

Final call

Tulsi Gabbard announced that she plans to skip the next Democratic presidential debate - even if she qualifies for the contest





As president, my job will be to move all Americans ahead. wage war on poverty

> - Michael Bloomberg **Presidential candidate**

> > BRIFF

## **Russia expels 2**

IN

**German diplomats** Moscow: Russia expelled two German diplomats in retaliation for Germany ejecting two employees of the Russian Embassy in Berlin. The Russian foreign ministry said that it was making the move "due to the reciprocity principle" and ordered them to leave the country within the next seven days. Germany expelled the Russian Embassy employees on Dec. 4 after Russian authorities didn't answer requests by Germany to help shed light on a brazen daylight slaying of a Georgian man in Berlin. Russia expelling German diplomats in response "sends the wrong signal and is unjusti-fied," Germany said.

**Israel to hold** 

polls on March 2

Jerusalem: Israel will hold an election on March 2, its third in less than a year, parliament decided after PM Benjamin Netanyahu and his main rival failed to parlay the previous two ballots into a new coalition government. By a vote of 94 in favour to none opposed, lawmakers approved a motion dissolv-ing parliament and setting the new election date. It came hours after a final deadline passed to form a government following the last election in September. In that ballot, and in the one prior in April, Netanyahu's conservative Likud party deadlocked with ex-general Benny Gantz's centrist Blue and White, neither managed to muster enough support in the 120-seat Knesset for a stable coalition.

#### **N. Korea ready for US measures**

Seoul: North Korea's foreign ministry criticised the United States for convening the UN

## **Voters head to polls across the UK**

English country to decide who will resolve the stalemate over Brexit in parliamentary elections

London, Dec. 12: UK voters were deciding on Thursday who they want to resolve the stalemate over Brexit in a parliamentary election seen as one of the most important since the end of World War II.

Voting was underway across the country in a contest that pits Prime Minister Boris Johnson, who says he will take Britain out of the European Union by Jan. 31, against opposition leader Jeremy Corbyn, who promises another referendum on Brexit.

Johnson voted at Methodist Central Hall in London, accompanied by his dog, Dilyn. Corbyn was greeted by supporters as arrived to cast his vote in

With so much at stake, political parties have pushed the boundaries of truth, transparency and reality during five weeks of campaigning.

Johnson's Conservative Party was criticised for using misleading tactics on social media, while Corbyn's Labour Party sought to win votes by promising to tax the rich, boost government spending and nationalise industries such as railroads and water companies. One of the focal points of the ugly campaign was the Natio-nal Health Service, a deeply respected institution that has struggled to meet rising demand after nine years of austerity

governments. Jill Rutter, a senior research fellow at UK in a Changing Europe, said one of the things that stood out during the campaign



(From L to R), Britain's Prime Minister and Conservative Party leader Boris Johnson leaves after voting in the general election at Methodist Central Hall, Westminster, London. British opposition Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn gestures after casting his vote in Islington. Polling officials at a booth in London.

was the shamelessness of the politicians. She cited Johnson's claim that the Conservatives would build 40 hospitals. In fact that number includes many existing facilities that will be renovated. "Normally, if you point out to people that some-

thing doesn't stand up, it's actually sort of fiction, you slightly expect them to under Conservative-led start ... replacing that with a different new fact," Rutter said. "But here, actually, you've seen this from No. 10 under Johnson that they're prepared to run a deeply manipulative

operation." All 650 seats in the House of Commons are up for grabs in the election, which is being held more than two years ahead of schedule. Boris called early elections in hopes of breaking a log-jam in Parliament that stalled approval of his Brexit deal in October. he didn't have a majority in the last Parliament and was stymied once he lost the support of the democratic unionist party because of concerns about how Northern Ireland would be treated under his deal with the EU. -AF

How British polls will affect Brexit London, Dec. 12: The national election in Britain on Thursday will bring a new Parliament to power and may lead to a change at the top if Prime Minister Boris Johnson's Conservative Party doesn't fare well with voters. If Johnson achieves his goal, the new Parliament is likely to move quickly to pass the Brexit withdrawal agreement the prime minister reached with EU

leaders. If that happens, little would change immediately since the agree-ment includes a transition tiate a new trade arrange-EU rules and regulations, and freedom of movement between EU nations would continue.

could come at the end of

2020. Johnson has said he Brexit plan: negotiating would not extend trade talks past next December,

The next crunch time

**US** asks Pak to expedite trial

Washington, Dec. 12: The US has asked Pakistan to ensure a 'full prosecution' and 'expeditious trial' of Hafiz Saeed, the 2008 Mumbai terror attack mastermind and chief of the banned Jammat-ud-Dawah (JuD) in line with its international obligations.

Hafiz Saeed The US reaction came



sed former Myanmar pro-democracy icon Aung San Suu Kyi of lying to the International Court of Justice in testimony on Wednesday in which she denied that her country's armed forces were guilty of genocide against the Muslim minority group. Suu Kyi, who is now

Myanmar's leader, told

the court that the exodus

of hundreds of thousands of Rohingya

Muslims to neighbour-

ing Bangladesh was the

unfortunate result of a battle with insurgents.

She denied that the

army had killed civil-

ians, raped women and

torched houses in 2017. Critics describe the actions by the army as a

deliberate campaign of

ethnic cleansing and

genocide that forced more than 7,00,000

Rohingya to flee. "The world will judge

Rohingva

yet another withdrawal

agreement with EU within

Brexit process altogether

by remaining part of the

EU. Corbyn says that as

prime minister he would

**SUU'S GENOCIDE** 

**DENIAL REJECTED** 

Cox's Bazar, Dec. 12:

Rohingya refugees accu-

**BY ROHINGYA** 

remain neutral.



#### indicating Britain would three months followed by period for the UK to negoleave without a new trada voter referendum within six months. The British ing arrangement in place ment with the EU. During rather than continue the public would be asked if it the transition, Britain talks. Most experts think prefers enacting the new deal to proceed with Brexit or stopping the it would take longer than would continue to follow

one year for the two sides to reach an accord. If Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn becomes PM, he is expected to try to imple-

ment his party's two-part

Security Council and warned that it is ready to respond to any corresponding measure that Washington chooses, state media said on Thursday. "The United States said about corresponding measure at the meeting, as we have said we have nothing to lose and we are ready to respond to any corresponding measure that the US chooose," said its state news agency KCNA citing a North Korean foreign ministry spokesperson.

### Weinstein Nod TO \$25 MILLION SETTLEMENT

York, Dec. New Disgraced Hollywood mogul Harvey Weinstein has reached a \$25 million settlement with dozens of women who accused him of sexual misconduct, one of the women's lawyers said.

The once-powerful producer of Pulp Fiction and Sin City, whose case sparked the #MeToo movement against sex crimes, faces a criminal trial next month that could see him jailed for life.

The payout from a separate civil case will be shared among more than 30 actresses and former employees who have sued the 67-year-old for offenses ranging from sexual harassment to rape.

Weinstein will not have to admit wrongdoing or pay from his own pocket, celebrity news portal *TMZ* said, with the bill instead being met by insurers for his bankrupt former movie Weinstein The studio, Company.

The deal will have to be signed by all parties and get court approval to resolve almost every misconduct lawsuit brought against him since 2017 and insulate company directors from future liability

Weinstein's accusers include some of the world's most famous actresses. Boardwalk *Empire* actress Paz de la Huerta, who accused the producer of raping her in 2010, is expected to be part of the settlement, her lawyer said.

Thai oarsmen row during the Royal barge ceremony along the Chao Phraya river in Bangkok on Thursday. The Royal barge procession is the final event of the coronation of Thailand's King Maha Vajiralongkorn. – AFP

## US hits Iran with new sanctions

Washington, Dec. 12: The Trump administration on Wednesday hit Iran with new sanctions that target several transportation firms as it continues its "maximum pressure campaign" against the Islamic Republic over its nuclear and ballistic missile programmes.

The sanctions target Iran's state shipping line and a China-based company that has been involved eign firms and govern-

in delivering missile parts to Iran. They also add a layer of new penalties to a previously sanctioned Iranian airline, Mahan Air, which is accused of sending weapons to Iranian in proxies Lebanon and Yemen, and three of its sales agents. The

moves were announced by the trea-

sury and the state department and will subject for-

ments that do business with the targeted entities to sanctions themselves, including a freeze on any assets they may have in US jurisdictions. 'Ťoday's designations

put the world on notice that those who engage in illicit transactions with these companies will risk exposure and sanctions themselves," secretary of state Mike Pompeo said. Alireza Miryousefi, a swap with Iran.

spokesman for Iran's U.N. Mission, tweeted later Wednesday: "These sanctions are directly targeting ordinary Iranians' livelihood, but they will not be cowed by pressures by any foreign power. And another step in the US #economicterrorism against Iranians, who are never fooled by the US's crocodile tears." US also hoped a weekend prisoner

hours after an anti-terror-ism court in Lahore indicted Saeed and three his top aides Hafiz Abdul Salam bin Muhammad, Muhammad Ashraf and Zafar Iobal on terror financing charges.

"We welcome the indictment of Hafiz Saeed and his associates," Alice G Wells, the acting assistant secretary of state tweet-ed, adding that, the US calls for a full prosecution and expeditious trial in line with its international obligations. "We call for Pakistan to

ensure a full prosecution and expeditious trial in line with its international obligations to counter terrorist financing and bring the perpetrators of ter-rorist attacks like 26/11 to justice," she said.

An anti-terrorism court (ATC) in Lahore indicted Saeed. Hafiz Abdul Salam bin Muhammad, Muhammad Ashraf and Zafar Iqbal. The indictment comes amidst growing international pressure on Pakistan to rein-in terror groups operating from its soil and bring to justice terror group leaders like -PTISaeed

### **U.S. PULLED UP PAKISTAN FOR F-16 MISUSE**

Washington, Dec. 12: The United States reprimanded Pakistan Air Force chief in August for misusing F-16 fighter jets by undermining their shared security platforms and infrastructures, a media report said, months after the Indian media Air Force shot down an F 16 jet of the Pakistan Air Force during an aerial combat over Jammu and

said the communication

served as a direct response to US' concerns about

Pak's misuse of F-16 jets

over J&K in Feb.

their claim of no genocide with evidence," said a Rohingya leader, a Rohingya leader, Mohammed Mohibullah, Kashmir. Andrea Thompson, the then-undersecretary who is chairman of the wrote a letter to Pakistani Arakan Air Force Chief Marshal Society for Peace and Mujahid Anwar Khan in Human Rights. August over the matter "A thief never admits he is a thief, but justice While the letter written can be delivered through did not directly mention evidence. The world has the incidents in the immediate aftermath of obtained evidence from us," he said. "Even if Suu Kyi lies, India's February 26 Balakot airstrikes, a source

she won't be spared. She will certainly face jus-tice. The world should take steps against her,' he said.

Nur Kamal, another refugee at Kutupalong, also rejected Suu Kyi's testimony. "The military cordoned off people and killed them by opening fire, setting them ablaze isn't this genocide? Will this be justified if Syu Ki says so?" Kamal said

"The world will not accept that. The whole world has seen the level of torture of us. It is still going on," he said. -AF



Aung San Suu Kyi

Church's nativity scene meant to highlight plight of migrants, asylum seekers MIGRANT WOES Jesus, Mary as detained refugees in California

Claremont, Dec. 12: Baby Jesus is lying in a manger inside a cage, wrapped in an emergency foil blanket and separated from Mary and Joseph, who are each trapped in cells of their own.

This is the startling nativity scene created by a Protestant church in California to draw attention to the plight of migrants.

We put them in different cages, as a symbol representing our community, and all immigrants, who are being held in detention

centres and need our help," Genaro Cordoba, cocreator of the installation and spokesman the church, said. "Jesus, Joseph, Mary

represent all our immigrants, all the refugees, not just in the United States but all over the world," he said.

"We have seen how they suffer, and people don't want them, and (in) our country the same thing, Cordoba added.

Karen Clark Ristine, senior minister at the church, explained in a Facebook



message accompanying the images that the Holy

Nativity scene at a church in Claremont.

Family were the most wellknown refugee family in the world. "Shor-tly after the birth of Jesus, Joseph and Mary were forced to flee with their young son from Nazareth to Egypt to escape King Herod, a tyrant," she wrote.

"They feared persecution and death. What if this family sought refuge in our country today?" The grim Nativity scene appears to address that question.

Each cell is lined with barbed wire, and both Mary and Joseph are pic-

- AFP

tured facing the infant, their arms outstretched in

hope and desperation. 'Imagine Joseph and Mary separated at the border and Jesus no older than two taken from his mother and placed behind the fences of a Border Patrol detention center as more than 5,500 children have been the past three

years," wrote Ristine. A Trump administration zero tolerance policy launched in 2018 saw thousands of children separated from their parents at the border. -AFP

#### MIND POWER

### VISWANATHAN ANAND SHARAD PAWAR

If revenge motivates you, go for it! But the Politics is all main thing is to set your game in order. | a matter of timing

## Chronicle **13 DECEMBER 2019**

## Govt passes CAB in RS with some 'secular' help

he Constitution (Amendment) Bill, which now only awaits the President's signature to become law, will distort the fundamental basis of Indian citizenship by subjecting it to the "religious test" and conceptually take it closer to Pakistan's idea of citizenship,

owes not a little to the meeting of unlike poles. In the decade before 1947, the Hindu Mahasabha formed coalition gov-ernments with the Muslim League in the provinces and at the Centre whenever the Congress, then in the full flow of its campaign to end British rule, quit from government to protest a British policy or political stance.

