating trade and enhancing the overall economic development of a region, it added.

In October 2017, the Centre launched Bharatmala Pariyojna, which is the flagship highway development programme of Government of India for development of 24,900 km of roads for a total investment of ₹5,35,000 crore. Given the magnitude of Bharatmala program, NHAI would need adequate funds to complete the projects within the prescribed timelines, it said.

MICHAEL GONSALVES | FC PUNE, DEC. 11

New car models from New Year are going to cost more as automakers gear up for a price hike because of five per cent to five per cent despite struggling to sell vehicles in a market facing the worst auto slowdown in India in more than a decade. Auto analysts said car makers usually hike prices from January to get rid of the unsold 2019-badged vehicles at showrooms before the year-end.

According to automakers tepid sales and heavy discounts have eroded profit margins, leaving them no room to accommodate surge in input costs. In fact, from January automakers are hiking prices of their car models in order to accommodate surge in input costs. In fact, from January automakers are hiking prices of their car models in order to accommodate surge in input costs.

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In the brand, there is a need to offset the impact of these rising costs through a moderate price correction. Its compatriot rival Audi India would also raise the prices of all its models by one per cent next month, industry sources said. Swedish luxury car maker Volvo Cars declined to comment while Tata Motors-owned British luxury brand Jaguar Land Rover said there is no price hike.

OPENING RE PROJECTION FOR TODAY

Market is choppy, use dips to accumulate

The market rebounded driven by buying in bank, IT and auto stocks amid lacklustre global cues. Overcoming a bout of volatility in late-afternoon trade, the BSE Sensex ended 172.69 points or 0.43 per cent higher at 40,412.5, while Nifty climbed 53.35 points or 0.46 per cent to close at 11,910.15.

NTPC was the top gainer with a 1.52 per cent gain. Technically Nifty continued its formation of lower highs – lower lows over the past few sessions but formed a Bullish candle on daily scale. Now price of selling market range from January to offset the impact of these rising costs through a moderate price correction.

DEBUT Aramco mcap up \$170b

FC BUREAU MUMBAI, DEC. 11

Riyadh, Dec. 11: Saudi Arabia's oil company Aramco gained 10 per cent in its first moments on the stock market Wednesday as a dramatic debut that held until closing and pushed its value up to \$1.8 trillion, surpassing Apple as the largest listed company in the world. Trading on the Saudi Tadawul stock exchange came after a mammoth \$25.6 billion initial public offering that set the record as the biggest ever in history, overtaking the \$25 billion raised by China's Alibaba in 2014. Demand for the IPO reached \$106 billion with most of that generated by Saudi investors. Aramco, owned by the state, has sold a 1.5 per cent stake in the company, pricing its shares before trading at 32 Saudi riyals, or \$8.53.

Centre to guarantee PSBs' purchase of NBFC bonds

FC BUREAU MUMBAI, DEC. 11

New Delhi, Dec. 11: The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved a partial credit guarantee scheme for public sector banks (PSBs) to purchase high-rated pooled assets from Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) or Housing Finance Companies (HFCs), with the amount of overall guarantee provided by government all the first loss of up to 10 per cent of fair value of assets being purchased by banks or ₹10,000 crore, whichever is lower. Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman in the Budget speech for 2019-20 had announced that the government will provide one-time six months' partial credit guarantee to PSBs for first loss of up to 10 per cent for purchase of high-rated pooled assets of financially sound NBFCs, amounting to a total of ₹1 lakh crore during the current financial year.

Cabinet clears more amendments to IBC

FC BUREAU MUMBAI, DEC. 11

New Delhi, Dec. 11: Seeking to remove bottlenecks and streamline resolution process, the Cabinet on Wednesday approved further amendments to the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), 2016, which came into force in 2016, has already been amended thrice. The latest changes pertain to the IBC (Second Amendment) Bill, 2019, is likely to be introduced in the current session of the Parliament, according to a senior official. The amendments are aimed at removing certain difficulties being faced during insolvency resolution process to realise the objectives of the Code and to further ease doing of business, an official release said.

Traders say retail majors have predatory pricing

FC BUREAU MUMBAI, DEC. 11

The government has received comments from 120 stakeholders on the draft e-commerce policy. The National Consumer Helpline (NCH) set up by the government has received close to 14,000 complaints with regard to fraudulent transactions on e-commerce platform. A draft e-commerce policy was prepared by the government and put up in the public domain on February 23, 2019, for comments and suggestions. Comments from over 120 stakeholders, which include companies, industry associations, think tanks and foreign government agencies taking action in case of the companies where the resolution process has already been completed.

US Army plans rare earth plant after China threat

FC BUREAU MUMBAI, DEC. 11

The US Army plans to build a rare earth processing plant after China threat to the world's rare earth supply chain. The US Army is planning to build a rare earth processing plant in the state of Texas. The plant is expected to be completed by 2025. The plant will produce rare earth metals used in a wide range of military and commercial applications. The plant is expected to be one of the largest rare earth processing plants in the world. The plant is expected to be one of the largest rare earth processing plants in the world.

The first after 70 years

FC BUREAU MUMBAI, DEC. 11

The world would mark the first financial investment by the US military into commercial-scale rare earths production since World War Two's Manhattan Project built the first atomic bomb. The funding is derived in part from the Defense Production Act (DPA), a 1950s-era US law that gives the Pentagon wide financial latitude to procure equipment necessary for the national defence.

