



Tough words

Sonia Gandhi says Modi government has become creator of violence, divisiveness



Repeal controversial Citizenship Amendment Act immediately

— Amrinder Singh
Punjab Chief Minister

SHORT TAKES

CELEBS RALLY BEHIND JAMIA STUDENTS

Mumbai, Dec. 16: Condemning the police crackdown inside Jamia Millia university, several film industry insiders, including one from Hollywood, on Monday rallied behind the university's students and said the government is trying to stifle voices of dissent against the Citizenship Amendment Act.

Hollywood star John Cusack joined prominent names from the Hindi film fraternity, including director Anurag Kashyap, Taapsee Pannu, Konkona Sensharma and Sudhir Mishra, in expressing his anger over Sunday's violence inside the campus.

Many on social media noted the usual silence of top stars, directors and producers in Bollywood but there were many who voiced their support for student protests.

Serendipity star Cusack also took note of the videos from inside the campus, which were circulated widely on social media.

Director Anurag Kashyap, who had left Twitter in August, returned to the social media platform to voice his anger over the way student protests were handled.

"This has gone too far... (I) can't stay silent any longer. This government is clearly fascist... and it makes me angry to see voices that can actually make a difference stay quiet..." he tweeted.

Actor Taapsee Pannu said the videos of police action are heartbreaking.

Director Sudhir Mishra recalled his 1987 film *Yeh Woh Manzil Toh Nahin* with student politics against the backdrop.

Newton star Rajkumar Rao condemned the police action against the students while appealing for peaceful protests.

Writer-comedian Varun Grover said history will take note of what happened in Jamia. Ali Fazal said now was not the time to stay silent for play safe, irrespective of one's ideological divide.

Actor Swara Bhasker said the way Delhi police treated students was "shocking and shameful".

Actor Manoj Bajpayee condemned the violence against students.

Actors Bhumi Pednekar and Ayushmann Khurrana opted for a neutral stand on the issue in their statements, posted on Twitter.

Author Chetan Bhagat tweeted, "Crashing the economy. Making jobs vanish. Shutting down Internet. Sending police in libraries. The youth may have patience, but don't test the limits of it."

LANKAN REFUGEE SEEKS MERCY KILLING

Coimbatore, Dec. 16: A Sri Lankan refugee in Salem district in Tamil Nadu created a flutter on Monday by seeking mercy killing if he was not granted an Indian citizenship.

Yanathan, staying in the refugee camp near Tharamangalam in the district for the last 28 years, arrived at the district collectorate and put a petition in the grievances box.

In his petition to the President of India, Yanathan said he, along with his parents, had left Sri Lanka and were living in the refugee camp since 1991.

Stating that though they were refugees by birth, they are fully Indians in upbringing and loyalty, Yanathan said the refugees living here hope India would give them a new life. But, the Citizenship Amendment Act brought out by the government of India has put paid his hope of getting Indian citizenship, which was also the dream of other refugees, he said in his petition. Since his dream of living as an India would not come true, he should be subjected to mercy killing, Yanathan said.



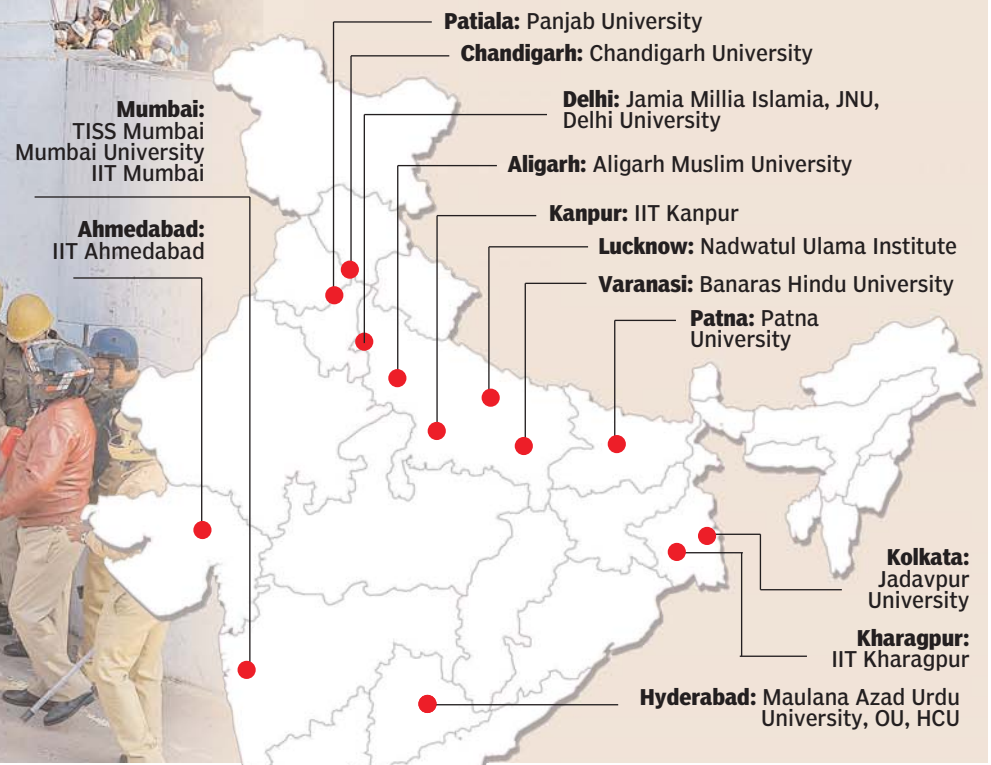
This Act is only for those who have faced years of persecution outside and have no other place to go except India. Groups with vested interests cannot be allowed to divide and create disturbances in the country — Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

The CAA is to give citizenship to refugees facing religious persecution, it is not to take away citizenship of any Indian. Some parties are spreading rumours and inciting violence for their political interest. I request students to go through the CAA once and not fall in their trap — Amit Shah, Union home minister



Anger over CAA spreads

Many campuses across the country joined the agitation against the controversial Citizenship Amendment Act and the police crackdown in Delhi's Jamia Millia Islamia University



Attacked, Jamia students begin vacating campus

Jamia V-C seeks probe into police action

From Page 1

Agitated students, some of them shirtless, protested outside the gates of JMI university. Slogans of 'Inquilab Zindabad' rent the air as students took out a march, demanding a CBI inquiry into the alleged "police brutality".

"I feel unsafe in my campus and want to head home", said Umar Ashraf, a student of Jamia Millia Islamia, as he stood outside one of the gates of the varsity holding a banner, 'Not safe in my university'.

Ashraf is one of the thousand students who is leaving the university campus following the police action on students on Sunday, in which they entered the campus and allegedly lathicharged students and used tear-gas shells.

"I feel unsafe in my campus and want to head home," a student of Jamia said, as he stood outside one of the gates of the varsity holding a banner, 'Not safe in my university'.

The protesting students were joined by parents and other supporters. Saira Bano, 55, whose two children study in the university, said "no mother would tolerate atrocities being inflicted on students of Jamia."

Many students, who spoke did not wish to be identified, said they were scared of the situation prevailing in the university. A student, who was packing her bags to leave for home in UP, said, "My parents saw the horri-

fic visuals on television on Sunday night about buses being torched and the subsequent police action on students. They asked me to immediately return home."

University Vice-Chancellor Najma Akhtar demanded a high-level inquiry into the police action on Sunday. Vice-Chancellor asserted that the university would not tolerate police presence on campus. She made it clear that the Jamia administration would not allow any political person to visit the university and will only coordinate with the HRD Ministry.