Placing themselves at the service of the empire helped the two communal outfits increase their equity with the colonial government. An analogous situation has arisen in our own era. The BJP-RSS, which traces its ideological foundations to Veer Savarkar's thoughts, has deftly combined with some "secular" parties to belittle the country's Constitution.

The CAB cleared the Rajya Sabha on the strength of the votes of the JD(U), BJD, AIADMK, YSR Congress and TDP. All except the JD(U) enjoy AIADMK and YSR Congress running the state governments in Odisha, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh. In backing the CAB, these parties were evidently pressured by the BJP government at the Centre, which is widely seen to use intimidation to deal with merglaitmene form day these parties merges from the p B'

with recalcitrance. Some day these parties might emerge from the BJP's stranglehold and hold their own. But this is not the case with the JD(U).

Its leader Nitish Kumar, Bihar's chief minister, now appears completely under the BJP's thumb, as the two run Bihar's coalition government. The JD(U)'s independent existence as a party, secular or otherwise, may now be severely compromised. In order to remain in power, Mr Kumar has shown a spectacular capacity to dance to the BJP's tune.

It's noteworthy, in contrast, that Shiv Sena, until recently the BJP's oldest ally, did not vote with the government on the CAB in the Rajya Sabha. The change in the Sena's stance doubtless owes to its instinct of self-preservation. In Maharashtra, the government led by its supremo Uddhav Thackeray crucially depends on the Congress for survival. It is early days yet, but an intriguing question is being thrown up. Are we seeing a process of moderation and change in the makeup of a regional party that wore Hindutva on its sleeve as its competition with the BJP for voteshare in Maharashtra gained in intensity? Other than the BJP's "secular" friends in the Rajya Sabha, the Opposition held together in the Upper House to oppose the CAB. These par-

ties plan to challenge the amended law in the Supreme Court. In light of the Supreme Court's stance on Kashmir and Ayodhya, it may be unrealistic to place trust in the wisdom of our highest judges to preserve the spirit of the Constitution. The CAB's opponents need to have the imagination to deal with the question politically.

## Banks must follow the rules

ven four years after the Reserve Bank directed all banks to come clean on their financial health by declaring bad loans and making adequate provisions, nine banks, including the nation's largest, State Bank of India, have admitted to under reporting bad loans to the extent of over ₹20,000 crores in the financial year 2018-19. This under-reporting or divergence (as described by banks) was discovered during an RBI assessment. The errant banks, which disclosed this information to stock exchanges in compliance with Sebi regulations, include SBI, Central Bank of India, Union Bank of India, Bank of India, Indian Overseas Bank, UCO Bank, Indian Bank, Yes Bank and Lakshmi Vilas Bank.

Though the divergence could stem from differences of opinion on when a loan is bad, it will have material impact on bank profits. For instance, if SBI correctly declared its bad loans at the end of 2018-19, it would have to set aside ₹12,036 crores for provisioning — resulting in a loss of ₹6,968 crores instead of a profit after tax of ₹862 crores as reported earlier. Public sector banks are typically conservative in recognising bad loans as lower profits mean lower tax outgo and lesser funds for lending. The banks, how-ever, must understand that hiding such market sensitive information from investors amounts to fraud. Yet no action is expected against

At the macro level, the under-reporting of financial stress — like a government's practice of hiding uncomfortable reports — shows that nobody has any idea about the country's real financial health. It seems the problem in the economy is deeper than what most people thought, and that it is heading directionless with the driver having his sight somewhere else.



## Citizenship Bill: Will BJP stand to gain electorally?



fter

being passed by both the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, it remains a mere for-mality for the mality for the Citizenship (Amend-ment) Bill to finally become a law. There are good reasons for the Opposition to fear that the bill will help the BJP to reap electoral benefits, as this law might lead to more polarisation on relipolarisation on reli-gious lines, mainly between Hindus and Muslims, but the electoral gains may not be to the extent the BJP hopes for or the Opposition suspects. The gains for the BJP will depend largely upon how the Opposition responds to the new law. I suspect, though, that the sharp-er the campaign against the new law by the Opposition, the greater could be the electoral benefits flow-ing to the BJP. If the Opposition tones down its attacks on the bill, the BJP could well benefit less. While ordinary people may still not accept the Opposition's arguments against the bill, the divide between those supporting the bill and those opposing it would not be that sharp. Ordinary citizens in many areas may well support the new law because for them the argument is quite simple: that the Muslims who have come to India from Afghanistan, Pakistan and Bangladesh and living here illegally should be sent back to their respective countries. People would hardly bother about things like cut-off dates and about which religious communities are going to be exempted under this new law. While the Opposition parties are accusing the BJP of

playing politics with the law on citizenship, many people may think that these parties are playing the game of minority appeasement. This might increase the polarisation between communities, that could in turn eventual-

ly help the BJP. There is no doubt that support for the BJP over the citizenship law would be quite large, but party's electoral gains may not be in pro-portion to the extent of support. The reasons are simple. Though the BJP managed to win 303 seats in the Lok Sabha with 37 per cent vote-share in the 2019 gener-al election, the party still found it difficult to expand beyond the Vindhyas, with Karnataka as the only exception The exception. Citizenship Bill issue is also going to have little resonance among people in all the southern states, even though states like Kerala, not be an issue for most voters. Also, it is Andhra Pradesh and important to note that Telangana have a sizeable number of Muslims. Since these states do not share boundaries with any other country from where possible illegal migration could have taken place, ordinary people in these states would hardly bother about this issue. While there is always the pos-sibility of the BJP increasing its support base in some of the southern states, that will not be due to greater support for the The states to watch out for are Assam and West Bengal, as the new law will significantly impact the politics of these two states. The two states account for a total of 55 Lok Sabha seats (13 in Assam Gujarat and 42 in Bengal) Maharashtra could be

While the **Opposition parties** are accusing the BJP of playing politics with the law on citizenship, may people many think that these parties are playing the game of minority appeasement

party due to this new law. In states like Uttar Pradesh, Madhya

Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Uttarakhand, Jhar-khand and Bihar, with varying degrees of Muslim populations, this could become an issue, but with limited impact co impact as these states do not share boundaries with other countries from where there could be illegal migration. There may still be people who may have infiltrated into Indian territory through some other states sharing a "porous boundary" with other countries, and may have settled down in one of these states, but the numbers of such people would be very small, and could

#### very limited for two reasons-one, that the BJP has already won all 26 Lok Sabha seats in Gujarat and 41 of the 48 seats in Maharashtra in alliance with the Shiv Sena.

The states to watch out for are Assam and West Bengal, as the new law will significantly impact the politics of these two ottoos. The these two states. The two states account for a total of 55 Lok Sabha seats (13 in Assam and 42 in West Bengal) and the BJP has been able to make inroads in these two states. In Assam, the BJP won nine Lok Sabha seats and polled 36 per cent of the vote; while in West Bengal it won 18 Lok Sabha seats and polled 40 per cent votes. There is still a scope for the BJP to increases its tally of seats in both and West Assam

Bengal The National Register of Citizens exercise car-ried out in Assam last year was immensely controversial and the past few days have seen massive protests erupting in Assam over the Citizenship (Amend-ment) Bill. West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee's response to the Citizenship Bill is well known. She has

announced

expressed here

are personal.

publicly

## LETTERS

🗩 C m y k

### **DEATH OF SECULARISM**

The BJP government at the Centre has created a fearfilled environment in India for Muslims by bringing in CAB, which is against the basic principles of the Constitution. On the one hand, CAB guarantees rights to attain citizenship for Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians; on the other, it excludes Muslims on the lines of religion. This will only lead to another civil war if CAB is not curtailed right away. The home minister should stop doing politics by bringing more bills which are against the Muslim community. He should focus on other bills which need to be introduced in the Lok Sabha like an anti-lynching bill and a death penalty for rape bill. Mohammed Wasif Ali

#### CAB FOR VOTEBANKS

Secunderabad

It now seems that all governments have their own axe to grind. The previous Congress government turned a blind eye to the influx of illegal Muslim migrants into the Northeastern states. Most of these illegal refugees not only settled in India, but also got ration cards as well as voting cards. The Congress encouraged illegal immigrants because they formed its vote bank. Now, the BJP has introduced the CAB to thwart the entrance of illegal Muslim immigrants, because they don't vote for the party. There

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the BJP has already that her government registered a massive will not implement the victory in most of these new law. It is important states both in the 2014 to note that both states and 2019 Lok Sabha elections. There is a share a boundary with Bangladesh and the two limited possibility of states also have a large BJP increasing its tally Muslim population, of seats in many of some of them allegedly these states. The BJP has won all 25 Lok Seats being illegal migrants This issue is certainly going to be the biggest in Rajasthan, 28 of the 29 seats in MP, nine of factor when both states hold Assembly elec-tions in April-May the 11 Lok Sabha seats in Chhattisgarh, 11 of the 14 Lok Sabha seats 2021. Only time can tell in Jharkhand, 62 of the 80 Lok Sabha seats in how this issue might play out in the forthcoming Assembly polls UP and 39 of the 40 Lok Sabha seats in Bihar (in in West Bengal and alliance with JD(U) and Assam, and that would LJP). There is not much give us an indication of how big it might become during the big scope for the BJP to improve upon its 2019 electoral performance, even if BJP become fight of 2024. The writer is a profesmuch more popular and gains larger support due to the new citizen-ship law. The gains for sor and currently the director of the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS), The views the BJP from the two western states of and

is no clarity on how the illegal migrants would be deported. P. Arihanth Secunderabad



#### Armed raid on SBI branch in Calcutta

CALCUTTA, Dec. 12. An armed gang raided a branch of the State Bank of India near Park Street in Central Calcutta and decamped with cash amounting to about Rs. 4,62,000 this morning.

About 15-men came to the bank in a wagon followed by an old army truck. While three or four men, armed with guns, stood guard at the entrance, eight or nine others entered the bank.

A Durban who resisted the gang was shot dead. A few bombs were exploded to scare away the cus-tomers. While one of the persons fired indiscriminately injuring five person, one of them seriously, the others grabbed the cash and some security papers and rushed out.



War, lies and failure: That's the story of US in Afghan

lies covered the failure. For almost two decades, the American people have been misled by their leaders over a war that has gone wrong. The US went into Afghanistan in 2001 out of revenge, with little understanding of a land often described as the "graveyard of empires". All three Presidents since 2001 - George W. Bush, Barack Obama and Donald Trump - and their military commanders were unable to make good on their promises to win in Afghanistan.

t was an unwinnable conflict but

An investigative report "The Afghanistan Papers" in the *Washington Post* reveals how facts were distorted to hide the bleak reality of the battleground. It took a three-year legal battle for *Post* to publish the transcripts of the interviews collected for a project of Sigar, a federal agency tasked with ending corruption and inefficiency in America's war effort. "The Afghanistan Papers" has echoes of the Pentagon Papers, a report on the secret military history of the Vietnam War that was leaked in 1971 and exposed the fabrications of the government. It's like history repeating itself with no lessons learnt.

The feeling of frustration and desperation expressed by the top officials in the interviews are in contrast to the public statements by the American civil and military leadership. As highlighted in the report, the lack of a clear strategy and conflicting objectives has dogged the war from the outset.

How clueless the Americans were when they invaded Afghanistan in October 2001 to avenge the 9/11 attacks was well described by the three-star army general, Douglas Lute, the 'war czar' during the Bush and Obama administrations. "We were devoid of a fundamental understanding of Afghanistan — we didn't know what we were doing," Gen Lute told interviewers in 2015 as quoted in the Post report.

There have been fundamental disagreements on the objectives of the

US operation in Afghanistan within US administrations. While some officials wanted Afghanistan to become a political democracy, others wanted the war to change Afghan culture, including its views on women's rights. Some looked at the broader picture, wanting a regional balance of power among the nearby states. according to the report. Perhaps, the biggest confusion among various US departments has been whether Pakistan is a friend or an adversary. Unsurprisingly, the war has

dragged on, making it the longest the United States has ever fought. Tens of thousands of Afghans have been killed in the war that has cost a trillion dollars, and there is no sign yet of it ending anytime soon. The report shows a complete bureaucratic breakdown in Congress, Pentagon and the State Department, resulting in military failure.

The report also contradicts the many public statements that were made by American presidents, military commanders and diplomats

who kept on assuring their countrymen that the American war effort in Afghanistan was yielding dividends. Barack Obama went so far as to declare the conflict a "good war". "It was common at military headquarters in Kabul - and at the White House — to distort statistics to make it appear the US was winning the war when that was not the case.

The report quoting senior officials also highlights the "US government's botched attempts to curtail runaway corruption, build a competent Afghan army and police force, and put a dent in Afghanistan's thriving opium trade". Most of the US aid money was siphoned off by Afghan officials and warlords aligned with the United States.

Despite spending billions of dollars, Afghan forces have not been capable of fighting the Afghan Taliban without American support. More than 64,000 Afghan soldiers have been killed fighting the militia. The casualty rate is much higher among Afghan soldiers than the US forces.

In confidential interviews, Afghan security forces were described by US military trainers as "incompetent, unmotivated and rife with deserters". They also accused Afghan commanders of appropriating the salaries of tens of thousands of 'ghost soldiers' — much of the money com-ing from the American taxpayer.

But in their public statements, US generals would declare that they were making steady progress on "the central plank of their strategy: to train a robust Afghan army and national police force that can defend the country without foreign help".

Although, the failure of the US forces in Afghanistan has long been evident, the magnitude of chaos and confusion in Washington over the Afghan war is very revealing. The damning report has come out at a time when the stalled talks between the US and Taliban have been revived. It certainly gives the Taliban more confidence

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DECCAN CHRONICLE

## The BJP-Sena falling out is no bolt from the blue



Thiruvannathapuram S. Ramakrishnan

r those who have been observing the growth of the BJP and the decline of the Shiv Sena in the last decade, there cannot be an iota of surprise in the recent decision of the Sena — a

hardcore Hindutva party - to abandon its pre-poll alliance partner, BJP, and join hands with the Congress and the NCP to form the new Maharashtra government.