Traders say retail majors have predatory pricing

FC BUREAU MUMBAI, DEC. 11

The government has received comments from 120 stakeholders on the draft e-commerce policy. The National Consumer Helpline (NCH) set up by the government has received close to 14,000 complaints with regard to fraudulent transactions on e-commerce platform. A draft e-commerce policy was prepared by the government and put up in the public domain on February 23, 2019, for comments and suggestions. Comments from over 120 stakeholders, which include companies, industry associations, think tanks and foreign government agencies taking action in case of the companies where the resolution process has already been completed.





Jorge resigns

Former Argentina and Chile manager Jorge Sampaoli has resigned as coach of Santos after guiding the club to a second-place finish in the Brazilian league

3 I'll play as many (times) as Tiger wants me to play. I wouldn't be here if I wasn't ready. — Dustin Johnson, golfer, on competing at the Presidents Cup

SHORT TAKES

FIFA eyes recovery from Platini

London: The FIFA governance committee has told the soccer body's leadership to pursue legal action against Michel Platini to recover the 2 million Swiss francs (\$2 million) that led to the former UEFA president being banned from the sport. The payment was expected in 2015 as having been approved by Sepp Blatter, which led to the Swiss official being ousted as FIFA president. FIFA governance committee chairman Mukul Mudgal wrote to FIFA deputy secretary general Alasdair Bell saying the body had passed a resolution over the wrongful payment. "The FIFA administration (should) take the necessary steps before the relevant authorities in Switzerland against both Mr Blatter and Mr Platini with a view to ensuring that the CHF 2 million unduly paid by Mr Blatter to Mr Platini is returned to FIFA (together with interest, at the appropriate rate) and the disciplinary fines and costs imposed are recovered," Mudgal wrote in a November 25 letter. — AP

Artist wins gold amid controversy

Clark, Philippines: A Filipino martial artist was prepared to give up his chance of winning a Southeast Asian Games title because he didn't want to wear underpants beneath his traditional loincloth. Crisamel Delfin eventually picked up gold for his weapon-wielding arnis competition, but only after he was persuaded to wear skimpy underwear to avoid a wardrobe malfunction on live television. "In the Ifugao Igorot culture, it's an insult to the cultural traditions if you wear undergarments under the loincloth," Senator Miguel Zubiri, the Philippines Arms Federation president, said on Wednesday. The former world champion said Delfin's coach had a long argument with judges who had got their knickers in a twist, insisting the fighter wore underpants during his acrobatic routine in case the loincloth fell off and he was left "completely naked" in the middle of the routine. — AFP

TEN-MAN ODISHA BEAT HYDERABAD

Pune: A 10-man Odisha FC picked up their second win of the season as they overcame Hyderabad FC 3-2 in the Hero Indian Super League match at the Shree Shiv Chhatrapati Sports Complex here on Wednesday. Carlos Delgado and Xisco Hernandez (41') gave Odisha a first-half lead before Bobo (65') scored from the spot to set up a nervy finish to the game. Odisha were awarded a penalty of their own at the end of which Martin Guedes converted to secure three points. Rohit Kumar (89') pulled one back at the death for the home side. Odisha had Vinit Rai sent off for a second bookable offence in the 65th minute but they soldiered on. After eight matches, Odisha are sixth on the table with nine points while Hyderabad are at the bottom with zero. The host's intent to get off the mark quickly was evident as they pressed high up the field in a bid to launch one attack after another. Goalkeeper Kamall failed to punch the ball away and Delgado made full use of the chance to head home the opening goal. A curling effort from Robin Singh flew inches wide as Hyderabad attempted to equalise but it was the home team who struck before the break. — Agencies

New Innings



Mohammed Asaduddin and Anam Mirza are all smiles after getting married in Hyderabad on Wednesday. Asad is son of former Indian cricket captain and Hyderabad Cricket Association president Mohammed Azharuddin while Anam is the younger sister of tennis ace Sania Mirza, a multiple Grand Slam winner.

Heat sings Hawks

Butler, Adebayo help Miami rally past Atlanta

Los Angeles, Dec. 11: Miami's Jimmy Butler and Bam Adebayo both posted triple-doubles as the Heat rallied late and dominated overtime to beat the Atlanta Hawks 135-121 on Tuesday and remain unbeaten at home this NBA season. Adebayo scored a career-high 30 points with 11 rebounds and 11 assists for his first career triple-double — producing double figures in three key statistical categories. Butler scored 20 points with a career-high 18 rebounds and 11 assists for the Heat, who improved to 11-0 at the

packed American Airlines Arena. After surrendering an early lead Miami trailed 117-111 with less than a minute remaining in regulation. Atlanta's Trae Young told the Heat crowd "it's over" — but it turned out he spoke too soon. Three-pointers from Duncan Robinson and Butler tied it up and the Heat opened overtime with a 16-0 scoring run. "We've got grit. When we go into that huddle in overtime we know what time it is. We couldn't get it done in regular, but we got it done in OT so I'm