"Police entered the campus without permission. We will not tolerate police presence on campus. They scared our students with police brutality. There has been huge damage to university property," Akhtar said at a press conference. "We will file a complaint on damage of property and police action on students. We want a high-level inquiry. I will present facts to the HRD Minister. I have already spoken to the HRD secretary and briefed him about the situation," she added.

The Congress, which has been opposing the Citizenship Amendment Act in Parliament and outside, lead the protests. In a statement, Congress president Sonia Gandhi accused the Modi government of being "creator of violence and divisiveness", which has declared a war against its own people.



LDF, UDF in joint protest

DC CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DEC. 16

The ruling Left Democratic Front (LDF) and the Opposition United Democratic Front (UDF) came on a common platform on Monday to protest against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act.

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and Opposition leader Ramesh Chennithala led the three-hour long *satyagraha* at the Martyr's Column in Palayam in the capital. Ministers, top leaders and elected representa-

tives of both the Fronts took part in the *satyagraha* which began at 10 am.

The state government had earlier categorically stated that CAA will not be implemented in the state. While making the statement, the CM had described the Act as divisive and targeted against minorities.

In his address at the *satyagraha*, the Chief Minister hit out at the Narendra Modi government. "If you say that minorities cannot be given citizenship, no matter who says it, it won't be accepted in Kerala," Vijayan said.

Congress leaders, led by party general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra held a dharna at India Gate in solidarity with the students protesting against the amended Citizenship Act. Sources say that Ms Vadra wanted to visit the Jamia Millia Islamia to show solidarity with students. However, permission was not given

by authorities.

Vadra sat in protest in solidarity with JMI and AMU students, who faced brutal police action. Ms Vadra, accompanied by Ahmed Patel, KC Venugopal, Sushmita Dev, JD Tytler and over 300 workers held placards. Vadra was seen holding a placard, 'Stop attacks on young students'.

Didi dares Centre to dismiss her govt

RAJIB CHOWDHURI | DC
KOLKATA, DEC. 16

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday dared the Centre to dismiss her government for opposing the implementation of the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and National Register of Citizens (NRC) in the state. She made it clear that even out of power she would not allow the CAA and NRC to be effective at any cost.

Demanding the rollback of

the CAA and NRC, the Trinamul Congress supreme led a protest rally from B.R. Ambedkar Statue on Red Road to Jorasanko on Chittaranjan Avenue. She declared that if the Central government continued to implement the CAA and NRC in West Bengal, it would have to do so over her "dead body".

Reposing her faith in the state police, Banerjee also revealed she rejected the Narendra Modi govern-

ment's offer of central paramilitary forces to tackle the violence in districts which entered its fourth day. She advised the BJP to tackle the volatile situation first in New Delhi, Assam, Tripura and Meghalaya. Addressing a rally, she claimed, "The BJP is threatening to drive out people. Nothing will happen. Who will do it? We will not accept CAA and NRC. What will you do? Will you dismiss our government? Do it then. Throw me away too. But we

will not surrender to you." "The Citizenship (Amendment) Bill was introduced. It has to be withdrawn. The CAB and NRC are same sides of a lollipop. We will continue our movement until they are withdrawn. If they have to implement the CAA and NRC here, they have to do it over my dead body first."

Appealing for peace, Banerjee added, "Some BJP leaders are wondering why President's Rule would not be imposed here. Do not fall into

their trap. Another big leader is issuing warnings. I ask him to warn the governments in Assam, Tripura and Meghalaya, where the BJP is in power, first."

Meanwhile, Governor Jagdeep Dhankar sent a letter to the CM asking her to update him personally on the violence on Tuesday. His move came after a no-show by state chief secretary Rajiva Sinha and state director general of police Virendra despite his summons.

Satyagraha begins in Assam

MANOJ ANAND | DC
GUWAHATI, DEC. 16

Continuing their peaceful agitation against the Citizenship Act, hundreds of people led by Aasu chief advisor Samujjal Bhattacharya and general secretary Lurinjyoti Gogoi courted arrest in front of deputy commissioner's office in Guwahati.

However, protestors who were arrested for the day were released within two hours of their arrest as makeshift jail became overcrowded and police was compelled to release

■ STUDENTS, senior citizens, teachers, lawyers, doctors, scholars, singers took part in the march.

them to accommodate the protestors who came in large number to court arrest.

The Aasu's three-day 'Satyagraha' began in the morning and the leaders addressed the protesters at the Latacil playground before beginning a march towards the deputy commissioner's office. "We have information

that we might be arrested but we want to make it clear that our slogan is — Withdraw CAA or arrest us," Bhattacharya said in his address to the protesters. He urged the protesters to "march in pairs and be disciplined as our protest is non-violent".

The protesters were taken into custody when their rally reached near the Dighalipukhuri area, the officials said.

"The AASU leaders themselves courted arrest along with the other protesters but they have been released now," Guwahati Police Commissioner

Munna Prasad Gupta told reporters.

They were taken into custody and kept in a makeshift jail at Dighalipukhuri, he added.

Students, senior citizens, teachers, lawyers, doctors, litterateurs, singers, musicians and actors were among those who took part in the protest march.

Meanwhile, leader of opposition in Assam Assembly Debabrata Saikia has sought an inquiry by a sitting Justice of the Gauhati High Court into the violence by protesters and security personnel.

SC: Destruction of public property must stop

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, DEC. 16

The Supreme Court will hear on Tuesday petitions seeking probe into the alleged police atrocities on the students of Jamia Millia Islamia and Aligarh Muslim University protesting against Citizenship Amendment Act, however, making it clear that the violent protests and the destruction of public property must stop forthwith.

"If the protest, violence, destruction of public property is going on, we will not hear the matter," said Chief Justice S. A. Bobde heading the bench before which a number of senior lawyers including Indira Jaising, Colin Gonsalves, Salman Khurshid, Shobha Gupta and other had appeared.

Jaising told the court that it was police which was indulging in the violence and destruction of public property and putting it on the "heads of

the students." As Bobde said, "We want rioting to stop". Indira Jaising said, "No one can stop peaceful demonstration. Rioting is being engineered and busses are burnt by police and putting blame on the students."

"It does not matter who is doing it", all this including destruction of public property including busses must stop. We will decide in 'cool atmosphere'. We are not going to be bullied," said the C.J.



मध्यप्रदेश शासन

कमल नाथ सरकार का एक वर्ष

तेज कदमों से तरक्की की ओर बढ़ता मध्यप्रदेश

“एक साल पहले आज ही के दिन हमने सभी वर्गों के लोगों को साथ लेकर चलते हुये उनके जीवन को बेहतर और समर्थ बनाने तथा प्रदेश के हर क्षेत्र के समेकित विकास का संकल्प लिया था। यह मात्र रस्मी संकल्प नहीं था, बल्कि असीमित संभावनाओं के धनी प्रदेश के विकास को वास्तविक अर्थों में संभव बनाने का और इस प्रदेश के प्रति मेरी भावनाओं से प्रेरित एक दृढ़ निश्चय था। मध्यप्रदेश विपुल संसाधनों का प्रदेश है और उसी अनुपात में मध्यप्रदेश का विकास हमारा लक्ष्य है। इस दिशा में रणनीतिक योजनाएं बनाकर प्रयास किये जा रहे हैं, जिनका परिणाम अब हर क्षेत्र में दिखने लगा है। आने वाला समय उम्मीदें पूरी करने वाला है। मैं विश्वास दिलाता हूँ कि मध्यप्रदेश अपनी विकास यात्रा में पीछे मुड़कर नहीं देखेगा।”