There is no denying that the Sena is the earliest alliance partner of BJP and, hence, as core constituent of the NDA of the L.K. Advani and Atal Behari Vajpayee era, once enjoyed "Big Brother" status within the NDA in Maharashtra. That was until 2009. Cracks began to appear in the alliance after the 2009 Maharashtra Assembly elections, in which the BJP won 46 out of the 119 seats it contested against the Sena's 45 seats out of 160. The Sena thus had to cede the main Opposition party status to the BJP. It also realised that sooner or later, it may have to give up its "Big Brother"

status as well. The BJP had started growing organisationally and it was unable to accept this fact.

Despite the Sena's frustration, the alliance continued in the 2014 general election. The "Big Brother" issue is, after all, insignificant in the general election. Thanks to the popularity of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the organisational strength of the BJP, the party won 22 out of the 24 parliamentary seats it contested in Maharashtra, and the Sena won 18 out of the 20 it contested (41 seats out of 48 seats for NDA with 50.2 per cent voteshare)

The Shiv Sena joined the NDA gov-ernment headed by Mr Modi and on the lines of the 2009 Assembly election seat-sharing, it demanded "Big Brother" status in the ensuing 2014 state polls. But with power equations having changed, their alliance was to break down. However, as the alliance between the NCP and the Congress also broke, all four parties contested independently. The BJP won 122 seats (it contested in 230 seats) with a 27.81 per cent voteshare, the Sena won 63 Had the BJP leadership learnt at all from the great economist and strategist, it would have given only a third of the total seats to it. keeping two-thirds to itself. That is more logical too, as the BJP won almost twice the number of seats the Shiv Sena did in 2014...

seats (282) with a 19.35 percent voteshare, the Congress won 42 seats (287) with a 17.95 per cent voteshare and the NCP won 41 seats (278) with a 17.24 per cent voteshare. Although the BJP did not win a simple majority, it established itself as a dominant party. The deep distress of the Sena was evident in that it did not initially join the gov-ernment formed by Devendra Fadnavis. Mr Fadnavis sailed through the confidence motion with the walkout of the NCP. The Sena joined the Fadnavis government a little later, but the bitter war it waged against the BJP at both Central and state levels continued unabated.

No other party including from the Opposition ever attacked the BJP since 2014 as much as the Sena has. The discontent of the Sena had reached such a level that it passed a resolution much before the 2019 general election that it won't ally with the BJP. Despite being part of the NDA

g0vernment, the Sena walked out of Parliament when a no-confidence motion was brought against the Modi government during its first tenure. The BJP temporarily pacified the Sena by giving it three additional seats in the 2019 general elections, and with no viable option available before it, the Sena also remained in the NDA. Despite the bitterness between the two parties, overt and covert, the alliance romped home with one additional seat and one per cent extra voteshare, thanks to the increased popularity of Mr Modi and the organisational machinery of the BJP.

It appears that the BJP leadership thought that with the resounding victory of the BJP and the NDA in the 2019 general election, the Sena would remain docile and subdued in future. But since 2014 it had given enough signals to the BJP

The BJP went for an alliance with the Sena in the 2019 Maharashtra Assembly elections, liberally giving it 124 seats. Had the BJP leadership learnt at all from the great economist and strategist, it would have given only a third of the total seats to it, keeping two-thirds to itself. That is more logical too, as the BJP won almost twice the number of seats the Shiv Sena did in 2014, when each had contested alone. If the Sena was adamant, the BJP should have faced the electorate independently, on the strength of the performance of the Fadnavis government. In either of these two cases, it would have improved its tally, possibly even scraped through with a simple majority. Even after knowing the poor strike rate of the Sena in the hustings since long, the BJP gave more seats to it than it deserved and paid the price. There is no point in complaining now that its own victory strike rate is 69 per cent, while the Sena's strike rate

is only 45 per cent. On the Shiv Sena's part, its resent-ment over the growth of the BJP in Maharashtra was not without reason. The Sena has been playing Marathi identity politics as well as Hindutva politics, and the means it had adopted to achieve its goals have often been people-unfriendly, even objectionable - bringing Mumbai city to a standstill at the drop of a hat, giving out "ultimatums" to Pakistan, making Bollywood submit before the Sena chief, damaging the cricket pitch to stop a match between India and Pakistan and beating youth coming from other states. The Maharashtra Navanirman Sena and its chief Raj Thackeray had made themselves unpopular to the point of becoming a political nonentity by adopting these means. By virtue of actions such as surgical strikes on the terror launchpads of Pakistan, removing the special status of Kashmir, paving the way for the construction of Ram temple through judicial process. passing the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill and moving towards a uniform civil code, the BJP had actually brought to fruition the Sena agenda.

How could the Sena then continue to exist in politics, as the space is no longer available? Some sections of the media and political punditry have been projecting this as the onslaught of the BJP on the Sena. But, the fact is that when two parties have a common ideology, voters move to the party that actually implements that ideology. Moreover, with people from different states living in other states in large numbers for pursuing economic activities, a party like the BJP that accommodates people from different regions gets an upper hand in the hustings.

Amidst this dilemma, there were only two options left for the Sena after 2019 Assembly elections. The first was to stay in alliance with BJP and gradually disappear from the political landscape of Maharashtra in a decade or so. The second was to snap ties with the BJP and join hands with the Congress and the NCP to form government with Uddhav Thackeray, even if it meant only for a short tenure — and become a nonentity sooner like MNS. For many politicians, occupying the chair of the CM or the PM even for a very short time is much more fulfilling than being relevant in the long run. Those who have been observing the Sena since 2014 expected that it would choose the second option. The "Chanakyas" of the BJP, however, did not and thereby lost control over Maharashtra politics.

The writer is a public policy analyst

## **Competence**, and a fine balance



ecently I learnt useful two words that describe the governments of today, in our country and elsewhere. The first is kakistocracy, which means "government by which the least suitable or competent citizens of a state". The second word is *chirocracy*, meaning "govern-ment that rules by physi-cal force". A third term, which was originally used Neville describe Chamberlain's policy ler iı

Kakistocracy is a handy word when we see some of our own political leaders. Their pronouncements are so ludicrous that it surprises us that anyone could have voted for these incompetent and arrogant people.

teacher to discipline their child, they themselves don't think twice about mercilessly beating up or administering a stinging slap to a recalcitrant child. They feel that they have complete ownership of their own children, so to whatsoever they please with them. As for political leaders, there are plenty of examples in the contemporary world, where brute force is used to quell rebellions or get people to toe the "official" line. Appeasement is the con-

aggression

great stalwarts of education such as Rousseau, Montessori, Dewey, Piaget and Vygotsky, has now been distorted into an education where the teacher's role has deteriorated into an extremely submissive one. The teacher is not permitted to speak her mind, she is not permitted to indicate a candid assessment of the student's personal qualities. Reports are full of euphemisms and parents do not really get to know their children's shortcomings -- nor do they want to know. They are happy

with the teacher who

sings praises of their son or daughter and they

come away feeling satis-

fied with the "positive"

learning environment in

the school. Recently sam-

parents trying to convey the truth about their chil-

dren's behaviour and per-

formance in a palatable

way were doing the

nles of teachers'

### **ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES EXAMINATION SECTION ANSARI NAGAR, NEW DELHI - 110608** Admission Notice No. 109/2019

#### No. F.7-7/E.Sec./MSc/Mbiotech/BSc/2020

07.12.2019

#### AIIMS-B.Sc. (H) Nursing/B.Sc. Nursing (Post-Basic)/B.Sc (Paramedical Courses)-2020

All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi invites Online applications (Basic Registration followed by Generation of Code and Final Registration) for Entrance Examinations leading to admission in B.Sc.(H) Nursing/B Sc. Nursing (Post-Basic)/B Sc(Paramedical Courses)-2020 of AIIMS, New Delhi and Other AIIMS.

Nursing/D.Sc. Nursing (Fost-Dasic)/D.Sc(Farametical Courses)-2020 of Annis, New Denn and Other Annis.			
Who can apply for Basic Registration and are eligible for B.Sc (H) Nursing Course 2020 session	Candidates who have Passed the 12th Class under the 10+2 scheme/Senior School Certificate Examination or Intermediate Science or an equivalent examination from a recognized University/ Board of any Indian State with English, Physics, Chemistry and Biology and has a minimum aggregate marks required in qualifying examination i.e. 10+2 or equivalent is 55% for Gen/EWS/OBC and 50% in case of SCs/STs categories.		
Who can apply for Basic Registration and are eligible for B.Sc (Paramedical Courses) 2020 session	Candidates who have Passed 10+2 or equivalent examination with English, Physics, Chemistry and either Biology or Mathematics with 50% for Gen/EWS/OBC and 45% in case of SCs/STs categories.		
Who can apply for Basic Registration and are eligible for B.Sc Nursing (Post-Basic) course 2020 session	The candidate who have: (i) Passed 12th class under 10+2 system of education or an equivalent examination from a recognized Board/ University (Those who have passed 10+1 on or before 1986 are also eligible). <i>(For BSc Nursing Post-Basic)</i> (ii) Diploma in General Nursing and midwifery from any institution recognized by the Indian Nursing Council. <i>(For BSc Nursing Post-Basic)</i>		

the 1930s, is now heard in the context of votebank politics. It is *appeasement*.

Curiously, all these three words can be used to describe parenting and teaching today. The first, kakistocracy, is an extremely handy word when we see some of our own political leaders and those of other countries. Their pronouncements are so ludicrous that it surprises us that anyone could have voted for these incompetent, arrogant, stubborn and unenlightened people. Incompetent yet smug parents are very common. However, they haven't been appointed or elected, but have come into their positions biolog-ically or voluntarily, if they have chosen to adopt children. Unfortunately, there are no training courses or apprenticeships for parenthood, so we can't blame parents for being incompetent or unfit for their job of bringing up children. It is totally different in the case of teachers, as they undergo specialised training programmes and serve as trainees or interns before they are given the licence to teach. Therefore, the scarcity of really competent teachers is surprising. Perhaps, it is because as a rule — and this is most unfortunate — the teaching profession, at least in our country, doesn't attract the best minds various reasons. for Sometimes, people take up teaching for all the wrong reasons and not because they are interested or have a passion for it. Indifferent people can never do justice to their work.

So far as physical force is concerned, the law does not allow teachers to use it, although one still hears horror stories of what transpires in the classroom. Although parents make a tremendous fuss (and rightly so) if they hear that physical force has been used by any

rounds on the social media. Hence, the med-dlesome child is described as one "who verse of *chirocracy*. In wishes to help everyone", the hyperactive one is called "spirited" while dealing with other countries, sometimes the weakthe one who makes up er ones adopt a policy of answers to test questions appeasement to prevent is labelled "imaginative" а stronger power. In other It is true that "damning" reports can be damaging words, bullies are flatand demoralising, but tered and pleased in conchildren should learn to crete ways to prevent any harm coming their way. take honest criticism, otherwise how will they Children today wield a lot of power over their paraddress their weaknesses ents. Besides, they know and build on their how to manipulate adults strengths? It is also true and get their way. Increasingly, I find that it that children thrive on encouragement and tend is the children who are in to wilt in the face of constant criticism. But it is the driver's seat and are calling the shots. We all disastrous for a child to know about child-centric grow up on a diet of undiluted praise. More than constant praise, it is the wideconstant

education, but that is education where teachers have the best interest of the child in mind and spread practice of childlessons are designed and pleasing that is so harmful. The tendency to "appease" has increased tailored with the focus on the child. However, the wish to please or appease in recent years, partly children has developed in because parents are genuinely afraid that their recent years in the wake children will go and do something "drastic" if they don't get their way. of a rising resistance to too much discipline exerted by teachers. The parents of today seem to be This fear has been comfar more indulgent and pounded by frequent news are largely reluctant to say a firm "no" to their reports of children taking their lives for flimsy reachildren. sons. These reasons range from a reprimand by a

from

The result of these developments is that the "childcentric" education of yesteryear, prescribed by the

More than constant praise, it is the widespread practice of child-pleasing that is so harmful. The tendency to 'appease' has increased in recent years, partly because parents are genuinely afraid...

