

THE ASIAN AGE

NEW DELHI MONDAY 16 DECEMBER 2019

TABLOID 25

Playing Prithviraj Chauhan no cakewalk for Akshay



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Maya targets Cong over Shiv Sena alliance after Rahul's Savarkar remark

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Jamaica's Toni-Ann Singh is Miss World; Indian 2nd runner-up

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

Vol. 26 No. 300 | 32 PAGES | ₹5.00

WINDOWS



Actors Jennifer Coolidge and Billy Porter participate in the *Like a Boss* cast photo call in New York on Saturday.

DCW chief faints at hunger strike, taken to hospital

New Delhi: DCW chief Swati Malhi, who was on a hunger strike to demand capital punishment for rapists within six months of their conviction, was taken to a city hospital after she fell unconscious on Sunday morning. When Ms Malhi's condition deteriorated on Saturday night, doctors advised her to go to a hospital, but she refused to budge. On Sunday morning, she was taken to the LNJ Hospital after she fainted.

Full report on Page 13

4,000 US troops to leave Afghanistan

Washington: The Trump administration will announce as early as this week plans to withdraw around 4,000 troops from Afghanistan, US media reported. Talks between the US and the Taliban resumed a week ago as the parties sought a path to reduce violence.

PAN-Aadhaar link a must by Dec 31

New Delhi: It is mandatory to link your PAN with Aadhaar by the end of this year, the income tax Department said in a public message on Sunday. Earlier, the deadline for this linkage was September 30.

Full report on Page 4

COUNTERPOINT



Not Switzerland, let's go to Egypt. We will buy onions there... and recover all travel expenses!

WEATHER

Max: 19°C
Min: 9°C
RH: 78%
Rainfall: 20%
Forecast: Mainly clear sky

ASTROGUIDE

Vikari: Dakshinayan
Thithi: Margasira Bahula Panchami till 03.38 am (next day early hours)
Star: Ashlesha till 02.45 am
Varjyam: 4.08 pm to 5.39 pm
Durmuhurtam: 12.33 noon to 01.17 pm and then from 02.45 pm to 03.28 pm
Rahukalam: 07.30 am to 09.00 am
SUNSET TODAY 5.27 PM
SUNRISE TOMORROW 7.07 AM
MOONRISE TOMORROW 8.36 PM
MOONSET TODAY 10.39 AM

Hooligans hijack students' stir; set buses, other vehicles ablaze

Violent protests, arson turn South Delhi into battlezone

'Outsiders' are arrested after police enters Jamia campus

BHASKAR HARI SHARMA
NEW DELHI, DEC. 15

A protest march against a recently passed Citizenship (Amendment) Act, held by students of Jamia Millia Islamia in South Delhi, became a violent Sunday evening and eventually turned the upmarket New Friends Colony into a battlezone. At least four DTC buses, a fire tender and several other vehicles were set ablaze and damaged by the miscreants, who even threw stones at the police personnel, who in return resorted to a lathicharge and fired teargas shells. Jamia's chief proctor claimed the police later forcibly entered the campus as no permission had been taken and both staff and students were beaten up. At Jantar Mantar, students from the Northeast states protested against the CAA, and termed it as "anti-Constitution" and a threat to the identities of indigenous people in the region.

The Jamia students, however, distanced themselves from the violence in parts of South Delhi and blamed locals for the violence. The BJP was quick to blame the Aam Aadmi Party for the violence. Local AAP MLA Amanatullah Khan denied these accusations outright.

It all started with local hooligans, with faces covered, hijacking the students' march. They set vehicles ablaze and threw stones at the police when they tried to stop them from marching towards Jantar Mantar. Several people, including policemen and two fire brigade personnel, were also injured. In evening, the situation was under con-



Firefighters are seen near a bus that was set ablaze by protesters at Mathura Road in South Delhi on Sunday. Protesters torched four public buses and two police vehicles as they clashed with the police in New Friends' Colony near Jamia Millia Islamia during a demonstration against the amended Citizenship Act, leaving six policemen and two firemen injured, officials said.

Spoke to Hiralal L-G and urged him to take all steps to restore normalcy and peace. We are also doing everything possible at our end. Real miscreants who caused violence should be identified & punished

— Arvind Kejriwal, Delhi CM

From the vicinity as the pitched battles continued. For over an hour, both the carriageways on Mathura Road opposite New Friends Colony were blocked by demonstrators and the traffic police indulged in violence. A Jamia student said the police tried to disperse the protesters by resorting to a lathi charge and firing teargas shells. He said some of the "outsiders" had run towards the campus, and the police personnel entered the campus and blocked the gates to nab the miscreants. The teachers' community and the



Students from the Northeast raise slogans during a protest against the Citizenship Amendment Act in New Delhi on Sunday.

Teachers' Association have dissociated themselves from the violence and arson. The students claimed that "certain" local elements had "disrupted" their protest and indulged in violence. A Jamia student said the police tried to disperse the protesters by resorting to a lathi charge and firing teargas shells. He said some of the "outsiders" had run towards the campus, and the police personnel entered the campus and blocked the gates to nab the miscreants. The teachers' community and the

AAP, city BJP in blame game after violence

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, DEC. 15

The BJP on Sunday blamed the Aam Aadmi Party for the violence in South Delhi during a protest against the amended Citizenship Act and demanded that it stop "provoking people", but the AAP denied it.

BJP Delhi chief Manoj Tiwari, in a tweet, said that an AAP MLA was "provoking" the public and called Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal a "traitor". However, Delhi deputy CM Manish Sisodia on Sunday accused the BJP of getting police to set buses on fire during the protest. "There should be an impartial investigation into the violence that erupted during the protest," the deputy CM said in a tweet.

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ASSAM

AASU may form new party; AGP split on SC plea

Bora wants Brahmaputra Valley off law's purview; curfew back

AGE CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI, DEC. 15

The All Assam Students' Union, which has been protesting against the amended Citizenship Act, on Sunday hinted at launching a political party along with the "Shilpi Samaj" (artists' forum) as an alternative to the ruling BJP and AGP as well as to the Opposition Congress. AASU president Dipanka Nath, addressing a protest meet "Concert for Peace and Harmony" here, backed popular actor Zubeen Garg's proposal of launching a political party.

"We are in talks with the Shilpi Samaj and discussing with the people of Assam to think of an

alternative. With your (people's) permission, we will not hesitate one bit to go in that direction (launching a party)."

The Assam Gana Parishad (AGP), which is a BJP ally and a part of the Assam government, meanwhile, appears to be in two minds on challenging the new law in the Supreme Court. While party leader Kumar Deepak Das and some others said on Sunday that they would move a petition in the Supreme Court, party president Atul Bora, who is a minister in the Sarbananda Sonowal government, said the party was yet to decide on the matter. "We have not yet decided. We are discussing the issue. Some of our friends will

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WEST BENGAL

Trains, rail stations vandalised by mobs

Internet curbs in 4 dists, Army may be called if crisis worsens

RAJIB CHOWDHURI and PRANMOY BRAHMACHARI
KOLKATA/BEHRAMPORE, DEC. 15

Failing to control the large-scale violent protests against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) and the National Register of Citizens (NRC) across West Bengal, the Mamata Banerjee government has suspended Internet services in four districts and two subdivisions each in two more districts for 48 hours, as fierce protests entered their third day, which saw an attack on BJP MP Arjun Singh by an angry mob in the early

hours. The Trinamul Congress government has also kept the option of calling in the army for deployment in violence-affected districts only if the trouble escalates further, sources said. The four districts are Howrah, Murshidabad, Malda and North Dinajpur. Of these, Murshidabad, Malda and North Dinajpur share a border with Bangladesh. The subdivision areas are Barasat and Basirhat in North Dinajpur, and also near the international border, and Canning and Barruipur in South 24 Parganas. On Sunday afternoon,

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CITIZENSHIP STIR

Arsonists could be identified by clothes: PM

Dumka (Jharkhand), Dec. 16: Accusing the Congress and its allies of fuelling violence over the amended Citizenship Act, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said the Opposition's actions prove that the decision to pass the bill was "99 per cent correct", and those indulging in arson "can be identified by their clothes".

The Congress and its allies are stoking fire over the Citizenship Act, he said, "he people of Northeast have rejected violence," he said during an election rally here.

"The country is watching; people's faith has been cemented in Modi after the Bill was passed by Parliament. Their (Opposition) actions reflect that the decision to pass the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill in Parliament is 1,000 per cent correct," the Prime Minister said.

Protests have been raging against the law in the east and West Bengal, where several people have died in snowfall-related incidents. In national capital Delhi, it was a cold day on Sunday as the minimum temperature set at 9.6 degrees Celsius.

COLD WAVE IN NORTH INDIA, SNOW IN THE HILLS

Tourists visit a snow-covered market after snowfall in Shimla on Sunday. Cold wave conditions persisted in most parts of North India as the minimum temperature dipped further due to snowfall in higher reaches of Jammu and Kashmir and Uttarakhand, where three people have died in snowfall-related incidents. In national capital Delhi, it was a cold day on Sunday as the minimum temperature set at 9.6 degrees Celsius.



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Longest climate talks over, but no deal

SHAKOOR RATHER
MADRID, DEC. 15

The longest UN climate talks ended here on Sunday with no deal on carbon markets as delegates from almost 200 countries failed to come up with more ambitious targets to cut greenhouse gases to fill the terms of the 2015 Paris agreement, prompting UN chief Antonio Guterres to lament a "lost opportunity" to fight global warming.

The two-week long negotiations which extended till Sunday saw no agreement on major issues. Under the Article 6 of the Paris agreement, the countries had agreed to set up a global carbon market system to help developing countries decarbonise their economies. However, the countries have tried and failed to agree the rules.

Despite holding the longest climate talks ever, the sleep-deprived nego-

I am disappointed with the results of COP25. The international community lost an important opportunity to show increased ambition to tackle the climate crisis

— Antonio Guterres, UN secretary general

tiators left one of the thorniest issues for next summit in Glasgow — how to deal with carbon emissions. "I am disappointed with the results of COP25. The international community lost an important opportunity to show increased ambition on mitigation, adaptation and finance to tackle climate crisis," UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said.

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Indian-origin MP in race to lead Labour after Corbyn

ADITI KHANNA
LONDON, DEC. 15

Lisa Nandy, one of the Indian-origin MPs who was re-elected in Thursday's General Election amid a disastrous performance by her Labour Party, on Sunday confirmed plans to throw her hat in the ring to replace party leader Jeremy Corbyn.

The 40-year-old MP won her seat in the north-west of England, holding on to one of the key bricks in the so-called "red wall" which collapsed as Prime Minister Boris Johnson's Conservative Party won over traditional Labour Party voters across the region.

For Nandy, who has declared that he would not lead the party into another General Election and is under growing pressure to resign sooner rather than later.

"The honest answer is that I am seriously thinking about it," she told the BBC when asked about her leadership plans.

Orwellian nightmare: How CAB uses the law to discriminate

The education system is failing our children

The Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) has caused an uproar across the country in the past week. Even the United Nations itself has expressed concern. Why is this bill such a cause of fear, anger and concern?

As per the law, there are four modes of acquiring citizenship in India - Citizenship by Birth, Citizenship by descent, Citizenship by registration - for each of these, a prior link with India is required, whether it is birth or through an Indian citizen. The fourth, Citizenship by Naturalisation, is a provision applicable to those individuals who have no link with the country by way of blood, soil or marriage. This was applied to certain people who were not illegal immigrants, who had stayed in India for around 14 years. None of the above provisions depended on matters like religion or caste.

The recent amendment to the bill has added a provision -

Provided that any person belonging to Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain, Parsi or Christian community from Afghanistan, Bangladesh or Pakistan, who entered into India on or before the 31st day of December, 2014 and who has been exempted by the Central Government by or under clause (c) of sub-section (2) of section 3 of the Passport (Entry into India) Act, 1920 or from the application of the provisions of the Foreigners Act, 1946 or any rule or order made there under, shall not be treated as illegal migrant for the purposes of the provisions of the said Act.

The first problem with this bill is evident: It denies a person an opportunity to become a citizen if they profess Islam. For the first time in an independent India, we have introduced a legal provision where citizenship is based on a category like religion and which has then proceeded to exclude only one religion.

The government has defended this amendment by saying it is being made to offer refuge to persecuted people in Islamic states. Why then, are Madhes of Nepal or the Rohingyas not included? To this, the government says the amendment only concerns Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan because they are not secular countries, but nations with one dominant religion. Why then, have Sri Lankan refugees been excluded? After all, Buddhism is the dominant religion of Sri Lanka and many Hindus, Muslims and Christians are persecuted there, too.



Campus Front of India activists stage a protest at Town Hall in Bengaluru on Saturday against the Citizenship Amendment Bill (CAB) —KPN



Baawa Prasad Kunal



Vinay Korragayala Sreenivasa

By invitation

Ahmadis in Pakistan are also persecuted, why don't we offer them refuge?

Article 14 of the Indian Constitution says, "The state shall not deny to any person equality before the law or the equal protection of the laws within the territory of India."

The Supreme Court has further held that Article 14 prohibits the state from engaging in irrational classification of persons from arbitrary action and from treating people in a manner that discriminates against them for no legitimate reason. The CAB seems to violate each of the above - by first excluding only Muslims and denying them equality, then by arbitrarily choosing countries and including certain persecuted minorities with no reason. Thus,

it is clear that this amendment violates Article 14 and is therefore unconstitutional.

The CAA also violates Article 21 of the Constitution, which ensures the right to life and liberty of all persons. As per refugees and asylum seekers registered under the UNHCR's mandate of August, 2019, around 8,50,001 Tibetans, roughly 9,52,302 Tamils from Sri Lanka (both Hindu and Muslim), around 5,20,00 Chetana and Hajong from Chittagong Hill Tracts in Bangladesh and around 15,559 Afghan Muslims are residing in India. All these persons have been residing in India due to development-induced displacement and religious persecution. Strangely, the CAB offers them no respite.

That is not the only problem

with CAB. There is nervousness among Indian Muslims, who worry they may lose their citizenship. The Police Commissioner of Bengaluru recently tweeted that Indian Muslims have nothing to worry about as CAA concerns illegal immigrants only is that really the case though?

We all know what happened with the Assam NRC. Indian citizens, including war veterans, Hindus, Muslims and Ahmadis have been left out of NRC on reasons like name spellings being mismatched, parents' documents not being found and so on. Home Minister Amit Shah and BJP leaders of Assam have repeatedly asserted that the CAA will be used to rescue five lakh Hindus excluded from NRC (which means that Muslims excluded will be sent to detention centres). The Home Minister also said that we will soon have a nationwide NRC. Muslims fear that a nationwide NRC could result in them being deemed non-citizen for reasons like spelling mismatches. While the government may use the CAA to include Hindus, Muslims who don't have

the same opportunity may be rendered stateless.

The North East is also protesting the CAA. North Eastern states have had a problem with illegal migration and have been opposed to illegal immigrants from Bangladesh, whatever their religion. However, now because of the CAB, the government will allow illegal immigrants, or those who are not Muslim at least, to settle in some North Eastern states. This has angered the indigenous people of the North East, who feel cheated and violated.

The government has thus succeeded in creating anger and fear through its immoral, arbitrary and unconstitutional amendment. An amendment for the government has failed to demonstrate a sufficient need. The ensuing chaos is being used to push through Orwellian legislations like the Data Protection Bill 2019, and has succeeded in distracting us.

The authors are both advocates

DR N. PRABHUDEV

India's economy is among the world's ten largest but when it comes to social capital, its rank falls to an inglorious 99 out of 142. Social capital includes entrepreneurship and opportunity, governance, education, health, safety and security and social capital. There is ample evidence that the Indian child is as good a learner as any other in the world. However, the sheer lack of basic opportunities has kept the education of the average Indian child at very low standards - this is proof of apathy in governance. Chillingly, the highest rate of suicides is among children aged between 15 and 29, a phenomenon that peaks during exam season.

Suffocating education suffocates growth. Lazy teaching and a rote-based approach effectively cuts off channels to new ideas, imagination and new possibilities. And while the education system fails to deliver, students are faced with undue pressure from home. Thousands of children and young people die in India every year, as a result of the education system. The exam system continues to be based on winners and losers and ironically robs them of the very essence of education - learning. Instead, they pour their self worth wholly into the numbers that appear beside their names on their mark sheets, which in turn stems from generations of being told that Engineering and Medicine are the only options.

There is disproportionate emphasis on mathematics and sciences while indulgence in any arts is often seen as a waste of time. The freedom to explore is perhaps the most important element of an education but in India, this is discouraged. Questions are discouraged, students are challenged what is not their met with offense and hostility. Teachers are no longer the sole repositories of knowledge - they are facilitators and mentors and irreplaceable in those roles.

A failing system:

We have known for years that our education system is failing. Children go to school but don't learn much beyond 'floor level tasks'. Yet, there has been no big bang policy shift, very little sustained media scrutiny and indeed no parent uprising. Why does the bleak future of our young people not stoke our collective outrage? It takes years for good education policies to produce results, or for bad ones to fail. Few in public office have the kind of patience that allows them to sow and wait.

Fewer still have the imagination to take on entrenched unions, cartels and ideologues who block meaningful change in schools and colleges.

Children are the most important beneficiaries of a good education yet it is power to shape it. When children are in charge of their own education, they are either unaware of the how little they are learning or if they are learning, it is not being put to use.



Children are the most important beneficiaries of a good education yet the ones with least power to shape it.

College students sometimes raise their voices in protest, but mostly on issues tangential to their learning. They are not taught the art of critical thinking.

India suffers a serious lack of quality educational institutions. In school, students get pushed into one end of a triangle - Science - Commerce - Humanities - right after class 10. A caste-like system mars education. In the meantime, middle, humanities lowest. India is about 50 years behind other countries in terms of encouraging interdisciplinary learning, individual thought and - and therefore, learning from mistakes. Instead, our universities continue tunneling students into constricting streams, taught by low quality institutions, sought by many anxious thousands. Students go to classes more for the attendance than for the love and passion of listening to the teachers. In some cases, there are not many teachers who command mastery over the subject that compels the student to run to listen to them.

Teaching a thankless job

Can teachers be blamed fully? In our society, teaching is a thankless job, a profession which, when chosen, is seen as a failure to get a 'good job'. No big bang policy shift, very little sustained media scrutiny and indeed no parent uprising. Why does the bleak future of our young people not stoke our collective outrage? It takes years for good education policies to produce results, or for bad ones to fail. Few in public office have the kind of patience that allows them to sow and wait.

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Dr N. Prabhudev is a Former Director, Sri Jayadeva Institute of Cardiology

Where there's a 'wheel'... She goes where men fear to ride

Pooja Bajaj is one among a handful of women solo bike riders in India. Fiery and bold, she takes on challenges that even her male counterparts may not want to attempt and is also a fearless advocate of women's rights.

In June, as she rode through the perilous Spiti Valley, one of the most difficult terrains in the world, she met with an accident and was left with multiple fractures. 26 days later, she was back on her bike. "Courage is of the soul," Pooja tells AKSHEV THAKUR, and says her scars represent the undying spirit.

Scars are beautiful' and solo bike rider Pooja Bajaj carries the angry scars on her shoulder with great pride. To her, they symbolise the undying spirit, not the injury that preceded them, or the surgery that caused them. She remembers instead, her trip to Spiti Valley in Himachal Pradesh, cycle is considered to be one of the toughest adventure terrains in the world, where she rode through the perilous, gravel-covered roads.

Pooja had always dreamed of taking on the Spiti Valley Challenge and in June, embarked on a 12-day expedition. On Day 10, a fellow-rider cut into her lane without using the indicator, leading to a major accident. Pooja was left with multiple fractures in her clavicle, a fragment of which dislocated in the thoracic region. "So I learned to ride the Bajaj Chetak when I was 14." In class 10, a year later, she switched to motorbikes and joined organ doing her solo tours when she joined a college in Delhi.

She had begun supporting herself financially after class 12. "Since I knew about automobiles, I would work part-time at auto expo and had also worked at a McDonald's, but I managed to make ends meet somehow. I bought my first second-hand bike with my own money," Pooja says.

Although she had dreamed of joining the armed forces, she didn't pursue this as her family refused to allow it. She is, however, a National Cadet Corps (NCC) Certificate holder. And anyway, destiny had other plans for Pooja. "Joining NCC was accidental. In the end, though, the course did help me when I conceptualized

my sports and fitness startup, SoulBace, which, today, has a presence in Hyderabad, Bengaluru and Delhi," she says.

WOMEN'S PRESIDENT UNITED HUMAN RIGHTS FORUM BANGALORE

She manages to have time left over and uses that for activism. Pooja is the president of the United Human Rights Forum (rural and urban), Bengaluru. "I work for women's empowerment. Earlier, I took up issues with sexually abused children and rape victims in Maharashtra," she says.

ON WOMEN'S SAFETY

The rape and murder of the young veterinarian in a Hyderabad had raised the issue of safety of women. Even though Pooja is trained in martial arts, she does feel unsafe when she is out in the dark, despite being on a bike as well. "At night, there are young boys who want to race, or who may try to stop me. Even though I take precautions and carry both a National Cadet Corps (NCC) Certificate holder. And anyway, destiny had other plans for Pooja. "Joining NCC was accidental. In the end, though, the course did help me when I conceptualized

of safety does bother me." The titanium rods and multiple screws that hold Pooja's shoulder together never did become an impediment to her determination. Being one of the few women bike riders in the country, she uses her position to break stereotypes.

"Bravery is not a quality of the soul, it is of the body, it is of the heart," she says.

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When children are in charge of their own education, they are either unaware of the how little they are learning or if they are learning, it is not being put to use.

Every hour was agony. I had to wait six days (with a fractured clavicle), to reach Bengaluru, to undergo surgery. —POOJA BAJAJ





3
Rahul Gandhi should drop his surname as it was stolen by his family.

— Sambit Patra, BJP leader

BRIEF

BJP announces awareness drive

New Delhi: Amid protests against the amended citizenship law, the BJP on Sunday announced a nationwide campaign to spread awareness about the legislation and asserted that it is not discriminatory against Muslims or any other community. Party spokesperson Sambit Patra told a press conference that BJP workers will fan out across the country to inform people about the law which seeks to provide citizenship to the religious minorities from three neighbouring countries who arrived in India to escape religious persecution. He said party functionaries from 11 states were briefed on the same.

JD-U criticised for supporting new law

Patna: Rashtriya Lok Samata Party chief Upendra Kushwah on Sunday criticised Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar and his party, JD(U), for supporting the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill in both the Houses of Parliament and paving the way for it to become a law. Kushwah, former Union minister, said the ruling JD(U) has become BJP's 'B' team by supporting the legislation. "My elder brother Nitish Kumar is in quandary. He went to Assam and opposed the CAA. But JD(U) has surrendered to BJP in Parliament on the issue and become 'B' team of the safe from party," Kushwah said.