कमल नाथ
मुख्यमंत्री, मध्यप्रदेश

एक वर्ष में 365 वचन पूर्ण

कृषि

- ‘जय किसान फसल ऋण माफी योजना’ के अंतर्गत 20 लाख से अधिक किसानों के ऋण माफ।
- मण्डियों में एक साथ ई-अनुज्ञा ऑनलाइन प्रणाली।
- इंदिरा किसान ज्योति योजना में 10 हॉर्स पावर तक के कृषि पंपों के लिये आधी दर पर बिजली उपलब्ध।
- किसान परिवार की कन्याओं के विवाह के लिए कृषक कन्या विवाह सहायता योजना प्रारंभ। इसमें 51,000 रुपये प्रोत्साहन राशि के लिए 2.5 एकड़ तक पात्रता।

बिजली

- इंदिरा किसान ज्योति योजना में अब आधी दर पर बिजली उपलब्ध। इससे लगभग 20 लाख किसान लाभान्वित।
- इंदिरा गृह ज्योति योजना - घरेलू उपभोक्ताओं को प्रथम 100 यूनिट तक की खपत पर 100 रुपये प्रति माह में बिजली उपलब्ध।
- घरेलू उपभोक्ताओं तथा लघु एवं सूक्ष्म उद्योगों को 24 घंटे बिजली की आपूर्ति।
- बिजली संबंधी शिकायतों के निराकरण के लिये 1912 कॉल सेंटर की सेवाएँ।

उच्च शिक्षा

- सभी शासकीय महाविद्यालयों को भूमि का स्वामित्व देकर अगले 30 वर्ष की विकास योजना तैयार करने का ‘भूमि सुरक्षा अभियान’।
- कैम्ब्रिज यूनिवर्सिटी लंदन के सहयोग से अंग्रेजी भाषा का विशेष प्रशिक्षण प्रारंभ।
- IIT व IIM के उच्च श्रेणी के प्राध्यापक पहली बार नवाचार हेतु उच्च शिक्षा परिषद में शामिल।
- विदेश में उच्च शिक्षा के लिए विद्यार्थियों के अर्हकारी अंक और परिवार की आय सीमा को कम किया गया।
- पीएससी से चयनित 3148 प्राध्यापकों व अन्य की नियुक्ति में पहली बार पारदर्शिता से ऑनलाइन पदस्थापना का विकल्प।

आदिवासी समाज

- वन अधिकार अधिनियम 2006 के तहत 8,683 दावों का निराकरण।
- आकांक्षा योजना में विद्यार्थियों को JEE, NEET, CLAT की प्रवेश परीक्षा की तैयारी पर 14 करोड़ 50 लाख रुपये व्यय।
- बालिकाओं की शिक्षा एवं साक्षरता वृद्धि के लिए 82 कन्या शिक्षा परिसर संचालित।
- मुख्यमंत्री मदद योजना में जन्म एवं मृत्यु के अवसर पर प्रति जन्म 50 किलोग्राम गेहूँ/चावल एवं प्रति मृत्यु पर 100 किलोग्राम अनाज गेहूँ/चावल का वितरण।
- आदिवासी समुदाय के देवस्थानों के संरक्षण के लिए आठान योजना।
- तेंदूपत्ता श्रमिकों की मजदूरी की दरों में वृद्धि। मजदूरी और बोनस का हो रहा है नकद भुगतान।

पिछड़ा वर्ग

- पिछड़ा वर्ग हेतु शासकीय सेवाओं में 27 प्रतिशत आरक्षण लागू।
- पिछड़ा वर्ग के परंपरागत कुटीर, हस्तशिल्प, हाथकरघा के उत्पाद जीएसटी से मुक्त।

उद्योग

- निवेश को प्रोत्साहन देने के लिए औद्योगिक नीति में महत्वपूर्ण संशोधन। सूक्ष्म, लघु एवं मध्यम उद्योगों के विकास के लिये नई एमएसएमई विकास नीति एवं स्टार्ट अप नीति 2019 लागू।
- पॉवरलूम, फार्मास्युटिकल एवं रेडिमेड गारमेंट के लिए विशेष पैकेज।
- तकनीकी विकास को प्रोत्साहन देने के लिए मैनुफैक्चरिंग इनोवेशन फण्ड की स्थापना।
- निजी भूमि अर्जन के लिये लैण्ड पूलिंग पॉलिसी लागू की गई।
- मैग्नीफिसेंट मध्यप्रदेश-2019 का इन्दौर में सफल आयोजन।

युवा

- मध्यप्रदेश में स्थापित होने वाले उद्योगों में 70 प्रतिशत रोजगार स्थानीय युवाओं को देना अनिवार्य।
- प्रदेश के आईटीआई, पॉलीटेक्निक तथा इंजीनियरिंग कॉलेजों से उत्तीर्ण विद्यार्थियों को ग्लोबल स्किल्स पार्क भोपाल कैम्पस में प्रिंसीजन इंजीनियरिंग कोर्स में प्रशिक्षण।
- शहरी बेरोजगार युवाओं को 100 दिन के रोजगार के साथ-साथ कौशल प्रशिक्षण के लिये मुख्यमंत्री युवा स्वामिमान योजना।
- प्रतिभावान खिलाड़ियों की पुरस्कार राशि एवं खेल संघों की अनुदान राशि में वृद्धि।
- खिलाड़ियों के उच्च स्तरीय प्रशिक्षण के लिए कोच डेवलपमेंट प्रोग्राम।
- खेल अकादमी एवं प्रदेश के राष्ट्रीय स्तर के खिलाड़ियों को चिकित्सा और दुर्घटना जीवन बीमा की सुविधा।
- स्वरोजगार मूलक योजनाओं में ग्रामीण क्षेत्र के बेरोजगारों के लिए पृथक से लक्ष्य।

महिला सशक्तिकरण

- लाइली लक्ष्मी योजना में 3 लाख 20 हजार 289 नई बालिकाओं का पंजीयन।
- मुख्यमंत्री कन्या विवाह/निकाह योजना की अनुदान राशि 28 हजार रुपये से बढ़ाकर 51 हजार रुपये।
- वृद्धावस्था और विधवा पेंशन राशि 300 रुपये से बढ़ाकर 600 रुपये प्रतिमाह।
- प्रदेश की 202 आशा कार्यकर्ताओं को उसी ब्लॉक में एएनएम के पद पर नियुक्ति।
- प्रदेश की 9411 महिलाओं को राजमिस्त्री का प्रशिक्षण।
- एकीकृत महिला हेल्पलाइन 181 की सेवाएँ प्रारंभ।
- कन्या शैक्षणिक संस्थानों तथा महिला कामकाजी क्षेत्रों को चिन्हित कर वहाँ पुलिस सुरक्षा की व्यवस्था।

उम्मीदें रंग लाईं, तरक्की मुस्कुराईं

Climate is what we expect, weather is what we get
A man's homeland is wherever he prospers

DECCAN Chronicle

17 DECEMBER 2019

Students the real hope of India's democracy

Monday morning's newspapers shared one common photo on their front pages — that of a bus in Delhi on fire. No ordinary fire: it was a conflagration reminiscent of the 1933 burning down of the Reichstag, blamed on Communists but engineered by Adolf Hitler to enable him to end democracy in Germany. Seeing this photo, many unsuspecting readers would have believed the Delhi police acted correctly to enter the campus of Jamia Millia University and wreck havoc on students holding peaceful if full-throated demonstrations against the newly-notified Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA).