(iii) Registration as nurse, RN, RM (registered nurse, registered midwife) with any State Nursing Council (For BSc Nursing Post-Basic) (iv) In case of male nurses, (if passed before implementation of new integrated course in 2003), beside being registered as a nurse with the State Nursing Council, should have obtained a certificate in General Nursing and instead of Training in Midwifery, training in any subject out of following, for a period of six months: i) O.T. Techniques, ii) Ophthalmic Nursing, iii) Leprosy Nursing, iv) TB Nursing, v) Psychiatric Nursing, vi) Neurological and Neuro Surgical Nursing, vii) Community Health Nursing, viii) Cancer Nursing, ix) Orthopaedic Nursing (For BSc Nursing Post-Basic) Online Registration for applications

Basic Registration (PAAR) for <u>B.Sc(H) Nursing/B.Sc Nursing (Post-Basi</u> B.Sc (Paramedical Courses) - 2020	Start Date: 12.12.2019 Closing Date: 16.01.2020 (5.00 PM)			
Status update (Accepted & Not Accepted) of Basic Registration	20.01.2020			
Correction of deficiencies in Basic Registration that are not Accepted	21.01.2020 - 30.01.2020			
Final status (Accepted & Rejected) of Basic Registration for <u>B.Sc(H) 1</u> Basic)/B.Sc(Paramedical Courses) - 2020	04.02.2020			
Uploading of Prospectus	12.03.2020			
Generation of Code for Final Registration for <u>B.Sc(H) Nursing/B.Sc N</u> (Paramedical Courses) - 2020 only for those whose Basic Registration is	Start date: 14.03.2020 Closing date: 15.04.2020 (05:00 PM)			
Final Registration (Payment of fees and city choice) only for those w Final Registration	Start date: 14.03.2020 Closing date: 15.04.2020 (05:00 PM)			
Final Status of B.Sc (H) Nursing application & Rejected application v	22.04.2020			
Final Status of B.Sc Nursing (Post-Basic) and B.Sc (Paramedical Co application with reason for rejection	24.04.2020			
Last date for submission of required documents for B.Sc (H) Nursing (Paramedical Courses) - 2020 for Regularization of Rejected Application entertained after 04.05.2020 under any circumstances and candidate the Examination Section.	04.05.2020 (05:00 PM)			
Hosting/uploading of Admit Cards of B.Sc(H) Nursing on AIIMS website		13.05.2020 (Tentative)		
Hosting/uploading of Admit Cards of <u>B.Sc Nursing (Post-Basic)/B.Sc (Paramedical courses)</u> on AIIMS website		15.05.2020 (Tentative)		
Date & Timing of Examination of B.Sc Nursing (Post-Basic)	06th June, 2020	10.00-11:30 AM		
Date & Timing of Examination of B.Sc (Paramedical courses)	20th June, 2020	10.00-11:30 AM		
Date & Timing of Examination of B.Sc (H) Nursing	28th June, 2020	10.00-12.00 Noon		
For Indian nationals, 5% reservation for Person with Benchmark disability will be provided on horizontal basis, in the seat available. Eligibility				

For Indian nationals, 5% reservation for Person with Benchmark disability will be provided on horizontal basis, in the seat available. Eligibility criteria for candidates under PWBD category will be as per guidelines issued by respective competent authorities as amended from time to time will be applicable in this regard.

For B.Sc (H) Nursing and B.Sc Nursing (Post-Basic) guidelines by Nursing Council of India shall be applicable.

Important: All applicants who have applied earlier and whose Basic Registration have been accepted for 2019 Session are also eligible for Generation of code for Final Registration and they do not required to fill the Basic Registration again. All applicants are required to visit the website regularly since all subsequent Corrigendum/Addendum/Updates will only be uploaded on the website.





(davp 17112/11/0065/1920)



Kolkata

teacher or parent to being

denied a new mobile

phone. Cold statistics of

suicides by children can

certainly generate anxi-

ety, but keeping them

cocooned from the realities of life and protecting

them from disciplinary

measures is a sure path to

In all walks of life, there

fore, what is needed in

this age of reason is com-

petence along with a fine

The writer is a veteran

school educator based in

ruining their future.

sense of balance.



Erams with



# FINANCIA **Chronicle**

Infosys faces another lawsuit in US

Aramco hits **\$2-trillion** valuation

Overleaf



#### FRIDAY | 13 DECEMBER 2019 | HYDERABAD



INDICATO	%	
Sensex	40518.71	+0.42%
Nifty 50	11971.80	+0.52%
S&P 500	3,166.64	+0.85%
Dollar (₹)	70.64	-0.14
Pound Sterling (₹)	93.36	
Euro (₹)	78.76	-0.22
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	38,564 🔺 71	+0.18%
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	64.35	-0.40%
IN 10-Yr bond yield	6.76	+0.84
US 10-Yr T-bill yield	1.81	-0.30
* As of 9:45 pm IST		

### Shrikant Madhav Vaidya to be new **IOC** chairman

New Delhi: Shrikant Madhav Vaidya will be the new Chairman of the country's biggest oil firm, Indian Oil Corp (IOC). Vaidya, who currently is director (refineries) at IOC, was selected for the top post by government headhunter Public Enterprise Selection Board (PESB) on Thursday, sources with direct knowledge of the development said. – *PTI* 

### **SBI** Cards plans to list ₹400-cr CP on BSE soon



New Delhi: BSE on Thursday said SBI Cards & Pavments Services has made an application to list commercial paper

# Costly onions drive food inflation past 10.01% in Nov. *quick* BILES Inflation at 3-yr high, factory output shrinks

#### FC BUREAU NEW DELHI, DEC. 12

With an unprecedented spike in food prices as well other daily used items, retail inflation in the country rose to 5.54 per cent in November from 4.62 per cent in October, breaching the RBI's comfort zone. The industrial produc-

tion, however, has con-tracted for the third consecutive month in October by 3.8 per cent, mainly due to output fall in manufacturing, mining and electricity sectors, according to the government data released on Thursday.

It has been observed that unexpected spike in food prices — especially onions — in November has become the main driver for surging the retail inflation, which is measured by the Consumer Price Index or CPI. Food inflation, which is a

gauge to measure changes in kitchen budgets, grew 10.01 per cent in November as against 7.89 per cent in October. Inflation in cereals and products stood at 3.71 per cent as against 2.16 per cent a month ago, the data said. "Vegetables inflation for November also stood at 36 per cent against 26 per cent in October, while pulses and products recorded an inflation of 13.94 per cent in the same month as against 11.72 per cent in previous month, it added.

In its December policy review, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) maintained status quo, for the first time this year on higher inflation expectations. However, the continued

**Retail Inflation** YEAR ON YEAR 4.62 (Base 2012=100) 3.99 3.28 2.86<sup>2.99</sup> 3.05 3.183.15 5.54 2.33 2.57 2.11 Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct NOV 2018 Source: Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation 2019



trolling inflation by keepin interest rates steady or to boost the industrial growth by slashing interest rates. India's industrial output

continued to contract in decline in industrial pro-October, indicating that the fiscal and monitory duction could force the steps taken so far to Reserve Bank of India to take a difficult decision on reverse an economic slowdown is vet to make a big

ernment has so far announced a slew of measures to support the automobile industry, non-bank exporters, lenders and housing fin-anciers in addition to announcing a sharp corporate tax rate cut for domestic companies not availing of any tax breaks and to new manufacturing companies. However. economists

ous contraction, the gov

believe that inflation is likely to soften over the next two months, while industrial output is still better than the expected figure in the October month. "Core inflation remains benign and trending downwards, while the IIP number, although in negative, is better than expected given that in October 2019, there are several holidays when factories were shut. This reflects a reasonably good festive sales and perhaps clearing of inventories," said Sujan Hajra, chief economist and executive director, Anand Rathi Shares & Stock Brokers.

"While large part of food inflation is likely to soften over the next two months, we expect the trend inflation to remain elevated. Average inflation in 2020 at 4-4.5 per cent range would be much higher than in 2019. With the likely bottoming of growth and elevated inflation as well as concerns on large fiscal slippages, the policy rate may remain in hold in FY20," added Hajra.

However, Rahul Gupta head of research, curren-cy, Emkay Global Finan-cial Services, said, "At this month's policy, the RBI refrained from cutting rates due to unicidy in CBI rates due to uptick in CPI despite slow growth. If the trend continues. the RBI may continue to maintain

a pause in Febr

## Free trade fails to boost exports, imports grow

#### SANGEETHA G. CHENNAI, DEC. 12

Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) have not benefit-ted India much. Exports to countries with whom India has entered into FTAs have grown by a meagre 10 per cent in FY19, while the imports have grown by 27 per cent. Imports as such are higher by 18.5 per cent compared to what we export to these countries.

The annual exports at preferential duties to trading partners under FTA grew from \$97.7 bil-lion in FY18 to \$108 billion in FY19 — a growth of 10.5 per cent. On the other hand, imports from these trade partners grew 26.73 per cent to \$128.8 billion in FY19 fr-om \$101 billion in FY18. More worrving fact is that the trade deficit has only widened in FY19. If the deficit was 3.37 per cent in FY18, it grew to 18.5 per cent in FY19. According to the gov-ernment, these agree-

FY19 ments are meant to provide opportunities for exports to these trading partners at preferential



CHINA HAS been rout-

ing many of its products

into India through Asean

countries. Many of the

countries have not been

following the rule of ori-

**THE GLOBAL** slow-

down and the trade war

with the United States

compared

countries

gin norms strictly.

duties.

Asean

duty concession as per the FTA with Asean. But when it comes to exports, we do not have the competency to export many of the products in the list," said K. Unnikr-ishnan, deputy director general, Federation of Indian Indian Export Organisations.

Of late, China has been routing many of its products into India through Asean coun-tries. Many of the countries have not been fol-lowing the rule of origin norms strictly. The global slowdown

and the trade war with the United States has only increased dumping has only increased dumpof products by China. "We also have been witing of products by China.

nessing increased imports of processed commodities and food products from Malaysia and spices from Sri Lanka," he said.

account for the highest trade gap. While India purchases goods worth FIEO is planning to \$59.3 billion from these countries, they buy only \$37.5 billion valued goods. The imports grew faster at 25.9 per cent in study the pattern of imports from these countries and compiling a list of products that have an export potential. to exports which grew only It also wants to take out by 8.8 per cent. "There is a huge list of delegations to these countries to promote exports.

### **Bill to tweak** Insolvency **Code tabled**

New Delhi, Dec. 12: Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman introduced a bill in the Lok Sabha on Thursday to amend the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code amid protests from the Opposition that demanded the Bill to be referred to a standing committee for scrutiny.

The amendn

criminal proceedings for

offences committed by

previous promoters of

The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC),

which came into force in

2016, has already been

amended thrice. The lat-

est changes pertain to

various sections as well

as introduction of a new

companies concerned.

## products which enjoy Nestle pulled up for not passing on tax saving to buyers

has reduced his prices New Delhi, Dec. 12: The commensurate with the tax deductions" and has National Anti-Profitee-ring Authority (NAA) has ordered FMCG major Nestle to deposit ₹73.15 crore with Consumer Welfare Fund for not pass-₹192 crore has also been ing GST rate reduction

benefit to consumers. Reacting to the or

(CP) for an issue size of ₹400 crore. Post process, the effective date of the listing will be December 13. With this, the number of companies listing their CP on BSE will reach eight since the exchange began listing late November. – PTI

#### **Piramal Realty** forms JV with **Omkar Realtors**

New Delhi: Piramal Realty on Thursday said it has formed a joint venture with Omkar Realtors to develop a project in Mumbai and will invest ₹3,000 crore over the next few years. Piramal Realty, the real estate arm of Piramal group, announced its second joint development agreement with Omkar for a residential project in Mahim this week. - PTI

### Hero MotoCorp to roll out 10 BS 4 models by Feb.

New Delhi: Hero MotoCorp plans to drive in BS-VI upgrades of around 10 products, including five top-selling bikes and scooters by February next year, as it aims to upgrade its product portfolio well before the deadline of April, 1 2020, according to sources. It plans to showcase the upgraded products at an event in February 2020 at its R&D centre in Jaipur. - PTI

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T.Venkatram Reddy, RNI Reg No.APENG/2008/24282, © All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission of The Editor, Financial Chronicle ® is prohibited.

## **Deloitte H&S** fails to comply with norms

official release

audit conducted for IFIN

statutory audit was car-

ried out by Deloitte Has-

kins and Sells LLP (DHS).

er to focus on

whet

#### New Delhi, Dec. 12: Flagging concerns, the National Financial Repor-

ting Authority (NFRA) After the recent Karvy has said that Deloitte Has-kins and Sells LLP failed demat account scam, over 30 broking houses are suspected to be indulging in to comply with auditing standards with respect to unethical practice of utilstatutory audit of IL&FS ising the margin money of Financial Services Ltd customers. (IFIN), according to an

(PoA) — that a customer gives to the broker during The NFRA has issued Audit Quality Review (AQR) report of statutory the opening of the demat account to execute trades on instructions given by the customer on phone – for 2017-18 period. The is being used for making unauthorised use of the margin money by the broker.

This is the first AQR "There are as more as 30 issued by the NFRA since brokers in the country which are indulged in the it was set up in 2018. The watchdog comes under the corporate affairs minunethical practice of utilistry. As per the release, ising the margin money the NFRA would examine they are given by that whether disciplinary protheir investors out of trust, while giving power of attorney (PoA) to the ceedings needs to be initiated in connection with brokers to do transactions -PTI

# More brokerages may have used clients' funds

impact on the ground.

"Îndustrial output con-

tracted to 3.8 per cent in

October after contracting

4.3 per cent in September,

1.4 per cent in August this

year, while it grew at 4.9

per cent in July, and in

contrast it grew to 8.4 per

cent in September last

year," the data said.

In view of such co

#### MADHUSUDAN SAHOO NEW DELHI, DEC. 11

The power of attorney

**THE NATIONAL** Stock Exchange of India (NSE) too has cautioned that while executing the power of attorney, the customer should ask the broker to specify all the rights that he can exercise and timeframe for which PoA is valid.

on their behalf," said a top industry source.

"The reason being that PoA are in a standardised format, and hence it has become very difficult for an investor to know the nitty-gritty involved in the scam, if any," the source said, without divulging the details of such brokers.

After the aftermath of the Karvy scandal, it has observed that been broking houses fear escalation in compliance costs as the market regulator

Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) is set to further tighten the regulatory norms to save the investors. "Any such increase in costs could strain smaller brokerages financially," the source said.

The National Stock Exchange of India (NSE) too has cautioned that while executing the power of attorney, the customer should ask the broker to specify all the rights that he can exercise and timeframe for which PoA is valid. "It may be noted that PoA is not a mandatory

requirement as per Sebi/exchanges. Also, one should register for online applications viz Speed-e and Easiest provided by depositories for online delivery of securities as an alternative to power of attorney,' the NSE warned.

Nestle India said it would appropriate consider action after studying the same.