AGP to file plea in SC against legislation

Guwahati: The Assam Gana Parishad (AGP), an ally of the ruling BJP, would file a petition in the Supreme Court praying for revocation of the amended Citizenship Act, party leader Kumar Deepak Das said on Sunday. He asserted that the AGP respected the sentiments of common people, who were wary that all groups might threaten their identity and existence. "We will take the legal route to seek revocation of the amended Act as the indigenous people of Assam are apprehensive that their identity, language and rights might come under threat," Mr Das, a former Rajya Sabha MP said. —PTI

MAHESH BHATT JOINS PROTEST AGAINST CAA

Mumbai: Veteran filmmaker Mahesh Bhatt on Sunday joined a protest meet here against the amended Citizenship Act, and said it is time people unite to send across a message that the country belongs to everyone. The protest meet was held at "Raigruha", the house of Dr B.R. Ambedkar in Mumbai, where Bhatt was joined by Congress leader Sanjay Jha, among others. "It's time for people to stand up and say this country belongs to each one of us and it is the might and the will of each one of us that has finally given us an expression..." Bhatt said, addressing a gathering. "That curve has come, India has spoken this Sunday morning. All of you gathering here is an evidence that the core, soul of India is alive," he said. "Today we dedicate ourselves to the core idea of India which has been spelt out by our predecessors in this sacred document which we all swear and live by," the filmmaker added. The Preamble to the Constitution of India was read out by those present at the protest meet. The government's Citizenship (Amendment) Bill (CAA) was approved by the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha recently. The amended act after President Ram Nath Kovind gave assent to it on Thursday night. —PTI

Congress wary of Pawar games

Senior leader says NCP chief was aware of Ajit's doings; Thorat says MVA will prevail

PRASAD PATIL, NAGPUR, DEC. 15

It appears that the Congress chief was not completely true about the double game with the 20 years, the NCP. While state Congress leaders have insisted to establish extremely cordial relations with chief minister Uddhav Thackeray, the party is sceptical about the NCP and its chief, Sharad Pawar.

Two weeks into the Mah Vikas Aghadi (MVA) regime, Congress leaders are saying that they find Mr Thackeray a very reasonable leader, but Mr Pawar has been playing a double game with the Congress and Sena since the beginning because of which the alliance is facing many hiccups. "We are confident that we will complete the term under the leadership of Mr Thackeray despite our ideological differences. He is a very reasonable leader and accommodating of alliance partners. But none of us has the same confidence about the NCP," said a senior Congress leader on Sunday.

The MVA experiment had almost failed when NCP leader Ajit Pawar suddenly joined hands with the BJP and he, along with former chief minister Devendra Fadnis, took oath as deputy chief minister and chief minister respectively in the week of November 23. However, the NCP chief immediately distanced himself from his nephew's actions.

"All we know that Ajit Pawar decided to support the BJP after 8.30 pm on November 22. President's Rule in Maharashtra was revoked at 2 am and the new government was sworn in. These things did not happen without the approval of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. But it is also true that such a coup cannot be carried out overnight. It was well planned, and therefore it was impossible that the senior Pawar was unaware of it," the Congress leader said.

An MLC, who was previously associated with the NCP, also confirmed that Ajit Pawar had switched sides with the complete knowledge of his uncle. "The BJP did not blame Ajit as the party knew that he was made the scapegoat," the MLC added.

Maya asks Cong to clear its stand on Savarkar issue

AGE CORRESPONDENT, NEW DELHI, DEC. 15

The Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) chief, Kumar Mayawati hit out at the Congress on Sunday over the difference of opinion between the Congress and its new ally Shiv Sena "supported the Central government on the Citizenship Amendment Bill" and is now "intolerant" of the Congress' opinion on Savarkar.

Shiv Sena supported the Centre on the CAB and is now 'intolerant' of the Congress' opinion on Savarkar.

— Mayawati, Bahujan Samaj Party chief

Mayawati's statement came a day after Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, while responding to the government's demand to apologise for his "Rape in India" remark, said that his name is Rajiv Gandhi and not Rahul Savarkar. After Mr Gandhi's remark during the "Bharat Bachao" rally in New Delhi on Saturday, Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Raut said that Mr Gandhi's statement was "extremely unfortunate". Mr Raut

tweeted that there is "need to respect a legend" like Savarkar. In the recently concluded winter session of parliament Shiv Sena had supported the Citizenship bill in the Lok Sabha after it was tabled by Home Minister Amit Shah. However, the right wing party had recused from voting on the Bill in the Rajya Sabha. In an attempt to not sever its ties with the Congress in Maharashtra between the Congress, NCP and the Shiv Sena. Though a common minimum program (CMP) has been put in place but there have been certain contentious issues. These include the position of the Shiv Sena on the Citizen Amendment Bill and the issue of Citizenship Act. Now an uneasy calm prevails but in the coming days the gulf may be widened.

AMU shut till Jan. 5 as students, police clash

Aligarh, Dec. 15: The Aligarh Muslim University administration Sunday night announced that the institution will remain closed till January 5 after clashes broke out between police and students protesting against the amended Citizenship Act near the campus gate.



Assamese actor Barsa Rani Baihyta takes part in a rally against the controversial Citizenship Amendment Act at the AEI playground in Guwahati on Sunday.

The announcement came after hundreds of AMU students protesting against the amended legislation clashed with police which used batons and teargas to disperse them. "All other offices will remain open as usual and the closure of the university is for the purpose of reading and examination only. The remaining examination will be conducted over the National Register of Citizens (NRC) and the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) an "internal matter" of India in wake of a diplomatic acrimony between the two countries recently due to fallout of the two burning issues. Observing that India would have solved its "internal matter" he also pinned hope on the improvement in bilateral relations between the two neighbours. The Awami League MP is leading a Bangladesh delegation of Mukti Joddhas and their families attending the

visits by the Bangladesh foreign minister A.K. Abdul Momen and home minister Asaduzzaman Khan to India. He noted, "It is not only that our ministers could not come, even the Japanese Prime Minister is not coming here. The diplomatic relations should improve. But I do not think it will be affected due to these issues."

Replying to a question on many BJP leaders' threat to drive out of the Bangladeshi immigrants from India, Mr Khan added, "Simultaneously West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee has also affirmed that she would not allow the Indian armed forces to be thrown out."

Hailing India and its armed forces' role in the Liberation War in 1971 he earlier told the event, "Many want to destroy the relations between the two countries. But we affirm that we can not allow our relations to be affected because of the Mukti Joddhas had once fought the war jointly with the Indian armed forces and we bled together."

Recalling his childhood memories in the city during the war, Eastern Army Commander Lieutenant General Anil Chauhan said, "On December 3, 1971, I was a class VI student at the central school, around 100 yards from here. The then PM Indira Gandhi was addressing a huge public rally nearby two kms away in the Shaheed Minar."

NRC, CAA India's internal matter: Bangla MP

Visiting leader Khan pins hope on improvement in ties between 2 neighbours

RAJIB CHOWDHURI, KOLKATA, DEC. 15

A Bangladeshi MP Shajahan Khan on Sunday described the controversy over the National Register of Citizens (NRC) and the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) as an "internal matter" of India in wake of a diplomatic acrimony between the two countries recently due to fallout of the two burning issues. Observing that India would have solved its "internal matter" he also pinned hope on the improvement in bilateral relations between the two neighbours. The Awami League MP is leading a Bangladesh delegation of Mukti Joddhas and their families attending the



Shajahan Khan

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INSIDE INDIA

RAHUL FAMILY FAKE GANDHS, SAYS JOSHI

Bengaluru, Dec. 15: Hitting out at Congress leader Rahul Gandhi for his Savarkar barb, Union minister Pralhad Joshi on Sunday termed him and his family members as "fake Gandhis". He also accused the Congress and other "so-called secular parties" of trying to project the Citizenship (Amendment) Act. Joshi said he was not Rahul Savarkar. It is impossible for you to become Rahul Savarkar," Mr Joshi said.

The leader added, "As per convention you enter into an understanding with anyone, you can become Rahul Uddhav Thackeray. We all know what all words you have used against him and what you have done now."

Woman kills self, kin say she was scared of NRC

Barbhaman (WB), Dec. 15: A 32-year-old woman was found dead in West Bengal's Purba Bardhaman district, police said on Sunday, with her family claiming that she was scared of the proposed nationwide NRC, she committed suicide.

WEST BENGAL

Shubhash Shikder, who is a van driver and they have a son and a daughter. The woman had to depend on her income from her husband. She was tense and scared ever since the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill was cleared by Parliament. Though her son, 15 had Aadhaar card but he didn't have a birth certificate and voter ID, due to which Shikra was scared that her son might be "thrown out" of the country, claimed Bipul.

175 held, 1.5K in custody over CAB protests

Guwahati, Dec. 15: A total of 175 people have been arrested and 1,406 taken into preventive custody across Assam over recent violence in the state during protests against citizenship law, police said on Sunday. Peasant organisation Krishak Mukti Sangram Samiti (KMSS) chief Akhil Gogoi and ULFA pro-talk faction leader Jiten Dui are among those arrested while 1,406 people have been taken into preventive custody. Senior police officer told PTI.

The situation in the state is under control and curfew has been relaxed during the day in Guwahati and Dibrugarh. —PTI

IMPART MORAL EDU TO CURB RAPE: MAURYA

Balla, Dec. 15: Uttar Pradesh deputy chief minister Keshav Prasad Maurya has said lack of moral values is the reason for rising incidents of rape in the country and the government should impart moral education to curb such crimes.

"Such incidents taking place in the country are extremely unfortunate. Among other reasons, the lack of good values is a major reason for this," Mr Maurya said while referring to the Unnau rape case. "The lack of good values in society can be addressed through moral education, among other mediums," he said. —PTI

Gwalior: Give 10 blankets to cows for gun licence

Gwalior (MP), Dec. 15: Want to obtain a gun license in Gwalior district of Madhya Pradesh? Then donate ten blankets for cows in a 'gaushala' to protect them from cold.

The orders on the new rule for securing a gun license were issued on Saturday by Gwalior district collector Anurag Choudhary after visiting a civic-run 'gaushala' in Gola Ka Mandir shelter, where six cows died recently due to 'excessive

cold". He also visited a cow shelter in Lal Tipara area, also run by the Gwalior Municipal Corporation (GMC). In June this year, Mr Choudhary had ordered applicants seeking a license for a gun to plant trees and shoot a selfie while submitting an application. The applicants were also directed to take care of saplings for a month. "After visiting the cow

shelters, the collector ordered that each seeker of a gun license should donate ten blankets to (either of) the two gaushalas (cow shelters). Directives have been issued in this regard."

At least 8,000 cows, which falls under the Chambal region, were once notorious for dacoits, has long history of holding firearms. Earlier last week, activists of the right wing Bajrang Dal had staged a protest after the death of six cowboys who had requested the district administration to cancel the gun licenses of defectors. The officials of the state-run power company in neighbouring Morena district had requested the district administration to cancel the gun licenses of defectors. The officials had to submit their bills. —PTI

MHA objection puts bill to protect docs in cold storage

The health ministry is expected to introduce the bill during the Winter Session of Parliament, which ended on Dec. 13

The health ministry had intended to introduce the bill during the Winter Session of Parliament which ended on December 13. The Law Ministry had approved the draft Bill, but the home ministry during inter-ministerial consultations over it stated that there cannot be a separate legislation to protect members of a particular profession, a senior official said. "The home ministry dismissed the need for a separate law to protect members of a particular profession, a senior official said. It had said there should be no specific law for a particular profession, and

the IPC and CrPc are sufficient to deal with it. "Over the time, members of other fraternity like Rajni and police may also demand for an exclusive law to safeguard their interests," the official said. The draft bill proposed imprisonment between three and 10 years and imposition of fines between ₹50,000 and ₹10 lakh for "grievously hurting" doctors and other healthcare professionals in clinical establishments. Those commissioning violence or causing damage to the property of a healthcare facility can be imprisoned for six months to five years and fined between ₹50,000 and ₹5 lakh, it had proposed. The draft bill also had provided for compensation, which could be twice the market value of a property damaged and ₹1 lakh to ₹5 lakh for being assaulted or hurt, sources said. —PTI

Chill wave grips north India

3 die in snowfall-related incidents in U'khand; Drass in Ladakh coldest

New Delhi, Dec. 15: Cold wave conditions persisted in most parts of north India as the minimum temperature dipped further due to snowfall in higher reaches of Jammu and Kashmir and Uttarakhand, where at least eight people have died in snowfall-related incidents. Drass in Ladakh recorded the coldest place at minus 19.6 degrees Celsius. In Uttarakhand, at least three people died in separate snowfall-related incidents in the past couple of days in Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh, Rajasthan, Punjab and Haryana saw a dip in the minimum temperature, whereas Uttar Pradesh witnessed light showers in some parts. The India meteorological department (IMD) had forecast dense fog in some areas with very dense fog in isolated areas "very likely" over parts of Punjab and Rajasthan. Severe cold wave conditions gripped Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh after the recent snowfall which forced the closure of the Srinagar-Jammu national highway for the fourth successive day on Sunday, officials said. The night temperature in most parts of the two Union Territories saw a dip, with Jammu city recording its coldest night of the season at 5.8 degrees Celsius — 3.4 notches below the normal, a Meteorological (MET) Department official said. However, Drass in Ladakh, which recorded place after the

The Jammu-Srinagar highway, which was closed on Thursday following heavy snowfall, remained closed for the fourth day

minimum temperature plummeted to minus 19.5 degrees Celsius, followed by nearby Leh at minus 13.5 degrees Celsius. Srinagar recorded a low of 0.5 degrees Celsius. The 270-km Jammu-Srinagar national highway, which was closed on Thursday evening following heavy snowfall near the Jawahar Tunnel and adjoining areas, remained closed for the fourth consecutive day. In Punjab and Haryana, minimum temperatures dropped slightly but continued to hover close to or above normal limits at most places. Chandigarh recorded a minimum temperature of 9.6 degrees Celsius. In Haryana, Ambala 9.5 degrees Celsius, Karnal 10 degrees Celsius, Hisar 8.3 degrees Celsius and Rohtak 10 degrees Celsius were recorded near-normal minimum temperatures. In Punjab, Ludhiana 8.9 degrees Celsius, Patiala 9.5 degrees Celsius, Halwa 8.3 degrees Celsius and Gurdaspur 10.2 degrees Celsius recorded above-normal night temperatures. Cold wave conditions prevailed in parts of Rajasthan as the minimum temperatures dropped by one to two notches in several places. —PTI



Shiv Sena opposing projects they agreed upon when with us

—Devendra Fadnis, BJP Leader

Mass painting by kids in record book

Bhopal: Mass painting in which 2.75 lakh school children of Chhindwara district in Madhya Pradesh participated has entered the Golden Book of Records. The mass painting on the theme of corn was conducted in 4792 schools in the district on the occasion of two-day annual corn festival kicked off by CM in the state headquarters of Chhindwara on Sunday. The event entered Golden Book of Record as the biggest mass painting by children in one day. The certificate of record was presented to chief minister by South Asia in-charge of Golden Book of Records Alok Kumar on the occasion.

UP boy booked for Salman's house

Mumbai: A 16-year-old boy from Ghaziabad in Uttar Pradesh has been booked for allegedly sending a hoax e-mail to Mumbai police, claiming that a bomb was set to go off at actor Salman Khan's residence. The boy had sent the mail on December-4. The mail claimed a bomb was scheduled to explode in at Galaxy Apartments in Bandra. "Bandra me bomb kaam hai, Salman Khan ke ghar par agle 2 ghante me blast hoga, rok sakte ho ro rok lo (in the next two hours a blast will be scheduled to explode in at Galaxy Apartments in Bandra, Salman Khan's house, stop if you can)," an official said, quoting the mail.

2 clerics killed, in hurt in road mishap

Muzaffarnagar: Two people were killed and one injured when a motorcycle they were riding was hit by a speeding truck on the DehraDun-Delhi highway near the Bagowali bypass, around 15 km from here, police said. The victims, Intizar (24) and his brother, Ishtakhat (22), were killed, while another person, identified as Mohamud, was injured in the accident that took place on Saturday evening, they said. All of them were clerics at different mosques and were returning to Muzaffarnagar from Darululom Deoband, the police said. —PTI

FASTAG COMES INTO FORCE, GETS MIXED RESPONSE

New Delhi: FASTag came into force from Sunday across India on hybrid lanes. The government has mandated FASTag for toll payments from December 15 onwards. At a toll plaza, 75 per cent lanes will be accepting FASTag whereas 25 per cent "hybrid lanes" will continue operating till the government enforces mandatory usage of Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) based FASTag for all. However, at every toll plaza pan India one hybrid lane will remain operative for the vehicles from both directions. At Delhi-Faridabad toll plaza on the National Highway 48, Sunil Agarwal, a commuter, said: "Non-stop passing of cars at the toll plazas is helping in saving our time and fuel. People should accept it positively. Before FASTag comes into full force without exemption, the commuters queuing up in the cash lanes expressed concerns. "We are facing trouble. The government has extended the deadline for another month. We get daily passes but now money will be deducted each time we cross the toll. It's a trouble," said Rakesh, a businessman who is yet to buy FASTag. —ANI

I-T dept says Aadhaar-PAN link must by December 31

New Delhi, Dec. 15: It is mandatory to link your PAN with Aadhaar by the end of this year, the income-tax department said in a public message on Sunday. "Building a better tomorrow? To reap seamless benefits of various tax services, complete the vital link before 31st December, 2019," it said. It is mandatory to link your PAN with Aadhaar, according to the public message issued a fortnight before the deadline.

The deadline to link the PAN with Aadhaar was extended till December 31 by the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) through an order issued in September this year. Earlier, the deadline for this linkage was September 30. The CBDT frames policy for the income tax department. The Supreme Court, in September last year, had declared the Centre's flag-off Aadhaar scheme as constitutionally valid and held that the biometric ID would remain mandatory for the filing of I-T returns and allotment of PAN. Section 139 AA (2) of the Income Tax Act says that every person having PAN as on July 1, 2017, and Aadhaar, must intimate his Aadhaar number to tax authorities. —PTI

Man held for raping, setting ablaze UP teen

Banda (UP), Dec. 15: A man was arrested for raping and setting ablaze an 18-year-old woman in Uttar Pradesh's Fatehpur city, police said on Sunday. According to doctors, the woman sustained over 90 per cent burn injuries and her condition was critical. An FIR was registered on the basis of a complaint lodged by the woman's family, and the accused was arrested for rape and attempt to murder. Fatehpur SP Prashant Verma said, "Additional DGP (Allahabad zone) Sujat Pandey said it was the woman, who allegedly set herself ablaze when a 'panchayat' did not approve of her relationship with a distant relative. When the matter of her relationship with the distant relative came to light, a panchayat was held in her village during which the woman and the man were made to take a pledge that they would live separately and not meet each other, the officer said. Upset under the panchayat's decision, the woman rushed to her house and allegedly set herself ablaze when a 'pan-



Defence minister Rajnath Singh and Madhya Pradesh CM Kamal Nath attend the marriage function of Madhya Pradesh governor Lalji Tandans Grand son, in Lucknow, on Saturday.

ITBP launches matrimonial site to help staff find 'suitable matches'

New Delhi, Dec. 15: In an unique approach, the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) has started a dedicated matrimonial site for its staff. The website started last week, will be managed by ITBP and only ITBP personnel will be able to access it. "This is the first-ever dedicated and well-managed matrimonial portal among the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) started by ITBP on December 9. There are more than 25,000 unmarried men in the force while more than 1,000 women personnel are also unmarried. Keeping in view their duties and engagements after joining the service, finding suitable matches becomes an uphill task for the serving personnel," an ITBP official said. The official said that due to tough service, the ITBP personnel are not able to get enough time to find a suitable match and therefore, to fill this gap, the website was started. —PTI

Class 10 student raped, 6 booked

Manu, Dec. 15: Six youths were booked in connection with a rape of a Class 10 student, officials said on Sunday. According to Manu SP Anurag Arya, the prime accused, along with two others, have been detained for questioning, while efforts are on to nab the rest of the youths. "The incident took place in the Madhuban police station area of the district on Saturday night. Class 10 left her house around 9 am, but did not return till late in the evening." "Around 10 pm, family members of the girl received a call that she was raped by six youths and they fled leaving her behind," he added. The girl's family reached the spot and brought her back home. "When the girl regained her consciousness, she narrated her trauma. Subsequently, she was admitted to a private hospital. On Saturday, a complaint was lodged against the six youths, including four minors. A case has been registered under them under the IPC and the POCSO Act," the SP said. —PTI

Violent protests in South Delhi area

Delhi Metro closed the entry and exit gates of the Sukhdev Vihar, Jamia Millia Islamia, Okhla Vihar, Jaspala Vihar, Shaheen Bagh and Gate No. 3 of Ashram station. The Metro tries did not halt at these stations. Soon after the violence broke out, the Jamia students dissociated themselves from the incident, saying they had repeatedly maintained their protests were peaceful and non-violent. The statement said: "We have time and again maintained that our protests are peaceful and non-violent. We stand by this approach and condemn any party involved in violence. We have maintained calm even when students have been lathicharged and some women protesters have been badly beaten up. Violence by certain elements against the police and students on Friday is also urged by their political leaders. "The Jamia statement said: "A large number of students staying in hostels have already left and vice-chancellor Najma Akhtar appealed to students to maintain peace. I appeal to students to keep peace. Everything will be all right but we can't protect students if they leave the campus. Some members of the public from the main road that divides the university campus into two may have joined the protests." Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal also condemned the violence. In a tweet, he said: "No one should indulge in violence. Any kind of violence is unacceptable. Protests should remain peaceful." After Arvind Kejriwal also urged Delhi's lieutenant-governor Anil Bajjal to take all steps to restore normality and peace in the city. The BJP has alleged Sunday's violence in South Delhi areas was perpetrated by the Aam Aadmi Party, and demanded that it stop supporting people. BJP Delhi chief Manoj Tiwari, in a tweet, said that an AAP MP was "provoking the public and called Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal a 'traitor'". He said: "AAP MLA is provoking the people at the best of Arvind Kejriwal." However, Okhla MLA Amanatullah Khan, who opposed TV channels to run the news that protesters under his leadership have torched buses, which is wrong. I request the government to take necessary steps to prevent untoward happened," he told reporters.

Bengal: Trains, railway stations vandalised

West Bengal chief secretary Dhankrishna Mehta, has summoned state government minister Rajiva Sinha and director-general of police Virendra to Raj Bhavan on Monday morning. The note of highly disturbing developments in the state that seriously compromise our constitutional values and rule of law, both the chief secretary and director-general of police have been called upon to see me tomorrow at Raj Bhavan at 10 am and brief me on the situation," he tweeted. The state government has complained that some externally mobilised communal forces (were) inciting violence and conspiring to create disorder. The district magistrate (Malda) has suspended the Internet services for a 48 hours from 2 pm, sources said. Murshidabad, the worst affected district, witnessed another round of vandalism at 13 railway stations — Rejnagar, Mangram and Sultampur — where armed protesters went on a rampage and set railway properties ablaze. The state government has also Outnumbering the Railway Protection Force and police personnel, they torched many rooms at Sultampur, where 100 people were injured and three of their vehicles were torched. In Malda, at least two railway stations — Bhaluka Road and Chanchol — were ransacked by the demonstrators. While the tracks were damaged, Chanchol was set on fire. At Baishnabagar, some people tried to torch the National Highway 34 toll plaza. In Hatishchandrapur, angry people burnt tyres on railway tracks. Birbhum also saw protests and road blockades. Akra railway station in South 24 Parganas was vandalised by a mob of 500 people after burning tyres on the tracks on Monday morning. For daylight, Late on Saturday night Barrackpore's BJP MP came under attack when he was returning to his car from the station. He alleged that a group of armed men hid in his car from before hurling bombs. Mr Singh escaped unhurt. Alleging there was no law and order in the state, he demanded that President Rule be imposed. Earlier, a state BJP delegation led by general secretary Biswapriya Roy Chowdhury met Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Andal airport in Burdwan West, where he halted on his way to election rally in Jharkhand, to apprise him of the state's grim law and order situation. Late in the evening, the Eastern Railway said it cancelled 30 express trains, a record, including some North Bengal-bound and West Bengal-bound trains for the next three to four days. In the morning, the South Eastern Railway cancelled 15 trains, including the Howrah Express from Tirupati and Ernakulam, with 10 more trains, including Shalimar Express from Thiruvananthapuram, were partially cancelled.