However, the students were not arsonists. Videos exist to show uniformed personnel emptying jerry cans of petrol on the buses. No wonder those furious flames. It made for a compelling photo for our already craven media. And it also made for a compelling case that the police had no choice but to act with the viciousness they did against the students. Fifty students were detained, and their early release is welcome.

The Delhi police are under the direct control of Union home minister Amit Shah, who has been unrelenting in implementing a majoritarian agenda during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's second term. (The unilateral end to Kashmir's autonomy seems to have slipped from most Indian minds.) He clearly knows how the media can be manipulated so that public opinion is behind any and all strongarm tactics against Muslims. The somnambulant public is easily fooled.

Reacting to the police action at Jamia, students at Aligarh Muslim University tried demonstrating in their fellow students' support, but were teargassed and water-cannoned by the police (the state force is under the control of Amit Shah's competitor for a post-Modi dispensation, UP chief minister Yogi Adityanath). The institution is shut down till January 6. This contempt of and violence against students has long been in exhibit at Jawaharlal Nehru University. It appears that if there is one thing an authoritarian ruler cannot stomach, it is dissent; and that too by young minds apparently impervious to his "Mann ki Baat" and other blathering. What more can be expected from a government comprising persons of dubious education and fake degrees?

The invasion of campuses and beating up of students is in line with the mindset that bequeathed us the CAA (and the National Register of Citizens, NRC). It is meant to consolidate majoritarian rule and force minorities to cower in submission. It is also meant to divert everyone's attention to our free-falling economy, which the government is apparently too clueless to fix. The police action is condemnable. It shows the home minister in the worst possible light. Thank God for India's spunky students, who continue to prove that if there is a spark of hope left in India, it resides in our youth.

We are satisfied to note that students on campuses around the country are rising in solidarity with their fellow students at Jamia, and we call on students in more and more universities to demonstrate against this callous, undemocratic and incompetent government.

Gambling is a minefield

The tragic end of a goldsmith and his family in Tamil Nadu in a suicide pact where three children were poisoned with cyanide is a pointer to what addiction can do to ruin lives. With gold jewellery business losing out to mechanised production, the goldsmith saw only an online lottery as a way out. Little would he have known how the odds are fixed in any sort of gambling and in games of chance, where the bank is the only possible winner. It was easy enough for the State to clamp down on illegal lotteries like betting on the last two digits of New York cotton exchange prices, that was all the rage in 1970s India, tackling new age online lotteries is very different. Also, online lotteries are run by many states, especially in the Northeast.

Without a clear online gambling policy, including on cricket, sharks, even of the international variety, are free to run Internet lotteries. While statutory bans are difficult to enforce, the least the government can do is to watch the Internet and shut down activities that are leading people to ruin. Already, there is no social net for India's population, and having to deal with those who are dropping out of productive work for various causes simply adds to the burden. But, so far as gambling is concerned, only awareness of its pitfalls and how betting is like a bewitching proposition leading one to doom by offering grand hope of impossible riches might help people understand the dangers. But then how do you spread the message across a vast country with a gullible population? Maybe, the goldsmith's pitiful video on his plight might make some see the light.

DECCAN CHRONICLE

ADITYA SINHA Editor T. VENKATESWARLU Printer & Publisher

DECCAN CHRONICLE offices are located at:

- Hyderabad:** 36, Sarojini Devi Road, Secunderabad - 500 003, Ph: 040-27803930-4; Fax : 040-27805256
- Vijayawada:** No.C-3 & 4 Patamata, Industrial Estate, Auto Nagar, Vijayawada (A.P.), Ph: 0866-255284/255287; Telefax: 0866-255234
- Visakhapatnam:** Survey No.1/3A Beach Road, Near Kailasagiri Ropeway, Sector-9 MVP Colony, Visakhapatnam - 530 017 (A.P), Ph: 0891-2552333/2552334; Fax: 0891-2755285
- Rajahmundry:** Vemagiri, Dhawaleswaram Rd, Rajahmundry, Ph: 0883-2417618/2417208; Telefax: 0883-2417208
- Anantapur:** Thapovan colony, Bangalore By-Pass Road, Anantapur - 515004, Ph: 08554-276903; Fax: 08554-276904
- Karimnagar:** Survey No.1341, Vavilpalapally Colony, Jagityala Road, Karimnagar - 505 001, Ph: 0878-2228908; Telefax: 0878-2220433
- Nellore:** Survey No.527/2, Burrenpur Village, Venkatachalam (M), Chennudugunta Panchayat, Nellore, Ph: 0861-2348581/82; Telefax: 0861-2348580
- Chennai:** SP-3 Developed Plot, Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai - 600 032, Ph: 044-22254747/48/50/51; Advt Fax: 22254765/22254766/42305325
- Bengaluru:** 5th Floor, BMT Commercial Complex, 80 Feet Road, Koramangala, Bengaluru-560 095 Ph: 080-43460500; Fax: 080-22960552
- Coimbatore:** 77, Vivekananda Road, Ramnagar, Coimbatore - 641 009, Ph: 0422 2231255
- Kochi:** No.3-B, 3rd Floor of DD TRADE TOWER, Kaloor-Kadavanthara Road, Ernakulam, Ph: 0484-4039408
- Thiruvananthapuram:** St Joseph's Press, TC 15/1040, Cotton Hill, Thycad (PO), Thiruvananthapuram 695 014
- Kozhikode:** Door No 6/1002 E, First Floor of City Mall, Opp. YMCA, Kannur Road, Kozhikode - 673 001, Fax : 0495 4019 018
- Gram: CHRONICLE Postal registration no: No. H/SD-348/2006-08



Subhani

Assam protests due to politics of xenophobia



Samrat

The country has erupted in protests since the passing of the Citizenship Amendment Act. The protests first broke out in Assam, a state ruled by the BJP, and spread to Meghalaya and Tripura before fanning out to cities and states across India. Yet there is a fundamental difference in the reason and character between the protests in the Northeast and those in the rest of the country.

The protests in Assam and Meghalaya were against the Citizenship Amendment Act alone. Elsewhere, the protests were against the CAA as well as the National Register of Citizens, which is meant to follow the amending of the Citizenship Act. While the stated purpose of the CAA is to grant citizenship on relatively easy terms to Hindus, Buddhists, Christians, Sikhs and other non-Muslim minorities from Afghanistan, Pakistan and Bangladesh, the aim of the NRC is to evict all those who cannot prove through documents that they or their ancestors were citizens of India before a certain cut-off date. The cut-off date for the rest of India is unknown, but in Assam, the only state where this exercise has been carried out so far, the cut-off date was March 24, 1971.

Around 19 lakh people had been left out of the NRC in Assam. The official data on the ethnic and linguistic breakup is not yet out, although BJP leader and senior Assam minister Himanta Biswa Sarma had promised that the data would be made public. However, source-based estimates widely reported in the media have mentioned figures of 10-12 lakh Bengali

Hindus among the 19 lakhs excluded, as well as another lakh or so each of Gorkhas and indigenous tribals. The rest are Muslims, mainly those of Bengali heritage. The fact that the NRC process was ridden with errors was clear right through. All kinds of people found themselves excluded. A soldier who served the nation for 30 years, fought for India in Kargil, and won a President's medal, Mohammad Sanaulah, was sent to a detention camp by the order of a foreigners' tribunal. There were several other cases of unexpected exclusions, most of which would never make news because they were of ordinary poor people.

Everyone in Assam knew this was happening. All groups including the BJP and the All Assam Students' Union eventually rejected the NRC for their own reasons and agreed that the exercise had been deeply flawed. Yet now, when the Citizenship Act was passed, the state has risen in spontaneous protest — but only against the Citizenship Act, not against the NRC. Why?