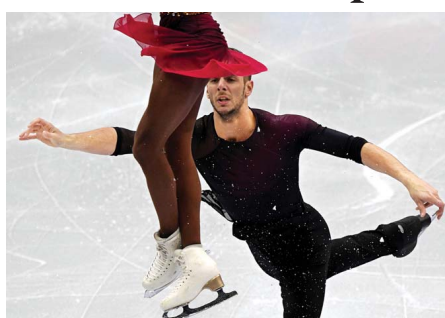
happy for that," Adebayo said. Robinson finished with a career-high 10 three-pointers on the way to a career-high 34 points. Kendrick Nunn led Miami with a career-high 38 points — one shy of the Heat record — as the hosts notched a third victory over Atlanta this season. "Andre Hunter posed the Hawks with 28 points and Young added 21. Vince Carter contributed 12 for Atlanta and in the process became just the fifth player in NBA history to play in 1,500 games. Carter, 42, joined Robert

Parish (1,611), Kareem Abdul-Jabbar (1,560), Dirk Nowitzki (1,522) and John Stockton (1,504) in reaching the milestone. **76ERS SNACK ON NUGGETS** The Philadelphia 76ers also remained perfect at home, notching their third straight victory 97-92 over the Denver Nuggets. Sixers big man Joel Embiid scored 22 points, coolly draining two free throws with 15.3 seconds remaining to seal the victory. Embiid added 10 rebounds and six assists — with two steals and a

blocked shot — and Tobias Harris added 20 points as Philadelphia improved to 13-0 at home with their seventh win in eight games. Will Barton led the Nuggets with 26 points, after Denver's top 2-1 Jamal Murray departed in the first quarter after a collision with Ben Simmons. **BLAZERS HURT KNICKS** A change of scenery didn't help the New York Knicks, who opened a four-game West Coast road trip with a 107-105 loss to the Trail Blazers in Portland. — AFP

Sexual slur on skater Cipres

Los Angeles, Dec. 11: Figure skater Morgan Cipres is under investigation by the United States Centre for SafeSport after allegedly sending lewd photographs to a 13-year-old girl. USA Today reported on Wednesday. Cipres, a two-time Olympian and pairs bronze medalist at the 2018 World Championship with partner Vanessa James, is alleged to have sent photos of his penis to the girl, who skated at the same Florida rink as the Frenchman. Asked to comment on the report Tuesday, Cipres' press spokeswoman said: "The federation is working with him on this. He has taken on a lawyer and he will not let himself be pushed around." Cipres has trained in the United States since 2016. USA Today added it had seen the photos at the centre of the investigation, which were sent by Cipres from what appeared to be his verified Instagram account on December 3, 2017. The newspaper said Cipres' coaches — former



In this file photo Morgan Cipres performs in the pairs short program along with his partner. — AFP

Olympians John Zimmerman and Silvia Fontana — had warned the girl's family not to report the incident to authorities at the time. According to USA Today, a fourth adult was also involved in the incident, named as coach Vinny Dispenza. Dispenza is alleged to

have told the girl and another underage girl to message Cipres requesting photos in exchange for the promise of a pizza. USA Today said the girl and her parents were urged by Zimmerman and Fontana to raise the matter with police of the US Centre for SafeSport so as to avoid

disrupting Cipres and James' 2018 Olympic preparations. "The girl said she had been told by Dispenza she would "never skate again" if she took the matter to authorities. In women's meanwhile declined comment on the allegation when contacted by USA Today. — AFP

RALF JUNIOR TO RACE IN MRF CHALLENGE

Sakhir (Bahrain), Dec. 11: David Schumacher, son of former Formula One driver Ralf, will race at the MRF Challenge, India's only FIA-approved international series, at the Bahrain International Circuit here on December 13 and 14. The MRF Challenge will feature a total of four races spread over two days. The 18-year-old David has been in tremendous form in the past year, having emerged Rookie Champion with eight wins in his category while finishing ninth overall in the 2018 Formula 4 ADAC Championship, followed by fourth overall with four wins in the 2019 Formula 3 Regional European Championship. David is the latest among high-profile drivers, who have utilised the MRF Challenge, organised by the Madras Motor Sports Club. — PTI

Pranav powers ahead

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, DEC. 11

India's U-17 No.1 men's singles shuttler Pranav RAO Gandham and U-15 No.1 men's singles shuttler Tanmoy Bikash Boruah made winning starts to their campaign at the Asia Junior U-17 and U-15 Badminton Championships that got under way at Surabaya, Indonesia, on Wednesday. Telangana's Pranav one of the fastest-rising junior stars, produced a brilliant effort to beat Thailand's Pataralaps Chaihouthacharen 21-17, 21-17 to

storm into the second round. 13th seed Ayush Raj Gupta of Uttar Pradesh and unseeded Shubham Patel of Rajasthan joined him in the same round with strong performances. While Gupta emerged a 21-13, 21-16 set winner over Singapore's Yao Chee Torance Jng, Patel staged off a stiff challenge from Taipei's Liu Chia-Feng to win 24-22, 21-14. Maharashtra's Varun Kapur, who is seeded first in the U-17 category has got a bye into the second round. In women's singles U-17 section, Telangana girl Meghana Reddy, seeded

eight at this tournament, moved into the second round by dint of a first-round bye. Assam's Ishani Baruah, seeded 16, got a late surge from her opponent, Indonesia's Mutiara Ayu Pratiwi, to reach the second round. In U-15, Tanmoy Bikash Boruah hardly broke a sweat in entering the first round. After a first-round bye, the Assam shuttler got past Jordan's Ismail Omar 21-9, 21-9. Assam's promising shuttler Ankit Mondal also breezed into the next round with a 21-19, 21-8 win against Japan's Daichi Miura.