AASU may form party

Assam was relatively normal on Sunday as no untoward incident was reported from anywhere. However, the curfew, that was relaxed in the morning, was reimposed at 6 pm in Guwahati and parts of Upper Assam. The death toll in Thursday's firing by the police rose to four on Sunday with one protester succumbing to his injuries at the Guwahati Medical College and Hospital. The Assam Sahitya Sabha, the state's premier literary organisation, said Sunday it would demand the Supreme Court for revocation of the amended Citizenship Act. It also demanded the release of all arrested persons including Union Minister Akhilesh Gogoi, exercising their constitutional right to protest, its chief Parmananda Rajbongshai said. Earlier in the day, Mr Kumar Deepak Das, a former Rajya Sabha MP, said the BJP government's wishes of the people, who feared the law might threaten their identity and existence. "We will take the legal route to seek revocation of the amended act as the indigenous people of Assam are apprehensive that their identity language might come under threat," he said. Sources said an ACP delegation led by Mr Das would leave for New Delhi on Sunday evening to file the plea in the Supreme Court as PILs seeking revocation of the law were due to be taken up for hearing on December 18. Mr Bora has also said that the Brahmaputra Valley, where violence has been taking place, should be excluded from the purview of the law.

PM Modi on arsonists

PM Modi explained the verdict was announced on Ram Janmabhoomi and the arsonists in London are People from Pakistan, those settled in London, had staged demonstrations outside our embassy," he said. "Did any Indian stage demonstration near the Embassy? If there is any issue, a person goes to the court. I am not taking any decision, who then send the documents to the Central government," Mr Modi explained. Efforts were being made to tarnish the country's image, he alleged. Protests have been raging against the entire Chand-Bhairav and Lutho-Jano card about personal gains. —PTI

50 YEARS AGO IN DECCAN Chronicle

Trade board asked to step up exports

New Delhi: Government was today directed by the board of trade to make a special effort to ensure additional exports of the value of ₹60 to ₹70 crores in the remaining three months of the current financial year.

The board which met here under the chairmanship of B.R. Bhagat, minister of foreign trade, was reviewing the disturbing trend of exports which until October last have increased only by 1.8 per cent against the targeted growth rate of seven per cent.

It is expected that additional exports of ₹60 to ₹70 crores would enable the targeted growth of exports to be almost maintained.

The board felt that expansion could be secured through export of cotton textiles, mixed fabrics, artificial fabrics, jute goods, ready-made garments, engineering goods and machine tools.

The principal bottlenecks in regard to expansion of engineering goods, the board was informed, was the non-availability of steel.

The government's decision to allow the necessary imports of steel was explained to the board, which desired that this should be expedited.

The foreign trade ministry announced that a 50 per cent increase would be automatically permitted in the case of actual user licences for 1989-90.

The steel ministry, it was stated at the board meeting, had also agreed to divert available steel to the engineering industry until imports materialised.

It was also stated that the government was also trying to arrange bulk imports of steel to meet the requirements of small-scale units.

—PTI

ODDLY ENOUGH Dogs bring light relief to UK election

London: Retrievers, beagles, poodles and pugs lined up in the rain at Britain's polling stations on Thursday as thousands of voters brought their canine companions to take part in the general election.

Pet owners took to Twitter to post photographs of their dogs next to polling station signs at schools and community centres across the country. — AFP

Vijay Divas at India's National War Memorial for the first time



On Dec. 16, 2019, for the first time, Vijay Divas (Victory Day) will be celebrated at the Rashtriya Samarak, India's National War Memorial. On Feb. 25, 2019, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Rashtriya Samarak, dedicated to every soldier martyred fighting for India in 72 years of Independence.

On December 16, 2019, for the first time, Vijay Divas (Victory Day) will be celebrated at the Rashtriya Samarak, India's National War Memorial. On February 25, 2019, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Rashtriya Samarak, dedicated to every soldier martyred while fighting for India in 72 years of Independence.

The third names of 25,942 fatal battle casualties have been inscribed on 16 walls of the memorial.

The third India-Pakistan war which began on December 3, 1971, ended 13 days later, on December 15, after the Pakistani forces in erstwhile East Pakistan were completely surrounded and defeated by the Indian Army, assisted by the Multi National Force (MNF) under the command of Lt. Gen. Jagjit Singh Aurora at the Ramna Race Course, now Sahrawardy Udyan, in Dhaka, and East Pakistan was declared as the newly liberated "Bangladesh".

Since then, December 16 was instituted as Vijay Divas (Victory Day) and observed across India by paying tributes to the martyrs who laid down their lives for the nation. In the nation's capital, New Delhi, the Indian minister of defence and Chiefs of the Army, Navy and Air Force pay homage at Amar Jawan Jyoti (eternal flame to the unknown soldier) at India Gate, but following a mutiny by some Indian Navy sailors shortly after WW II, the British felt compelled to leave India in a hurry. So, a memorial to the sacrifices of Indians in WW II never got built.



A file photo of Lt. Gen. A.A.K. Niazi, commander of all Pakistani forces in the eastern theatre, signing the instrument of surrender, as Lt. Gen. Jagjit Singh Aurora, GOC-in-C of India's Eastern Command and commander of the joint India-Bangladesh forces, looks on at the Ramna Race Course in Dhaka on December 16, 1971. Seated on extreme right is All India Radio's Surajit Sen, who was the first foreign correspondent to reach Dhaka.

names as possible are etched on all the walls of this memorial. The other WW I war memorial is Teen Murti (pronounced moorte), literally meaning three statues, dedicated to the Indian Cavalry for its valiant role and incidentally, its last one as horsed cavalry — by World War II (WW II) horsed cavalry had become mechanised. While about 1.5 million Indian soldiers participated in WW I (1914-18) and in WW II (1939-45), 2.5 million Indian armed forces personnel took part in WW II (1939-45). 2.5 million Indian armed forces personnel took part in WW II (1939-45). 2.5 million Indian armed forces personnel took part in WW II (1939-45).

Leave alone not instituting a war memorial and often stonewalling whenever the matter came up, after the surgical strikes against Pakistani terrorists in 2016, ironically some senior Congress leaders and the Congress leading handbag of leftists/pseudo-intellectuals are sympathetically invested in secularists/human rights activists politicised and

even ridiculed patriotism and national pride. Some of these Congress leaders even questioned the authenticity of the surgical strikes and also criticised the Army's actions in the Kashmir Valley.

Anyways, having announced its plan, the BJP got going. The National War Memorial and Museum was designated as a special project, and the task of its timely execution was allocated to a special projects division under the chief administrative officer, ministry of defence and the military engineering services.

The location of the memorial is befitting. It is spread over 40 acres of land behind the "chhatra" (canopy), about 100 m behind India Gate. The memorial wall is flushed with the green and in harmony with existing aesthetics. The names of armed forces personnel martyred during the armed conflicts of 1947-48, 1961 (Goa), 1962 (China), 1965, 1971, 1987 (Sachen), 1987-88 (Sri Lanka), 1989 (Kargil), and other operations such as Operation Rakshak, are inscribed on the memorial walls.

The memorial has four concentric circles designed as Chakravayuh, an ancient Indian war formation and a central obelisk, at the bottom of which burns an "eternal flame" representing the Amar Jawan (immortal soldier). Veerats Chakra (circle of bravery), Tyag Chakra (circle of sacrifice) and

Today is Vijay Divas, the 48th anniversary of India's victory in the 1971 Bangladesh war, when the Pakistan Army surrendered to the Indian armed forces in Dhaka, the capital of the newly-born nation.

Rakshak Chakra (circle of protection). The Param Yodha Sthal, where the busts of 21 recipients of the Param Vir Chakra, India's highest gallantry award during wars, have been placed, is located in a large section of what was the quadrant between Kasturba Gandhi Marg and the main entrance of Major Dhyan Chand Stadium.

The area is open to the public free of cost, from 9 am to 6.30 pm (November to March) and from 9 am to 7.30 pm (April to October). For the first time since Independence, the Indian public and foreign tourists are able to get a glimpse of India's history of wars and heroism.

The daily footfall on weekdays is 4,000 to 6,000 and on weekends and holidays it goes up to 10,000 or more.

Since its inauguration, every evening, five minutes before sunset, the Retreat, a next of kin of a battle casualty and a next of kin of the memorial as a tribute, witnessed by hundreds of spectators.

There is a National War Memorial App for more detailed information on the war and its history. There is a souvenir shop in the memorial complex called Smarika, where memorabilia are now being overtake in illustrated comics are available.

A National War Museum in the adjoining Princess Park area north of India Gate and a 14 acres. The proposed National War Museum and the National War Memorial will be an underground route.

The writer, a retired Army officer, is a defence and security analyst based in New Delhi

Social silence on issues in India hurts gender activism

Kavish Rai meanwhile

The struggle between silence and oppression is an old one, and greater communicability is introducing new generations to an ancient struggle. Topics that were incredibly obscure are now being looked into. What was the victim's shame is now warpaint, and what was honour is now individual rights.

Suppose one came across a report in Al Jazeera which mentions that not a single girl was born for three months in 132 villages in India, one would be shocked, but such resolve would not go very far as it is likely that one would more often than not be unable to fully understand such an issue with a social silence somewhat in society over aversion to the girl child, dowry and bullying for selective abortions. If one went to visit a friend thereafter and entered into a conversation over the issue, the reaction could be "Wow! How did that happen?" and the discussion would begin and end with one lively conversation. The news report would remain a news report and just that. It wouldn't be properly understood as a social problem, if one could not find a real-life inference of the issue in society.

The perceived realness of mediated interaction is important, and if, for reasons of victims choosing not to talk about their problem or of people not wishing to talk about their misdeeds openly, there is a crisis of perceptibility for observers, the social silence on the issue prevails. What was a personal problem before the Internet now travels halfway around the world in a flash. Those connected are now truly hard-wired into a biosphere of communicability. We now see clusters of mediated activity in which the more reality, the more involved more people are over social discourse on the same. Therein lies the trick. It's about credibility as a problem. The more an issue gathers consensus and is understood as a social problem, the more it figures as an issue for gender activism. In some, activism is an idea that has



risen up to oppression, and on others, power sits on a cushion of silence. Independent, have not necessarily become more assertive — but definitely more communicable. The people attach themselves to a problem before the Internet now travels halfway around the world in a flash. Those connected are now truly hard-wired into a biosphere of communicability. We now see clusters of mediated activity in which the more reality, the more involved more people are over social discourse on the same. Therein lies the trick. It's about credibility as a problem. The more an issue gathers consensus and is understood as a social problem, the more it figures as an issue for gender activism. In some, activism is an idea that has

and understanding on the issue as a social problem and they are not readily identifiable as such. Independent, have not necessarily become more assertive — but definitely more communicable. The people attach themselves to a problem before the Internet now travels halfway around the world in a flash. Those connected are now truly hard-wired into a biosphere of communicability. We now see clusters of mediated activity in which the more reality, the more involved more people are over social discourse on the same. Therein lies the trick. It's about credibility as a problem. The more an issue gathers consensus and is understood as a social problem, the more it figures as an issue for gender activism. In some, activism is an idea that has

how such is received. Any engagement in such discussion needs to be one wherein people are sympathetic to the issue, such that an insider-outsider dialectic prevents damage due to people who are uninvolved in or disinclined towards the problem. In a climate of sympathy for the problem, there is a greater likelihood that the whole concept of the problem will become more acceptable. In this approach, instead of shock, which can polarise debate on the issue, a sympathetic symbolic portrayal of the problem aims at building a more delicate form of involvement rather than an emotional one. Oppression is more widespread than what one might observe, and focus is required on a climate of discussion and reconciliation.

With greater consensus and understanding in society over a wider range of issues, more social change is possible, as problems that can circulate without hate in a fair setting, there is greater possibility to communicate activism. In such a climate, the problems that can circulate without hate in a fair setting, there is greater possibility to communicate activism. In such a climate, the problems that can circulate without hate in a fair setting, there is greater possibility to communicate activism. In such a climate, the problems that can circulate without hate in a fair setting, there is greater possibility to communicate activism.

activism on gender, in which people might look at justice as retributive or even as compensation, but fairness and indeed justice must be demanded for oneself as well as for others. The struggle between silence and oppression is an old one, and greater communicability is introducing new generations to an ancient struggle. Topics that were earlier incredibly obscure are now being looked into. Things that were seen as "normal" in culture are now being seen as improper. What was earlier the victim's shame is now warpaint, and what was honour is now individual rights. The environment wherein gender is being discussed is being encouraged and supported by self-assertions of identity and non-conformism. The self in gender is being radically redefined in many ways. With more and more people asserting themselves, one would expect that individuals not remain silent on oppression.

It cannot be normal that one is supposed to be oppressed. If one comes out of this trap, people need to learn about other perspectives on their situation. Activism and communicability that builds consensus can lift this situational screens. The credibility of an issue as a problem, and its communicability communicated — that needs to be normalised. People can then be encouraged and supported by systems that can help them come to terms with their situation. In such, a healthy environment wherein activism is important wherein people receive responsible support in how to deal with their problem.

THE ASIAN AGE

16 DECEMBER 2019

New citizenship law lets down India's diplomacy

While creating social and political fissures in the country — as postulated in the writings of Hindutva ideologues — through the Citizenship Amendment Act and the Register of Citizens that seeks to weed out "infiltrators" and "termites", the authors of these dangerous measures have also given evidence of their diplomatic illiteracy. Consequently, India's neighbourhood policy has been damaged. Besides, this country's international policy framework, which underlines equality and humanism and has brought it laurels, is now seen as severely compromised. Piloting the CAB in Parliament, Union home minister Amit Shah had attacked handpicked countries with a range and — and uninform — zeal for persecuting their religious minorities (mainly Hindus and Sikhs), from which he drew his premise that India was duty-bound to offer instant citizenship to these minorities. He offered no data to back up his claim that illegal immigrants from Afghanistan, Pakistan and Bangladesh were indeed fleeing religious persecution. There seems to be nil data on how many people were fleeing to India from these countries. In the backdrop of the government's fishy assertions, the foreign minister of Bangladesh cancelled a scheduled visit to this country. That country's home minister, due to come on a personal trip, also cancelled. There is understandable concern in Bangladesh being unfairly accused of religious persecution by New Delhi. The facts, as presented by the government in Parliament, simply don't stand up. In Bangladesh, sectarian outfits have been engaged in a campaign to trigger anti-India sentiment, but this isn't official policy. The situation is little different from what exists in India. If anything, Bangladesh has sought to aggressively curb anti-Hindu propaganda among its extremists. By any yardstick, Bangladesh is now India's most valued neighbour. That the Citizenship Amendment Bill, as it has been deeply aggrieved by New Delhi. Why our home minister brought in Afghanistan when the CIA's ambition is a mystery. That country hasn't had a post-9/11 crisis. Why our Partition in 1947 had no bearing on Afghanistan. Afghanistan has no record of religious persecution of Hindus and Sikhs (infinitesimally small minorities). India has enjoyed enormous goodwill in post-Taliban Afghanistan, whose strategic significance is not lost on policy circles here. We may have badly put off a neighbour that respects us. In Pakistan too, the most zealous Muslim brazier in India will be hard put to build a narrative of religious persecution of Hindus and Sikhs as official policy, though there have been cases of raising of temples (often in response to attacks on Muslims in India) and forced conversions. But these are commonly dealt with through the legal system. Japanese PM Shinzo Abe has cancelled a summit with PM Narendra Modi as anti-CAB violence rocked the Northeast. External affairs minister S. Jaishankar is to fly to Washington to mollify the US Congress, where many have taken a strident anti-India posture on the Citizenship Amendment Act. Although the US has friendly relations with both our countries, especially neighbours, and have given China a freer hand to operate in our backyard.

Eco crisis: PM must act fast

The ill-conceived demonetisation and ill-timed rollout of the Goods and Services Tax have been widely blamed for India's current economic problems. A recent working paper co-authored by former chief economic adviser Arvind Subramanian and Joseph Palman, IMF's senior external representative in New Delhi, again attributes the slowdown to the November 8, 2016 note ban. The paper claims that excess liquidity at banks in the aftermath of demonetisation found its way into Banking Financial Companies (BIFCs). Most of the money lent to NBFCs finally ended up funding overpriced real estate projects, especially in Mumbai and Delhi, that led to what Mr Subramanian calls the 'Twin Balance Sheet (TBS)' crisis — a technical phrase indicating that both lenders and borrowers are in trouble. The slowdown also indicates the failure of the banking system. It's caused by lazy tactics used by banks to get business. Of late, the banks tend to get their hands dirty by lending to people directly. If banks lend people or businesses directly, the Reserve Bank ensures that lenders don't have excessive exposure to any one sector. This is the role of the lender's management not the RBI. The RBI's role is to ensure the final destination of NBFC loans, which became an albatross on the economy. The most unpalatable feature of the working paper for the Narendra Modi government is its authors' labelling the current slump as "India's Great Slowdown" — a comparison with the infamous incident in India's economic history, the 1991 balance of payments crisis. One needn't tell Prime Minister Narendra Modi about the importance of simple words, or catch people's imagination. Let's hope Mr Modi takes some immediate remedial measures to prevent the Great Slowdown from turning into another Watergate for him.

THE ASIAN AGE

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Deccan Chronicle Holdings Limited, Jawaharalal Nehru National Youth Centre, 219 Deen Dayal Upadhyay Marg, New Delhi 110002. B.F. Indotech Ltd., C-5, Sector-81, Noida - 201 301.
Mumbai: Dargah Media Pvt Ltd, Plot No. 22, Digha MIDC, TTC Industrial Estate Area, Vishnu Nagar, Digha, Navi Mumbai-400706.
Kolkata: Sanyog Employees Cooperative Industrial Society Ltd, 13A, Puffula Sarkar Street, Kolkata 700 070.
London: Quinlan Ltd, 8th Floor, Block 2, Elizabeth House, 39 York Road, London, SE1 7YQ.
GST Registration number: 3726949.
Postal registration number: DL/25-05418915-17.



Future of post-Brexit UK: No easy answers



For every complex question there is an answer that is simple and wrong' — so said controversial American commentator H.L. Mencken many years ago. This is reminiscent of this as I woke up on Friday morning to the results of probably the most momentous general election in the UK in the past 150 years. I had campaigned a little for a former Tory parliamentarian who had split from his party, represented by Boris Johnson's mendacity, egotism and vindictiveness. I was struck by how many electors saw the choice: 'Get Brexit done' — to use Boris Johnson's simplistic slogan — to the Conservatives; or further dither and delay with the Opposition. They chose Boris Johnson's Conservatives; not just traditional Conservative voters, traditional Labour voters too. So much so that Labour's vote share was the lowest in over 30 years. As for the supposedly resurrected Liberal Democrats, they comprehensively failed to surge. The result: Conservatives won seats from Labour that were in Labour hands for over 70 years. They now have a healthy majority, which will allow them to govern without serious hindrance from the Opposition for five years, if not longer. Boris Johnson will 'get Brexit done'. As well as promising that the UK would leave the EU by January 2020's end, Boris Johnson has also promised he will negotiate a free trade deal with the EU by the end of December 2020, the deadline laid down in the UK-EU withdrawal agreement. Easy to say, less easy to achieve. The EU, the world's largest trading bloc, is an experienced champion heavyweight when it comes to trade negotiations. Not having negotiated a trade pact in over 40 years, the UK is an untested bantam weight in comparison. Trade negotiations are measured in years, not months. So the UK has time on its side and the UK does not. The EU will not hesitate to exploit its advantages. After all, why should it? Come the middle of 2020 Boris Johnson is likely to have to face a difficult choice: ask for an extension or accept whatever is on offer from the EU. Not so simple then. The only conceivable way for the UK to remain in the EU, Minister to deliver on his pledge is seek the softest of soft Brexits, a relationship with the EU on the lines of Norway's or Switzerland's. And in return for full access to the EU's single market, both countries had to accept free movement of people from and to the UK. However, for Boris Johnson to accept free movement would be for him to abandon his vow to take back control over immigration. Another difficult question. The questions for her domestic front don't have easy answers either. The Conservative's political dominance of the political landscape only goes so far. It is the majority party in England, but a minority party in the three other nations of the UK. In the 2016 referendum on EU membership, Northern Ireland voted by a healthy majority to remain in the EU. It's not surprising then that or absented themselves during the vote. If he succeeded, as there were several abstentions from the Samajwadi Party, the Nationalist Party, the Congress, and the Trinamool Congress. Worried about the BJP's performance in the West Bengal by-polls, Prime Minister Narendra Modi called a group of MPs from the state to understand why the party's graph had dipped, considering it won a record 18 seats in the May Lok Sabha election. Mr Modi that the BJP was lagging behind while the Mamata Banerjee-led Trinamool Congress has taken to be an invaluable asset, having played a critical role in breaching the Opposition ranks during the debate on the abrogation of Article 370 in the session. Similarly, Mr Ramesh was seen busy working the phones before the vote on the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill in the Rajya Sabha. His task was to ensure that a number of Opposition members either supported the bill

LETTERS FORGET DIFFERENCES

Unfortunately, both the Congress and the BJP continue to trade barbs with each other with alarming regularity. Close on the heels of Rahul Gandhi's rape remark row, the Congress' top brass trained their guns on the Narendra Modi government over the Citizenship Act. The saffron party hit back at Mr Gandhi for indulging in appeasement politics. With parts of India engulfed in unrest and violence, our leaders would do well to forget their differences.

N.J. Ravi Chander Bengaluru

FOCUS ON ECONOMY

INDIA IS passing through the dark tunnel of economic slowdown. Along with these difficult circumstances, now there is now a big problem in the form of the CAA. It is obvious that the new law on Indian citizenship is threatening to pull the focus away from the economy as protests against it have engulfed the divisive plan. The change to the law has been criticised by Opposition parties as well as the US, who say that India is moving away from its Constitution. I think the government should concentrate on economic issues to breathe new life into the country instead of making a new law back to harass people, especially Muslims.

Mohammad Arif Jamshedpur

IS THIS FOUL PLAY?

THIS REFERS to the report, "CBI registers graft case again Leela Samson" (Dec. 15). One small fact is missing in the report. She resigned as the chairperson of the Sangeet Natak Akademi in 2014, a year before the end of her tenure. The bench members of the NDA government didn't give her a free hand. She also resigned as CIBC chief in 2015 against the concurrence of rape accused spiritual guru Ram Rahim's film by the AICT.

S.S. Paul Chakdaha, West Bengal

₹500 for the best letter to the week goes to Mahmoodul Hasan (Dec. 11). E-mail: letters@asianage.com Else, send to Jawaharlal Nehru National Youth Centre, 219 Deen Dayal Upadhyay Marg, New Delhi 110002

Anita Katyal Political Gup-Shup The curious case of Modi's absence from CAB debate

The fact that Prime Minister Narendra Modi was absent in both Houses of Parliament during the debate on the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill did not go unnoticed and was the subject of much speculation last week. One view was that the Prime Minister wanted home minister Amit Shah to be centrestage during the debate and did not wish to steal his thunder. At the same time, it was a reiteration of Mr Shah's pre-eminent position in the government and a clear-cut message that the home minister is Mr Modi's successor. The other view is that while the home minister was left to do the heavy lifting on contentious matters like the abrogation of Article 370 and the new Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, Mr Modi stayed away from the debate as he was positioning himself as a statesman and as a leader far removed from issues which have been criticised abroad. He hesitantly wants to insulate himself from any adverse fallout of the passage of the citizenship bill. This impor-

tant for Mr Modi as he is constantly seeking global acclaim.