The NAA, which has been set up to examine complaints of not passing benefits to consumer under the Goods and Services Tax (GST), rejected Nestle India's claims that it has passed on benefits of ₹192 crore by reducing maximum retail price.

The authority said "there is no evidence that the Respondent (Nestle)

### **TELCOS PENALISED FOR CALL DROPS, VODA PAYS MOST FINE**

New Delhi, Dec. 12: on Vodafone Idea, while minimum penalty of ₹6.5 lakh was levied on Penalty of around ₹3.2 crore has been imposed on telecom operators for call drop between September 2018-June 2019, according to the disincentive of ₹47.5 on BSNL, ₹56 lakh on Tata Teleser-vices, ₹34 lakh on Bharti Airtel. data shared by MoS for communications Sanjay Dhotre in Parliament on Thursday.

meet the minimum According to the data number of mobile tower functional in service shared, highest finanarea in the July-Sept-ember period. — PTI cial disincentive of ₹1.76 crore has been imposed ember period.

methodology remove bottlenecks and arbitrary and hence the above claim streamline the corporate made by the respondent is insolvency resolution process, wherein successincorrect," the NAA said in its order. ful bidders will be ringfenced from any risk of

The authority also dismissed Nestle's claims that it was not practical to pass on benefit at stock keeping unit (SKU) level, additional benefits were passed through other SKUs at the same category level

"even increased the same

in respect of a number of

wrongly calculated by the

"The above amount of

products"

respondent

Based on facts, the NAA said, "the profiteered amount is determined as ₹89,73,16,384". — *PTI* 

Reliance Jio. Financial

lakh has been imposed

He said BSNL did not

section. Explaining the rationale, Ms Sitharaman said the amendment has been necessitated because there was lot of doubt in the mind of small home buyers and others.

amendments "Some were required in addition to what we did in July Therefore, we have come back," she said.

Acknowledging that a two-day mandatory notice had not been given in this case, Ms Sitharaman said: "It is in response to development which we see in tĥe economy.... Please do helps us to respond to the economy as all of us are equally concerned.

-PTI

## Maserati drives in Ghibli, Quattroporte sedans to India

#### MICHAEL GONSALVES PUNE, DEC. 12

the AQR report.

pan Indian showroom. Italian super sports car The three performance maker Maserati, on Thursday introduced the cars are powered by the 3.0-litre V6 petrol engine petrol derivatives of the that is available in two Ghibli, Quattroporte sedans and the Levante sports utility vehicle for states of tune — 345 bhp

crore for the Maserati

Quattroporte S sedan at

and 424 bhp. The Maserati luxury petrol cars can be ordered the first time in Asia's third biggest economy as at the company's dealerpart of its 2020 range to ships across the country. expand its customer base. The new petrol variants Prices start from ₹1.31 are powered by the twincrore for the Maserati turbo V6 petrol that had Ghibli sedan, ₹1.42 crore been designed by Maserati for the Maserati Levante Powertrain and is built at SUV and goes upto ₹1.73 the Ferrari plant in Maranello. The engines are Euro-6 compliant and promise an exciting drive while keeping the emis-sions in check. The petrol engine also comes with the engine's exhaust system controlled by pneumatic valves to ensure the signature aural note on the Italian cars.

The engines also feature advanced valve control technology with hydraulic roller finger followers and four-cam phasers, twinturbocharging and direct injection technology. As in the diesel variant,

both Maserati sedans as well as the Levante SUV petrol will have a redesigned gearshift lever featuring a more intuitive shift pattern, shorter travel and improved opera-

tion. "With the introduction of the V6 petrol versions of Levante, Ghibli and Quattroporte, we follow through, yet again, on our commitment to satisfy the significantly increasing demand for petrol cars in India," Bojan Jankulovski, head of operations, Maserati India, said.







\$111 billion in net profit in

2018, making it the most

profitable company in the world. The energy giant's valuation was declared to

be \$1.7 trillion during the

IPO process, putting it far ahead of other firms in the trillion-dollar club, includ-ing Apple and Microsoft.

Aramco's share surge lift-

ed Tadawul's capitalisation

to over \$2.46 trillion, mak-

ing it the seventh largest market ahead of the bours-

es in Canada, Germany and

tion from the regulator. "But if there are certain

market failures, if there

are certain abberations, if

posal, asking the regulator to fix a floor price, which Trai had observed to be a

The proposal surfaced

'bad idea''

India.

## Ujjivan rises nearly 60% on debut

#### FC BUREAU MUMBAI, DEC. 12

Ujjivan Small Finance Bank (USFB), which caters to the unbanked urban poor and young middle class customers, on Thursday delivered windfall gains to its new shareholders who subscribed to the initial public offering by the

company. USFB listed at ₹58.75 on the NSE, against its issue price of ₹37, a premium of 58.78 per cent, it made a high and a low of ₹62.8 and ₹53.05 respectively and closed at ₹55.95. The stock made a high of ₹62.8 and a low ₹53.1 on the BSE after listing at ₹58 and closed at ₹55.90 up 51.08 per cent. After the close of the trading on the first day, USFB's market capitalisation stood at

₹9,660.77 crore Nitin Chugh, MD and CEO of USFB speaking after the listing of USFB shares, said,"We thank the investors for expressing their confidence in us. We also stand firmly in our resolve to serve the unserved and underserved segments of the middle class in India."

## **India's first AAA-bonds ETF** opens

MUMBAI, DEC. 12

India's first exchange traded funds (ETF) with AAA-rated corporate bonds of a dozen public sector companies as underlying constituents called the Bharat Bond with three-year and 10year maturities opened subscription on

Thursday. Bharat Bond ETF proposes to raise initial amount of ₹7,000 crore with a green shoe option of ₹8,000 crore. The ₹15,000-crore new fund offer makes Bharat Bond ETF the largest NFO ever in the Indian mutual fund industry. Bharat Bond ETF an

initiative by the government of India and managed by Edelweiss Asset Management Company

## Saudi Aramco hits \$2-trillion valuation

Reports suggest Saudi government pressurised local investors to buy Aramco's shares

Riyadh, Dec. 12: Saudi Aramco's market value on Thursday briefly hit the \$2 trillion valuation target sought by the kingdom's de facto ruler as the energy giant's share price surged again on its second day of

trading. The valuation milestone, which defies widespread scepticism from investors, was coveted by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman ever since he first floated the idea of listing the world's biggest oil firm

four years ago. Aramco's market value crossed the \$2 trillion level several times during the day before ending just below it, at \$1.96 trillion, on the kingdom's Tadawul stock exchange. Aramco shares closed up

4.55 percent at 36.80 riyals (\$9.81), off their highs of the day after soaring by the maximum allowed 10 percent on Wednesday.

"But this rally is unlikely to be sustained," Capital Economics said in a comwith its huge capital value, boosts the Saudi bourse to the ranks of the world's top





Apple Inc United States \$1.20 trillion

ment on Thursday. "Indeed, reports suggest that the authorities pres-10. Tadawul witnessed one of its most hectic trading sessions on Thursday, with sured local investors and some 418 million Aramco shares — worth \$4.23 bilchase shares on the secondlion — changing hands. ary market to ensure that the debut didn't fall flat," Aramco's stock sale is the cornerstone of Prince Mohammed's ambitious the London-based consul-

strategy to overhaul the oilreliant economy by raising to pour into funds megaprojects and non-energy industries such as Microsoft Corp.

**United States** \$1.15 trillion

tourism and entertainment. The \$25.6 billion proceeds from the Aramco IPO are expected to be channelled into the coffers of the Public Investment Fund, the Saudi sovereign wealth fund, which will invest it in mega projects.

Wealthy Saudi families are reportedly under pressure from the government to invest in the Aramco

Only seven countries have economy which is more valuable than Aramco.

It is more valuable than the individual economies of 178 countries. Only 16 countries in the world have

\$1-trillion economies Saudi Arabian economy itself is less

valuable than Aramco

Even so, the scaled-down Aramco IPO was a far cry stock, with nationalists from the blockbuster originally planned by Prince Mohammed. The muchcalling it a patriotic duty. Aramco also dangled delayed stock sale, first announced in 2016, was inisweeteners for investors, including guarantees that it will distribute dividends tially expected to raise as of at least \$75 billion a year until 2024 and the possibili-ty of bonus shares if they much as \$100 billion from the listing of up to five per-cent of the company.

hold on to the stock. The government's plans Once one of the most to raise additional funds by secretive companies in the listing on a major internaworld, Aramco opened its tional market are also on hold. -AFPaccounts this year and



## Momentum likely to continue, say experts

The market gained further with the Sensex and Nifty ended higher as the government announced a slew of policy initiatives. Sentiment has been boosted as the government continued with its policy reforms like the Cabinet approved changes to the Insolvency and Bankruptcy bill, approved partial credit guarantee plan for PSBs to purchase assets of financially sound NBFCs and approved 100 per cent sale of loss making Air India.

The Sensex rose 169 points to close at 40581, while the Nifty climbed up half per cent or 61 points to close at 11972 while Nifty touched intra-day high of above 12000. Tata Motors, SBI, Tata Steel, Coal India, Vedanta, Kotak Bank, Yes Bank and Hindalco were major gainers among the Nifty stocks.

Moreover, dollar fell to 1-month low and oil price was stable which boosted the market sentiment. Among the global factors, US Fed on Wednesday deciding to leave interest rates unchanged for now, signaling no plans to cut in 2020 given strong growth in US economy. Metal stocks witnessed biggest gains followed by Banking, Auto, FMCG and Pharma stocks while Tech stocks witnessed profit booking. India CPI and IIP data will be announced post market today.

According to analysts, going forward, till the time Nifty holds above 11900 level, we may see continuation in up move towards 12035 and 12100 levels. On the flipside, strong support remains intact at 11900 and then 11800 levels.

'Technically, Nifty has negated the formation of lower highs - lower lows of last four sessions and supports are now shifting higher. The index formed a bullish candle on daily momentum oscillator RSI also turned northward and in verge of giving positive crossover with its average. Going forward, till the time Nifty holds above 11900 level, we may see continuation in up move towards 12035-12100 levels. On the flipside. strong support remains intact at 11900-11800 levels, Siddhartha Khemka, Head - Retail Research, Motilal Oswal Financial Services Private Ltd. "Markets extended their rebound and gained nearly half a percent amid mixed cues. Initially, buoyancy in the global markets triggered upbeat start, thanks to dovish commentary from the US Fed. It remained range bound in the first half thereafter but strong surge in the select index majors pushed the benchmark higher. Mostly sectoral indices participated in the move and the broader indices too gained some traction, Ajit Mishra, VP - Research, Religare Broking Ltd.

## **E-invoicing** to help save

on GST filing SANGEETHA G.

refunds.

FC BUREAU

said.

Saudi Aramco

Saudi Arabia

\$1.98 trillion

tancy firm said.

wealthy families to pur-

The listing of Aramco,

CHENNAI, DEC. 12

Electronic invoicing will lead to significant cost savings on GST billing and lower the occurrence of error. This in turn will speed up disposal of GST From April 1, 2020 or by

the beginning of next fis-cal, e-invoicing will be mandatory for all companies with turnover of ₹100 crore and above.

According to Prakash Kumar, chief executive officer, GSTN, e-invoicing will result in significant cost and time savings. It will also reduce incidence of errors in the filings.

"A study done in France found that e-invoicing improves efficiencies compared to paper filing. The cost came down in France from seven Euros per invoicing to 0.3 Euro, which is around 90 per cent reduction in cost. Further, a person who has been handling 6,000 invoices per month could now handle 90,000 invoices after it was done electronically," he

E-invoicing also reduces errors. According to him, error is one of the main reasons why refunds get delayed as someone has to check the data and get them corrected. The new system will make refund procedure faster, he added. The Goods and Services Tax Network (GSTN) is implementing a standard-Pan European Public Procurement Online (PEP-POL), which is interoperable across all the IT applications. Several countries have adopted the standard, latest being Singapore. Currently, e-invoices generated by different businesses lack a standard. They use the format as pro-vided by the ERP or billing software. Lack of a standard format leads to a scenario where e-invoice generated on one billing software can't be read by another, requiring manual data entry from electronically generated invoice. A standard e-invoicing system will ensure complete interoperability of einvoices across the entire GST eco-system and will eliminate the need for manual data entry mitigating chances of errors, said Kumar.

### **HOPEFUL EUROPE**



Christine Lagarde, President of the European Central Bank (ECB), arrives for a news conference following the meeting of the governing council of the ECB in Frankfurt am Main, western Germany, on Monday. The European Central Bank is seeing the first encouraging signs that the euro-

## Trai may look at telcos' demand for floor price

New Delhi, Dec. 12: Telec-om sector regulator Trai on Thursday dropped broad hints that it may be open to the idea of setting a mini-mum tariff for calls and data to ensure viability of the sector.

opposed any intervention in setting either cap or floor tariffs, and the U-turn in its thought process came a day after Bharti Airtel head Sunil Mittal reportedly pressed telecom secretary for setting a floor or minimum rate for data.

Speaking at the AVIA India Video 360 event here, chairman R.S. Trai Sharma said telecom tariffs have been under fore-bearance for the last 16 years that have been working fine, and it now looking at renewed industry demand for fixing a floor price.