U-23 | CRICKET

Mickil plays a captain's knock

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, DEC. 11

Captain Mickil Jaiswal led from the front with a half-century and MSR Charan played perfect second fiddle but Hyderabad were all out for a lowly 202 on the rural match 2-1 and then trounced Uttar Pradesh 3-0 to entertain the crowds. In the girls section last year's runners-up Nagaland overcame Uttar Pradesh 2-1. In other matches, Odisha beat Rajasthan 2-1 while Goa blanked Karnataka 3-0. **THE RESULTS** Boys: Bihar bt Maharashtra 2-1 (15-21, 21-15, 21-10); Andhra Pradesh bt UP 2-1 (11-21, 21-12, 21-15); Delhi bt Rajasthan 3-0 (21-12, 21-13, 21-7); Bihar bt UP 3-0 (21-17, 21-14, 21-13). Girls: Nagaland bt UP 2-1 (21-13, 21-14, 3-21); Odisha bt Bihar 2-1 (15-21, 21-10, 21-13); Goa bt Karnataka 3-0 (21-7, 21-10, 21-6). **Anger in the districts** Meanwhile, there are angry voices back home over the selection of the team, much of it had to do with regional bias. "The non-selection of G. Ganesh of Mahabubnagar district despite him scoring two triple centuries in the Hyderabad Cricket Association's league is shocking. How can such big knocks be completely ignored? The HCA does not seem to care," seethed Sunil Babu Kolankota, secretary of Telangana Association of Cricket which has been fighting for rural representation in State teams. "In the last six decades only five or six players from the districts (who were settled in Hyderabad) have been picked in the State sides. This is an insult to the Districts. It's high time the authorities elected representatives intervened to create a level playing field in Telangana, which was born out of the need to end discrimination," Sunil said. "Look at the Andhra Cricket Association, their Ranji Trophy team has representation from all the districts," he added. "It is learnt that a former Minister too has written to HCA president Mohammed Azharuddin about Ganesh being ignored and has placed his objection in the regard. "Ignoring the talent pool, especially rural talent, will defeat the spirit of statehood," he wrote. Cricket Association's league is

All the President's men



International Team players Louis Oosthuizen (front left) and captain Ernie Els (front right) ride down a fairway during a practice round ahead of the Presidents Cup golf tournament in Melbourne on Wednesday. USA captain Tiger Woods will lead from the front after picking himself and Justin Thomas for the opening fourball match against Australian Marc Leishman and Chilean rookie Joaquin Niemann on the international team. — AFP

CITY ROUND-UP

AMAN, MAYANK HIT FIFTIES

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, DEC. 11

Aman Rao and Mayank Gupta hit a half-century each as Hyderabad made 208 for 6 in their second innings in their Vijay Merchant Trophy U-16 semifinal against Mumbai on Wednesday. Aman made 58 and Mayank 50. Pranav Varma was batting on 38 when stumps were drawn on the penultimate day. **Brief scores (Day-3):** Hyderabad 170 in 83.4 overs & 208/6 in 86 overs (Aman Rao 58, Mayank Gupta 50, Pranav Varma 38 batting, Musheer Khan 2 for 60, B. Brice 2 for 42) vs Mumbai 233 in 94.5 overs.

CRICKET TRIALS FOR WOMEN

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, DEC. 11

The Hyderabad Cricket Association is conducting open selections for under 23 women cricketers on Saturday from 11 am to 4.30 pm at the Rajiv Gandhi International Cricket Stadium in Uppal, Hyderabad, to pick HCA's team for the forthcoming domestic one-day format tournaments. Players born on or after 1-9-1996 are eligible. Those attending the trials should wear whites and bring original/boondate date of birth certificates along with copies for verification and return.

SUPER 7 CRICKET SELECTIONS

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, DEC. 11

The Telangana Super 7 Cricket Association is conducting selection trials for Under 19 boys on Sunday from 8.30 am to 1 pm at the Sports Coaching Foundation ground in Masab Tank, Hyderabad, to pick the state team for the 6th Junior National Super 7 Cricket Championship to be held at Kota in Rajasthan from December 28 to 30. For further details, contact M. Jagannathan on 9246152312.

OSMANIA BADMINTON TEAM

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, DEC. 11

Following is the Osmania University men's badminton team for the South Zone Inter University Championships to be held at SRM University, Chennai from December 16 to 20: Manish Kumar (CBT), Aditya (HW), P. Ladhit (Noble), Sanjay Kumar (Noble), V. Neeraj Kumar (CSJ), K. Seshank (Bhavans Vivekananda), K. Rahul (Badraka). Coach: M. Rajesh (Badraka). Manager: Dr. G. Sthyam Noman Reddy (CBT).