Though the BJP has named Narendra Modi as its chief whip in the Rajya Sabha, he has virtually no role during the session. Home minister Amit Shah is being supported by the help of C.M. Ramesh, former Telugu Desam Party member, who joined the BJP a few months ago, in floor management. Mr Shah apparently is in constant touch with Mr Ramesh and often calls him up at the crack of dawn, especially when the Parliament session is on. Mr Ramesh has apparently endeared himself to Mr Shah after he proved to be an invaluable asset, having played a critical role in breaching the Opposition ranks during the debate on the abrogation of Article 370 in the session. Similarly, Mr Ramesh was seen busy working the phones before the vote on the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill in the Rajya Sabha. His task was to ensure that a number of Opposition members either supported the bill or absented themselves during the vote. If he succeeded, as there were several abstentions from the Samajwadi Party, the Nationalist Party, the Congress, and the Trinamool Congress. Worried about the BJP's performance in the West Bengal by-polls, Prime Minister Narendra Modi called a group of MPs from the state to understand why the party's graph had dipped, considering it won a record 18 seats in the May Lok Sabha election. Mr Modi that the BJP was lagging behind while the Mamata Banerjee-led Trinamool Congress has taken to be an invaluable asset, having played a critical role in breaching the Opposition ranks during the debate on the abrogation of Article 370 in the session. Similarly, Mr Ramesh was seen busy working the phones before the vote on the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill in the Rajya Sabha. His task was to ensure that a number of Opposition members either supported the bill

Gandhi. But to little avail as the BJP continues to trade barbs with each other with alarming regularity. Close on the heels of Rahul Gandhi's rape remark row, the Congress' top brass trained their guns on the Narendra Modi government over the Citizenship Act. The saffron party hit back at Mr Gandhi for indulging in appeasement politics. With parts of India engulfed in unrest and violence, our leaders would do well to forget their differences. N.J. Ravi Chander Bengaluru. India is passing through the dark tunnel of economic slowdown. Along with these difficult circumstances, now there is now a big problem in the form of the CAA. It is obvious that the new law on Indian citizenship is threatening to pull the focus away from the economy as protests against it have engulfed the divisive plan. The change to the law has been criticised by Opposition parties as well as the US, who say that India is moving away from its Constitution. I think the government should concentrate on economic issues to breathe new life into the country instead of making a new law back to harass people, especially Muslims. Mohammad Arif Jamshedpur. THIS REFERS to the report, "CBI registers graft case again Leela Samson" (Dec. 15). One small fact is missing in the report. She resigned as the chairperson of the Sangeet Natak Akademi in 2014, a year before the end of her tenure. The bench members of the NDA government didn't give her a free hand. She also resigned as CIBC chief in 2015 against the concurrence of rape accused spiritual guru Ram Rahim's film by the AICT. S.S. Paul Chakdaha, West Bengal. ₹500 for the best letter to the week goes to Mahmoodul Hasan (Dec. 11). E-mail: letters@asianage.com Else, send to Jawaharlal Nehru National Youth Centre, 219 Deen Dayal Upadhyay Marg, New Delhi 110002. The curious case of Modi's absence from CAB debate. Anita Katyal Political Gup-Shup. The curious case of Modi's absence from CAB debate. The fact that Prime Minister Narendra Modi was absent in both Houses of Parliament during the debate on the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill did not go unnoticed and was the subject of much speculation last week. One view was that the Prime Minister wanted home minister Amit Shah to be centrestage during the debate and did not wish to steal his thunder. At the same time, it was a reiteration of Mr Shah's pre-eminent position in the government and a clear-cut message that the home minister is Mr Modi's successor. The other view is that while the home minister was left to do the heavy lifting on contentious matters like the abrogation of Article 370 and the new Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, Mr Modi stayed away from the debate as he was positioning himself as a statesman and as a leader far removed from issues which have been criticised abroad. He hesitantly wants to insulate himself from any adverse fallout of the passage of the citizenship bill. This impor-

Rule of law vs lynch law: Deliver speedy justice



Sudhanshu Ranjan

In the midst of encomiums being showered on the Telangana police for doing instant justice by killing the four persons accused of raping and burning to death a young veterinarian in an encounter and thus stopping the law from taking a long and circuitous course. Chief Justice of India S.A. Bobde has said, "Revenge is not justice," and it cannot be instantaneous. It is true that justice hurried is justice buried, but justice delayed is certainly justice denied. The police snuffed out the discontent of the disconsolate people worn to a frazzle fighting cases. The exuberant support to the police is a severe indictment of the judiciary, which is infamous for giving dates, not justice. However, the police cannot wash its hands of its responsibility because crimes are committed only because the administration is notoriously soft. In the Hyderabad rape case, the vic-

tim died as the police, instead of taking her to hospital, kept passing the buck over jurisdiction. Just one day after the Hyderabad incident, the Umno rape victim, who was set afire by the accused, succumbed to her injuries, raising the question: Why did the police fail to ensure her safety and security? It is commonly believed that while revenge is settling scores without following due process, justice is a process of law and only after a fair trial guilt or innocence is decided. Thus, while revenge is justice delayed to emotion to achieve balance, justice is a corrective process. According to Francis Bacon, revenge is a kind of "wild justice" that does offend the law. The question is, what is law, and what is justice? If one goes through the history of Roman law, one finds that *lex* means declared law derived from *lego* (I declare) as opposed to *ius*, which was customary law given concrete shape by the courts through their decisions.

In course of time *leges* became a manifestation of popular will enacted by the assemblies. It was like modern legislation which had a prescriptive function and ceased being declaratory of *ius*. The overwhelming majority of people from all over the country chiming with the police over the Hyderabad encounter is tantamount to legitimating or rather enacting the lynch law superseding the rule of law. This may not be ex cathedra, but speaks volumes of people's frustration and exasperation with the justice system. People want quick justice through revenge. Plato said that there are only three things worthwhile in this world: justice, beauty and truth, and perhaps each one of them eludes definition. Austrian jurist Hans Kelsen wrote: "Justice is an irrational ideal. It is not viable by reason. Revenge is definitely a part of justice, though a small part, if humans were purged of the emotion of revenge, the world would have been hell. It is the fear of revenge that prevents men from committing crimes to a great extent. Michael Grant Ignatieff has written, "Revenge is a profound moral desire to keep faith with the dead, to honour their memory by taking up their cause where they left off." Murderers and rapists outrage the honour of the victims and their kin seek

Not many people would file appeals against well-reasoned decisions knowing full well that there are little chances of success in the higher courts. Judgments must be brief and crystal clear.

revenge to restore the honour. The desire of revenge is so pronounced that there have been posthumous executions and that too in the name of justice. Oliver Cromwell, one of the signatories of King Charles I's death warrant in 1649, subsequently was executed by Lord Protector of the Commonwealth of England, Scotland and Ireland. He died a natural death on September 3, 1658, but after the return of the royalists and restoration of Charles II in 1660, Cromwell's body was exhumed from Westminster Abbey on January 30, 1661 and was put to posthumous execution. Parliament passed an order of attainder for high treason on the four most prominent deceased regicides, including Thomas Bradshaw (the court president), Henry Ireton and Thomas Pride. All of them

were beheaded. In 897, the corpse of Pope Formosus was disinterred on the order of Pope Stephen VI. He was tried and pronounced guilty and three of his fingers were chopped off. Simon de Montfort, sixth Earl of Leicester, was fatally injured in the Battle of Evesham and died in 1265. But posthumously, he was beheaded, castrated and quartered by the knights of British King Henry VIII. Forty-five years after his death, John Wycliffe was burned as a heretic. Such instances are galore, and in each of them, the passion of revenge got the better of reason. For the Pythagorean, justice is that which returns equal for equal: nine is such a number. Revenge is a small part in the larger framework of justice. But justice can be arrived at through due process only. Such incidents of encounter or lynching should jolt the judiciary out of its slumber. It has been decided to increase the number of fast-track courts. Will it help? No. What happened to the Criminal Procedure Amendment Act 1973, which was based on three considerations: speedy disposal, due process and a fair deal to the poorer sections? But a fake narrative is floated over the number of judges that the delays are because of a work-

ly short number of judges. The tunnel vision has not allowed any meaningful debate on judicial delays. People with frogs in their throats will never utter the truth — that it is intention and competence that count more than numbers. There can be no qualitative and quantitative improvement in the administration of justice without improving the quality of judges. Nobody seems to be worried about these three considerations. The CrPC was amended providing for speedy justice, which was elevated to the level of a fundamental right under Article 21 of the Constitution of India (right to life and personal liberty) by the Supreme Court in *Hussainara Khatoon v. Home secretary, Bihar* (1979 AIR 198). It was affirmed in several other decisions subsequently. Every new incident spurs new laws which get jaded in course of time as nobody wants to look back what earlier legislation provided and why did they fail. An attitudinal change is required in the thinking of judges and lawyers. They must realise that moving the court is not a luxury for anyone. The abhorrent practice of adjournments must be done away with. It must not be granted even in the rarest of circumstances as Indians have ingenious minds that enlarge a needle hole into a tunnel through which even

trains can pass. If a lawyer cannot appear due to some unavoidable reason, s/he may submit written arguments. In fact, a petition contains all facts and arguments. It was the practice in the Privy Council that senior advocates would rise and say: "If your lordships have read the petition, I have nothing to add." Doing away with adjournments will solve half the problems. Then it is the quality of judgments. Unfortunately, it has become a judgment system, not a justice system as late Justice C h a n d r a s h a e k h a r Dharmadhikari once told me. Not many people would file appeals against well-reasoned decisions knowing full well that there are little chances of success in the higher courts. Judgments must be brief and crystal clear. Judgments of the Privy Council or of the Indian Supreme Court in the initial years were very brief, running into a few pages. Now there are these judgments, running into hundreds of pages, and yet clarity eludes necessitating disambiguation. Brevity comes from clarity. There is a crying need to shore up public confidence in the judicial system. It is possible only through speedy and quality justice.

The writer is a senior TV journalist and author

Presidential system poses a danger to democracy itself



A.G. Noorani

It is fundamentally most unwise, and perhaps even dangerous, to seek legal or, worse still, constitutional cures for political diseases. Political instability can be cured only by seeking political cures. The framers of India's Constitution and its Constituent Assembly deliberately and wisely rejected pleas by an articulate section of the presidential system. Yet, a decade and a half after the Indian Constitution came into force, many made a powerful plea for a presidential system. The dangers that the presidential system poses to democracy itself was amply demonstrated when Prime Minister Indira Gandhi proposed the presidential system during the Emergency in 1975. Having put political opponents behind bars, imposed pre-censorship on the press and banned public meetings, she planned another Constituent Assembly to draft a new constitution installing a presidential system — no doubt, with herself as President and a pliable legislature to do her bidding. In a democracy, the President might well belong to a party that is opposed by the party in the majority in the legislature and determined to obstruct the President's legislative proposals. In the parliamentary system, the executive flows from the legislature. The Cabinet is, in reality, a committee of the legislature. Its members have to be members of the legislature and can be thrown out of office by a vote of no-confidence. But you cannot possibly have the legislature nominated by the executive. Which is why in the presidential system in any democratic country, the legislature is elected separately from an elected President. The result is that while in the parliamentary system the Opposition can conspire to overthrow the Prime Minister, in a presidential system they can, by similar techniques, render the President impotent by refusing to vote for funds. If no finances are allocated, the President remains in a state of impotence to act because he has no money. Newt Gingrich illustrated this in President Bill Clinton's time. American embassies and consulates had to shut shop. This precedent has been followed more than once since then. In his classic work *Parliament*, Ivor Jennings summed up the Cabinet system in Britain in these words: "The British government is one of the strongest, if not the strongest, in the world. It normally has at its command a stable parliamentary majority whose support is based on loyalty to the personnel and acceptance of the principles of the party from which the government is drawn, upon dislike of the alternative which would be drawn from the Opposition, and upon the big stick of dissolution which the government can, if need be, wield." Either branch of the latter alternative is, normally, worse than the former alternative. Advocates of the presidential system fall back, in desperation, on the French and Sri Lanka models. Neither is a shining success. Sri Lanka has seen plans for a non-executive President; a yearning for the parliamentary system. As indicated earlier, political diseases can only be cured by political reforms. When the party structure is weak the leadership is rapacious, corrupt and authoritarian. It is the people who must be educated about their rights. They alone can reject political wrongs. To install a presidential system is to go from the frying pan into the fire. People have tried all kinds of legal measures such as anti-defection laws, electoral reform, amendments to various laws. None of these have worked. A democracy is sustained by the awareness of its people and the quality of its political leadership. Where these are lacking, neither the presidential system nor constitutional reform will help. Where these are present, constitutional reforms will not be needed. The failure to appreciate these fundamental truths lies at the root of legal and constitutional tinkering — and the yearning for a presidential system.

By arrangement with Dawn

In hateful times, live those negative emotions fully



Amrit Sadhana

No culture, no education system teaches children how to deal with their natural emotions. They grow up intellectually trained and emotionally loaded. Ignoring or denying feelings only means that they acquire monstrous proportions. Two basic approaches to handle feelings can be helpful: watching and expressing. A *New York Times* article by Tenzin Gyatso, a Buddhist monk, expresses concern about the global effects of our negative feelings: "These are times when

destructive emotions like anger, fear and hatred are giving rise to devastating problems throughout the world. While daily news offers grim reminders of the destructive power of such emotions, the question we must ask is this: What can we do, person by person, to overcome them? I believe that there are practical ways for us as individuals to curb our dangerous impulses — impulses that collectively can lead to war and mass violence. As evidence, I have not only my spiritual practices and the understanding of human existence based on Buddhist teachings but now also the work of scientists."



"When you feel these negative emotions about yourself, don't try to watch them; it is not yet the ripe time to simply live them. I would have suggested to you to be watchful, but the time is not mature, you cannot be. Before you can be totally one with watchfulness, you have to go through the hell of all your negative emotions; otherwise, they will be repressed, and they will erupt at any moment, at any weak time. So it is better to get rid of them. But getting rid of them does not mean you have to be watchful. First, forget about watchfulness. Live each emotion that you feel; it is you. Hateful, ugly, unworthy — whatever it is, you be actually in it. First, give your emotions a chance to come up totally into the conscious. Right now, by your effort of watchfulness you are repressing them into the unconscious, and then you get involved in your day-to-day work, and

you force them back again. That is not the way to get rid of them. Let them come out, live them, suffer them. It will be difficult and tedious, but immensely rewarding. Once you have lived them, suffered them, accepted them, that this is you; that you have not made yourself in this way, so you need not condemn yourself, this is the way you have found yourself. Once your emotions are lived consciously, without any repression, you will be surprised that they start disappearing on their own. Their force on you is becoming less; their grip on your neck is no longer that tight. And when they are going away, there may be a time when you can start watching."

Amrit Sadhana is editor of *Osho Times International*. She facilitates meditation workshops based on Osho insights around the country and abroad.





Not infallible

In a development that shows technology is not infallible, AI company Kneron fools public facial recognition terminals in tests it ran in China using 3D masks

SHORT TAKES



MAX SCHREMS' BATTLE WITH FB MAY END SOON

Brussels, Dec. 15: Austrian privacy activist Max Schrems' seven-year battle against Facebook reaches a crucial point on December 17, when an adviser to Europe's top court will issue his view on whether tools used by companies to transfer data abroad are legal or not.

At stake are standard contractual clauses used by Facebook and hundreds of thousands of companies, ranging from banks to industrial giants to carmakers, to transfer personal data to the US and other parts of the world.

Another issue is whether the EU's Privacy Shield, which came into existence in 2016, designed to protect Europeans' personal data transferred across the Atlantic for commercial use, is lawful or not.

Schrems, an Austrian law student, who successfully fought against the EU's previous privacy rules called Safe Harbour in 2015, challenged Facebook's use of standard clauses on the grounds that they do not offer sufficient data protection safeguards.

GOOGLE GRABS 10M MILES FOR STREET VIEW

Mumbai, Dec. 15: For the first time, Google has revealed how much of the world it has photographed. It is a staggering 10 million miles of Street View imagery and 36 million square miles of Google Earth imagery, according to CNZT.

Google says that it now covers 98 per cent of the places in the world where people live. And the 10 million miles of Street View imagery puts Google miles ahead of competitors like Apple, which has just started to include similar street-level photography in Apple Maps with the release of iOS 13. 'Imagery is the product of everything we do,' Ethan Russell, a director of product at Google Maps, said.

BANK DETAILS OF 29K FB STAFF STOLEN

Mumbai, Dec. 15: Banking data of 29,000 Facebook employees, stored on unencrypted hard drives, was stolen from a payroll worker's car, according to Bloomberg. The hard drives contained information on thousands of US workers who were employed by Facebook in 2018, including bank account numbers, employee names, the last four digits of their social security numbers, their salaries, bonuses, and equity details. Facebook notified its staff of the theft via email on Saturday. Though the stolen drives didn't contain any Facebook user data, the theft still raises questions about Facebook's level of caution around personal data, which seems shockingly low, considering its history of user privacy scandals. The company also failed to notify its staff until almost a month after the theft occurred on Nov. 17. An internal email said the company only realized the hard drives were missing on Nov. 20, and confirmed that the drives contained employee information on Nov. 29.

TikTok owner forms JV with China state media

Amid scrutiny in US, deal focuses on rights of short videos

Shanghai/Beijing, Dec. 15: A unit of ByteDance, the owner of video-sharing platform TikTok, has established a joint venture with a Chinese state media group, official registration documents showed.

The joint venture will focus on partnership in the digital rights of short videos," a ByteDance spokesman said in a response to Reuters inquiries about the deal. ByteDance, one of China's fastest-growing startups in order to feed its leading news aggregator platform, *Jinri Toutiao*.

Under the latest deal, Beijing Liangzi Yuedong Technology Co. Ltd., a wholly owned subsidiary of ByteDance, will own 49 per cent of the new company, Pengpai Audiovisual Technology (China) Co. Ltd., with Shanghai Dongfang Newspaper Co. Ltd. holding the remaining 51 per cent majority stake, the documents from the National Enterprise Credit Information Publicity System showed.

Shandong-based Pengpai Audiovisual was established on December 10 with a registered capital of 10 million yuan, according to the documents. Pengpai is the Chinese name of *ThePaper.cn*, an online newspaper published by Shanghai Dongfang.

LOFTY PROMISES FOR AUTO-CARS UNFULFILLED

New York, Dec. 15: The first driverless cars were supposed to be deployed on a road in the American cities in 2019, but just a few days before the end of the year, the lofty promises of car manufacturers and Silicon Valley remain far from becoming realities.

Recent accidents, such as those involving Tesla cars equipped with Autopilot, a driver assistance software, have shown that "the technology is not ready," said Dan Albert, critic and author of the book *We're There Yet?* on the history of the American automobile.

He questioned the optimistic sales pitch that autonomous cars would help reduce road deaths — 40,000 every year in the United States, mostly due to human error — because these vehicles themselves have caused deaths.

As a result, self-driving maneuvers in the technology-laden vehicles are limited to parking, braking, starting or driving in a parking lot. Autonomous vehicles have only been deployed in limited test projects.

When you're working on the large-scale deployment of mission critical safety systems, the mindset of 'move fast and break things' certainly doesn't cut it, said Dan Ammen, CEO of self-driving car company Cruise. — AFP

US asks Google, Apple on foreign ties of mobile apps

Washington, Dec. 15: The world's two largest economies. TikTok, which is wildly popular with teenagers, is owned by Chinese technology company ByteDance. In a related matter, the Chinese gaming company Beijing Kunlun Tech Co. Ltd has said it would sell popular gay dating app Grindr.

Republican Stephen Lynch, chairman of a subcommittee of the House of Representatives Oversight Committee, said in a statement that he had asked both Google and Apple to tell Congress whether they required app developers to disclose any non-US ties. Concern over China acquiring sensitive data about US citizens through Google's advertising and several sore areas in the relations between the US and China even led to US President Donald Trump's trade war with China.

New Orleans cyberattack fails to steal much data

New Orleans, Dec. 15: Officials announced on Saturday that no data was held for ransom and that a recovery operation is getting underway after a cyberattack a day earlier triggered a shutdown of city government computers in New Orleans.

Chief information officer Kim LaGrue, speaking at a news conference with Mayor LaToya Cantrell and others, said the city hadn't heard from any hackers or received any demands. NOLA.com reported that LaGrue described the cyberattack as 'minor' and that officials expect to move quickly to bring computers fully back online.

The exact nature and extent of the attack were unclear. NOLA.com reported. It added that the mayor said about 4,000 computers will need to be scrubbed as a precaution, and that 400 servers were affected.

Crucial public safety services continued running normally on Saturday as they did during Friday's cyberattack, officials stressed.

However, City Hall offices had to fall back Friday on pen and paper to keep doing business as computers were taken offline and certain offices closed. The city's website was down in what officials described as a precautionary move after Friday's cyberattack. Officials, meanwhile, had posted news of the shutdown on social media. "Out of an abundance of caution, all employees were immediately alerted to power down computers, unplug devices and disconnect from WiFi," the city said Friday on its NOLA Ready Facebook page. Officials had stressed that city financial records

and drawn stars like Ariana Grande and Katy Perry, but the company's ties have faced scrutiny in recent weeks amid a US national security panel's inquiry into the safety of the personal data it handles.

Florida City quiet on ransom demands

Tallahassee, Dec. 15: Florida City remains quiet Saturday that hackers seeking to extort money were responsible for crippling the city's computer systems earlier this week but officials have yet to decide whether they will pay a reported \$1 million ransom.

If they do opt to fork over the money, they may have to dip into Pensacola city coffers: the city of about 32,000 in Florida's Panhandle is not insured for such an attack. Obtaining it in the future is "something that our risk manager will certainly be looking into," said city spokeswoman Kayce Landre.

Landre confirmed that ransomware was behind the attack that brought down the city's computer network over the weekend, less than a day after a student killed three US sailors

and wounded eight other people at a nearby naval air station. The FBI has said the attacks were not connected. The cybersecurity blog, BleepingComputer, reported earlier this week that a group known as Maze claimed responsibility for the attack and was demanding \$1 million from the city.

The Maze hackers claimed they had stolen documents from the city but didn't say whether they had given Pensacola officials a deadline to pay for them or that they had threatened to release the documents if they didn't pay. BleepingComputer editor Lawrence Abrams said the Maze operators had authenticated their identity with proof of a different hack and by posting snippets of email exchanges with his blog on dark-web payment site. — AP

their users," the letters said, noting that some of the data is sensitive. Because of concern about TikTok's under scrutiny from the interagency Committee on Foreign Investment in the US (CFIUS), ByteDance has stepped up efforts to separate the app from much of its Chinese operations.