Free voice calls and dirt cheap data by billionaire Mukesh Ambani's Jio has wrecked havoc on the industry, which squeezed finances to match them. "It is only recently that

the telecom companies ₹78,653-CR STUCK

The proposal for fixing floor price sur-faced again after the October 24 ruling of lating statutory dues

#### Bharti Airtel chief Sunil Mittal too met telecom secretary

have together written to us that regulate us, so it's for the first time," he said. "In the past, in 2012, I remember they had opposed tooth and nail the Trai's proposal to regulate tariffs. They said tariffs must be left

Stating that the regulator lakh crore in past dues. Mr Mittal met telecom is focussed on three overarsecretary Anshu Prakash on Wednesday after which he reportedly said setting a ching principles of con-sumer protection, fair competition and growth of the floor for tariffs was imporindustry, he said Trai had, in the past, allowed telecom tant. The telecom czar said companies to decide tariffs tariff needs to go up and industry needs to become and stepped in only when operators sought interven-

#### one of the objectives, for the Supreme Court example consumer protection, is not being met with, that upheld the govthen obviously we will have to think of ways to ensure ernment's stand on The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Trai) had, in past, vehemently including non-telethat these objectives are met with," he said. com income in calcu-Mr Sharma said the tel-cos in 2017 had given a pro-

seeking a floor price

again after the October 24 ruling of the Supreme Court that upheld the government position on including non-telecom revenues in calculating statutory dues. After the ruling, Bharti Airtel, Vodafone Idea and other telecom under forebearance." operators have to pay ₹1.47

remain pen til December 20. The anchor investors will be allotted 25 per cent of the total issue size on December 12. The investors who hold these ETFs for more than 3 years will get the benefit of capital gains with indexation as long term capital gains are taxed at 20 per cent post indexation in debt mutual funds.

## **TRF** expects to grow by 34% a year

### FC BUREAU NEW DELHI, DEC. 12

Online rummy industry regulator The Rummy Federation (TRF) is expecting to grow about 34 per cent annually and the industry is hoping to touch a turnover of around ₹4,000 crore in the next two years.

The online rummy industry, which is esti-mated to be at around ₹2,200 crore, has around 30 lakh regular users in the country currently. It is growing at a compound annual growth rate or CAGR of 34 per cent and in the next two years expected to touch a turnover of around Rs 4,000 crore ," TRF chief executive Sameer Barde told reporters here.

"With the growing number of players and operators, the online rummy platform has become quite robust, while also creating the need for regulation to safeguard the players and ensure responsible, secure and fair environ ment for them," he said. Overall, there are around 18 companies in the online rummy space in the country.

zone growth slowdown is stabilising despite "persistent global uncertainties", chief Christine Lagarde said. - AFP

## Infy faces class action suit in US over losses

New Delhi, Dec. 12: US-based Schall Law Firm has national shareholder rights litigation firm, announces the filing of a said it will file a class action lawsuit against class action lawsuit against Infosys Ltd to recover loss-Infosys Ltd for violations of es suffered by investors in sections 10(b) and 20(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and Rule 10b-5 the wake of allegations of 'unethical practices" at the Indian IT major. promulgated thereunder In October, Infosys had by the US Securities and

informed the stock exchanges of having received anonymous whistleblower complaints alleging certain unethical practices by the It asked investors who had purchased the compa-ny's securities between top management. US market regulator SEC

2019, inclusive (class perihas also initiated a probe od), to contact the firm on the matter, while Rosen before December 23, 2019. Law Firm had said it was preparing a class action ment on the matter. The Bengaluru-based company lawsuit to recover losses suffered by investors in the US. Infosys shares dropped 2.63 per cent on 'The Schall Law Firm, a Thursday.

**IN ARBITRATION CLAIMS: GADKARI** 

> New Delhi, Dec. 12: More than 300 highways arbitra-tion cases involving total claims of ₹78,653 crore are ongoing, Union minister Nitin Gadkari informed the Lok Sabha on Thursday.

> The main reason for arbitration cases is compensation for delays in land handover, the Road Transport and Highways Minister told the Lok Sabha in a written reply. "318 arbitration cases are ongoing with a claim amount of about ₹78,653.00 crore. There are few cases where the amount of claim raised by the contractor/ concessionaire is more than the total project cost," he said. Main reasons of invocation of arbitration are compensation for delay in handing over of land, damages due to change in scope, loss incurred on account of extended stay in the project, among oth--PTIers, he said.

## Panel to suggest ways to cut losses in non-lifé biz

#### FC BANKING BUREAU MUMBAI, DEC, 12

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) on Thursday constituted a working group to recommend ways to prevent and minimise losses in the general insurance industry.

The regulator in a statement said that while loss prevention and loss minimisation are aspects insurers are concerned with right from the time a risk is assessed to the time a claim occurs, there is a need to synergise the activities of the various stakeholders involved in these activities for the benefit of all concerned. Research and education in this area needs to be encouraged. Collaboration with the government and various government agencies in this regard will benefit the society at large. It is, therefore, important that all stakeholders work together towards a common end on a common platform.

The panel has been setup under the chairmanship of Alamelu, member T.L. (non-life), and would have G Srinivasan, director at the National Insurance Academy, Kunnel Prem. CEO, of Insurance Information Bureau of India, M Nagaraja Sarma, secretary general of the General Ins-urance Council C.S. Ayyappan, deputy general man-ager of the New India Assurance Company, Girish Gangadharan, senior man-ager, GIC Re, Thangaraju Mallan, senior vice-presi-dent corporate underwriting at HDFC Ergo General Insurance, Ramanan appointed actuary at Max Bupa Health Insurance, S.K. Jain, vice president, Insurance Brokers Association of India, and Yegnapriya Bharath, CGM (nonlife), IRDAI, member convener as members.

— Ashwin J Punnen

## US, China officials inch closer to trade deal: Trump

Beijing/Washington, Dec. 12: China and the United States are in close communication on trade, officials in Beijing and Washington said, days before tit-for-tat tariffs are due to go into effect.

US President Donald Trump on Thursday said on the United States was "very close" to nailing down a trade deal with China. "Getting VERY close to a BIG DEAL with China," Trump posted on Twitter. "They want it, and so do we." During a regular briefing

on Wednesday in Beijing, Gao Feng, spokesman at the Chinese commerce min-istry, told reporters "The two sides' economic and States is "very trade teams are maintaining close communication.' close" to nailing down Stock markets jumped on Mr Trump's tweet, and the S&P 500 shot to a record a trade deal with China. Getting VERY high, gaining 0.85 per cent. close to a BIG DEAL negotiators have with China. They want offered to cut existing tariff it, and so do we. rates on \$360 billion in Chinese goods by as much as 50 per cent, one person

#### - DONALD TRUMP, US President

Exchange Commission," a

July 7, 2018 and October 20,

Infosys declined to com-

the

BSE on

-PTI

statement said.

ry steps if Washington imposes more tariffs on Chinese goods this weekend.

The United States is due to impose tariffs on almost \$160 billion of Chinese imports such as video game



consoles, computer monitors and toys on December

Mr Trump is expected to meet top trade advisers on Thursday afternoon to discuss the move, sources told Reuters previously.

Mr Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner has recently taken a larger role in US-China trade negotiations, and is among the advisers pushing the 50 per cent tariff rollback, one person

briefed on the talks said. Analysts at Capital Alpha Partners said Thursday they expect Mr Trump to announce a delay in the December 15 tariffs as soon as Thursday for more than 30 days. A decision to proceed with the December 15 levies could roil financial markets and scuttle US-China talks until after the US Presidential election next November. The 17month-long trade war

between the world's two largest economies has slowed global growth and dampened profits and investment for companies around the world.

The countries agreed in October to conclude a preliminary trade agreement, but Beijing is balking at US demands that it promise to buy a specific amount of agricultural goods. Beijing is also demanding roll-backs of existing tariffs imposed by the US. Beijing has said it would retaliate if the US escalates the trade dispute.

In August, China said it would impose five per cent and 10 per cent in addition-

al tariffs on \$75 billion of US goods in two batches. Tariffs on the first batch kicked in on September 1, hitting US goods including soybeans, pork, beef, chemicals and crude oil.

The tariffs on the second batch of products are due to be activated on December 15, affecting goods ranging from corn and wheat to small aircraft and rare earth magnets.

China also said that it will reinstitute on December 15 an additional 25 per cent tariff on US-made vehicles and five per cent tariffs on auto parts that had been suspended at the beginning of 2019. – Reuters



briefed on the negotiations

said. They have also offered

to suspend tariffs due to go

into effect on December 15,

the Wall Street Journal reported on Thursday. The

White House had no com-

Mr Gao declined to com-

ment on possible retaliato-

ment on any offers.

#### Rodney operated



**Rodney Hood of Portland Trail Blazers** undergoes a successful surgery to repair his ruptured left Achilles tendon





FRIDAY | 13 DECEMBER 2019 | HYDERABAD



#### Yeah. We have a couple of different options rolling into this entire cup. — Tiger Woods, Team USA captain, on being asked if he will play again at the Presidents Cup

TAKES SHORT

### Wigan hold West

Brom to a draw

London: West Brom missed an opportunity to move back to the top of English football's second-tier Championship when they were held to a 1-1 draw away to lowly Wigan on Wednesday. Wigan opened the scoring five minutes into the second half when Sam Morsy's longrange shot hit the woodwork and went in off the back of unfortunate Baggies goalkeeper Sam Johnstone. Michael Jacobs almost doubled Wigan's lead only for his free-kick to hit the crossbar before West Brom equalised on the hour mark when Charlie Austin scored from an indirect free-kick awarded for a back pass. The draw saw West Brom go level on points with Leeds, who top the table on goal difference. Elsewhere, Sheffield Wednesday remained outside the play-off places following a 1-1 draw with Derby. Steven Fletcher fired the Owls into the lead but Derby equalised nine minutes from time when Chris Martin scored from a penalty awarded after Jack Marriott was brought down. Sheffield on Wednesday were reduced to 10 men in the closing seconds when Moses Odubajo was sent off.

Both Blackburn and Swansea had a man sent off in a 1-1 draw in south Wales. Danny Graham gave Rovers a fourth-minute lead, but the hosts equalised six minutes later through Andre Ayew's header. - AFP

#### Portugal take on **Spain in a friendly**

Madrid: Spain will warm up for Euro 2020 by playing a friendly against Portugal, the Spanish Football Federation (RFEF) announced on Thursday Luis Enrique's side will face the reigning European champions at the Wanda Metropolitano in Madrid on June 5. Spain's first match of the tournament will be 10 days later against Sweden, with Poland their other opponent in Group E. They will also face the winner from a play-off. The RFEF have already confirmed friendlies against Germany at home on March 26 and the Netherlands at the Johan Cruyff Arena on March 29. – AFP

# Raja makes a big move

### Earns first GM Norm, is two steps away from becoming Grand Master

#### DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, DEC. 12

Hyderabad chess whiz R. Raja Rithvik scored 6.0 points at the Elllobregat Open to claim his first Grand Master Norm in Spain. The city lad is now just two steps away from becoming a Grand Master. Rithvik got his first GM Norm by scoring six points out of the nine rounds that he played. In the tourney, he earned three wins and drew six of them for the title.

The class 10 student of Orchids International School in Jubilee Hills was up against some of the top players from coun-tries such as Georgia, Spain, Argentina, Israel among others.

competed In the tournament, the 15-year-old against Masters, defeating one of them while drawing with the other five.

the FIDE ratings.

coming years.

Harikrishna),

Of the two International Masters that he was up against, the Hyderabadi against, the Hyderabadi defeating local Grand defeated one of them and Master Narciso Dublan



Raja Rithvik poses with the chess board in this file photo.

drew with the other. Rithvik was also among the few players who went his Bishop and Rook and undefeated through the 11captured the Queen in the day tournament. middle of the board to eventually checkmate the Rithvik earned a name for himself in the second

Spanish Grand Master by round of the tourney, the 34th move. Playing aggressively with black pieces in the

Argentina's Sosa Tomas, an International Master, in 38 moves.

> against Grand Masters who are much higher rated players such as GM Martinez Arizmendi Julen Luis (Spain), GM

so special, Anand said,

"He is able to basically

execute his skills. He has a lot of talent to begin

with and puts in a lot of

hard work. He is very

good at learning new

Anand spoke at length about his book *Mind* 

Master penned along with

writer

Susan

-PT

things.

sports

## **ELS TEAM HAS** 4-1 LEAD AT **TOP GOLF CUP**

Melbourne, Dec. 12: International captain Ernie Els hailed his seven rookies after taking a 4-1 Presidents Cup lead Thursday and the experienced Louis Oosthuizen said the veterans were feeding off the youngsters' energy.

There was concern ahead of the biennial match play event at Royal Melbourne that the newcomers could be overawed by the experience.

But it has proven to be the opposite, with the Internationals leading after the opening session for the first time since 2005

Among the first-timers, South Koreans Im Sung-jae and An Byeong-hun, along with Taiwan's CT and Mexico's Pan Abraham Ancer all tasted victory in their maiden Presidents Cup matches. The only newcomer to

#### STATE CLIPS



Telangana boys pose with their medals after finishing runners-up at the 23rd Junior National Sepaktakraw championship at the Victory Play Ground Indoor Stadium in Hyderabad on Thursday.

#### Telangana go down to Delhi in final

Telangana went down fighting 0-2 to Delhi in the final of the the 23rd Junior National Sepaktakraw championship at the Victory Play Ground Indoor Stadium in Hyderabad on Thursday.

For Telangana, Shashank, Nitin and Harinath impressed with their skills but their efforts went in vain. Earlier in the semifinal, Telangana boys defeated immediate neighbours Andhra Pradesh 2-0, while Delhi scored a facile 2-0 win over the last year runnersup Bihar. In the women's title clash, Nagaland stunned defending champions Odisha 2-0. Earlier, Odisha beat Goa 2-0 while Nagaland got the better of Bihar 2-0 to make the final.