Re-appointed

The Afghanistan Cricket Board have re-appointed former captain Asghar Afghan as their skipper across all formats of the game

Mumbai massacre

When we arrived here this morning it reminded me of playing in India. — Usman Khawaja, Australian batsman says the smog in Sydney is so bad that it reminds him of playing in India

SHORT TAKES



Mayank comes in place of Dhawan

New Delhi: O opener Mayank Agarwal was on Wednesday named as Shikhar Dhawan's replacement in India's ODI squad for the three-match series against the West Indies as the southpaw has not yet recovered from his knee injury. Dhawan had suffered a deep cut on his left knee during a Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy game against Maharashtra in Surat and was subsequently ruled out of the ongoing T20 series. "The BCCI Medical Team feels that while Dhawan's stitches are off and his wound is healing gradually, he still needs more time before he regains full match fitness," the BCCI said in a statement. "The All-India Senior Selection Committee has named Mayank Agarwal as replacement for the injured Shikhar Dhawan in India's squad for the upcoming series against West Indies," it added. India will play three ODIs against the West Indies in Chennai, Visakhapatnam and Cuttack. Agarwal, who is currently playing Ranji Trophy match against Tamil Nadu in Dindigul, will join the national team in Chennai. — PTI

Kiwis to face major test in Australia

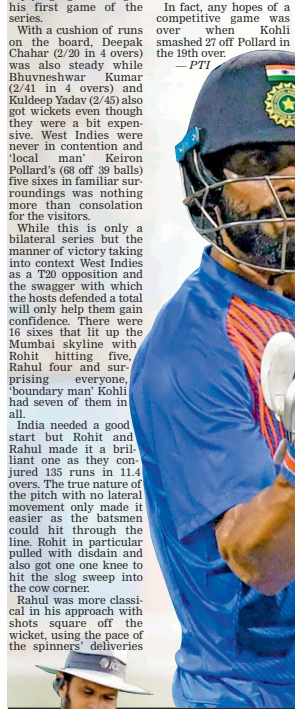
Perth: The validity and durability of New Zealand's ranking and run of success in Test cricket will be tested in the sport's most hostile environment when it meets Australia on Thursday to open a three-match series. New Zealand has risen to No. 2 in the world test rankings after an unbeaten string of seven consecutive series, most recently at home over England. Those performances and the individual form of players such as captain Kane Williamson, batsman Ross Taylor and Tom Latham and bowler Neil Wagner, have some observers describing this as the best New Zealand team of all time. But none of the current squad has played a test match in Perth, Melbourne or Sydney — venues for the series — and until they do so, and succeed, it is unlikely they will be able to wear that laurel. New Zealand has won only one test series in Australia — in 1985 when Richard Hadlee and Martin Crowe helped secure that historic achievement. It has won only one of 22 Tests in Australia in the intervening 32 years and overall has won just three of 31 Tests on Australian soil. Australia won the last test series between the teams in Australia 2-0 in 2015 and the last series in New Zealand 2-0 in 2016. — AP

Mumbai, Dec. 11: KL Rahul was determined, Rohit Sharma elegance personified and Virat Kohli at his brutal best in India's series winning 67-run victory over the West Indies in the third T20 International here on Wednesday. The 'Maximum City' witnessed the maximum entertainment as the trio of Rahul (off 36 balls), Rohit (71 off 34 balls) and captain Kohli (70 not out off 29 balls) contributed in a total of 240 for 3 which completely took factors like, dew, fat track out of equation. An asking rate of 12 from the start would be Herculean for any team and West Indies in the end managed only 173 for 8 with Mohammed Shami (2/25 in 4 overs) enjoying a good outing in his first game of the series. With a cushion of runs over the board, Deepak Chahar (2/20 in 4 overs) was also steady while Bhuvaneshwar Kumar (2/41 in 4 overs) and Kuldeep Yadav (2/45) also got wickets even though they were a bit expensive. West Indies were never in contention and 'local man' Keiron Pollard's (89 off 39 balls) five sixes in familiar surroundings was nothing more than consolation for the visitors. While this is only a bilateral series but the manner of victory taking into context West Indies as a T20 opposition and the swagger with which the hosts defended a total will only help them gain confidence. There were 16 sixes that lit up the Mumbai skyline with Rohit hitting five, Rahul four and surprising everyone, 'boundary man' Kohli had seven of them in all. India needed a good start but Rohit and Rahul made it a brilliant one as they conjured 135 runs in 11.4 overs. The true nature of the pitch with no lateral movement only made it easier as the batsmen could hit through the line. Rohit in particular pulled with disdain and also got one one knee to hit the slog sweep into the corner. Rahul was more classical in his approach with shots square off the wicket, using the pace of the spinners' deliveries