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MOMENTS OF THE DECADE

On January 1, 2010, Steve Jobs was still CEO of Apple, and the hottest Android phone was the Motorola Droid. Facebook was still an upstart, Uber was not available on the app store, and Tinder, Twitch, and TikTok didn't exist. Taking the long view, the individual stories of the past 10 years give us a view on some of the biggest trends in the past few years. The Verge compiled the 30 moments that made the decade

	2010 January: Google leaves China		2013 May: Adobe commits to Creative Cloud
	June: iPhone 4 launched		June: Snowden reveals PRISM project
	2011 June: Netflix becomes Qwikster		2015 February: Tom Wheeler implements net neutrality
	2011 June: Launch of Twitch		October: Google lets a blind man drive
	July: Netfix becomes Qwikster		December: Paris climate accord signed
	October: Steve Jobs passes away		December: Amazon Echo launched
	2016 November: Trump elected US President		December: Ajit Pai repeals net neutrality
	2018 January: Logan Paul films a dead body in Japan's 'suicide forest'		2019 February: Spotify gets into podcasting
	September: Elon Musk tweets about taking Tesla private, then doesn't		March: Apple cancels AirPower
	November: Wildfires rage through California		June: FCC affirms robotic blocking by default
			December: Larry Page and Sergey Brin leave Google

Instagram

2012 April: Facebook buys Instagram

August: Oculus Rift arrives on Kickstarter

September: Tinder launched

REALME SELL 15 MN HANSET IN FIRST YEAR

New Delhi, Dec 15: Chinese handset maker Realme has become the fastest-growing smartphone brand in India, selling 15 million handsets in the very first year of its operations and is targeting double the sales next year. Its CEO Madhav Sheth said.

Realme, which began as an Oppo sub-brand in May 2018, was promptly spun off into a stand-alone entity and is now taking on bigger rival Xiaomi with similar price points and segments of ₹7,000-20,000 phones.

Unlike other Chinese players like Vivo and Oppo, which are offline-focused with investments in channel marketing and offline distribution, Realme aged the strategy of the market leader closely and focused online from the start.

Sheth had founded the company together with BBK Group founder Sky Li. — PTI

Cool console

Xbox boss Phil Spencer revealed the next Xbox, previously known as Project Scarlett. It is called Xbox Series X, and it is launching next holiday season. It has a brand-new controller, and yes, you can use it horizontally.

Scholar diagnoses 'surveillance capitalism' in tech

Washington, Dec. 15: A being translated into languages and has inspired two small theater productions. She hasn't stood still since.

She has offered input on several pending US privacy bills and wrote a 34-page policy paper for the House Judiciary Committee, which that trust panel is looking into Big Tech's potential abuse of its market dominance.

They were calling it 'digital exhaust' and 'data harvesting'. Zuboff saw that this data wasn't just an unexpected byproduct of online services, says Chris Hoofnagle, a University of California-Berkeley privacy expert. "Tech industry allies denounce Zuboff's thesis as a conspiracy-minded hyperbole and argue that consumers willingly trade their personal data for access to valuable services that don't cost them a cent. But after more than a year of tech-related privacy scandals and margin election-interference and online platform-fueled extremism and the US gov-

Income tax deduction on education loans

Learn to manage health and wealth next year



Money

quick BITES

INDICATORS

Indicator	Value	%
Sensex	41,009.71	+1.05
Nifty 50	12,086.70	+0.96
S&P 500	3,168.80	+0.23
Dollar (₹)	70.70	-0.14
Pound Sterling (₹)	94.33	—
Euro (₹)	78.64	-0.23
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	38,486 + 232	+0.60
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	65.22	+1.02
IN 10-Yr bond yield	6.76	+0.84
US 10-Yr T-bill yield	1.82	-0.70

*As of Saturday

Thapar rejects fund misuse allegations

Citing regular board approvals for various inter-corporate loans, CG Power Industrial Solutions' former non-executive chairman Gautam Thapar has refuted allegations of fund misuse. In a 36-page submission to the Corporate Affairs Ministry early November, Thapar has provided documents on various issues, including inter-corporate loans and minutes of board meetings.

NLC to invest ₹17K cr, to work on coal blocks



NLC India said it is planning to invest more than Rs 17,000 crore for its thermal power projects and has embarked upon afforestation programme in the coal mining area in Odisha. The Navratna company will produce 20 million tonne of coal per annum from Talabira II and III coal blocks to fuel its 4,200 MW of thermal power projects, an NLC official said.

UPL gets nod for pesticide unit expansion

UPL has received green clearance from the government for its Rs 353.43 crore pesticide unit expansion project in the Bharuch District of Gujarat. The environment ministry has given the go-ahead to the PSU for the project based on the inputs of a green panel. The approval has been given with riders that the company should produce banned pesticides/chemicals.

EaseMyTrip files ₹510-cr IPO papers with Sebi

Online travel firm EaseMyTrip has filed draft papers with capital markets regulator Sebi to float a Rs 510 crore initial public offering. Through the IPO, company's founders Nishant Pitti and Rikant Pitti will each sell shares to the tune of Rs 255 crore through the offer-for-sale mechanism, according to draft papers filed with the Sebi. EaseMyTrip.com is operated by Easy Trip Planners Private Ltd.

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

Cash level at mutual funds rises to over ₹1.77 L crore

Equity MF redemptions rise to ₹21K cr in Nov.

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD
MUMBAI, DEC. 15

Mutual fund investors capitalised on the market rally to book profits, leading to a moderation in domestic mutual fund net inflows in November. Redemptions increased 44.1 per cent month-on-month to around Rs 1,000 crore, reducing net inflows to Rs 630 crore, the lowest in seven months.



Company	Market Cap (₹.00)
BALAJI FINANCE	2,281.80
MAHARU SUZUKI INDIA	1,535.40
SHREE CEMENT	749.25
TCS	676.89
INDOSYS	644.69
HINDUSTAN UNILEVER	565.89
ULTRATECH CEMENT	563.77
AMBI HOTELS	52.92
AXIS MOBIS SEZ	52.32
CPLA	48.04

Source: Prime Database

Mutual Fund	Change in cash holdings (in Cr)
HEIC MF	-762.83
SBI MF	-583.97
DKX MF	-337.24
UTI MF	646.27
ICICI Pru MF	604.83
Axis MF	493.45

Source: Prime Database

The combined cash level of 44 mutual fund houses rose by 2,768.27 crore to Rs 1,77,091.79 crore. Top fund houses saw significant changes in their cash levels due to redemptions, according to data compiled by Prime Database. HDFC Mutual Fund's cash level fell by Rs 7,562.83 crore, followed by SBI Mutual Fund (-Rs 5,618.19 crore) and IDFC Mutual Fund (-Rs 3,322.44 crore) while those that raised their cash levels significantly were UTI Mutual Fund (Rs 6,446.29 crore), ICICI Prudential Mutual Fund (Rs 6,084.30 crore) and Axis Mutual Fund (Rs 4,934.4 crore). Among the top-10 fund houses, the highest month-on-month increase in fund assets under management (AUM) was seen in Kotak Mahindra Mutual Fund (4.4 per cent), SBI Mutual Fund (3.5 per cent), UTI Mutual Fund (2.3 per cent), Axis Mutual Fund (1.2 per cent) and DSP Mutual Fund (1.0 per cent). Investors capitalised on the market rally to book profits, leading to a moderation in domestic mutual fund net inflows. Contribution of systematic investment plans (SIPs)

through remained stable at Rs 8,270 crore in November 2019, said a report by Motilal Oswal Financial Services. Gross sales of equity schemes (including ELSS and arbitrage) were up 12 per cent month-on-month (MoM) to Rs 27,300 crore. At the same time, redemptions decreased 37 per cent MoM to Rs 21,000 crore. Consequently, net inflows slowed down from Rs 9,400 crore in October, to Rs 6,300 crore in November, which was the lowest in seven months, Motilal Oswal Financial Services said. "The month saw a notable change in sector and stock allocation of funds. On MoM basis, the weight of NBFCs, Telecom, Banks (Private/PSU), Cement, Healthcare and Metals increased, while that of CapEx, Chemicals, Technology, Oil & Gas, Retail, Automobiles and Utilities moderated." In terms of value increase MoM, five of the top 10 stocks were from Financials: SBI, HDFC, Bajaj Finance, HDFC Bank and ICICI Bank. Bharti Airtel's value increased by Rs 3,550 crore in the month with net buying by 17 funds. Its value in AUM increased by Rs 800 crore, despite the stock declining by 4.1 per cent MoM. Stocks exhibiting a maximum decline in value MoM were Larsen & Toubro, TCS, IOC, ITC and HPCL.

Centre could sell 28% stake in BEML

Kolkata, Dec. 15: The Centre is likely to sell 28 per cent of its stake in BEML through strategic divestment and retain 26 per cent after the dilution of its shareholding in the public sector undertaking, a senior company official said. The government now holds 54.03 per cent stake in the diversified engineering company. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs had given an in-principle approval for strategic divestment of 26 per cent equity shares in BEML. "The government will divest 28 per cent of its stake in the company through strategic divestment and there is no plan to demerge the business vertically," a senior company official said. The Centre has already initiated preparatory work for the divestment, he said. BEML, a mining equipment maker, has diversified into manufacturing of rail coaches and defence production that already accounts for almost half of its current turnover, the official said. The official added that the limited number of large private sector companies are into diversified engineering, including defence. —PTI

Pace of consumer complaint redressal slows over 5 years

SANGEETHA G
CHENNAI, DEC. 15

The pace at which consumer complaints are being disposed has slowed significantly over the past five years. Delay in filling up the vacant posts in different consumer redressal forums is one of the main reasons behind this low rate of disposal. At the end of August this year, 3,46,017 cases have been filed in different consumer forums for violation of consumer's interests. Of this, 5,46,017 cases have been adjudicated as per the norms-Act, Danve Ramesh Babu Datarao, Minister of State for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, said. Going by this data, 2,87,806, or 35 per cent of the consumer complaints are pending. This means the rate of disposal has been 65 per cent in the past five years. As per a recent report, at the end of August this year 38 posts of members in different state commissions, 14 posts of members and 416 posts of members in district forums were lying vacant. The national commission also had four or five posts of presidents vacant due to the delay in filling up the posts. The NCDRC also had recently suggested setting up of in-house mechanism to dispose of cases with petty complaints against public sector undertakings. In many cases, the cost of litigation was more than the amount involved in the case.

FM's pre-Budget meets from today

New Delhi, Dec. 15: Beginning the customary pre-Budget consultation exercise from Monday, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will seek inputs from various stakeholders including industry bodies, think tanks, trade unions and economists for revising consumption and boosting growth.



Sitharaman is likely to begin her second Budget for the Modi 2.0 government in Parliament on February 1. Sources said the pre-Budget consultations start on Monday and will last till December 23. They said the main focus of the Budget this time will be on boosting economic growth, which slowed to an over six-year low of 4.5 per cent in the second quarter of 2019-20. As per the finance ministry, Sitharaman will meet industry bodies, trade unions and economists for revising consumption and boosting growth. They are also demanding asking the overall deduction limit to at least Rs 3 lakh under Section 80C of the Income Tax Act) to boost investments and increase tax savings for individual taxpayers. The finance ministry has already started the Budget preparation exercise, with different ministries and departments making expenditure projections. —PTI

China threatens retaliation if Germany bans Huawei 5G

TONY CZUZKA & STEVEN ARONS
DEC. 15

China's ambassador to Germany threatened Berlin with retaliation if it excludes Huawei Technologies Co as a supplier of 5G wireless equipment, citing the millions of value of German earmarks sell in China. "If Germany were to take a decision that leads to Huawei's exclusion from the German market, there will be consequences."

China suspends US tariffs

Beijing, Dec. 15: Beijing suspended additional tariffs on US products that had been due to kick in on Sunday after Washington and Beijing announced a major thaw in their trade war. China's ministry suspended the planned addition of 10 per cent and 5 per cent tariffs on some US imports, and "continue to suspend additional tariffs on US-made auto and spare parts," China's ministry announced on Sunday. —AFP

Discoms' dues to gencos rise 48% in Oct.

New Delhi, Dec. 15: Power producers' total outstanding dues owed by distribution companies against public sector to Rs 81,010 crore in October 2019 over the same month last year, adding stress in the sector. Distribution companies (discoms) owed a total of Rs 54,654 crore power generation companies in October 2018, up from Rs 49,800 crore in Praapti (Payment Ratification And Analysis in Future) portal for bringing transparency in invoicing of generators.

Vintage vehicles to get 'VA' tag



New Delhi, Dec. 15: In a respite for enthusiasts and collectors of vintage cars, classic vehicles of more than 50 years of age may flash special number plates and enjoy exemption from scrappage once the regulation for these vehicles are formalised. For facilitating regulation and registration of old vintage vehicles, the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has come out with a draft notification that provides for a special number plate with 'VA' letters signifying vintage in the registration number. "It is expedient to provide for the preservation of vintage vehicles owing to their historic, cultural, technical and aesthetic significance," the draft notification said. The regulation of vintage motor vehicles older 2019 mentions that these vehicles will display high-security registration plates bearing a registration number of the form "XXVAVY" where VA stands for vintage, XX stands for state code and



YY will be a two letter series followed by a number from 01 to 99 allotted by the state authority. The proposed policy for which comments have been sought from the stakeholders and people will help identify and regulate vintage vehicles, exempting them from scrappage. The move is also aimed at helping collectors of such vehicles avoid hassles from enforcement agencies, an official said. The draft notification states that this special registration will allow the vehicle to be piloted on public roads under a wider variety of circumstances, excluding commercial use. —PTI

Marginal rise in cotton yarn demand seen

RITVIK MUKHERJEE
KOLKATA, DEC. 15

Cotton yarn demand may see rather slow growth this year because of the weak crude market. Crude oil prices are expected to moderate in FY20 in the face of increasing US oil production and the overall weak world economy. The monetisation in crude prices would make cotton yarn's substitute, MMF (synthetic yarn), remained strong during FY19 on account of high demand from China, coupled with competitive

Commodity Compass

prices in the international market. However, domestic yarn demand continues to be sluggish with substitution taking place from man-made fibres (MMF). Interestingly, in FY19, nearly 35-40 per cent of the total cotton yarn were exported to China (465 million tonne), followed by Bangladesh (18 per cent, or 225 million tonne), Pakistan (5 per cent, or 61 million tonne), Egypt (8 million tonne), Vietnam (3-4 per cent, or 43 million tonne). India imports only 5-7 million tonne of cotton yarn, primarily from China, Vietnam, Indonesia and Sri Lanka. Despite Chinese yarn manufacturers setting up operations in Vietnam, India is expected to remain the largest exporter of cotton yarn in the world, Care said. The Cotton Association of India (CAI), earlier this month, had pegged cotton output at 35.45 million bales and exports at 4.2 million bales. This is notwithstanding the fact that the crop estimate for Gujarat, which has been reduced by 4 lakh bales (from 100 lakh bales to 96 lakh bales) on account of crop damage from heavy rains and pink bollworm infestation. There is also a dip in the production estimate from heavy rain and pink bollworm infestation. However, the output from Maharashtra and Telangana has been raised higher by 3 lakh bales each, to 83 lakh bales and 51 lakh

bales, respectively. The improved prospects in Maharashtra and Telangana will help India retain its overall cotton output for the 2019-20 season at 35.45 lakh bales (each of 170 kg). Cotton shipment to China in FY20 is projected to 2019, to November 30, 2019, stood at 5 lakh bales. The total exports for the year are projected at 42 lakh bales. Cotton prices in the domestic markets hovered around Rs 41,900 per candy (of 356 kg ginned cotton of 29 mm variety). —PTI

Brokers BYTES

Asset quality improved at Mahindra FS

Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services Ltd (MFS) is an NBFC, which serves the financing needs of India's rural and semi-urban population. It provides vehicle financing, SME loans, etc. It reported net interest income growth of 10 per cent to ₹1,570 crore in Q2 FY20 on year-on-year basis. Provisions and write-offs increased 65.2 per cent to ₹400 crore in Q2 FY20. Loan book growth was flat on quarter on quarter basis at ₹1,400 crore. Asset quality improved, with gross non-performing assets at 7.2 per cent as on September 30, 2019 (stage 3) were at 5.8 per cent as on September, 30 2019. The management stated that the additional provision of ₹40 crore and adjustments for deferred tax assets (DTA) impacted quarterly profits. The management also claimed that the impact of the performance can be linked to the heavy monsoon days lost due to extreme monsoons in major markets such as UP, Bihar, Maharashtra and MP. Given the strong recent price performance, the broking house accorded a buy rating.

Broking firm: Standard Chartered
Rating: Buy
Closing price: ₹341.10

New contracts to help Ashoka Buildcon

Though softened from Q1, Ashoka Buildcon's Q2 growth was still good, coming in the backdrop of the heavy monsoons. With the rains now past, and as work gets going at the two recently appointed hybrid annuity and the conditions, growth ahead is expected to be healthy. The balance sheet, too, is in shape to ensure growth doesn't falter for want of funds. Inflows could have been better; the expected year-end spurt in awarding should help. In the BOT segment, the monsoon added to constrained economic activity, and to a project-specific issue. On the stronger-than-expected margins and shift to the new tax regime, the broking house has raised its forecast for 2020 profit after tax by 64 per cent due to the low base (owing to losses in the SPVs). On the revised estimates, the stock trades at 6x FY21e, against a target price-implied exit multiple of 12x FY21e. On the sturdy balance sheet and benign valuations, the broking house retains its buy rating.

Broking firm: Anand Rathi
Rating: Buy
Closing price: ₹94.30

Commodity prices to boost Marico's margin

Marico has initiated a steep price off of 13 per cent for 100 ml Parachute packs in December. The price offs in other packs are expected to be lower with overall five per cent reduction in Parachute portfolio. With this move, management expects to drive more upgrades and grab share from unorganised players and competitors which should improve volumes from Q4. The broking house slashed FY20-22E EPS by 3-5 per cent due to weak demand trends and maintains a Buy recommendation with a revised target price of ₹410.

Broking firm: Emkay
Rating: Buy
Closing price: ₹334.15

Pollution & Climate Change: Learn to manage health and wealth next year

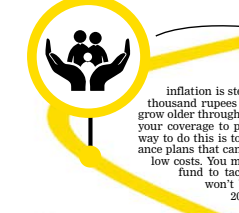
Ideas to deal with worsening climate indicators in the next decade

Money talk
Adhil Shetty



IMPACT ON YOUR HEALTH

India is one of the countries expected to be the most severely impacted by the climate emergency. As per the National Health Portal, a combination of severe heat, extreme weather events, water and food shortage, increasing allergens, air pollution, and social problems such as forced migration would precipitate serious health complications. Various forms of pollution are also linked to health complications. As per the World Health Organisation, 4.2 million premature deaths globally are linked to ambient air pollution which causes lung cancer, respiratory infections, strokes, heart and pulmonary diseases. Health problems also precipitate debilitating financial problems. So how can one prepare for these problems that are likely to get worse with time?



KEEP TIPPING UP YOUR COVERAGE

It isn't enough to just own coverage. Every few years, you'll have to assess your health risks and decide if you need additional coverage. After all, healthcare inflation is steeper than regular cost inflation. A treatment that costs a few thousand rupees today may easily cost lakhs of rupees in the future. As you grow older through the 2020s, and as your health risks increase, you must expand your coverage to protect your finances better. A simple way to do this is to buy top-up or super top-up insurance plans that can provide additional insurance at low costs. You must also prepare an emergency fund to tackle any healthcare costs that won't be covered by insurance. The 2020s are going to be an exciting time and change is expected to happen at break-neck speeds.

IN THE 2020S, YOU NEED TO BE COVERED

Health insurance is often seen as a tax-saving product. This is a folly. Sure, health insurance earns you useful tax deductions up to ₹50,000 under Section 80D of the Income Tax Act. You can get additional deductions up to ₹50,000 for buying health insurance for dependent parents. However, tax savings shouldn't be the only reason why you buy insurance of any kind. You buy insurance to keep your finances safe against various risks and also to be able to cashlessly avail a variety of hospital treatments. In the 2020s, as your health risks exacerbate, you must have coverage for all members of your family. This should ideally be over and above employer-sponsored insurance. You could buy an individual cover or a family floater for your family and another for your parents. You will be well-advised to have comprehensive coverage with exclusions such as coverage of pre-and post-hospitalisation, even if it means paying more.

WORRYING HEALTH INSURANCE DATA

Health insurance is one of the best ways to counter health problems and the steep costs of hospitalisation. But even in this regard, India's statistics are worrying. This week, a report published by the National Survey Office said that only 10 per cent of the poorest Indians had health insurance. Shockingly, the levels of coverage don't improve with income. The report says that of the 20 per cent of the richest Indians surveyed, a whopping 67 per cent urban Indians and 78 per cent rural Indians also didn't have coverage. While the Ayushman Bharat scheme helps in covering the poorest, a vast majority of Indians have no coverage and are therefore at severe financial risk. For them, a hospitalisation could easily lead to depletion of their life savings, accumulation of high-cost debt, and falling behind on life goals such as their child's education or raise a retirement corpus. This trend is reflected in many insurance advertisements, where people postpone buying insurance because nothing can go wrong. But a lot can and does go wrong.



Tax deduction for edu loans

Q I am an employee working as a mechanical engineer. I have taken an education loan of ₹12 lakhs from a bank for my daughter's higher education at the United Kingdom. I am repaying the loan with principal and interest. Am I eligible for any income tax exemption as I have been told that exemption is given for studies in India only?

NAMAN SHAW
Via email

A) As per the provisions of section 80E of the Income Tax Act, deduction in respect of interest on loan taken for higher education shall be allowed as a deduction subject to the following conditions:
 ■ The assessee is an individual; and
 ■ The assessee has actually paid the amount out of his income chargeable to tax during the previous year. The deduction is allowable only for the interest paid on loan (and not principal repayment).
 ■ The loan was taken by him from any financial institution (including bank) or any approved charitable institution for the purpose of pursuing higher education either for himself or for his relative (relative for the purpose of this clause means the spouse and children of the individual or the spouse of the individual for whom the individual is the legal guardian).
 In computing, the total amount of interest paid as deduction, this deduction is allowed for the initial assessment year (ie, the relevant assessment year to the year of commencement of payment of interest) and for seven successive assessment years or until the interest on such loan is paid by the assessee in full, whichever is earlier.
 There is no restriction under section 80E regarding the place of education. Therefore, you can claim the deduction of the entire interest paid during the financial year under section 80E subject to fulfilling of the above conditions.

Q I have been regularly paying premium for a life insurance policy, which is in the name of my wife for last five years. But I am not filing her income tax returns because her income is below the taxable limit. I have been informed that I will not be eligible to claim deduction under Section 80C on the insurance premium paid by me, since she is not an income tax assessee. Is this true? If so, will I have any problems for the deduction claimed by me over the years?

SUBHASH
Via email

A) According to Section 80C the life insurance premium paid by an individual, at any time during the previous year, for deduction, if such premium is paid by an individual for himself/herself, his/her spouse or for children whether dependent or not. It is not at all necessary that the person for whom the premium is paid should be an income-tax assessee. The requisite as per law is only that the premium paid by the assessee is for the persons specified above. Hence, you will not have any problem in respect of deduction claimed by you for earlier years as well.

Q I have recently retired from my job at the age of 61. Will depositing my savings in the Senior Citizens Savings Scheme in the name of my wife save tax?