#### THE RESULTS

Boys final: Delhi bt Telangana 21-14, 21-9; 21-7, 21-10. Semifinals: Telangana bt Andhra Pradesh 6-21, 21-11, 21-15; 14-21, 21-15, 21-16; Delhi bt Bihar 21-5, 21-8; 21-8, 21-19. League stage: Delhi bt Telangana 21-15, 21-10, 21-12; Bihar bt Maharastra 15-21, 21-15, 21-10; Andhra Pradesh bt Uttar Pradesh 18-21, 21-17, 21-15; Delhi bt Rajasthan 21-12, 21-13, 21-7; Bihar bt Uttar Pradesh 21-17, 21-14, 21-13; Andhra Pradesh bt Maharashtra 21-17. 9-21. 21-9: Andhra bt Bihar 21-10, 19-21, 21-12; Telangana bt Rajasthan 21-17, 21-10, 21-18; Uttar Pradesh bt Maharastra 14-21, 21-15, 23-21.

**Girls final:** Nagaland bt Odisha 21-16, 21-7; 21-9, 21-12. **Semifinals:** Odisha bt Goa 21-13, 15-21, 22-20; Nagaland bt Bihar 21-12, 21-14. **League stage:** Bihar bt Assam 21-17, 18-21, 21-15; Nagaland bt Uttar Pradesh 21-13, 21-14, 03-21; Goa bt Telangana 21-11, 21-04, 11-21; Odisha bt Bihar 13-21, 21-14, 21-9; Goa bt Karnataka 21-7, 21-5, 21-7; Uttar Pradesh bt Telangana 23-21, 20-22, 21-18; Odisha bt Bihar 21-14, 21-14, 22-20; Goa bt Uttar Pradesh 12-21, 21-16, 21-19; Nagaland bt Telangana 21-16, 21-13; Bihar bt Rajasthan 21-18, 14-21, 21-8; Nagaland bt Karnataka 21-8, 21-10, 8-21; Odisha bt Assam 21-19, 21-8, 21-6.

### Sateri, Kishan propel Karnataka

Riding on fine knocks from S. S. Sateri and Kishan Bedare, Karnataka grabbed a lead of 28 runs on the second day of their Col. C.K. Nayudu Trophy match against Hyderabad being played in Shimoga. Sateri was unbeaten on 53, Kishan also made 53 and Shiva Kumar added 42 to the team's tally. Ajay Dev Goud emerged the pick of bowlers for Hyderabad with 3/32. Brief scores (Day-2): Hyderabad 202 in 83.4 overs vs Karnataka 230/5 in 96 overs (Shiva Kumar 42, Kishan Bedare 53, S. S. Sateri 53 n.o., Ajay Dev Goud 3/32).

### Mumbai make Vijay Merchant final

Owing to their first innings lead of 63 runs against Hyderabad, Mumbai progressed to the final of the Under-16 Vijay Merchant Trophy after play on the fourth day was called off due to heavy rains and wet outfield in Una, Himachal Pradesh.

Brief scores (Day-4): Hyderabad 170 in 83.4 overs & 208/6 in 86 overs (Aman Rao 58, Mayank Gupta 50, Pranav Varma 38 batting, Musheer Khan 2/60, B. Prince 2/42) drew Mumbai 233 in 94.5 overs.

#### Hyderabad are SGF cricket champs

## India's future bright: Anand

**Chennai, Dec. 12:** Five-time world champion Viswanathan Anand on (Gujrati), Surya (Sekar Ganguly), Sasi (K. Sasikiran) (as the players Ganguly), Viswanathan Ananu on Thursday said that the future of Indian chess "looks promising" and some players will soon break into the top 10 of of the future). Sooner or somebody from later India will break into top 10. Things are looking promising for India as we have a lot of talent," Anand said. Anand, currently at the

15th spot at the FIDE "Players like Praggu (R. rankings, picked the likes Praggnanandhaa, who of Pentala Harikrishna recently won a tournament in London), Nihal Sarin, D. Gukesh, Raunak and Vidit Gujarathi as the players expected to be among the top-10 in the Sadhwani and there are more. Things are looking "I would say Hari (P. good for Indian chess," he Vidit added.

### Foot in the door



Anand, who turned 50 between Carlsen and others is a big one. (Fabiano) Caruana and Ding (Liren) on Wednesday, said competition among the world's elite has become petition are doing incredibly well really tough and few playas well in recent times." ers have been able to hold Asked why Carlsen was

on to their positions. He agreed that the gap between world number one Magnus Carlsen of Norway and the rest of the players was a "big" one, but said players like Fabiano Caruana (2nd in FIDE rating) and China's Ding Liren (3rd) were doing well in recent times

"At the moment, the gap Ninan

CAB protests mar ISL, Ranji games

New Delhi/ Chennai, in the city. "Due to the Dec. 12: Sporting activi-ties took a hit in the cur-Guwahati, match 37 of few-struck city Guwahati where an Indian Super League (ISL) football game and a Ranji Trophy cricket match were suspended on Thursday owing to the unrest over the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill. Day Four proceedings of the Ranji match between Assam and the Services Control Board Sports (SSCB) along with the ISL clash between NorthEast United FC and Chennaiyin FC were called off in the Assamese city. "The Ranji Trophy match

between NorthEast United

Babu, Telangana State Rithvik drew his games Chess Association President A. Narasimha Reddy and General Secretary K. S. Prasad congratulated Rithvik for the feat.

#### nament Rithvik has been under-going advanced coaching at RACE Chess Academy under reputed coach N.V.S. Rama Raju. Sports Authority of Telangana State (SATS) chairman A. fourth round, Rithvik beat Venkateshwar SATS VC & MD Dinakar

DECCAN CHRONICLE

Alonso

(Israel).

Masters

Rosell

(Spain), GM Del Rio De

Angelis Salvador (Spain) and IM Zana Evgeny

With his superb per-formance in this tourna-

ment, Rithvik has improved his rating by 26

points from 2381 to 2407. As many as 130 players — including 20 Grand

from 28 countries such as Russia, Germany, India, China, France, Ukraine, Poland, Israel, Singapore,

Georgia, Argentina have

participated in the tour-

and International Masters –

Reddy.

### FOOTBALLER **PLAYS WITH CHICKEN POX**

New Delhi: Diagnosed with chicken pox, East Bengal's Mehtab Singh, instead of being guarantined by the club, played in an I-League match recently. Needless to say, his participation in the match put his opponents, teammates of the Kolkata-based club and, above all, child mascots at risk of contracting the highly contagious disease When contacted, an East Bengal official said the player was diagnosed with the medical condition only after he returned to Kolkata a day after the game. The match against Punjab FC, held at Ludhiana's Guru Nanak Stadium on December 7, ended in a 1-1 stalemate with Mehtab featuring in it. Punjab FC owner Ranjit Bajaj on Thursday slammed the player and his club for what he

termed a "stupid and highly irresponsible" act "This is so stupid and highly irresponsible. He has put at risk not just my players and his teammates but even our sixseven-year-old accompanying the players entering the pitch before the match. Just imagine," Bajaj said. One of their key players at the back for East Bengal, Mehtab marshalled the central defence and was also involved in the post-match celebration after East Bengal managed a late goal for a 1-1 draw in the away match

– PTI

Cricket Association of Telangana secretary Sunil Babu Kolanpaka touches the feet of TRS MLA D. Sudhir Reddy, requesting his support to ensure cricketers from the districts are not discriminated against by the Hyderabad Cricket Association when it comes to selection of state teams. Sunil said he would seek the support of all MLAs in such a manner after G. Ganesh of Mahbubnagar district was not picked on the Hyderabad Under 23 team despite scoring two triple centuries in the HCA's league matches.

in Guwahati stops at where it ended on Day 3," BCCI GM Cricket Operations Saba Karim said.

'We have been advised by the state association not to go ahead with the game. Players and match officials been advised to have remain in the hotel. At this stage, the safety of the players and match officials is paramount," he said.

The ISL game was slated to be played at the Indira Gandhi Athletics Stadium

FC and Chennaiyin FC has been postponed until fur-ther notice," the ISL said in a statement on Thursday. The league has been in

consultation with the authorities concerned over the past 48 hours to determine the best course of action. The safety of fans, players and league staff is of paramount importance, which has led to this deci-

sion," it added. The match was headed for an exciting finish with Assam needing 168 runs for victory with five wickets in hand. Services had bounced back strongly after being bundled out for 129 in their first innings.

They dismissed Assam for 162 in response and scored 272 runs in the second innings. In their second essay, Assam were 74 for 5 on the third day. Earlier, the two ISL teams did not train on Wednesday

and their pre-match media interactions were also called off. -PTI

lose was exciting Chilean 21-year-old Joaquin Niemann, teamed with Australia's Marc Leishman, but the defeat was at the hands of 15time major winner Tiger Woods and world number four Justin Thomas.

"I think a lot of us are feeding off the energy. We have a great bunch of rookies on the team," said Oosthuizen, who is play-"I've said this a few times — they are in great

form, and watching them play a practice round, us senior boys are trying to feed off their energy," said the South African.

"I was just a passenger today in a car watching (Ancer) just playing Abe unbelievable golf. So it was fun to see him, how motivated and focused how was on the golf course, and we are all just in a good place," he -AFPadded.

Hyderabad beat the team from Mahabubnagar by five wickets to emerge winners at the under-19 65th SGF Telangana State inter-district cricket tournament played at Gadwal. Mahbubnagar.

Chasing 96 for a win in the final, Tanay anchored the innings with 47 as the visitors reached the target in just 12.3 overs. For the hosts, Adithya impressed with 3/26. Earlier, Abhilash top-scored with 32 runs for Mahbubnagar. Harash and Saketh picked two wickets apiece for the visitors.

Brief scores: Mahbubnagar 95/5 in 15 overs (Abhilash 32, Harsh 2/18, Saketh 2/11) lost to Hyderabad 97/5 in 12.3 overs (Tanay 47, Adithya 3/26).

#### Football trials for women on Sunday

The Telangana Football Association is organising selection trials at the Gymkhana ground in Secunderabad on December 15 to pick the side for the upcoming women's professional league to be played in Nizamahad from December 20 to January 4. Interested players should report at the ground by 7 am.



Hyderabad's Aryan Karra (left), India's inline hockey bronze medallist, receives the International Excellency Award in Young Achiever category at Kuala Lumpur from the Global Compact Telugu Association in Malaysia. An Intermediate second year student at St Mary's Junior College in Basheerbagh, Hyderabad, Aryan was the only Telangana player in the junior boys category at the World Roller Games held in Barcelona, Spain.

## Clutch of trophies for city's Mazda

#### DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, DEC. 12

The 10,000 strong crowd came to life at the Haldia Mela grounds as multiple national champion Mazdayar Vatcha of Hyderabad dominated the proceedings over the weekend in the Haldia Autocross and Calcutta Autocross, raking up wins in three categories, for cars upto 1400cc, cars upto 1650cc and the Unrestricted Class. Each of these had sub-cate-gories of Open and Imax qualifiers and a Tuning Trophy for the Imax qualifiers.

Mazda swept all the tro-phies at stake to return with 18 of them!

After the postponement of the Round One of the Indian National Autocross Championship East Zone



Hyderabad's Mazdayar Vatcha pilots his Maruti Esteem to a win at the Kolkata Autocross. Inset: Mazdayar poses with his trophies accumulated over the weekend.

Qualifier due to Cyclone to facilitate logistics. Bulbul on November 9, the Mazdayar was ecstatic but modest. "A big thanks organisers, MSAEI, CMSC and KASA put together to Ashis Bagchi for letting both the rounds of the me use his Maruti Esteem event on a single weekend for the event. I thoroughly

enjoyed the challenge from Ibrahim, Saddam and Abhijeet during this event," he said "An awesome organising team lead by Saurav

Chatterjee put together a superb track and Ajgar Ali personally ensured superlative hospitality. Everyone at the event had big smiles across their faces," he added.

From a total of 104 participants, winners in other categories included Ibrahim Ali Shaikh. Abhijeet Singh, Saddam Sourabh Shaikh. Choudhary, Nirav Mehta, Hero Sen, Subir Roy.

Chandrasish Roy, the youngest participant, too did not disappoint and picked trophies alongside his father Subir Roy. Among the ladies, Deepshikha Ganeriwala and Sunita Prasad Shaikh claimed most of the trophies.

The winners from all four zones will now compete in the National Final to be held at Vijayawada.



#### Expose



Former skipper Gulbadin Naib has threatened to 'expose' the Afghanistan Cricket Board for corruption saying that he will publicly name and shame the government, players and management





a break from Test cricket was made to ensure that, I can do it for a lot longer. Moeen Ali, England allrounder on international break

> TAKES SHORT

#### Labuschagne ton stalls New Zealand

Perth : Emerging Australian batsman Marnus Labuschagne on Thursday posted his third

successive Test century to frustrate a resilient New Zealand attack on the opening day of the first Test in Perth. After Australia won a potentially pivotal toss in scorching heat and elected to bat in the first ever day-night Test in Perth, the home team were 248 for four at stumps after facing some challenging bowling from the disciplined Kiwis.

Having toiled without much success in 40 degrees Celsius heat, the Kiwis fought back late in the day by removing Steve Smith and Mathew Wade. However, Labuschagne was the rock of the Australian innings and was unbeaten on 110, with Travis Head on 20. Batting was hard work for most of the Australian top order in the high temperatures, but Labuschagne further added to his rapidly growing status with a chanceless century. – AFP **Brief scores:** Australia 248/4 (Labuschagne batting 110, Warner 43, Smith 43, Wagner 2/52) vs New Zealand.