The reason is that the protests in Assam are driven by a desire to exclude all "outsiders", but the main targets are the Bengali Hindus. The fear is that Bengali Hindus from Bangladesh will come swarming in. This is an illogical fear since there is a cut-off date of December 31, 2014, stated in the CAA, and therefore any new immigrants will not be covered by it. However, illogical fears and historical half-truths have powered Assamese politics of xenophobia for decades.

The story goes back to

before the Partition of India. In a recent essay in *Frontline*, Prof. Sanjib Baruah writes: "Bodhisattva Kar, a historian of modern Assam, provides an amusing and yet revealing account of an argumentation between Jawaharlal Nehru and the Assamese public intellectual Jnananath Bora during Nehru's visit to Assam as Congress president in 1937. India's independence and poverty eradication were high on the Congress Party's agenda at that time. Nehru appealed to the people of Assam to give priority to those 'national problems' over Assam's 'provincial problems'. Nehru after reaching Assam had found to his surprise that local public opinion was exercised mostly by the question of immigration from eastern Bengal, and not by any 'national issue' — not even Indian independence. The separation of Sylhet and the Line System to restrict the areas open to settlement by new immigrants were high on the list of concerns of the audience that came to hear Nehru."

Sylhet had been removed from Bengal Presidency and appended to Assam by the colonial British administration in 1874, when Assam emerged as a province. From 1826, when it became a part of British India, until then, it had been part of Bengal Presidency.

The basis of fear of Bengali domination lies in the oft-repeated fact that Bengali was made the language of administration of the province by the British from 1837 until 1874. This happened because Assam

The protests in Assam are driven by a desire to exclude 'outsiders', but the main targets are Bengali Hindus. The fear is that Bengali Hindus from Bangladesh will come swarming in.

had been conquered by the Burmese, and then the British, and appended to the Bengal Presidency. The Bengali clerk, to this day, is blamed for the British colonial administration's decisions that resulted from that sequence of historical events.

It is a fact that Bengalis and Punjabis paid the real price for India's freedom, because the million and more who died in Partition were mainly Bengalis and Punjabis. The many millions more who became refugees were also mainly Bengalis and Punjabis.

Many of those who were forced out due to religious tensions after Partition in East Pakistan wound up in adjoining Assam — and there, they faced attacks again in the "Bongal Kheda" (chase out Bengalis) riots of the 1960s, which morphed into the "Bidexi Kheda" (chase out foreigners) agitation of the 1970s and the Assam Agitation of 1979-85. Eventually, the worst victims of the Assam Agitation were Bengali Muslim peasants. In the Nellie massacre of 1983, at least 2,200 men, women and children were hacked to death overnight. Not a single person ever went to jail for those 2,200-plus murders, because Assamese society closed ranks to prevent justice in a way that would have astonished those who saw Gujarat 2002.

The NRC exercise happened only in Assam as a result of that long history. The protests against the Citizenship Act there, but not the erroneous NRC, is part of the same deep-rooted politics of xenophobia that has been normalised for so long that, when it comes to determining who is "pure" Assamese, talk of "purity of blood" is par for the course even in polite "liberal" sections of society.

The writer is the co-editor of Insider Outsider, an anthology on the insider-outsider issue in Northeast India

LETTERS

RIGHTS VIOLATION

For the last few days one has witnessed peaceful protests being taken out in universities all over the country. But it's disturbing to see how the police lath-charged the students after entering the campus (Outrage in Jamia, DC, Dec. 16). If any locals were involved, why students were dragged from inside the campus and beaten up? This is human rights violation. If today's youth do not fight for justice then who will?

Shazia Razaq

Ashoknagar, Hyderabad

After the Citizenship (Amendment) Act was enacted, protests have erupted across the nation. The crackdown by the police on Jamia Millia students as well as on AMU students is condemnable as the police is forcefully entering the campus premises without permission and creating fear among students. Not allowing students to protest in a peaceful atmosphere is against the fundamentals of the Constitution which guarantees them the right to protest.

Mohammed Wasif Ali

Secunderabad

RIOTS BY STUDENTS

It is sad to see that a large number of students are being used and misled by parties for their own narrow political gains. These students are being sent by their parents to study in universities to become responsible future citizens and not to become hooligans. Under the garb of protests against all the government decisions they are destroying government property, creating hurdles in day-to-day normal life of law-abiding citizens. How long can we let this go on? Wrong trends have been set by so-called prestigious universities like the JNU, Jamia Millia, AMU and so on.

Chadha V.B.

Secunderabad

POLICE ENCOUNTER

The write-up by Sriram Karri under the heading 'Anatomy of a police encounter in India' (DC, Dec. 15) was interesting and candidly exposed the performance of police encounters. The public rage in the Disha's rape case has cooled down and also of her kin. Let them now come to their senses and think what police did is wrong. The four rapists should have been treated as per law.

Vishwanath Pandit

Ramanthapur, Hyderabad

Email your letters to info@deccanmail.com, editor@deccanmail.com. You can also send them to Editor, Deccan Chronicle, 36, Sarojini Devi Road, Secunderabad-500 003.



Irfan Husain

World faces a perfect storm of discontent

Over the last year, protesters have taken over streets from Hong Kong to Iraq, and from Barcelona to Iran. The reasons are diverse, as is the composition of the chanting, stone-throwing groups confronting the state. But a few familiar threads run through the fabric of dissent. One is the relative youth of the protesters; next is the frustration with a corrupt and exploitative status quo that is boiling over; and finally there is the failure of systems that have provoked dissidents to risk their lives, limbs and liberty while facing the might of the state.

In Pakistan, we have a special case where mobs are usually associated with religious movements or parties. Clerics are favoured by the establishment that often needs their support in the shape of votes or street power. They are thus often given a free pass for their violent rampages.

The recent dharna, or street protest, by Maulana Fazlur Rahman and his extremist followers is a case in point. Large

swathes of Islamabad were blocked off by the protest that had no clear purpose, but the state handled the situation with kid gloves. Had a secular party staged a similar protest, its members would have been thrashed, and jailed quicker than they could have yelled: "Go, Imran Khan, go!"

In Iran and Iraq, the state has been much tougher in facing any challenge to its power. But the reality is that no modern state is going to allow protesters to take power. Nevertheless, the streets in many countries are now contested spaces where the struggle for power is increasingly being waged.

The ballot is being replaced with the bullet and the baton because young people no longer view conventional politics as a vehicle of change. The youth now view elections as a cunning way for the establishment to shift power from one party to another without effecting any real change.

In the post-Second World War scenario, those who inherited power from their colonial masters have

done little to improve the lives of their people. Corrupt princelings, generals, dictators and bureaucrats have shovelled their snouts in the same troughs. Meanwhile, the poor have got poorer, with education, healthcare and employment being neglected as a matter of course.

Some populists have staged revolutions in the name of equality and social justice, but have then failed to deliver. Whatever your views about socialism, the reality is that most socialist countries have invested in their citizens. China is a prime example of what an educated, healthy workforce can achieve. India, on the other hand, shows us how difficult it is to maintain growth, with poverty and caste divisions slowing down progress.

Apart from purely economic reasons, people are on the streets because they want to win back the dignity they think they have lost. A new generation that has more aspirations than their parents is now pushing for political power, as for most of them, the process of change is too slow.

Many of us with a Western education consider our clerical parties a retrogressive force that wants to push Pakistan back to the medieval era. But placing our prejudices aside, the fact is that desire for change can be revolutionary, whether it is secular or religious. So when we sneer at mullahs for their backwardness, we are being intellectually lazy, and making no effort to understand their motivation.