M. CHANDRAMOHAN
Via email

A) The deposits in your wife's name will not help you in saving taxes as clubbing provisions of the Income Tax Act will become applicable. Senior citizens can claim a deduction of ₹50,000 for any interest earned on deposits with banks or post office under Section 80TTB of the Income-Tax Act.
 (The writer is a chartered accountant. He can be reached at info@rathindmalanis.com)

TOP 10 BANKS WITH LOWEST INTEREST ON HOME LOAN

EMI on Loans Up To ₹30 Lakh For 20-Year Tenure		
Lender's Name	Interest rate (% pa)	EMI (In ₹)
Punjab National Bank	7.95-8.45	25,000-25,940
Bank Of India	8.1-9.0	25,280-26,992
Bank Of Baroda	8.15-9.15	25,374-27,282
Union Bank	8.2-8.35	25,468-25,751
SBI	8.2-8.55	25,468-26,130
IDBI	8.25-8.8	25,562-26,607
HDFC Bank	8.35-9.45	25,751-27,866
Axis Bank	8.55-9.2	26,130-27,379
ICICI Bank	8.55-9.4	26,130-27,768
Kotak Bank	8.6-9.4	26,225-27,768

Compiled by BankBazaar.com using data from respective banks. Rates are based on the floating interest rate. Interest rate may be subject to revision after a specified tenure and are correct as on Dec. 11, 2019. Actual EMI may include other charges.

RAMESH, 45 years
PROFESSION: Private employee
DEPENDENTS: Two

Financial planning
By L. Ravindran

WHILE PLANNING IS CRITICAL TO OUR FINANCIAL WELL-BEING, IT HAS BECOME INEVITABLE IN THE UNCERTAIN TIMES WE NOW LIVE IN.

DR RAVINDRAN ANALYSES YOUR FINANCIALS AND LAYS OUT A ROADMAP FOR ACHIEVING FINANCIAL GOALS

ASSUMPTIONS

(i) LONGEVITY HAS BEEN PROJECTED AT 85 YEARS; (ii) THE RETIREMENT IS PLANNED AT AGE 60; (iii) COST OF LIVING GROWS AT 8% PER ANNUM; (iv) EARNINGS ON SAVINGS AND INVESTMENTS GROW AT 10 PER CENT PER ANNUM (iii) INCOME IS ASSUMED TO BE GROWING AT 8% IN LINE WITH INFLATION.

(L. Ravindran is a certified financial planner and managing director of Wealthmax Enterprises Management Pvt Ltd. Readers can send their queries to ravindran.manipal@gmail.com)

WHERE DOES SHE STAND NOW?

Income	₹35 lakh
Expenses (includes household expenses)	₹24 lakh
Net disposable income	₹11 lakh

NET WORTH

Asset	Value
Savings	₹80 lakh
EPF	₹33 lakh
House	₹160 lakh
Car	₹27 lakh
TOTAL	₹300 LAKH

FINANCIAL GOALS (AT CURRENT COSTS):

Expenses	At cost
Child's education and marriage	₹50 lakh
Post-retirement expenses	₹480 lakh

₹5.3 CR

PLAN OF ACTION

Retirement is 20 years from now. Health insurance is not taken care of by employer. The disposable surplus of ₹11 lakh per annum, which is for the next 15 years, until retirement, can be placed in the following proportion.

- Term assurance of ₹1 crore may be taken for about 20 years which shall cost about ₹25,000 per year.
- Contribute ₹1.5 lakh per year in PPF in the name of his son for the next 15 years which will be valued at ₹44.37 lakh growing at 8 per cent p.a. at maturity.
- Unit linked pension plan may be undertaken so as to gain on an upside, with a 15-year horizon. A sum of about ₹1.05 lakh per year over 15 years will yield a future value of ₹30.79 lakh with eight per cent a year growth.
- Invest ₹75,000 a month in a systematic investment plan of balanced (equity and debt) aggregating to ₹9 lakh over the next 15 years. This will help in creating a corpus of ₹1.35 crore at cost (₹2.63 crore) in value terms if growth is aimed at eight per cent a year. This will help him to build up the retirement corpus fully. This fund can be placed in a safe debt fund to earn monthly dividends at retirement.
- The PPF and pension plan can be used to buy an immediate pension policy at retirement.
- Bank deposits may be converted into a tax free bond upto an extent of ₹50 lakh immediately, maturing 12 years from date.



I'm sorry that we came up short and I take my responsibility for it
— Jeremy Corbyn
UK Labour Party leader

IN BRIEF

Lam in China, protests in HK

Hong Kong: Small groups of anti-government protesters gathered in shopping malls across Hong Kong on Sunday amid sporadic scuffles with riot police, with chief executive Carrie Lam away on a visit to Beijing. In the peak shopping season ahead of Christmas, groups of masked protesters, clad in black, marched through malls chanting slogans including "Fight for freedom" and "Return justice to us", in the Telford Plaza mall in Kowloon Bay, skirmishes broke out with riot police, who used pepper spray on crowds and wrestled several people to the ground before taking them away.

US envoy in South Korea

Incheon: Stephen Biegun, the US special envoy to North Korea, arrived in South Korea on Sunday as Pyongyang stepped up pressure on US to make concessions to revive stalled denuclearisation talks ahead of a year-end deadline. Biegun's arrival came a day after North Korea said it made another "crucial test" at a rocket launch site to develop a strategic weapon to deter US nuclear threats. Analysts said such tests could help North Korea build more reliable intercontinental ballistic missiles capable of reaching the US. Biegun plans to meet with South Korean President Moon Jae-in on Monday, as part of his three-day stay before leaving for Tokyo to consult with his Japanese counterpart.

Smoke on Qantas Sydney flight

Sydney: Passengers on a Qantas flight from Sydney to Perth on Sunday were ordered to evacuate the Airbus A330 after it was forced to return as the cabin filled with smoke. Qantas said flight 575 returned to Sydney shortly after takeoff due to a hydraulic issue. Once back at the gate, the captain made the decision to evacuate the aircraft as a precaution and three emergency slides were deployed, the airline said in a statement. It said passengers were evacuated through the flight slides and normal exits. "They came and got us to the gate and everything was fine. And next thing he (pilot) goes, evacuate, evacuate, evacuate, like in a calm but firm, loud voice," said passenger Niamh Champion. "And so instantly everyone jumps off and they're thinking, Oh my God. I thought there was smoke, or a fire or, you know, something."

MORALES LIKELY TO BE ARRESTED

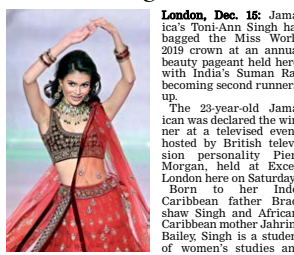
Sanandita: Bolivia will issue an arrest warrant in the coming days against former leftist president Evo Morales, accusing him of sedition, interim Bolivian President Jeanine Anez said. Morales is in Argentina, granted refugee status this week just days after the inauguration of new President Alberto Fernandez. Peronist Fernandez succeeded outgoing conservative Argentine leader Mauricio Macri, who lost his bid for re-election in October. Morales had spent the previous month in Mexico in the wake of a highly-contested October election in Bolivia. He had proclaimed victory after his government was accused of manipulating the vote results. Morales, who had been in power nearly 14 years, left Bolivia as the controversy grew. Anez said, "The arrest warrant will be issued in the next few days, because we have already brought the charges."



Newly-crowned Miss World 2019 Miss Jamaica Toni-Ann Singh (from left) reacts at the Excel arena in east London. Jamaican beauty celebrates her winning moment with family. (Below), Miss India Suman Rao, performs at the event.

Jamaica beauty is Miss World, Miss India is 2nd runner-up

Toni-Ann Singh wins crown while India's Suman Rao bags third position



SNP VOWS INDEPENDENCE PUSH IN UK

London, Dec. 15: Prime Minister Boris Johnson has won the majority he needs to push through Brexit, but he faces another big challenge from Scotland, where the independence-minded Scottish National Party and its leader Nicola Sturgeon have surged to a commanding position. The dynamic Sturgeon, 49, is leader of the Scottish National Party, which dominates the political scene, and as such she is Scotland's first minister. She took over the party's top post in 2014 after it lost a hard fought referendum on independence from the UK. Independence for Scotland has long been her primary political goal. Opponents say they wish she would sometimes talk about other objectives, but her party's surge in election suggests her popularity remains high. On her day of triumph, she chose to directly challenge Johnson and the British establishment by saying she would push hard, starting next week, for another referendum. Sturgeon and her party are dead set on holding a referendum on Scottish independence, despite firm opposition from Johnson, who says his government would not authorise a vote on the matter. A Scottish breakaway would thrust a dagger into the heart of the United Kingdom, creating a crisis that Johnson is determined to avoid as he tries to manage the difficult Brexit, his main focus. — AP

London, Dec. 15: Jamaica's Toni-Ann Singh has bagged the Miss World 2019 crown at an annual beauty pageant held here, with India's Suman Rao becoming second runner-up. The 23-year-old Jamaican was declared the winner at a televised event, hosted by British television personality Piers Morgan, held at ExCeL London here on Saturday. Born to her Indo-Caribbean father Bradshaw Singh and African-Caribbean mother Jahriem Bailey, Singh is a student of women's studies and psychology at Florida State University and she aspires to be a medical doctor. She was crowned by last year's winner, Vanessa Ponce de Leon of Mexico. Singh celebrated her win on Instagram, expressing gratitude to her fellow Jamaicans for believing in her. "My heart is filled with love and gratitude. Thank you so much for believing in me. You pushed me to believe in myself. I am not only honoured but humbled to be the 68th Miss World." "Thank you to my family and to my friends. The love and support you poured into me now allows me to pour into the world. My mother @jahriembailey, I love you I love you I love you. I wish to become even half the woman you are. You are my strength, my number one supporter/cheerleader/fan and my absolute best friend," she said. "Please know that you are worthy and capable of achieving your dreams. This crown is not mine but yours. It's for you to truly understand that no matter where you're from and the cards you're dealt in life — your dreams are valid. You have a PURPOSE," she added. Singh is the fourth Jamaican to win the coveted pageant. The country has previously won Miss World titles in 1963, 1976 and 1983. She was closely followed by France's Ophely Mezzino, who was adjudged first runner-up, while India's Suman Rao was declared second runner-up. Rao, 20, a CA student hailing from Rajasthan, was crowned Miss India World 2019 in June this year. — PTI

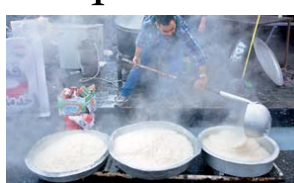
May peace prevail



Members of a civil society group release lanterns into the sky to pay tribute to victims of an attack on a Peshawar school in 2014, during a ceremony marking the fifth anniversary of the attack, in Lahore, Pakistan on Sunday. Pakistani Taliban militants attacked an army-run school in Peshawar, killing 150, mostly kids in 2014. — AP

FOOD FOR ENERGY ■ Constant supply of food has been integral to keeping the momentum going in Baghdad

Iraqi cuisine unites protesters at Tahrir Square



A volunteer chef prepares rice to be served to Iraqi protesters as part of a free meal, at the center of Baghdad's Tahrir Square. — AP

Baghdad, Dec. 15: In Baghdad's Tahrir Square, there are the anti-government protesters demonstrating for a better future for Iraq, and there are the volunteers who feed them. From stuffed lamb and fish, to the giant pots of soups and rice, to the plates of lentils and other beans, there is no shortage of food to go around. Volunteers from the capital and southern provinces cook traditional dishes that reflect the country's rich cuisine and bring protesters together. Tahrir Square has been the focal point for the protests that have continued to roll Iraq since Oct. 1. The spontaneous, leaderless demonstrations were organised on social media over long-standing grievances including government corruption, unemployment and a lack of basic services. For many, the square in central Baghdad has become a miniature model for the kind of state they dream of, where factional and sectarian politics play no part and public services exist. Services, including the near-constant supply of food, have been integral to keeping people in the square, but volunteers are eyeing a gradual drop in donations with concern. Iraqis are used to com-

munal meals and many volunteer food. Every year, during the annual Shiite religious commemoration known as Ashura, volunteers prepare food for pilgrims making their way to their sects' holy shrines in the city of Karbala. Shortly after the protests started on Oct. 1, volunteers began setting up similar tents to cook and distribute traditional Iraqi dishes for the protesters in the city's Tahrir Square. "We make it for the hungry people, and people in need here in Tahrir

Square," said a woman. On any given day, people can be seen lining up to fill plastic dishes with food. Known as Ashura, the free food is important to help sustain the protest movement, especially for those who are unable to eat meat on a regular basis. But it's not the main reason protesters are staying. After more than two months of protests, Iraqis worry that support for the movement is dwindling. There's a lot of pressure and threats targeting the volunteers. — AP

UN climate talks end without deal

Madrid, Dec. 15: Marathon international climate talks ended on Sunday with negotiators postponing until next year a key decision on how to regulate global carbon markets. After two weeks of negotiations in Madrid on tackling global warming, delegates from almost 200 nations passed declarations calling for greater ambition in cutting planet-heating greenhouse gases and in helping poor countries that are suffering the effects of climate change. But despite holding the longest climate talks ever in 25 nearly annual editions they left one of the thorniest issues for the next summit in Glasgow, in a year's time. Carbon markets put a price on emission of carbon dioxide, the main greenhouse gas, and allows countries or companies to trade emissions permits that can be steadily reduced, encouraging the uptake of low-emission technologies.

Meanwhile, Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg got into a Twitter spat with German railway service Deutsche Bahn (DB). Thunberg, 16, provoked a testy reaction from Germany's oft-maligned rail operator when she tweeted from a DB train on her journey home from the COP25 climate summit in Madrid. "Traveling on overcrowded trains through Germany. And I'm finally on my way home!" wrote Thunberg about a picture of herself sitting on the floor of a carriage surrounded by suitcases. DB responded testily, pointing out that Thunberg had travelled in first class during her journey through Germany. — AP

Climate activist Greta Thunberg tweeted a picture of her being stuck on floor of crowded German train on her way back home after climate talks. — Twitter



B'wood with less dancing: Trump Jr on dad's regime

New York, Dec. 15: Donald Trump Jr, the eldest son of US President Donald Trump, said he wants the United States to work with "its incredible allies" like India to make the world a safer place and use democracy as a shining beacon of light for everyone to learn from. Speaking at a special event, Trump Jr, who has authored 'Triggered: How the Left Thrives on Hate and Wants to Silence Us' spoke about his book, his father and ties with India. While addressing the Indian community in New York, Donald Trump Jr said it is a great honour for him to be with the incredible Indian-American community. Speaking about POTUS, Trump Jr said his father's presidency has been a "wonderful journey and a wonderful adventure". "We do have a long year ahead. It'll be entertaining because my father will keep it so, I promise you that. It will be like Bollywood with a lot less dancing. But it will be fun, I can assure you." — DONALD TRUMP JR, US president's son



He further said how he was the first in the Trump Organisation to say that the US should work with India and "start doing some deals there" in the real estate sector. "It was interesting, and certainly a little bit of a culture shock, it also made me appreciate the entrepreneurial spirit that so resides in my friends in the Indian community — that notion that you get a deal, go and get whatever it takes to make something happen and make it go," he added. At the event, Trump Jr was joined by senior advisor to Donald Trump's 2020 Presidential Campaign and former Fox News host, Kimberly Guilfoyle, who is referring to the 'Howdy, Modi!' event in Houston on September 22 that highlighted the great relationship between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Trump. Guilfoyle said, "We look forward to continuing the great success in bilateral relations." — ANI

I can assure you it's going to be very important for all of us to be engaged, to be in the game," Donald Trump Jr told the Indian American community. Underscoring the business ties that the Trump Organisation has in India, the US President's eldest son said, "My background with India and even Indian-Americans goes back quite far."

Pak declared best holiday spot

SHAFQAT ALI IDC ISLAMABAD, DEC. 15 Pakistan has been declared the best holiday destination by famous British Tourism Magazine Condé Nast Traveller. In its report, the magazine said Pakistan had taller peaks than China and Nepal combined, making it a magnetic spot for travellers and hikers. It said ancient valleys, relaxed visa restrictions and a high-profile royal visit in the offing meant this remarkable country is finally getting the focus it deserves. The report said Pakistan was a place of exquisite landscapes, where green spaces are overlooked by towering mountains. All well with Saudi: FM Pakistan foreign minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi has said there was no mis-

understanding between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, rather the incumbent government has removed the ones created in the past. He said the elements designed to disintegrate the Muslim world are creating such perceptions. Qureshi said having cordial ties with Saudi Arabia and Malaysia and other GCCs as a founding member, Pakistan is supposed to play its role to improve the strained ties.

3
I am disappointed with the results of the UN climate summit
— Antonio Guterres, UN chief

BRIEF

'Bombshell' focuses on nonpartisan issue'

Los Angeles: Filmmaker Jay Roach says the audience should leave their political affiliations aside when they watch his film *Bombshell* as it explores an issue which is "nonpartisan". The film centres around the sexual harassment and misconduct scandal surrounding the late Fox News boss Roger Ailes. It features Charlize Theron as Megyn Kelly and Nicole Kidman as Gretchen Carlson, the two women who were instrumental in the downfall of Roger Ailes. Margot Robbie also stars as Kayla Pospisil. — PTI

Kristen: Proud of Charlie's Angels'

Los Angeles: Kristen Stewart is not feeling "guttured" over middling performance of her latest *Charlie's Angels* as she is really proud of the film. The actor featured as one of the titular Angels in the reboot of the iconic action franchise made famous by Cameron Diaz, Drew Barrymore and Lucy Liu in the early 2000s. The Elizabeth Banks-directed movie could not do wonders at the box office. But Stewart is not bummed out by lack of financial success. — PTI



Styles takes queries on his sexuality

Washington: English singer Harry Styles addressed the questions on his sexuality. During an interview with the *Guardian*, Styles explained his audacious fashion when he donned a lace blue tulle and pearl earring at the 2019 Met Gala. He said, "What women wear. What men wear. For me, it's not a question of that. If I see a nice shirt and get told, 'But it's for ladies.' I think: 'Okaaaay? Doesn't make me want to wear it less though, I think the moment you feel more comfortable with yourself, it all becomes a lot easier.'" — ANI

EXPECTING MOM ASHLEY 'NEVER FELT BETTER'

Washington: American plus-size model Ashley Graham is just one month away from giving birth to her first child with husband Justin Ervin. The supermodel has been honest about the prospect of her pregnancy and in a recent social media post, she revealed that she never felt better. The 32-year-old opened up in a post where she got candid about gaining weight during her pregnancy. The star began her caption that read, "Throughout my pregnancy so far I've gained 50lbs. And the best part is, I don't care, I have never felt better, and I am so thankful that my body and my son have allowed me to be as mobile and flexible as I have been." The star also admitted to being in between working out, yoga, acupuncture and lymphatic massages, she finally feels that she has figured out this whole pregnancy thing and how to feel her best. In a candid interview with *Vogue*, Graham shared the roller-coaster of emotions she felt during her pregnancy, earlier this month. The expectant mother said, "When I do go out, I'm usually the life of the party. Now all anyone wants to talk to me about is being pregnant..." — ANI



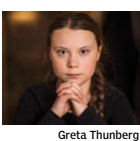
Irish rock band U2 singer Bono with band members performs during a concert in Navi Mumbai on Sunday. — PTI



Miss Denmark Natasa Kunde (from left), Miss Italy Adele Sammartino, Miss France Ophely Meziuno and Miss USA Emory Cuelver perform at the 69th annual Miss World competition at the Excel Centre in London on Saturday as 120 national representatives from around the world competed for the famous blue crown. — AP

Greta sorry for 'put leaders against the wall' comment

Turin: Greta Thunberg has apologised for saying world leaders should be "put against the wall" in a speech, BBC reported. The teenage climate activist made the comment while addressing a Fridays For Future protest in Turin, Italy. In English the phrase is associated with execution by firing squad, but Ms Thunberg said it had a different meaning in her native language Swedish. "That's what happens when you improvise speeches in a second language," she added on Saturday. Ms Thunberg was speaking in Turin after attending the UN climate summit COP25 in the Spanish capital Madrid. She said she feared the world would not lead to adequate climate action, and that activists should continue to take world leaders to task. "World leaders are still trying to run away from their responsibilities, but we have to make sure they cannot do that," she said. "We will make sure that we put them against the wall, and they will have to do their job to protect our futures." After some initial concern over her use of the phrase — which usually means to execute people by firing squad, against a wall — she tweeted a clarification. "Yesterday I said we must hold our leaders accountable and unfortunately said 'put them against the wall', she wrote. "That's Swenglish: 'att ställa någon mot väggen' (to put someone against the wall) means to hold someone accountable." She said: "... I apologise if anyone misunderstood this." — Agencies



Greta Thunberg capital Madrid. She said she feared the world would not lead to adequate climate action, and that activists should continue to take world leaders to task. "World leaders are still trying to run away from their responsibilities, but we have to make sure they cannot do that," she said. "We will make sure that we put them against the wall, and they will have to do their job to protect our futures." — Agencies

Man smacks journo's butt on live TV, gets arrested

Savannah: A Georgia man who was videotaped slapping a female reporter's bottom on live TV was arrested on Friday on a misdemeanor charge of sexual battery. A Savannah police spokeswoman, Bianca Johnson, confirmed that Thomas Callaway, 43, of Statesboro was charged in connection with the incident that occurred while WSAV-TV reporter Alex Bozarian was broadcasting live as runners streamed past her. "The conduct displayed toward Alex Bozarian during her live coverage of Saturday's Savannah Bridge Run was reprehensible," the Savannah TV station said. "No one should ever be disrespectful in this manner. The safety and protection of our employees is WSAV-TV's highest priority." Jail records showed Callaway was booked on Friday afternoon. His attorney, Joseph Turner, declined to comment. Video from Bozarian's live broadcast last Saturday posted online showed one of the passing runners appearing to swat her. — AP

Denman Glacier: Deepest point on land found in Antarctica

New York: A new study shows that the deepest point on land is under the Denman Glacier in East Antarctica. Glaciologists at the University of California, Irvine, were mapping the area only to find that the trough under the glacier went far deeper than they had imagined, CNN reported. The trough is about 3.5 km below sea level but there is no ocean water there. Instead, it is filled with ice flowing from the interior of the ice sheet towards the coast. The "biggest challenge to the project is that Antarctica is HUGE!" he said. "It's bigger than the US and Mexico combined." — Agencies

Animal rights activists seek banning castrating young male pigs sans anaesthetic Little piggy goes to court: German piglets 'sue over castration'

Berlin: Little piggies go to market, but in Germany they also go to court. In a legal first, animal rights activists have asked Germany's top court to ban the practice of castrating young male pigs without anaesthetic — with the piglets themselves listed as the plaintiffs. The painful procedure has become increasingly controversial in Europe and has been banned in Sweden, Norway and Switzerland. Farmers argue that the castration of piglets a few days after birth is necessary to prevent "boar taint" — the occasional occurrence of a foul smell when cooking pork from male pigs past puberty. The German Parliament outlawed castration without pain relief in 2013 but it offered farmers a five-year transition period to help them adapt to the change — a timeline that was extended last year until 2021. Outraged by the inaction, the Peta campaign group filed a lawsuit with Germany's constitutional court in November on behalf of the baby pigs. The group wants judges to recognise that pigs have rights similar to human rights and that these are being violated by the "cruel act" of castration without pain relief. "Non-human entities like companies and associations have legal personhood. So why not animals too?" said lawyer Cornelia Ziehm, who is supporting Peta in representing the piglets in court. Farmers argue that the castration of piglets a few days after birth is necessary to prevent "boar taint", the occasional occurrence of a foul smell when cooking pork from male pigs past puberty. The German Parliament outlawed castration without pain relief in 2013 but it offered farmers a five-year transition period to help them adapt to the change — a timeline that was extended last year until 2021. Peta argues that under German law, animals cannot be harmed without reasonable explanation. "The castration of piglets — with or without anaesthesia — is in clear violation of this, giving Germany's male piglets only one option: to sue for the enforcement of their rights in court," the group said in a statement. The crux of the case is their argument that in Germany "everyone (Jedermann) can file a constitutional complaint if they believe their basic rights have been violated — even a pig. But Jens Buelte, a law professor at Mannheim university, doubted whether the judges in Karlsruhe would see it the same way. "Animals do not have their own rights under German law," he said, giving Peta's lawsuit "little chance of succeeding." — AP