#### **Rain hits Pak-SL Test on Day Two**

Rawalpindi: Heavy rain and bad light hit the second day of the historic Test between Pakistan and Sri Lanka in Rawalpindi on Thursday, Pakistan's first home Test since a deadly attack in 2009. Sri Lanka, resuming at 220-5, had progressed to 225-5 in 7.5 overs when heavy rain in the morning forced the teams to have early lunch. Play was stopped for two hours and 43 minutes but when it resumed only 10 overs were possible with Sri Lanka losing Niroshan Dickwella for 33 before bad light accompanied by rain forced an early call-off at 3:30 pm. At the close Sri Lanka were 6 with Dhananiava de Silva unbeaten on 72 and Dilruwan Perera not out on two. The stop-start play left both teams frustrated as well as 2,000 fans who had come to watch the revival of Test cricket in Pakistan. When play resumed after lunch Pakistan took the second new ball and with it lanky pacer Shaheen Shah Afridi removed Dickwella, caught at gully by Babar Azam. Dickwella, who hit four boundaries, added 67 for the sixth wicket with de Silva, thwarting Pakistan's attempts. - AFP

## Team India pose with the trophy after winning the three-match T20I series against West Indies in Mumbai. Rahul at peace with his batting

BYJU'S

DECCAN CHRONICLE

## I don't worry about my place in team anymore, says Rahul

Mumbai, Dec. 12: India opener KL Rahul admits it is difficult to be at peace when one's place in the national team is uncertain but says he has learnt to find happiness in his batting rather than worry about a spot in the side. Rahul blasted his second half-century of the series, hitting a blazing 91 in the third T20 International, to help India beat West Indies by 67 runs and seal the series 2-1 on Wednesday.

The 27-year-old was not the first-choice opener and was handed the slot after regular opener Shikhar Dhawan sustained an injury and was ruled out of the entire series. "I won't say I don't feel it (pressure) at all. Obviously, going in and out of the team is never easy on any player, you take a little bit of time to get used to the international pressure and oppositions and there are no opposition where you can just walk in and score runs, so it's always difficult," Rahul told reporters.

"You can only hope (for being in the team). For me what's in my control is to keep putting up these performances whenever I get the opportunity and I am not at that stage where I worry about whether I'll find myself playing the next tournament or anything (like that)

**SERIES AGAINST WINDIES** WAS AN EXPERIENCE: KL

something new and Mumbai, Dec. 12: India opener K L today was a Rahul feels the series-sealing win over West good confidence booster for all of us and hopefully we can Indies was a good learning experience in setting-up big totals, something his

continue to do that more often." Rahul also admitted that while batting first there was lot of pressure and the team team has not been able to do consistently. pressure and the team Rahul was expectedhad faltered in the ly asked about India's past. Rahul was asked inability post big about the series decidscores on a regular ing match against basis. "I don't know South Africa Bengaluru where really the exact answer to that, but we visitors the are looking to work on

start off thinking we want more than 200 or that's T20 cricket nowadays, no total is enough, you always feel like you are 10-15 runs shor," he said. "So at times we have tried to over achieve and when you are batting first and setting a target that often happens, not just in T20

first innings if when-

ever we have to bat

(and) start

the

cricket but in any format. So it's a good learning for us and each game we play in we get an opportunity to bat first we learn

he tries to be in the rhythm even when he is not in the team. "This game is all about confidence and being in good rhythm and good touch. I can't really sit outside and not prepare, all I can enever I get the opportunity I want to do is sit outside and prepare and try to crewin games for my team and be out there match feel for ate in the middle and myself and I did play a enjoy my batting. That's the place that I get most happiness lot of first class cricket, so not a lot changes, it is still T20 cricket." Asked how right now being in the middle and hitting the he dealt with the disball from the middle of appointment when he was dropped from the team, Rahul said he the bat, so whenever that opportunity comes, I'll like to grab and enjoy it," he didn't complicate his thoughts and just kept added. working on his game. The stylish right-"I mean you can only handed batsman said complicate it (if) your

innings. At times, we have tried to get...we chased "(There comfortably the target. were) Similar scenarios, (but the) wicket was a bit different. Bengaluru had lot more to offer, when you lose couple of wickets early or then the pressure is always the pressure is always on the team batting

first and like we have often tried to get big-ger total and we have failed to achieve." -PTI

thoughts are wrong, my thoughts are very simple. I prepare as hard as I can, put in the hours in the nets. When I get first class cricket, I go back and play and try to improve my skill,





Virat Kohli (from left), Kuldeep Yadav and Ravindra Jadeja take a selfie after touching down in Chennai for the first ODI against West Indies. – TWITTER

### Knock was a special gift to Anushka: Virat he added.

India defeated

Indies by 67 runs in the third and final T20I of the

three-match series on

Wednesday. Kohli batted in

an aggressive manner

throughout and as a result,

The skipper also became

the first Indian batsman to

score 1,000 T20I runs on

Both the sides will next lock horns in the first ODI

of the three-match series

**POLLARD RUES** 

LACK OF

**EXECUTION** 

on Sunday, December 15.

home soil.

West

Agencies

Mumbai, Dec. 12: After smashing 70 runs off just 29 balls against West Indies in the series decider, skipper Virat Kohli termed his match-winning knock a 'special gift' for wife Anushka Sharma. he brought up his half-cen-tury in just 21 balls.

"It was a pretty special inning, also being our second year wedding anniversary today. It's a special gift for my wife," Kohli said at the post-match ceremony.

"Yaa it was a special night and one of the best innings I have played in T20 and batting first we won so I feel pretty good,"

#### **BCCI PRESIDENT GANGULY LAUDS TEAM INDIA**

New Delhi, Dec. 12: BCCI President Sourav Ganguly has lauded the Indian cricket team for putting up a "fearless batting" performance in the just-con-cluded T20 series against the West Indies. India won the third and final T20 in Mumbai by 67 runs to claim the series 2-1 on Wednesday. "Not many expected india to lose a series.. win was not a surprise.. what will stand out is the fearless batting which all will see in T20 now ..play without fear .. no one plays for his place but plays to win ..well done india," Ganguly tweeted. K. L. Rahul, Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli had fuelled India to 240 for 3. - PTI

Mumbai, Dec. 12: West Indies skipper Kieron Pollard said failing to execute their plans has been the story of his team as it went down by 67 runs in the third T20I against Inc against Ind to lose the series 1-2 here. "They scored 240. I thought we didn't execute as we wanted. Yes they got off to a good start but we got a couple of wickets where we got back into the game. But when we came back in that scenario we didn't execute properly." Pollard told reporters. We chased big totals before so it was not impossible. But then to lose Evin (Lewis) didn't help our cause," the West Indies captain added. — PT

batting and get some time in the

middle," he said. "I know people feel it is easier said than done. it is as easy you make it. Life is (all about) what you put in your head," he said. Rahul stressed on the need to keep playing and be ready so that one can use the opportunities. PTI

5

K. L. Rahul during his knock of 91 runs off 56 balls during the third and final T20I against West Inides in Mumbai.

- AFP

## Gowtham lifts Karnataka; Hyderabad lose to Gujarat

Dindigul, Dec. 12: Off-spinner K. Gowtham's eight-wicket haul helped Karnataka beat Tamil Nadu by 26 runs in a thriller on the fourth and final day of in its opening Ranji Trophy Group 'B' match here on Thursday.

Requiring 181 to post a win after conceding the first innings lead, the home team was all out for 154 in the second innings. Tamil Nadu lost its final wicket when Gowtham trapped K Vignesh leg-before for 4 sparking jubilation in the Karnataka camp. It was a brilliant performance by the off-spinning all-round-er after Test star Ravichandran Ashwin (4/46) had brought Tamil Nadu back into contention by picking up four wickets to help the team bowl out Karnataka for 151 in the second innings.

Tamil Nadu suffered a setback after a bright start to the chase with openers-Mukund (47) and Murali Vijay (15) putting on 49 runs in quick time with some positive batting as they lost three wickets in the space of four runs. The run-out of Vijay by substitute fielder R Samarath sparked the slide as his

#### BRIEF SCORES **GROUP A**

At Thumba: Kerala 525/9 decl. drew with Delhi 142 and 395/4 (Kunal Chandela 125, Nitish Rana 114; Jalaj Saxena 2/119). At Vijaywada: Andhra 211 and 314/3 in 103.4 overs (Ricky Bhui (not out) 100, KS Bharat (not out) 102; Rajneesh Gurbani 2/22) drew with Vidarbha 441

At Hyderabad: Hyderabad 233 and 266 all out (Tanmay Agarwal 96; Kalaria 5/45, Axar Patel 2/44) lost to Gujarat 313 and 187/2 in 36.4 overs (P. Panchal 90, B.H. Merai (not out) 69; R. Kiran 1/12).

quick pick-up and throw caught the experienced right-hander short of his crease.

dismissals of B The Aparajith (0) and R Ashwin (2), both leg-before to

Gowtham, hurt Tamil Nadu. A lot depended on Mukund and first innings centurion Dinesh Karthik but the former went after an enterprising innings, caught by Karun Nair off Gowtham.

Karthik was done in by a superb delivery by Gowtham to be bowled for

**GROUP B** 

At Dindigul: Karnataka 336 and 151 in 65.4 overs (Devdutt Padikkal 39, B R Sharath 29; R Ashwin 4/46, K Vignesh 3/31) bt Tamil Nadu 307 in 109.3 overs (Dinesh Karthik 113, Abhinav Mukund 47, K Gowtham 6/110) and 154 all out in 63.3 overs (Abhinbav Mukund 42, M Ashwin 23 not out; K Gowtham 8/60).

> Mumbai 431 and 409/4 Decl. bt Baroda 307 and 224 (Deepak Hooda 61, Abhimanyu Singh Rajput 53; Shams Mulani 4-72).

17. His exit and the fall of skipper Vijay Shankar (5) pushed Tamil Nadu into more trouble.

Meanwhile, Gujarat beat Hyderabad by eight wickets in their Group 'A' match played in Hyderabad.

Resuming the day on 239/6, the hosts could manage to add only 27 runs before being bowled out for 266.

Chasing 186 for a win, P. Panchal slammed 90 while B. H. Merai remained unbeaten on 69 as Gujarat took the game. -PTI



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Australian Ashleigh Barty, whose breakout 2019 campaign included a French Open crown and world number one ranking, named WTA Player of the Year



<u>раде</u> 16

DECCAN CHRONICLE

FRIDAY | 13 DECEMBER 2019 | HYDERABAD

# **MNC put up a show**

## Mbappe, Neymar, Cavani on target as PSG win

Paris, Dec. 12: Neymar, Kylian Mbappe, Mauro Icardi and Edinson Cavani all scored as PSG thrashed Galatasaray 5-0 at the Parc des Princes. Thomas Tuchel's French

champions had already wrapped up top spot in Group A ahead of Real Madrid, but ran riot in the capital.

Icardi and Pablo Sarabia put PSG in control at the break, before Neymar and Mbappe teed each other up for second-half strikes and Cavani came off the bench to score a penalty.

Real Madrid also rounded off the group stage in style by beating a spirited Club Brugge 3-1 with goals from Rodrygo, Vinicius Junior and Luka Modric.

Atletico Madrid claimed the final spot in the Champions League last 16 on Wednesday with a 2-0 win over Lokomotiv win over Lokomotiv Moscow, after Atalanta completed an impressive comeback in Group 'C' to qualify.

Bayern Munich sealed consecutive victories over Tottenham with a 3-1 success at the Allianz Arena, while Real Madrid, Paris Saint-Germain and Juventus also finished their group campaigns on winning notes.

Diego Simeone's Atletico went into their game know-



PSG's Pablo Sarabia (left) celebrates with teammate Neymar after scoring a goal during their Champions League Group 'A' match against Galatasaray at the Parc des Princes stadium in Paris on Wednesday. – AP

ing defeat, coupled with a Bayer Leverkusen win against Juve, would see goalkeeper Anton Bayer Leverkusen win against Juve, would see Kochenkov at the Wanda them dumped out. Kieran Tripper had a sec-Metropolitano, but Joao

Felix made no mistake from the spot a quarter of an hour Îater.

Atletico wasted a string of chances and Alvaro Morata had a goal ruled out by VAR for offside.

But their place in the knockout rounds was secured when centre-back Felipe volleyed home Koke's cross after a short corner routine.

Cristiano Ronaldo scored his second Champions League goal of the season as Juve, who were already sure of top spot, saw off Leverkusen 2-0 in Germany in the other Group 'D' game.

Champions League debutants Atalanta claimed a famous 3-0 triumph at Shakhtar Donetsk to qualify with Manchester City despite having lost their first three games. The Italian outfit, who fin-

ished third in Serie 'A' last season, conceded 11 goals in their opening three matches, but drew with City at the San Siro before beating Dinamo Zagreb to keep their hopes alive.

Mourinho's Jose Tottenham failed to exact revenge on Bayern Munich for their 2-7 humbling in London in the reverse Group 'B' fixture. The Bavarian club ended a run of two league losses with a 3-1 win over Spurs. -AFP

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## Champ Sindhu's run all but over

**Guangzhou, Dec. 12:** Defending champion P.V. Sindhu's campaign in the year-ending BWF World Tour Final was all but over after the Indian lost to China's Chen Yufei 22-20, 16-21, 12-21 here on Thursday.

Just like in her campaign opener against Japan's

Akane Yamaguchi on Wednesday, Sindhu squan-dered a game advantage to lose yet again in a one hour and 12 minute match, virtually bowing out of contention for the knockouts. Trailing 17-20, Sindhu staged a dramatic turnaround to score five

straight points and claim

#### the first game.

However, the Chinese ral-lied to win the second game after a strong start. Chen Yufei, who has been in rampaging form this sea-

son having won all six of her finals, including the All England Championships, carried the momentum into lead and then extended it to the decider and left Sindhu 16-12.



-PTI



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