ROHIT, RAHUL AND KOHLI DEMOLISH WINDIES TO CLINCH T20 SERIES 2-1

There was another flicked six off Kesarick Williams, whom he intimidated after playing each shot. Jason Holder was taken for 54 runs in his 4 overs and the fifth bowling combination of left-arm spinner Khary Pierre (0/35 in 2 overs) and Pollard (0/33 in 2 overs) gave away 68 in their last. In fact, any hopes of a competitive game was over when Kohli smashed 27 off Pollard in the 19th over. — PTI

| VIRAT KOHLI | | | |
|-------------|----|----|----|
| R | B | 6s | 4s |
| 70 | 29 | 7 | 4 |



Dar set to BREAK RECORD Pakistan's Alec Steyn will break Steve Bucknor's record of most Test matches as an umpire in the first Test match between Australia and New Zealand, beginning in Perth on Thursday. The 51-year-old, who took up umpiring after a decade of playing first-class cricket in Pakistan, will be standing in his 129th Test match as on-field umpire after making his debut in Dhaka in 2003 during England's tour of Bangladesh. Bucknor was my idol and it is only sinking in now that I will be officiating in more Test matches than him. I have had the good fortune of watching some memorable matches and achievements like Brian Lara's Test knock of 400 not out and South Africa's epic chase of Australia's score of 434 in an ODI in Johannesburg in 2006. — ALECK DAR, UMPIRE

129th

The 51-year-old, who took up umpiring after a decade of playing first-class cricket in Pakistan, will be standing in his 129th Test match as on-field umpire after making his debut in Dhaka in 2003 during England's tour of Bangladesh.

BUCKNOR AN INSPIRATION

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Since 2000

Starting his international career in 2000 during Pakistan's home ODI series against Sri Lanka, Dar has officiated in 207 ODIs and is only two matches shy of the record of 209 matches in the format held by Rudi Koertzen of South Africa. Dar has also officiated in 46 T20 Internationals.

INDIA'S HIGHEST TOTALS IN T20

| Score | Opponents | Venue | Year |
|-------|-------------|------------|------|
| 260-5 | Sri Lanka | Indore | 2017 |
| 244-4 | West Indies | Lauderhill | 2016 |
| 240-3 | West Indies | Mumbai | 2019 |
| 218-4 | England | Durban | 2007 |
| 213-4 | Ireland | Dublin | 2018 |

MOST SIXES IN AN INDIAN INNINGS IN T20

| Sixes | Opponents | Venue | Year |
|-------|-------------|--------------|------|
| 21 | Sri Lanka | Indore | 2017 |
| 16 | West Indies | Mumbai | 2019 |
| 13 | New Zealand | Christchurch | 2009 |
| 13 | Ireland | Dublin | 2018 |
| 13 | New Zealand | Hamilton | 2019 |
| 13 | Australia | Bengaluru | 2019 |

SCORECARD

India: R. Sharma c Walsh Jr b Williams 71, KL Rahul c Poonan b Cottrell 51, R. Pant c Holder b Pollard 0, V. Kohli (not out) 70, S. Iyer (not out) 0. Extras (0-1, 10-2, W-4, NB 0). Total (for three wickets in 20 overs) 240. **FOW:** 1-135, 2-138, 3-233. **Bowling:** Cottrell 4-0-40-1, Holder 4-0-54-0, Pierre 2-0-35-0, Williams 4-0-37-1, Walsh Jr 4-0-38-0, Pollard 2-0-33-1. **West Indies:** L. Simmons c Iyer b Mohammed Shami 7, E. King c Rahul b Kumar 5, C. Hetmyer c Rahul b Kuldeep Yadav 41, N. Poonan c Dube b Chahar 4, K. Pollard c sub (R. Jadeja) b Kumar 68, J. Holder c sub (M. Pandey) b Kuldeep Yadav 8, H. Walsh b Mohammed Shami 11, K. Pierre c sub (R. Jadeja) b Chahar 6, K. Williams (not out) 13, Cottrell (not out) 15. Extras (0-5, W-8) 10. Total (for eight wickets in 20 overs) 173. **FOW:** 1-12, 2-17, 3-17, 4-91, 5-103, 6-141, 7-152, 8-169. **Bowling:** Chahar 4-0-20-2, Kumar 4-0-41-2, Shami 4-0-35-2, Dube 3-0-32-0, Kuldeep 4-0-45-2, Sundar 1-0-5-0.

Mumbai, Dec. 11: Explosive West Indies batsman Evin Lewis was injured while fielding and had to be stretchered off during the third T20 match against India here on Wednesday. Keemo Paul came in as substitute fielder. In the 12th over, Lewis, while fielding at the boundary, jarred his knee while running to his left foot got stuck into the ground as he made the final stride towards the stumps. According to an update provided by the BCCI media department, "Lewis was taken to the hospital for scans and it was found out that he had damaged a soft tissue on his right knee, which would have significantly restricted his ability to run between the wickets." — PTI

K.L. RAHUL

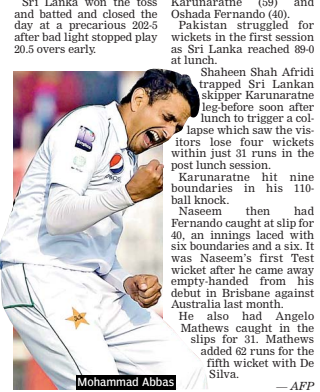
| R | B | 6s | 4s |
|----|----|----|----|
| 91 | 56 | 4 | 9 |



Pakistan dominate Lanka on Day One

Rawalpindi, Dec. 11: Test cricket made its long-awaited return to Pakistan after a deadly attack in 2009, with the home team led by fast bowler Naseem Shah dominating Sri Lanka on Wednesday. Naseem, who is just 16, grabbed 2-61 on the opening day of the first Test which marked a momentous occasion in Pakistan cricket at Rawalpindi stadium. Sri Lanka won the toss and batted and closed the day at a precarious 202-5 after bad light stopped play 20.5 overs early.