This struggle for power between the people and the state is intensifying at a time when the contradictions built into capitalism are becoming sharper. The inequality between workers and bosses has never been higher. Phenomena like Brexit and Trump are just the tip of the iceberg. Expect more of the same.

So how do we break out of the circle in which we are trapped? Clearly, the elite will not hand over money or power to the deprived. Is revolution the only answer? Obviously, the situation will vary from one society to another: some leaders will make the adjustments

necessary to defuse the situation. Others will try and use force to put down protest. In Iran and Iraq, for example, brutal repression has already taken hundreds of young lives.

In a world where one per cent of adults own 47 per cent of household wealth, it is no surprise when the working class pour out into the streets. To a great extent, it is the excesses of the one per cent that is driving popular anger. Add to income inequality the collapse in governance and the lack of jobs, education and opportunities, and you have the factors for the perfect storm. To save itself, the system will need to reinvent itself and accept higher taxes to pay for redistribution. However, the one per cent will fight tooth and nail to preserve its grip on wealth and power. For them, any concession is the thin end of the wedge. But unless they accept some form of compromise, the present system is doomed to go the way of the dinosaur.

By arrangement with Dawn

Feelings of embarrassment or remorse caused by having one or more tattoos

Explaining parenting in a condescending way to people who don't have children

2010-2020: The decade that India has 'lost'



Mohan Guruswamy

When India's economic history is written in some future date, and when a serious examination is done of when India lost its way to its "tryst with destiny", the decade of 2010-20 will be highlighted. The facts speak for themselves. India's real GDP growth was at its peak in March 2010 when it scaled 13.3 per cent. The nominal GDP at that point was over 16.1 per cent. The nominal GDP in September 2019 was at 6.3 per cent, its lowest in the decade. Since then, the downward trend is evident and we are now scraping the bottom at about a real GDP growth rate of 4.5 per cent, this too with the push of an arguably inflationary methodology. Our previous CEA, Arvind Subramanian, estimates that India's GDP growth is overestimated by at least 2.5 per cent.

BJP MP Subramanian Swamy is even more pessimistic. He estimates it to be 1.5 per cent. The decline in the promise is amply evident by the change in the make up of the economy during this decade. In 2010 agriculture contributed 17.5 per cent of GDP, while industry contributed 30.2 per cent and services 45.4 per cent. In 2019 that has become 15.6 per cent, 26.5 per cent and 48.5 per cent respectively. The share of industry has been sliding. This is the typical profile of a post-industrial economy. The irony of India becoming post-industrial without having industrialised must not be missed. The most significant cause for the decline of growth is the decline in capital investment. It was 39.8 per cent of GDP in 2010 and is now a good 10 per cent lower. Clearly, without an increase of capital investment, one cannot hope for more industrialisation and hence higher growth. What we have seen in this decade is the huge increase in services, with now

mostly means increase in public administration and informal services like pakora sellers.

At the turn of the century, as China's GDP began its great leap forward (from about \$1.2 trillion in 2010 to \$14.2 trillion in 2019), it was also a heady moment for India whose GDP of \$470 billion began a break from the sub-5 per cent level of most of the 1990s to the rates we became familiar with in the recent past (to hit a peak stride of 10.7 per cent in 2010). At that point, if growth rates kept creeping up, we could have conceivably gone past \$30 trillion by 2050. But for that the growth rate should consistently be above seven per cent. It seemed so feasible then. In 2010 it seemed we were well on track. But now we are struggling to get past \$3 trillion, and the \$5 trillion rendezvous that Prime Minister Narendra Modi promised by 2024 will have to wait longer.

To be fair to Mr Modi and the NDA, the decline began early in the second term of the UPA when capital expenditure growth had begun tapering off. Dr Manmohan Singh is too canny an economist to have missed that. But UPA-2 also coincided with the increasing assertion of populist tendencies encouraged by the Congress president and her extra-constitutional National

The fact that the share of agriculture is now about 15.6 per cent of GDP and falling, while still being the source of sustenance for almost 60 per cent of the population, reveals the stark reality. A vast section of India is being left behind.

Advisory Council. The decline in the share of capital expenditure was accompanied by a huge expansion in subsidies, most of them unmerited. Instead of an increase in expenditure on education and healthcare, we saw a huge expansion in subsidies to the middle and upper classes like on LPG and motor fuels. Even fertiliser subsidies, which mainly flow to middle and large farmers with irrigated farmlands, saw a great upward leap. Clearly the money for this came from the reduction in capital expenditure. Mr Modi's fault in the years since 2014 is that he did nothing to reverse the trend, and only inflicted more hardship by his foolish demonetisation and ill-conceived GST rollout.

The realities are indeed stark. The savings/GDP ratio has been in a declining trend since 2011 and the Modi gov-

ernment has been unable to reverse it. Consequently, the tax/GDP ratio and the investment/GDP ratio have also been declining. The rate of economic growth has been suspect, and all objective indicators point to it being padded up. The drivers of economic growth, such as capital expenditure, are dismal. Projects funded by banks have declined by over half since 2014 to less than ₹600 billion in 2018-19. Projects funded by the market have dropped to rock bottom. Subsequently, the manufacturing/GDP ratio is now at 15 per cent. Corporate profits/GDP ratio is now at a 15-year-old low at about 2.7 per cent. You cannot have adequate job creation if these are dipping. Declining rural labor wage indices testify to this.

Between October 2007 and October 2013 rural wages in the agricultural and non-agricultural sectors grew at 17 per cent and 15 per cent respectively. Since November 2014, however, agricultural and non-agricultural sector wages grew at only 5.6 per cent and 6.5 per cent respectively. In 2019, average rural wage growth has further fallen to 3.1 per cent.

It is very clear now that the urban lane has been moving well in India. Indeed, so well that an Oxfam study revealed that as much as 73 per cent of the growth in the past five

years accrued to just one per cent of the population. This does not mean it is just the tycoons of Mumbai and New Delhi who are cornering the gains. The government now employs close to 25 million persons, and these have now become a high-income enclave. The number of persons in the private and organised sector is about another 10 million. In all, this high-income enclave numbers not more than 175-200 million (using the thumb rule of five per family). Much of the consumption we tend to laud is restricted to just these people.

Agriculture is still the mainstay of employment. Way back in 1880 the Indian Famine Commission "had observed that India had too many people cultivating too little land". This about encapsulates the current situation as well. While as a percentage, farmers and farm workers have reduced as a part of the workforce, in absolute terms they have almost tripled since 1947. This has led to a permanent depression in comparative wages but has also led to a decline in per farmer production due to fragmentation of holdings. The average farm size is now less than an acre and it keeps further fragmenting every generation. The beggaring of the farming community is inevitable. The only solution to this is the massive

redirection of the workforce into less skilled vocations such as construction.

The simple fact that the share of agriculture is now about 15.6 per cent of GDP and falling, while still being the source of sustenance for almost 60 per cent of the population, reveals the stark reality. A vast section of India is being left behind even as India races to become a major global economy.

As the decade ends, the Bharat and India divide has never been more vivid. Our social scientists are still unable to fix a handle to this because the class, cultural and ethnic divides still elude a neat theoretical construct. Yet there can be little disagreement that there are two broad parts to this gigantic country, and one part is being left behind. The distance between the two only increased from 2010 to 2020. This is indeed the lost decade. Recovering from this will take long and will be painful. If we take too long, we might have used up a good bit of the "demographic dividend" and the demographic window of opportunity. The aging of India will be upon us by 2050.