NEWS NUGGETS

UNESCO DROPS CARNIVAL FROM HERITAGE LIST

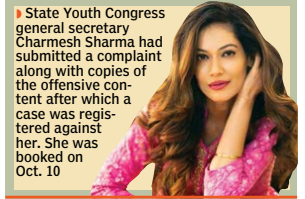
Brussels: A Belgian carnival has been removed from UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage list after officials found the "recurrence of racist and anti-Semitic representations" to be incompatible with its principles. Aalst Carnival was recognized by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation, but has been widely condemned by Jewish organisations. As per CNN, the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity announced Friday it would remove the Aalst Carnival from its heritage list. "Further to a proposal submitted by the Secretary of Unesco, the Committee based its decision on the fact that the recurrence of racist and anti-Semitic representations is incompatible with the fundamental principles of the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage," a spokesperson for the Unesco said in a statement. — Agencies

LOVE ACTUALLY DANCE SEQUENCE WAS 'MOST EXCRUCIATING': GRANT

Los Angeles: Hugh Grant says the most "excruciating" moment from his 2003 romantic comedy *Love Actually* was the dance sequence that he had to perform. The British star featured as David, the UK Prime Minister, in the ensemble comedy. He had one of the most funny yet iconic moments from the film when dances on *Pointer Sisters' Jump (For My Love)* all over the 10 Downing Street. Discussing the film in the forthcoming documentary *Hugh Grant: A Life on Screen*, the actor said the scene was "absolute hell" to shoot, reported *Variety*. "I thought, 'That's going to be excruciating, and it has the power to be the most excruciating scene ever committed to celluloid...'" It wasn't easy for an Englishman in his 40s to do it in the morning, stone-cold sober," Grant said. The film's director, Richard Curtis, also makes an appearance in the documentary and he joked that Grant had enough experience owing to his "dirty behaviour in discos across London" that made him "quite good at dancing." — PTI



Newly-elected Miss France 2020 Guedeoupe Clemence is crowned by Miss France 2019 Valmalama Chaves at the end of the beauty contest in Marseille on Saturday. — AFP



State Youth Congress general secretary Charmesh Sharma has submitted a complaint along with copies of the offensive content against her, which a case was registered against the Nehru-Gandhi family on social media. The actress was booked by the Bhusawal police on Sunday morning for the objectionable content against Mottial Nehru and Indira Gandhi and other members of the family. She was served a notice earlier this month and told to furnish a reply in this connection. "Police on Sunday morning detained Payal Rohatgi from her residence in Ambhadabad for indulging in a case under the IT Act. She is being brought to Bhusawal for interrogation," the SP Mamma Gupta told PTI. The SP said since the actress was not cooperating in investigation, a police team was bringing her to Bhusawal. The SP said the actress had been "formally arrested". "Our team was there (in Ambhadabad) for investigation in the case against her but she was not cooperating," the SP said, adding her formal arrest was likely to be made after interrogation. The actress had applied for an anticipatory bail on Thursday and the hearing was scheduled for Monday. State Youth Congress general secretary and a resident of Bhusawal, Charmesh Sharma, had submitted a complaint along with copies of the offensive content after which a case was registered against the actress. Rohatgi on her social media sites, including Facebook, Instagram and Twitter, had posted the objectionable content on September 6 and 21. Sharma had alleged in the complaint against the actress that the objectionable content tarnished the image of the country and spread vulgarity, religious hatred besides disgracing a woman's character. Earlier this month, the actress on Twitter had alleged that the Rajasthan chief minister was acting against her under pressure from the Gandhi family. The actress had claimed that she had a "recording of people referring to the pressure". The statement had come after the Bundi Sadar police had served notice to her in connection with the case and sought a reply for uploading the offensive content against the Nehru-Gandhi family. "It has come to my mind that offices of Sonia Gandhi ji and Priyanka Gandhi are pressuring the chief minister of Rajasthan to go ahead with the FIR against me for making a video on Mottial Nehru," Payal had alleged on Twitter. She had sought an apology from Congress president Sonia Gandhi and her daughter and party general secretary Priyanka Gandhi in this regard. The actress had said that she had made the video on the basis of a third party source quoting author M. O. Mathai, whom she never read. — PTI

Hallmark Channel pulls same-sex wedding ads

New York: Under pressure from a conservative political group, the Hallmark Channel has pulled ads for a wedding-planning website that do to do it in the morning, stone-cold sober," Grant said. The family-friendly network, which is in the midst of the purpose of the Hallmark Channel has pulled ads for a wedding-planning website that do to do it in the morning, stone-cold sober," Grant said. The family-friendly network, which is in the midst of the purpose of the Hallmark Channel has pulled ads for a wedding-planning website that do to do it in the morning, stone-cold sober," Grant said. The family-friendly network, which is in the midst of the purpose of the Hallmark Channel has pulled ads for a wedding-planning website that do to do it in the morning, stone-cold sober," Grant said. The family-friendly network, which is in the midst of the purpose of the Hallmark Channel has pulled ads for a wedding-planning website that do to do it in the morning, stone-cold sober," Grant said. — AP



NEW DELHI MONDAY 16 DECEMBER 2019

SPORT | Cricket

Shimron's ton floors India in 1st ODI

14

SPORT | Cricket

Brian Lara bats for visually challenged women cricketers

15

GUIDE TO FORTUNE

Tick the answer and check them below.

1 Under Akbar, the Mir Bakshi was required to look after?

- Military affairs
- The state treasury
- The land revenue system

2 Rivers Tigris and Euphrates are associated with?

- Mesopotamian Civilization
- Egyptian Civilization
- Chinese Civilization

3 Who is considered as the master of Greek comedy?

- Aeschylus
- Sophocles
- Aristophanes

SHORT TAKES

SDMC organises grand seminar

New Delhi: South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) on Sunday organised first of its kind "Sabhagita"—a seminar of 12,000 teachers, parents and members of South MCD to focus on holistic and cognitive development of the students at Ambedkar Stadium. Union minister Prakash Javadekar, MP Manoj Tiwari, Mayor Sunita Khatun, chairman of Standing Committee Bhupender Gupta, Leader of House Kamaljeet Sehrawat were present at the occasion.

Mr. Javdekar said this is unique initiative through which SDMC is providing a platform to teachers, parents and educationist for interacting, discussing and analysing the new education systems and learning processes contributing towards the over all development of the students.

Runaway robber nabbed with truck

New Delhi: The Delhi Police nabbed a robber who along with his associates fled away with a truck loaded with computer hardware items. The accused was identified as Monu. DCP (PCR) Sharat Kumar Sinha said that on Friday night at around 11:45 am, a truck driver approached the MPV staff comprising of ASI Harish Chand and ASI Shiv Charan in Kalindi Kunj area. He told that four boys had robbed his Eicher truck from Crown Chowk area. Noida, which was loaded with computer hardware items worth ₹7 lakh. The victim also informed that the alleged robbers put him in their Bolero car and dumped him near Kalindi Kunj Metro station after committing the crime. The staff initiated a search operation and after a short chase the truck was intercepted which was being driven by Monu. He along with the truck was handed over to local police area of PS Kalindi Kunj for further action.

3 arrested with 6 mobiles, 7 bikes

New Delhi: With the arrest of three persons, the Delhi Police has recovered seven two-wheelers and six mobiles from their possession. The arrested accused were identified as Rahul Sharma (19), Usman Khan (21) and Manish (21). During checking in PS Sagarpur area, the trio on a two-wheeler was asked to stop but they tried to speed away from the spot. The staff immediately chased and nabbed the trio, said DCP (Southwest) Devedar Arya. Rahul was found to be involved in 11 cases while Usman was involved in three cases.

THE ANSWER TO TODAY'S GUIDE TO FORTUNE

1. C
2. A
3. C

■ Military Affairs
■ Crime
■ Sports
■ Entertainment
■ Health
■ Education
■ Environment
■ International
■ Miscellaneous

Cops enter Jamia after protest turns violent

Violence instigated by hooligans, claim students

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, DEC. 15

A protest called by the students of Jamia Millia Islamia University against the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) took a violent turn on Sunday with police resorting to lobbing tear gas shells to disperse them. The Delhi police said four buses and two police vehicles were torched during the protest. The agitators even pelted stones from Jamia campus after which the police used tear gas and resorted to lathi-charge to disperse the mob.

The police entered the campus and blocked the gates to nab some "outsiders," who had entered the premises to hide. It was also claimed by the Jamia students that the violence and arson, which engulfed South Delhi, was also instigated by the hooligans who tried to vilify their protest against the amended Citizenship Act.

Apart from it, some other vehicles were also vandalised. However, the Jamia chief prosecutor said that the police entered the campus by force and no permission was taken. It beat the staff and students, and later forced them to leave campus.



A vandalised fire tender is seen along a road as smoke rises in the backdrop during a protest against the Citizenship Amendment Act near Jamia Nagar in New Delhi on Sunday.

Both the Jamia Millia Islamia students' community as well as the Teachers' Association have disassociated themselves from the violence and arson that took place near the university on Sunday afternoon. Escorted by the police, the youths could be seen coming out of their hostels with their hands raised. Some of them claimed that the students also entered the library and "harassed" the staff there. There was heavy deployment of police in

and around the campus. The Delhi police gheraoed Jamia students in the library. We do not subscribe to the bus burning incident which happened. Those who did it were not from the varsity, they were outsiders. Innocent students are being targeted," claimed a student, who did not wish to be named.

Some others alleged that protests have been detained by the police, but there was no confirmation from the Delhi police. It said it was focussing on

4 Metro stations shut, long queue of vehicles on road

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, DEC. 15

The commuters had a hard time in south Delhi on Sunday as traffic virtually came to a standstill in several areas due to violent protests against the amended Citizenship Act. There was long queues of vehicles on Mathura Road, Ashram, Okhla, Sukhdev Vihar, Sarita Vihar and the roads leading to Jamia Millia Islamia. The Delhi Metro also closed four stations, leading to further inconvenience to commuters. Delhi Police advised com-

muters to avoid Mathura Road stretch. "Motorists coming from Badarpur side are advised to take Modi Mill flyover from CRR1 towards Nehru Place and those coming from Ashram Chowk side are advised to take Ring Road, Moolchand flyover and BRT Corridor or DND Flyover," Delhi Traffic Police tweeted.

Traffic was also affected on the Okhla underpass leading to Sarita Vihar, it said. According to the police, trouble began when Mathura Road opposite New Friends Colony were blocked by demonstrators.

BJP, AAP blame game begins after violence

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, DEC. 15

The BJP on Sunday blamed the Aam Aadmi Party for the violence in south Delhi area during a protest against the amended Citizenship Act and demanded that it stop "provoking people," but the AAP denied it.

BJP Delhi chief Manoj Tiwari on Sunday said that an AAP MLA was "provoking" the public and called Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal a "traitor." An AAP MLA is provoking people at the behest of Arvind Kejriwal. The Muslims of the country are with India and are being forced to leave the campus. University vice chancellor Najma Akhtar said students who were inside the library had been taken out and were safe. Ms Akhtar condemned the police action.

Later in the evening, students of Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) held a protest outside the Police Headquarters in central Delhi against the police action at Jamia university and the standoff continued till late in the night.

members and students who were forced to leave the campus. University vice chancellor Najma Akhtar said students who were inside the library had been taken out and were safe. Ms Akhtar condemned the police action.

Later in the evening, students of Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) held a protest outside the Police Headquarters in central Delhi against the police action at Jamia university and the standoff continued till late in the night.

However, Okhla legislator Amanatullah Khan, who is apparently the MLA alluded to by Mr Tiwari, denied the accusations. "Some TV channels have run the news that protesters under my leadership were burning buses, which is wrong. I protested near Shaheen Bagh where nothing untoward happened," he told reporters.

BJP leader Kapil Mishra condemned the violence to the Godhra attacks. "This is a terrorist attack. Setting fire to a big hall. This fire was started by Amanatullah Khan. They are ready to implement it in the entire country," he said.

On 10th day of hunger strike, Maliwal falls unconscious

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, DEC. 15

DCW chief Swati Maliwal, who was on a hunger strike for the past 10 days, fell unconscious on Sunday morning. When Ms Maliwal's condition deteriorated, doctors advised her to go to a hospital, but she refused to budge.

On Sunday morning, she was taken to the LNJP Hospital after she fainted, according to a DCW member, she was initially taken to the emergency ward of the hospital since she was unconscious. Later, when she regained consciousness, she refused to allow doctors to put her on intravenous fluids.



Delhi Commission for Women chief Swati Maliwal at LNJP Hospital on Sunday.

Ms Maliwal was shifted to a special ward, where she was put on intravenous fluids, he said, adding that her condition was stated to be stable. DCW chief's supporters were stationed outside the hospital.

Maliwal was on a hunger strike for over 10 days at

the Samta Sthal near Raj Ghat. On Saturday, she wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to ensure that Disha Bill, which mandates disposal of cases of atrocities against women within 21 days and handing out the death penalty, is implemented in the entire country.

3 arrested for duping ₹50L from sports enthusiasts

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, DEC. 15

Three persons were arrested by the Delhi Police for allegedly duping around 2,000 children across India to the tune of ₹50 lakh on the pretext of organising a sports event.

The accused were identified as Ankit Shakir (23), Sonal Kumar (19) and Chandan Jha (24), all residents of Greater Noida.

The trio duped young sports persons on the pretext of organising sports event at Ganga International School at Sawda in Delhi, said the police.

Around 800 participants gathered. The participants tried to contact the organisers on the available mobile numbers, but they didn't respond.

Shooter appeals Centre to let her hang Nirbhaya convicts

Lucknow, Dec. 16:

A day before Nirbhaya's seventh death anniversary shooter Vartika Singh on Sunday wrote a letter in blood requesting the Centre to let her hang the rapists convicted in the gangrape and murder case.

In the letter, she has sought permission from Union home minister Amit Shah to execute the rapists.

Speaking to reporters here, Ms Singh said, "I have a letter in my hand that is written to Union home minister Amit Shah. I have written it with my blood. I have written that I should be allowed to execute the convicts in the Nirbhaya case. This will reinforce the concept that women are viewed as goddesses in India."

"This message should go to the entire world. The rapists should know that in India, a woman can execute them. I have sent the letter through registered post and also tweeted it," she added.

The shooter urged all women soldiers, actresses, public representatives, and organisations to lend their support to her.

She hoped there would be a transformation in the country with a "different kind of society"

women soldiers, actresses, public representatives, and organisations to lend their support to her.

She hoped there would be a transformation in the country with a "different kind of society" where women need not live in an atmosphere of fear.

Meanwhile, Bihar jail authorities in Delhi said they have been receiving requests from several people who are ready to volunteer as hangman.

Earlier in the week, S. Subash Shrinani, a hangman from Tamil Nadu's Ramanathapuram district, wrote to the director-

general of Bihar jail stating his willingness to serve as an executioner.

The Supreme Court at the Meerut prison has also indicated that he is ready to carry out the execution of the convicts.

Pawan Jallad, a third-generation hangman, said his moving has been carried out the hanging of the two men involved in the assassination of then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi besides notorious criminals Ranga and Billa.

The 23-year-old paramedic student, who came to be known as Nirbhaya, was gang-raped in 2012 in a moving bus in Delhi by six people and severely assaulted before being thrown out on the road. She later succumbed to her injuries at a hospital in Singapore.

The Supreme Court on Tuesday will decide on a revision petition filed by one of the four convicts in the case against its 2017 judgment handing down death penalty to them.

Making history

Pakistan opener Abid Ali became the first batsman to score hundreds on both Test and one-day international debuts when he struck a ton against Sri Lanka in Rawalpindi on Sunday



We are moving in the right direction and happy with the way we've played in the last three or four Tests.

—*Tim Paine, Australian Test skipper, post their win over NZ*

SHORT TAKES

Abid, Azam hit tons in Pak's drawn Test

Rawalpindi: Pakistan's Test against Sri Lanka, their first at home since the 1987-88, ended in a draw Sunday after being badly affected by the weather. Pakistan opener Abid Ali became the first batsman to score a debut hundred in both Test and one-day international cricket. Abid finished with 109 not out and Babar Azam was unbeaten on 102 as Pakistan scored 252-2 in reply to Sri Lanka's first innings total of 308-6 declared. Pakistan finished at 252-2, with stylish batsman Babar Azam knocking his third Test century with a boundary off spinner Dilruwan Perera. Azam ended with 102 not out, which came in 151 minutes of punishing batting paced by 14 crisp boundaries.

Brief scores: Sri Lanka (D Kanarathne 59, D de Silva not out 102, Shaheem 2/56, Massem 2/92) drew with Pakistan Abid Ali not out 109, Babar Azam not out 102, Rajitha 1/5, Kumara 1/46

May ask ABD to return: Boucher

Johannesburg: Newly-appointed head coach Mark Boucher has said he may try to persuade a few recent retirees, including AB de Villiers, to return to the South Africa squad ahead of next year's T20 World Cup. "When you go to a World Cup, you want your best players playing for you. If I feel he (De Villiers) is one of our best players, why wouldn't I want to have a conversation with him? I've only just got back and he might have conversations with quite a few players and see where they are," Boucher said. "You want your best players playing in the World Cup and if there's a couple of issues you need to iron out, with media, with teammates, why not, let's do it," he said. —PTI

Shimron-hetmyer

C. SANTHOSH KUMAR CHENNAI, DEC. 15

West Indies batsman Shimron Hetmyer has sent out a clear statement of intent to IPL franchisees with a swash-buckling century against India in the opening ODI here at the M.A. Chidambaram Stadium. The aggressive Hetmyer (139 off 106 balls) in the company of a resolute Shai Hope (102 not out off 151 balls) reversed West Indies to a comprehensive eight-wicket win on Sunday and helped the visitors make a head start in the three-match series.

Hetmyer who was released from the Royal Challengers Bangalore squad should now attract heavy bidding when the IPL-2020 auction takes place in Kolkata on Thursday. Chasing a tricky target of 288 on a slow surface, Hetmyer and opener Hope put on a 218-run partnership for the first wicket. While Hetmyer played the attacking role, Hope anchored the innings, brilliantly by rotating the strike. After a cautious start to negate the threat posed by pacers Deepak Chahar and Mohammed Shami, Windies accelerated in a phased manner. The way Hetmyer targeted Ravindra Jadeja was akin to a tiger picking its prey.

The period between overs 22 and 26 was the turning point in which Windies took the commanding position by notching up 52 runs. Hetmyer creamed Jadeja for 16 runs including back-to-back sixes in the 22nd over. The chase

turned out to be a breeze for the Windies from that point.

Pant takes centre stage
Midway through India's innings, the M.A. Chidambaram stadium witnessed an unusual scene. While fans have been heckling Rishabh Pant with chants of 'Dhoni, Dhoni' in other parts of the country, the Sunday crowd at the superstar's spiritual home (Chennai) chose to egg on the young wicket-keeper batsman.

Chants of 'Rishabh Pant, Rishabh Pant' reverberated the stadium as Dhoni's potential successor slammed his maiden ODI half-century to power India to 287 for eight in 50 overs.

Pant who has been under enormous pressure walked in at a critical juncture when India were in a spot of bother at 80 for three inside 20 overs. Having seen the back of Virat Kohli (4) and Rohit Sharma (36), West Indies were threatening to stomp over the middle-order which has been considered India's weakest link. The 114-run stand between Pant and Shreyas Iyer (70 off 88 balls) on a slow surface was anything to go by. India have finally found a solution to their middle-order muddle.

Pant started off slowly scoring just six off his first 16 balls, and took time to get accustomed to the conditions. He grew in with confidence, runs started flowing off his willow and quickly made up for the slow start. A slog-sweep into the stands and a flat pull

Shimron's swashbuckling ton floors India

Shimron Hetmyer celebrates his century against India at the M.A. Chidambaram Stadium on Sunday. —*E.K. SANJAY*



SHIMRON HETMYER			
R	B	6s	4s
139	106	7	11



Shimron Hetmyer tries to catch a dog that entered the ground at the M.A. Chidambaram Stadium on Sunday. —*E.K. SANJAY*

Kohli not pleased with late third-umpire call

Chennai, Dec. 16: Indian captain Virat Kohli expressed his displeasure from the dressing room after the on-field umpire referred a late run-out call involving Ravindra Jadeja during the first ODI against West Indies here on Sunday.

The incident took place in the 48th over when Jadeja went for a quick single and the fielder affected a direct hit at the striker's end.

However, the on-field umpire Shaun Gordon did not give it out though Jadeja appeared to be short of his crease and neither there was an instant appeal from the West Indies players.

The on-field umpire referred a late run-out call involving Ravindra Jadeja during the first ODI against West Indies here on Sunday.

After Roston Chase hit the stumps from the mid-wicket region, he seemed to ask umpire to have a look at it, but he did not raise his finger. —PTI

WEST INDIES' HIGHEST STANDS AGAINST INDIA IN ODIs

Runs	Wkt	Partners	Venue	Year
221	2nd	Gordon Greenidge/Vivian Richards	Jamshedpur	1983
218	2nd	Shimron Hetmyer/Shai Hope	Chennai	2019
200*	1st	S. Chandepaul/Stuart W Williams	Bridgetown	1997
185	1st	Gordon Greenidge/Desmond Haynes	Georgetown	1989
165	1st	Gordon Greenidge/Desmond Haynes	Sharjah	1988
165	4th	Denesh Ramdin/Marlon Samuels	Kochi	2014

Stats: S. PERVEZ QAISSER

Process is very important: Paras

DC CORRESPONDENT BENGALURU, DEC. 15

India U-19 cricket team captain Priyam Garg believes that the team is unfazed with the pressure of being the defending champion and is optimistic about the team's chances in the U-19 World Cup which would commence from January 17, next year in South Africa. He along with the coach Paras Mhamrey was addressing the media on Sunday before departing to South Africa.

Paras, who has been with the coaching staff previously (worked with U-19 and India A side) emphasized the process to yield a successful result. "The process is very important, which we observed last time also. The preparation started a year and a half back, before the World Cup campaign. A similar process has been adopted over here. That is the focus. The focus is on how the process is and kind of how you want to take it through," Paras said.

Mohammad Kaif, Virat Kohli, Umakant Chandel, and Prithvi Shaw led the Indian team to victory in the previous editions of the World Cup. 19-year Priyam Garg would hope to emulate the same and had talks with Shaw about the implementation during the tournament.

Squad: Yashasvi Jaiswal, Tilak Varma, Divyansh Saxena, Priyam Garg (C), Dhruv Kohli (VC & wicket-keeper), Shashwat Rawat, Divyansh Joshi, Shubang Hegde, Ravi Bishnoi, Akash Singh, Kartik Tyagi, Atharva Ankolkar, Kumar Kushaspokekar (wicket-keeper), Sushant Mishra, Vidyardhar Patil C/LT/Rakshan.