At close Dhananjaya de Silva was unbeaten on 88 and Niroshan Dickwella not out 11 as Sri Lanka spoiled a good 96-run start given by skipper Dimuth Karunaratne (59) and Oshada Fernando (48). Pakistan struggled for wickets in the first session as Sri Lanka reached 89-0 at lunch. Shaheen Shah Afridi trapped Sri Lankan skipper Karunaratne after lunch to trigger a collapse which saw the visitors lose four wickets within just 31 runs in the post lunch session. Karunaratne hit nine boundaries in his 110-ball knock. Naseem then had Fernando caught at slip for 48 in an inning laced with six boundaries and a six. It was Naseem's first Test wicket after he came away empty-handed from his debut in Brisbane against Australia last month. He also trapped Angelo Mathews caught in the slips for 31. Mathews added 62 runs for the fifth wicket with De Silva. — AFP



Karthik slams century; Tanmay falls on 96

Dindigul, Dec. 11: Karnataka gained the all-important first innings lead against Tamil Nadu on the third day of its Ranji Trophy Group 'B' here on Wednesday, despite a superb ton by the experienced Dinesh Karthik (113). Meanwhile, Hyderabad captain Tanmay Agarwal fell for four runs short of what would have been a well deserved century in the Gujarat 'A' match against Gujarat being played in Hyderabad. Trailing Gujarat by a first innings deficit of 80, Hyderabad managed 239/6 at the end of day's play. Off-spinner Krishnappa Gowtham was the star per-

former for Karnataka, picking up six wickets for 110 runs. Karnataka recovered from 3 for 3 in the second innings to end the day at 89 on the first day. A day's play remaining. Resuming at 165 for 4, a lot depended for Tamil Nadu on Karthik and the in-form batsman kept the team in the hunt with his enterprising batting. He mixed defence and attack and kept the rival bowlers at bay. He had a crucial partnership of 58 runs with N Jagadeesan (29). Despite losing partners at regular intervals, Karthik kept fighting and took Tamil Nadu close. He even-

century against Baroda to put his team Mumbai in command in their Ranji Trophy opener here on Wednesday. Mumbai, who had made 431 in their first essay, got the crucial first-innings lead after bundling out Baroda for 307 as they could add only six runs to their overnight total. For Baroda, opener Kedar Devhar remained unbeaten on 160 And courtesy Shaw's 202 off just 179 balls and skipper Suryakumar Yadav's quick-fire unbeaten 102, Mumbai declared their second innings at 409/4, setting Baroda a mammoth target of 534. Mumbai's second innings was all about Shaw, who was playing his first first-class game after serving eight-month doping ban. — PTI





Booted out

Carlo Ancelotti has been sacked by Napoli despite taking the Italian side to the Last-16 of the Champions League with a 4-0 win over Genk

Salah seals the deal

Midfielder helps champs advance in Europe's big league

Paris, Dec. 11: Holders Liverpool safely negotiated trip to Salzburg to take their place in the last 16 of this season's UEFA Champions League while Chelsea are also through, but Ajax suffered a shock group-stage exit.



Liverpool's Mohamed Salah (left) scores during the UEFA Champions League Group 'E' match against RB Salzburg in Salzburg, Austria, on Tuesday. Liverpool won 2-0.

Six clubs secured spots in the draw for the first knockout round in their final group games on Tuesday, with Ajax and Inter Milan the big names to miss out.

Jürgen Klopp's side just needed to draw in Austria to keep alive their bid to retain the European Cup, and they duly beat Salzburg 2-0 thanks to two goals in two second-half minutes, by Naby Keita and Mohamed Salah.

Keita headed in Sergio Mane's cross against his former club to put Liverpool ahead in the 57th minute, and Salah then rounded goalkeeper Cican Stankovic to score from an improbably tight angle.

The result allowed Liverpool to progress as Group 'E' winners, with Napoli going through in second place, while Salzburg are out and drop into the Europa League instead.

What a team. What an effort. It was a tough game. We scored two wonderful goals. We could have scored six or seven which is crazy. We won the group, we won the game, all good. Klopp told a television channel.

Napoli made sure of their progress by trouncing Genk 4-0 in Italy with Arkadiusz Milik scoring a first-half hat-trick, the third goal coming from the penalty spot.

Chelsea move into knockout stages

Tammy Abraham and Cesar Azpilicueta netted first-half goals for Chelsea, who held on after Loic Remy pulled one back for Lille, before the 2012 Champions League winners, finish level on points

with Valencia but come second due to their inferior head-to-head record.

Ajax drop into the Europa League along with Inter, as Antonio Conte's team contrived to lose 2-1 at home to a makeshift Spanish city Barcelona.

A win would have taken Inter through, and they were fancied to get the result they required as Barcelona left out a host of senior players, including Lionel Messi, with top spot in Group 'F' already secured.

Charles Perez gave Barcelona the lead midway through the first half, but Romelu Lukaku fired in the equaliser.

Inter then missed chances to score a second and Ansu Fati showed them the way the substitute netting an 86th

minute winner to stun the home side and become the youngest ever goalscorer in the Champions League at 17 years and 40 days.