The writer, a policy analyst studying economic and security issues, held senior positions in government and industry. He also specialises in the Chinese economy.

US-India defence ties to reach new heights

As I complete my fourth month as United States consul-general in Hyderabad, I would like to reflect on the remarkable ties between our two nations, particularly in the area of defence cooperation.



Joel Reifman

The partnership between the United States and India continues to reach new heights. Under the leadership of President Donald Trump and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, strategic cooperation between our two countries has expanded — and we have an unprecedented opportunity to further deepen this relationship.

The US welcomes India's emergence as a leading global power and supports its leadership role in South Asian security and throughout the broader region. We share complementary visions for a free, open and rules-based Indo-Pacific.

US-India defence cooperation has been expanding over the past two decades and has seen a rapid increase within the past five years.

A few concrete examples come to mind. As a result of our bilateral security

cooperation in areas ranging from maritime security to counter-terrorism cooperation, the US declared India a Major Defence Partner in 2016. This opened the door to expanded bilateral defence trade that includes such strategically important weapons systems as heavy transport aircraft, ultra-lightweight howitzers, helicopters, and precision-guided munitions. This week's 2+2 dialogue in Washington D.C. is another important opportunity to bolster defence and military cooperation.

In the states of Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Odisha, where I serve as US consul-general, I have been deeply impressed by the breadth of our strategic relationship including joint research, co-development and production of high-end defence equip-

ment, and expanded cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region. US and Indian companies are co-producing C-130 transport aircraft, F-16 fighter planes and Apache helicopters at joint facilities in Hyderabad.

Through strong US-India private sector collaboration, Hyderabad and other innovation centres across India have become important aerospace and defence manufacturing hubs. A vibrant Indian defence manufacturing base is in the interests of both the US and India. It enhances Indian military capabilities and supports a global supply chain of partner countries with shared democratic values.

Last month, Andhra Pradesh hosted the first ever tri-service military exercise between India and the US: Tiger Triumph. This exercise improved our ability to

work cooperatively in providing humanitarian relief after natural disasters. Additionally, the port of Visakhapatnam has welcomed three US Navy ship visits in the past year. Working together, the American and Indian militaries have increased interoperability in order to prevent conflict and promote regional strength and peace throughout the Indo-Pacific region. At the same time, the US-India defence relationship, and resulting cooperation in industry and technology, is an innovation engine and job creator for both Indians and Americans.

This week, the US consulate is hosting the US-India Defence Ties Conference in Hyderabad, in partnership with the Business Council for International Understanding and the Confederation of Indian Industry. The conference will bring together government officials, corporate leaders, researchers, and entrepreneurs to build on both countries' achievements and further strengthen US-India collaboration in defence manufacturing and innovation.

And right before the Hyderabad conference,

the consulate and Nexus Startup Hub will host a Defence Startups Workshop at T-Hub, India's largest business incubator for entrepreneurs.

Together, we will help young Indian innovators develop new skills and forge connections with the defence industry, potential business partners, and investors.

The range of startups with a link to the defence industry might surprise you, from 3D printing technologies to waterless bathing products. I look forward to seeing the cutting-edge innovation of young Indian entrepreneurs in action.

The bilateral defence relationship between the United States and India is strong and getting stronger, and that is good news for all of us. As 2020 approaches, I am confident that the US-India partnership will continue to expand, benefiting Americans and Indians, and enhancing security and innovative technologies across the Indo-Pacific region and the globe.

The writer is the United States consul-general in Hyderabad

Who welcomes whom at Christmas?

We are just eight days away from Christmas. Preparations of all kinds are under way to have a blast when the day at last arrives. The readers of this column, however, have always been keen to pay greater attention to the spiritual aspect of life, especially of great festivals like Christmas.

Generally, however, people focus on spiritual preparation to "welcome" Jesus into our world. I came across an inspiring reflection by Theodora Hawksley in a British Catholic weekly, *Tablet*. Using the verse, "Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God", from St Paul's letter to the Romans, she brings in a totally refreshing thought to meditate upon.

While most of us focus on spiritual preparation to welcome Jesus and by extension welcome others, she evokes a complete turnaround, persuading us to focus on, "welcome one another as Christ has



Dominic Emmanuel



welcomed you". She suggests that rather than focusing on the preparations to welcome Christ, let us concentrate on how Christ has welcomed you. Hence, it is not we who welcome Christ but He it is who welcomes us.

Hawksley then goes on to point out the difference: "Preparing to welcome others may send us into a flurry of anxious activity, but in some sense we retain the power. We are welcoming others into our space, and we want to be good hosts, at ease, generous and polished. Being welcomed, on the other hand, puts us on the other foot: we are entering someone else's space, and we adapt ourselves to them," and, "Is this the kind of place where I take

my shoes off?" She then concludes, "Advent isn't so much about welcoming Christ into our mid-winter world, and striving to be gracious hosts. It's more about Christ welcoming us, which means learning how to enter his space, and be transformed by the presence of vulnerability".

How difficult sometimes it is for us to shift the attention from ourselves to Jesus or to others? Can we for the next six days focus solely on the welcome that Jesus offers us, and the rest of the world?"

Father Dominic Emmanuel, a founder-member of the Parliament of Religions, can be contacted at frdominic@gmail.com

Calcutta Test: Six killed, 100 hurt

CALCUTTA, DEC. 16. SIX persons were killed and about 100 others injured — 14 seriously — in a stampede outside the daily ticket counters at the Eden Gardens, venue of the Fourth Test between Australia and India, here this morning.

Police said, over 20,000 people had queued up in front of the counters since last night for six-rupee tickets for the fourth day of the Test, although the Cricket Association of



Bengal had already announced that only about 6,000 to 7,000 tickets would be on sale.

With a frantic struggle for positions, there was a stampede just when the ticket counters opened at about 7 a.m. — three hours before start of play.

MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(Railway Board)

Notice

For information of candidates (Level-1) with Multiple Disability (MD) who have applied for Railway recruitment

PwBD candidates who actually have Multiple Disabilities under the RPWD Act, 2016 but have applied against single Disability category of LD or VI or HI in the Level-1 Railway recruitment notification CEN 02/2018, and have secured the relaxed minimum qualifying marks in the written Computer Based Test conducted, may refer to the RRC/RRB website of the Railway they had applied for. A notification that may be relevant to such candidates is scheduled to be uploaded on 23rd December, 2019.

Follow us on: /RailMinIndia

Government of India
Ministry of Commerce and Industry
Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade

#startupindia

Accelerating excellence in startup ecosystem

NATIONAL STARTUP AWARDS 2020

Startups
Cash Prizes of ₹5 Lakh

Incubators
Cash Prize of ₹15 Lakh

Accelerators
Cash prize of ₹15 Lakh

Last date of Submission: 31st DECEMBER, 2019

APPLY NOW
www.startupindia.gov.in/awards

DAVP-05201/13/0011/1920



Climate of regret

Climate activist Greta Thunberg has apologised for saying politicians should be put 'against the wall' after critics took it to mean that she was advocating violence



It is time for us to do our jobs. We are here, and you know how to reach us.

— Stephen Biegun
US special envoy for N. Korea

IN BRIEF

Bushfires cause health emergency

Sydney: Australia's biggest city is facing a 'public health emergency' over the bushfire smoke that has choked Sydney for weeks, leading doctors warned on Monday after hospitals reported a dramatic spike in casualty department visits. Hundreds of climate change-fuelled bushfires have been raging across Australia for months, with efforts to contain a 'mega-blaze' burning north of Sydney destroying an estimated 20 homes overnight and fires near Perth threatening towns. More than 20 medical groups released a joint statement Monday calling on Australian government to address the toxic air pollution.