Starc, Cummins help Australia thrash Kiwis

Perth, Dec. 16: Australia recorded one of their biggest wins over New Zealand on the fourth day of the first Test at Perth Stadium on Sunday.

Having trailed by 250 runs on the first innings the Kiwis were set a mammoth 488 to win — which would have been a record — but were Test cricket — on a deteriorating pitch after Australia declared at 217 for nine in their second innings.

The visitors were never in contention after losing their first wicket with the loss of six runs on the board and were unable to push the match into a fifth day after Mitchell Starc and Pat Cummins cleaned up the Kiwi tail under lights in Perth's first ever day-night Test.

New Zealand were dismissed for 171 and were beaten by 286 runs after the last five wickets falling in a hurry for just 17 runs.

It was just one run shy of their biggest losing margin to Australia — in runs — in a match where both teams batted twice.

Australia's biggest win, other than innings victories, was 287 runs in Auckland in 1974.

Starc (4-45), who claimed nine wickets for the match, and Cummins (2-31) used the pink ball to good effect under lights to bring the match to a quick conclusion after none of the recognised Kiwi batsmen offered significant resistance.

The chase started poorly, with opener Jee Raval making just one before being caught at gully by Nathan Lyon (4-63) from the bowling of Starc. Starc batsman and

captain Kane Williamson then made just 14, before falling to Lyon's first ball of the innings.

Williamson got off to a fast start with boundaries from the first two balls he faced, but was caught at short leg fending a ball that bounced and turned sharply off his glove into the hands of Matthew Wade.

Ross Taylor was their last real hope of making a revival but on 22 he tried to pull a Starc delivery and set a bottom edge through to wicketkeeper Tim Paine to give the left-arm quick his seventh wicket of the match.

Tom Latham showed plenty of application to face 68 balls for his 18, but was given out leg before wicket to Lyon after an Australian DRS review, with umpire Alex Dyer initially giving him not out.

BJ Watling attempted to stem the tide with a gritty 40 and enjoyed a bit of luck

Paine & Co. have comeback in style



Hemant Kenkre Silly Point

BRIEF SCORES
Australia 416 & 217/9 decl. (Burns 53, Labuschagne 50, Souths 5/69, Waagner 3/59) **by New Zealand 166 & 171.** (Taylor 80, Starc 5/52) and 171 (Watling 40, Starc 4/45, Lyon 4/63, Cummins 2/31).

There is a big lesson to be learnt from the way the Australians have come back from the outpost they put themselves in a year ago. Coming back from the brink has always been an Aussie speciality and Tim Paine's lads have lived up to the country's reputation for making comebacks in style.

For a team that was bogged down thanks to the 'sandpaper' scandal in March 2018, against South Africa at Newlands in Cape Town, their performances against England during the last Ashes and in the first ODI Test against New Zealand at Perth show the spine they have inherited. Coming back after being bogged down and in their DNA as cricket history has shown.

There have been many instances of the ramrod Australian spine standing strong even as their backs were against the wall. The Kerry Packer story, when the media tycoon shook the world of cricket by convincing the best Australian players to join his private enterprise in 1977-78, is a prime example. So was the sad saga of the talented Kim Hughes who relinquished the captaincy when his side was beaten by the West Indians at home in the 1984-85 series.

With almost all Aussie stars out, barring a few, playing what was then called pyjama cricket for Packer, the management went back and got retired former captain Robert 'Bob' Simpson out of his pyjamas to lead the team against a strong Indian

challenge in 1977-78. The series which eventually went the Aussie way with a 3-2 victory is one of the best examples of the Australians taking on a challenge considered an impossibility when it comes to battles.

Simpson's team of Australian first class players were taking on a rejuvenated Indian team led by the mercurial Bishen Bedi which boasted of players of the caliber of Sunil Gavaskar, Gundappa Viswanath, Amarnath, Erapalli Prasanna and Bhagwat Chandrasekhar. Aussie cricket lovers were treated to classic Test match cricket during the day and entertaining night cricket that featured Clive Lloyd's West Indians jousting with Greg Chappell's warriors and a team of brilliant cricketers led by England's Tony Greig.

For the Australian board it was all about survival, a fight against big money to keep the flag flying. It is believed that at some venues the Australia/India Test matches coincided with Packer's World Series of cricket on the same dates. The scenario was akin to an art film being released at the same time along with a Bollywood pot-boiler featuring superstars.

The Australian cricket board managed to stay aloft thanks to a superlative exhibition by the Simpson-led team and the multi-talented Indians.

Even after four decades, the memory of the die hard Madan Lal running backwards to catch a mistimed hook by Peter Tooley at square leg remains well etched in the memory of many cricket fans. The series saw names like Sam Gannon, Tony Mann and Tooley take on giants like Dennis Lillee, Vivian Richards among others in a battle for staying alive for the Australian Cricket Board it was a matter of prestige while Packer was fully focused on spending big money to gather eyeballs. And survive they did.

Kim Hughes saga was similar to that of an emotional child who was berated by his teachers in class. After a dismal show against Lloyd's West Indians in the second Test, Aussie captain VC & wicket-keeper, Shashwat Rawat, Divyansh Joshi, Shubang Hegde, Ravi Bishnoi, Akash Singh, Kartik Tyagi, Atharva Ankolkar, Kumar Kushaspokekar (wicket-keeper), Sushant Mishra, Vidyardhar Patil C/LT/Rakshan.



Aussies celebrate a New Zealand wicket on Day Four of the first Test.

Dejan Lovren has been ruled out of Liverpool's trip to the Club World Cup to be played in Qatar



To come here and to do it in this fashion, to do it with this team, it was an honour.

SHORT TAKES Bucks down Cavaliers in NBA

Los Angeles: Giannis Antetokounmpo scored 29 points as the Milwaukee Bucks won their 18th straight game with a 125-108 victory over the struggling Cleveland Cavaliers on Saturday.

Monterrey play Reds in WC semis

Doha: Mexican side Monterrey booked a glamour World Cup semifinal clash with European champions Liverpool after seeing off Qatar's Al Sadd 3-2 on Saturday.

CRAWFORD CROWNED WBO CHAMP

Los Angeles: Terence Crawford survived some early jitters to retain his WBO welterweight title with a ninth round knockout of former Olympian Egidijus Kavaliauskas at Madison Square Garden.

Abundant joy Chess whiz Anand opens up on life

GANDHARV KAMALA HYDERABAD, DEC. 15

At just 50, Viswanathan Anand is a five-time world champion. He is also an undisputed champion of the 64 squares from 2007 to 2013. He has travelled to 64 countries and has over 60 passports filled with stamps from places he has been to.



Viswanathan Anand (left) celebrates with Maxime Vachier-Lagrave (right) after winning the Master Chef challenge held on the sidelines of the Norway chess tournament in Stavanger.



Anand (from left), Aruna Anand, Ublilava — Anand's first trainer — Mauricio Perera and Nieves (extreme right) in this file photo from 2000, celebrate Ublilava's surprise birthday at their home in Madrid.

off from our list too," Aruna chips in. "There is another interesting aspect about Anand that not many are apprised of. The Khel Ratna awardee is also a two-time defending Master Chess champion that is held on the sidelines of the Norway chess tournament in Stavanger.

ing the best spin up a dish using a Salmon while in 2018, he combined with Ding Liren to make the award-winning Hollandaise sauce," his pride wife informs.

1991, when Anand was competing at the Linares International Chess Tournament in the Jaen province of Andalusia, Spain, he was introduced to a European couple — Mauricio Perera and Nieves — by the tournament director. It was love from their very first conversation.



Aruna (from left) Akhil and Anand pose for a photograph with statues of the cast from the movie Madagascar.

special bond came about from our first conversation. On the first day of the event, Nieves made a small wager, she said, "If you beat Anatoly Yevgenyevich Karpov, I'll take you out for dinner. I told her, 'If I beat Karpov, I'll take you out!'"

When I look back, I can say that I don't have many regrets. But the biggest of them all, is that Nieves passed away without meeting Akhil (Anand).

— VISWANATHAN ANAND on Nieves, a close associate, passing away without meeting his son

"Real Madrid is my favourite club and Zidane is one of my all-time favourite footballers. Of course I remember Diego Maradona's World Cup goal and other important footballing moments. But Zidane's Champions League final goal in 2002 against Bayern Leverkusen is one of my all-time favourites. While I was in Spain, I did watch some of Los Blancos (Real Madrid's nickname) matches and the experience was surreal," Anand said.

ly figure to Anand, was admitted to a hospital due to a heart condition in May 2004. "In her dying minutes, Nieves sat up on her bed, put her hand up and told Anand, 'Vishy you are No.1 but you have to be a world champion.' She said those words and went back to bed. Anand sat right next to her and continued to stroke her hair as she breathed her last. Tears started to roll out from everyone's eyes when we realised she left us and moved on to a better place," Aruna said recalling the fateful day.

COUTINHO'S HAT-TRICK ENSURES WIN

Berlin, Dec. 15: Philippe Coutinho scored a hat-trick as Bayern Munich signalled their return to form with a 6-1 thrashing of Werder Bremen in the Bundesliga on Saturday, while RB Leipzig took over first place.



Delhi blind women's team captain Ankhita (left) with cricketing legend Brian Lara (centre) at the launch of the first-ever Samarthan Women's National Cricket Tournament for the Blind in Delhi on Saturday night.

Lara bats for blind cricket

New Delhi, Dec. 15: In an effort to promote equality and parity, Cricket Association for Blind in India (CABI) has taken the initiative to organize Blind Cricket Nationals for Women in association with Samarthan Trust for the Disabled.

India and I am convinced that if such strong stakeholders come together around the world, then there is no reason why blind cricket will not see a growth world over. Such competitions will also provide a platform to such talented women and empower them," said the West Indian great.

ing for support from BCCI and they have recently visited the states of Delhi, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Kerala, Odisha & West Bengal will fight it out in the league stages over the first two days spread over three venues in Siri Fort Sports Complex, DDA Sports Complex in Saket and Jamia Millia University followed by the grand finale at Siri Fort Sports Complex on December 19. — Agencies

PARMA EDGE PAST NAPOLI IN SERIE 'A'

Milan, Dec. 15: Genaro Gattuso's debut as Napoli coach ended in a 1-2 injury-time defeat to Parma on Saturday as last season's Serie 'A' runners-up extended their winless run to eight league games.

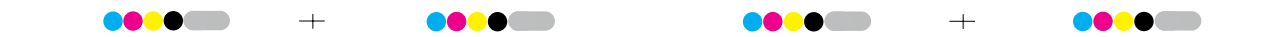


US team captain Tiger Woods (second from left) and his teammates pose with the Presidents Cup after their win over the International Team on the final day of the Presidents Cup golf tournament in Melbourne on Sunday. — AFP

Tiger gets USA out of the woods

Melbourne, Dec. 15: Tiger Woods' United States produced a stunning turnaround to deny the Internationals a first Presidents Cup in 21 years Sunday, dominating the singles on a tense final day that went to the wire at 15-12.

and Dustin Johnson were anxious to be back to big early leads as the scoreboard had been swatted in US red. — AFP Simpson beat South Korea's An Byeong-hun to guarantee the US a share of the Cup at 15-12 with three matches still in play.





Annoyed
Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp reacted angrily to a proposal that could see the Champions League group stage transformed into a 32-team division

3
In front of our home fans it's evident we aren't playing well enough. We have given away some silly goals.
— Frank Lampard, Chelsea manager after losing their EPL match against Bournemouth

SHORT TAKES
Barson, Guteni clinch top honours

Kolkata: Leonard Barson of Ethiopia broke the course record by winning the men's and women's titles respectively in Tata Steel Kolkata 25K Race on Sunday. Barson crossed the finish line in the 25K race with a timing of 1 hour 13 minutes and five seconds, thus bettering Kenenisa Bekele's course record by 40 seconds.

In fact, the top three international elite athletes in both men's and women's categories bettered the course record.

SRINJI KIRANJEET FANT AMONG INDIANS
Srinu Bugatha (1:18:31) and Kiranjeet Kaur (1:38:56) won the Indian challenge in the men's and women's category respectively in a tough field.

Among Indian men, the second and third places were taken by Tirtha Pun (1:18:39) and Harshad Mhatre (1:20:03), while Shamali Singh (1:39:02) and Arati Patil (1:39:40) finished second and third in the women's section. — PTI

IBL teams ready to grab semis spots

New Delhi: The stage is set for an exciting double-header on Monday that will decide the semi-final lineup in Big Bout Indian Boxing League here at the IG Indoor Stadium.

Odisha Warriors first take on Bombay Bullets in a four-round table-top clash while table-toppers Gujarat Giants will have a face-off with Bengal Brawlers, who desperately need a win to stay alive in the competition.

A bigger clash came on Tuesday, between NE Rhinos and Punjab Panthers, featuring a mouth-watering showdown between Mary Kom and Nibhat Zareen in the 51-kg women's category. The Bullets (14 points) have two wins from four ties and are fourth on the table while Warriors (13 points) have one win and are on the fifth spot. Both come into this crucial tie on the back of an identical 3-4 loss to NE Rhinos and will aim for a big win to improve their chances. — PTI

MOHUN BAGAN EYE FULL POINTS AGAINST KERALA

Kolkata: On a high after thrashing TRAU FC, city giants Mohun Bagan will look to bag full points against Kerala in their I-League fixture at Kalyani Stadium on Monday. The match will be the Mariners penultimate fixture before the high-voltage derby against East Bengal. Gokulam have an all-win record from their two games so far and look well organised while Bagan redeemed themselves with a 4-0 victory over debutants TRAU FC in their previous game, after failing to register a win in their first two.

They went down 2-1 to Churchill Brothers at home in their second game. Ugandan frontman Henry Kisekka and Trinidadian striker Marcus Joseph have scored all of Gokulam's three goals so far and are their stand-out performers by a mile, while another Trinidadian, Nathaniel Garcia, imposed himself very well in midfield in the second game against Indian Arrows.

PUNJAB FC FACE ARROWS
In Ludhiana, high on confidence after their impressive win over defending champions Chennai City FC in their previous match, Punjab FC will play host to AIFF's developmental side's Indian Arrows on Monday. The match against the Arrows will be Punjab's third successive match at home, while for the travelling youngsters, it will be their first on the road this season. Since losing to Churchill Brothers in their season opener in Goa, Punjab have drawn against East Bengal 1-1 before beating Chennai City 3-1 at home. — PTI



Mourinho's men up to fifth after late win at Wolverhampton

Wolverhampton, Dec. 15: Jose Mourinho's Tottenham Hotspur in their English Premier League match in Wolverhampton on Sunday. — AFP

Wolverhampton Wanderers' Joao Moutinho (left) vies with Lucas Moura of Tottenham Hotspur in their English Premier League match in Wolverhampton on Sunday. — AFP

Wolverhampton, Dec. 15: Jan Vertonghen's stoppage time header continued Tottenham's turnaround under Jose Mourinho as Spurs moved up to fifth with a 2-1 win at Wolves.

Mourinho's men were largely outplayed at Molineux, but were ruthless with their chances to inflict Wolves' first league defeat in 12 games.

Adama Traore's spectacular strike had cancelled out Lucas Moura's early opener before Vertonghen stooped to guide home Christian Eriksen's corner.

Spurs can now move into the top four before Christmas if they beat Chelsea at home next weekend.

That speaks volumes for the impact Mourinho has made in less than a month in charge as Tottenham trailed Chelsea and the top four by 12 points when he was appointed.

Wolves drop to eighth as their longest unbeaten run in the top flight since 1962 came to an end, but there was little more Nuno Espirito Santo's men could have done to at least avoid defeat.

THE RESULTS

Sunday	Manchester United (Greenwood 77)	1	Chelsea Bournemouth (Gosling 84)	0
	Everton (Lindelof 36-og)	1	Leicester (Kru 38-og)	1
	Wolves (Traore 67)	1	Norwich (Pukki 26)	1
	Tottenham (Moura 6, Vertonghen 90)	2	Sheffield United (Fleck 50, 73)	2
	Aston Villa	0	Aston Villa	0
Saturday	Burnley (Wood 58)	1	Southampton West Ham (Haller 37)	1

ended under Solskjaer despite Greenwood's ascent.

LEICESTER STUMBLE
Second-placed Leicester were held 1-1 at home by Norwich on Saturday.

Chelsea were also shocked 1-0 at home by Bournemouth to see their lead over the chasing pack in fourth further cut.

Leicester will be moved into fifth with a 2-0 win over Aston Villa.

The Foxes had the chance to cut the gap at the top to just five points ahead of that meeting had they beaten Norwich and Manchester City next weekend. — AFP

Spurs down Wolves



Real Sociedad's Alexander Isak (right) celebrates after scoring against Barcelona in their La Liga match in San Sebastian on Saturday. — AP

Madrid, Dec. 15: Barcelona gave Real Madrid the chance to go top of La Liga ahead of Wednesday's Clasico at Camp Nou as they were held to a 2-2 draw by high-flying Real Sociedad on Saturday.

A mistake by Barca's usually excellent goalkeeper Marc-Andre ter Stegen gifted the home side an equaliser in a thrilling contest at Anoeta between two of the division's most attacking teams.

Antoine Griezmann and Luis Suarez looked to have turned the game around after Mikael Oyarzabal scored an early penalty but Real Sociedad claimed a deserved point as Ter Stegen parried onto the path of Alexander Isak.

"Wednesday's game will be different," said Barca coach Ernesto Valverde. "The game has a special meaning but there are some things we need to improve."

Alejo Madrid will have to do to rejoin the title chase

THE RESULTS

Granada (Machis 60)	1
Levante (Rochina 55, Bardhi 89)	2
Real Sociedad (Oyarzabal 12-pen, Isak 62)	2
Barcelona (Griezmann 38, Suarez 49)	2
Athletic Bilbao	0
Eibar	0
Athletic Madrid (Morata 67, Niguez 75)	2
Osasuna	0

Both the players came into the match having registered easy wins over

Barca pegged back by Sociedad

Mumbai City strike late to win five-goal thriller

RAM TEJA BENGALURU, DEC. 15

Rowlin Borges' strike gave visitors Mumbai City FC all three points as Jorge Costa's side stunned defending champions Bengaluru FC 3-2 at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium on Sunday.

The midfielder's header deep into stoppage time in the second half came after Sunil Chhetri's penalty looked to have settled the game for a 2-2 draw but the visitors fought back valiantly to claim their second win of the season.

Chhetri's penalty looked to have settled the game for a 2-2 draw but the visitors fought back valiantly to claim their second win of the season and move into sixth place on the table while Bengaluru sit third.

If Mumbai were short on confidence, they did not show it on the pitch as they went head to head with the defending

Mohamed Larbi, the goal resulting from a corner.

Bengaluru's first chance cropped up on the 24th minute mark when Erik Paartalu played a defence-splitting pass from deep in his half.

Udatna Singh latched onto the pass but sent the ball fizzing over the goal post.

Larbi had a penalty saved on the deep into stoppage time in the first half after Juanan brought down Amine Chermit. Gurpreet divided to his left-hand side parrying away the spot-kick and gave the Blues a sigh of relief going into the break.

Modou Sougou missed a glorious chance to double the lead as he saw his shot saved by Gurpreet on the counter.

Mumbai City players celebrate their first half lead against Bengaluru FC in their Hero ISL match on Sunday.

BANGLADESH INTERNATIONAL CHALLENGE

Lakshya ends year on a high

Dhaka, Dec. 15: Fast-rising Indian shuttler Lakshya Sen notched up his fifth title of the season, claiming the men's singles crown at the Bangladesh International Challenger with a straight game win over Malaysia's Leong Jun Hao in the final here on Sunday.

The 18-year-old Indian has capped a superb year with a 22-20, 21-18 win over Hao in the final here on Sunday.

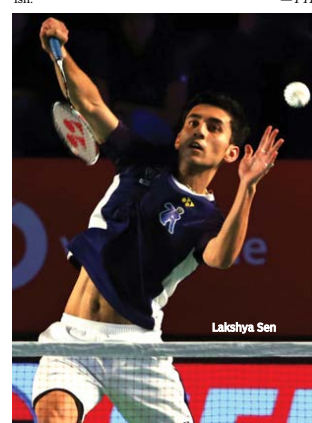
Happy to end the year on a winning note with his 5th international title here in Bangladesh! Hope to continue my good form in the next year 2020. Like to thank all my sponsors @ O G Q I n d i a @ H e r b a l i f e i n d i a @ Y o n e x i n d @Sports_PDCSC @ppba @bai_media. Lakshya tweeted.

Men's doubles pair of M.R. Arjun and Dhruv Kapila also failed to outwit fourth seeded Malaysian pair of Yee Jun Chang and Kai Wun Tse, going down 18-21, 16-21 in the summit clash.

Lakshya started his campaign with a 21-5, 21-0 win over compatriot Rajesh Verma in the opening round. He then beat three Malaysians on way to the final.

The Uttarakhand shuttler thrashed MD Tah M Ziyad 21-18, 21-9, before claiming 21-17, 21-9 and 21-9, 21-11 wins over Aislin Manessha K and Ng Rutaparna Panda went down 20-22, 19-21 to top seeded Malaysian pair of Tan Peary Koong Le and Thirunah Muralitharan to settle for a runner-up finish.

21-16 in the semifinals. — PTI



TASNIM BAGS GOLD, SILVER FOR TARA AT ASIAN MEET

JR BADMINTON

Surabaya (Indonesia), Dec. 15: Indian shuttler Tasnim Mir clinched her maiden U-15 women's singles title at the U17 & U15 Asia Junior Championships after outshining compatriot Tara Shah in the finals here on Sunday.

In an all-India summit clash, both the young shuttlers gave each other a tough fight before the top-seeded Tasnim claimed a 17-21, 21-11, 21-9 win.

With the victory, Tasnim bagged the gold medal while Tara claimed silver medal as both the girls bettered their performances from last edition where they had reached the quarter-final stage in Myanmar last year.

Both the players came into the match having registered easy wins over

Japanese opponents in their respective semifinals on Saturday.

While Tasnim thrashed Sora Ishioka 21-16, 21-11, her best Kazuma Ueda 21-18, 21-14 to set up a summit clash.

It was Pune girl Tara who dominated the initial stage before Tasnim made a comeback in a hard-fought match which lasted for 55 minutes.

Tara won the first set 21-17 and was looking good to cause the major upset in the tournament.

However, Tasnim quickly regained the momentum and won the second set easily. And then, despite some fight-back from Tara, Tasnim went on to claim the third set as well as the match. — PTI

WORLD TOUR | FINALS

Momota wins record 11th title of the year

Shanghai, Dec. 15: World number one Kento Momota fought back from a game down to win his 11th badminton title of the year on Sunday with victory at the BWF World Tour Finals.

The world's best Japanese player defeated Indonesia's Anthony Ginting 17-21, 21-14 in 67 high-quality minutes in the final at the season-ending showpiece in Guangzhou.

Momota surpasses the 10 tournaments won by recently retired Malaysian great Lee Chong Wei in 2019. "At this World Tour Finals I played carefully from the first match partly with the aim of winning an 11th title," the 25-year-old Momota said.

In the women's final China's Chen Yufei also routed back from a game down to defeat Taiwan's Tai Tzu-ying 12-21, 21-17. — AFP