That record had been held since 1997 by Ghana's Peter Ofori-Quaye.

Borussia Dortmund needed to better Inter's result and they did so, beating Slavia Prague 2-1 to progress in second.

Julian Brandt got their winner after Jadon Sancho's opener was cancelled out by Tomas Soucek, with Dortmund holding on after Julian Weigl was sent off.

MORENO'S GOAL HELPS VALENCIA BEAT AJAX

There was high drama in Group 'H' as Valencia beat Ajax 1-0 in Amsterdam, Rodrigo Moreno's strike taking the Spaniards

through to the last 16 at the expense of last season's semi-finalists, and leaving their hosts stunned.

Ajax had again been impressive this season but were left to rue their inability to win either of their two matches against Chelsea.

Meanwhile, Lyon went through in dramatic fashion in Group 'G', coming from behind to draw 2-2 with RB Leipzig.

The Germans were two goals ahead at half-time thanks to two penalties, one scored by Emil Forsberg and the other by striker Timo Werner.

However, Houssem Aouar's curler gave Lyon hope just after the break and Memphis Depay levelled matters with eight minutes left.

| THE RESULTS | | | |
|---|---|--------------------------------------|---|
| Salzburg | 0 | Dortmund | 2 |
| Liverpool | 2 | (J. Sancho 10, J. Brandt 61) | |
| (Naby, Keita 57, Mohammed Salah 58) | | Slavia Praha | 1 |
| | | (T. Soucek 43) | |
| Inter Milan | 1 | Benfica | 3 |
| (Romelu Lukaku 44) | | (F. Cervi 47, Pizzi 58 | |
| Barcelona | 2 | (G. S. Azumon 79 | |
| (Carles Perez 23, Ansu Fati 86) | | (OG) | |
| | | Zenit St. Petersburg | 0 |
| Chelsea | 2 | Lyon | 2 |
| (Tammy Abraham 19, Cesar Azpilicueta 35) | | (H. Aouar 50, M. Depay 82) | |
| | | R.B. Leipzig | 2 |
| Lille | 1 | (E. Forsberg 9 p, T. Werner 33 (pp)) | |
| (Loic Remy 78) | | Ajax | 0 |
| Napoli | 4 | Valencia | 1 |
| (Arkadiusz Milik 3, 26, 39 (p), Dries Mertens 74 (p)) | | (Rodrigo 24) | |
| | | Genk | 0 |
| | | | |

What a team. What an effort. It was a tough game. We won the group, all good.

— Jürgen Klopp, Liverpool coach, after their 2-1 win over Salzburg

SHORT TAKES

NorthEast face Chennaiyin test

Guwahati: NorthEast United will be keen to get back to winning ways when they face the Chennaiyin FC challenge at the Indira Gandhi Athletic Stadium, Guwahati on Thursday evening. The Highlanders have been winless in their last three games and were taken to the cleaners by league leaders ATK with a 3-0 drubbing on home soil. The manner in which Roy Krishna and David Williams exposed NorthEast's problems at the back, especially in the left-back slot would leave coach Robert Jarni worried. It must be mentioned that on each of the three times NorthEast have conceded the first goal, they have failed to pick three points.

Jarni will likely be without star striker Asamoah Gyan for this fixture which would mean Maximiliano Barrero would be handed a rare start alongside Martin Chaves.

"Gyan is very important to us but we have many players. I don't know if he will play the next game but we have other good players in the team," said the Croatian.

— Agencies

Mohun Bagan win first I-League tie

Kolkata, Kolkata: Kolkata giants Mohun Bagan registered their first victory of the 13th Hero I-League season, overwhelming league debutants Tiffin Road Athletic Union (TRAU) FC of Manipal 4-0, at the Kalyani Municipality Stadium on Wednesday. The Mariners, who had picked up just one point from their first two outings, rode a 2-0 V.P. goal sandwiched in between two Fran Gonzalez strikes and a 90th minute Subha Ghosh header to seal wide smiles back on the faces of their adoring fans.

The Green and Maroon Brigade got an early goal resulting out of a Joseba Beltia corner. Trinidadian centre-back Daniel Cyrus, who had had a horror of a game against Churchill Brothers, made amends by bringing the second ball down from a height onto the path of a lurking Fran Gonzalez to his right. The Spaniard made no mistake with a crisp right-footed grounder across Gurpreet Singh in the TRAU goal. — Agencies

SHOOTER RAVI HOPES FOR SANCTION CUT

New Delhi: World Cup medal-winning rifle shooter Ravi Kumar, who has failed a dope test, says his is a case of inadvertent intake, an explanation he hopes would fetch him a lighter-than-expected punishment from the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA).

Ravi, who has not been with the national team since the World Cup in Munich last May, is a bronze-winner from the 2014 Commonwealth Games and Asian Games in the 10m air rifle competitions. He tested positive for propranolol during a domestic competition here. The substance is used to treat high blood pressure and is on the prohibited list of the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA).

"I had taken the medicine to treat migraine inadvertently. It was after being prescribed by my doctor at home days before I was tested during the Kumar Surendra Nath Memorial Meet in May-June. I explained everything to NADA," Kumar said. — PTI

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