French actor Anna Karina no more

Paris: Danish-born actress Anna Karina, one of the most acclaimed luminaries of influential French New Wave cinema, has died of cancer at age 79. Karina, famous for her kohl-rimmed blue eyes, was the frequent muse of director Jean-Luc Godard, her first husband, starring in seven of his films including *A Woman is a Woman*, *Pierrot Le Fou* and *Bande à Part* (Band of Outsiders). Her agent Laurent Balandras told French media that she passed away in Paris in the company of her fourth husband, American director Dennis Berry. "Her gaze was the gaze of the Nouvelle Vague (New Wave). It will remain so forever," French culture minister Franck Riester tweeted.

France pensions reform star quits

Paris: France's minister for pension reform resigned on Monday over a potential conflict of interest, dealing a blow to President Emmanuel Macron as trade unions staged a 12th day of strikes and prepared for more street protests against the planned changes. Jean-Paul Delevoye, the high commissioner for pensions, was one of president Macron's most trusted allies and one of few with cabinet experience. He quit after failing to publicly declare more than a dozen posts he held in addition to his cabinet job. Delevoye's resignation comes at a crucial moment for Macron whose government is locked in a standoff with unions over the plans to overhaul France's convoluted pension system to help plug a chronic deficit. The unions have said they will step up their protests unless the government withdraws the reform.

PAK COURT ADJOURNS MARYAM CASE

SHAFQAT ALI | DC
ISLAMABAD, DEC. 16

Pakistan's Lahore High Court on Monday adjourned the hearing of Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz) vice-president Maryam Nawaz's plea seeking return of her passport till December 24.

During the proceedings, the National Accountability Bureau requested the judge to extend time for submission of reply which was approved by the court.

Earlier, LHC had declared Maryam Nawaz's petition seeking removal of her name from Exit Control List as inadmissible and directed her to approach the interior ministry in this regard.

Further, federal cabinet, under the supervision of Prime Minister Imran Khan, had opposed to send her abroad. Federal minister for water resources Faisal Wawda urged the government not to exclude Maryam Nawaz's name from the ECL.



Chinese Premier Li Keqiang speaks with Hong Kong chief executive Carrie Lam, during their meeting, in Beijing, China on Monday. — AP

Xi vows support for Carrie Lam

Hong Kong still in dilemma, says China

Hong Kong, Dec. 16: Chinese President Xi Jinping met Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam in Beijing on Monday, saying he recognised her courage to govern the Asian financial hub in these "most difficult" times.

"The situation in Hong Kong in 2019 was the most complex and difficult since its return to the motherland," Xi told local media in brief comments before the closed door session.

Lam's meetings come after Hong Kong police fired tear gas in late night street clashes with anti-government protesters, as the city's worst political crisis in decades drags on into a seventh month.

Hong Kong media has speculated that Lam's talks with Xi could yield fresh directives on the city's political crisis. Xi did not go into specifics, but reiterated his support for Lam despite some previous media reports suggesting she might be replaced.

The situation in Hong Kong in 2019 was the most complex and difficult since its return to the motherland. We will continue to be unwavering in supporting Lam to lead the Hong Kong special administrative government to govern in accordance with the law

— XI JINPING
Chinese President

"We will continue to be unwavering in supporting you to lead the Hong Kong special administrative government to govern in accordance with the law," said Xi as Lam listened next to him.

He added Beijing was "unwavering in supporting the Hong Kong police to firmly uphold the law", while expressing the hope for unity in Hong Kong to get the city back on the right path.

Earlier, Lam met Chinese Premier Li Keqiang who said Hong Kong was not yet out of the "dilemma" facing the

city's ailing economy after months of sometimes violent protests.

Protesters are angry by what they see as Chinese meddling in freedoms promised to Hong Kong when the former British colony returned to Chinese rule in 1997.

Xi said that Lam had continued to uphold the "one country, two systems" principle that promises Hong Kong a high degree of autonomy and liberties, such as freedom of the press, denied in the mainland under Chinese rule.

The Committee to Protect Journalists said in a report on Monday that press freedom in Hong Kong has come under an accelerating squeeze despite China's pledges to maintain an open society. Media has come under mainland Chinese ownership or influence, while targeted violence has underscored potential dangers for journalists who challenge China's wishes. — Reuters

WHAT'S NEXT IN IMPEACHMENT

The House Judiciary Committee approved two articles of impeachment against Trump: abuse of power and obstruction of Congress. The articles charge that Trump abused his power and betrayed the nation as he urged Ukraine to investigate his political rivals and withheld military aid to that allied country, as well as a White House meeting for its president.



HOUSE VOTE

- House leaders are preparing for the final impeachment vote just as lawmakers are about to leave for the holiday break.
- Approval would set up a 2020 trial in the Senate.
- Votes on the two articles could come as soon as Wednesday, with a meeting to set debate rules already scheduled for Tuesday. Floor consideration is expected to be much like that of a regular bill.

IMPEACHMENT MANAGERS



- Impeachment managers are likely to be members of the Judiciary and intelligence committees that took the lead on the case. The number will be fewer than 13, the number of GOP managers in President Bill Clinton's 1998 trial.
- Intelligence Committee Chairman Adam Schiff and Judiciary Committee Chairman Jerrold Nadler are front-runners for two of the positions.

THE SENATE TRIAL



- If the House approves the charges, impeachment would then move to a weeks-long Senate trial, where senators are jurors and the impeachment managers act as prosecutors. The chief justice of the United States presides over the trial.
- If the Senate approves an article of impeachment with a two-thirds vote of "guilty," the president is convicted and removed from office. If all the articles are rejected, the president is acquitted.
- Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer proposed that four witnesses be called, including acting chief of staff Mick Mulvaney and former national security adviser John Bolton. Schumer proposed that the trial begin the week of Jan. 6 and allow for as many as 126 hours of statements, testimony, questions and deliberations, suggesting a trial that could run three weeks or more.
- This is the fourth time in history Congress has moved to impeach a president. If he were convicted by the Senate, Trump'll be the first to be removed.

JOHNSON VOWS TO GET BREXIT ROLLING

London, Dec. 16: Prime Minister Boris Johnson will welcome 109 new Conservative lawmakers to parliament on Monday, promising to honour his election pledges to get Brexit done as soon as possible and boost funding to the state health service.

After winning a commanding majority in last week's election, Johnson will seek to speed up the approval by parliament of his withdrawal agreement with the European Union, and to start ploughing money into health, education and policing.

The premier, who won over many traditional supporters of the main opposition Labour Party in northern and central England, has proclaimed he will lead a "people's government" and "repay the public's trust by getting Brexit done".

A source in Johnson's Downing Street official residence said, "The PM has been very clear that we have a responsibility to deliver a better future for our country and that we must repay the public's trust by getting Brexit done." — AP

How Madrid talks fell short on climate plans

Madrid, Dec. 16: This year's UN climate negotiations in Madrid, the longest in 25 nearly annual such gatherings, ended with major polluters resisting calls to ramp up efforts to keep global warming at bay.

The negotiators ended up disappointing many and leaving for next year's talks in Glasgow, Scotland, key issues such as the regulation of global carbon markets.

Here is a look at the main issues resolved, and the sticking points for future negotiations.

Bolder targets needed
Most participants and observers agreed that UN talks needed to send a strong signal that countries were willing to set bolder targets for cutting greenhouse gas emissions.

That was far more ambitious than the goal ultimately set by the so-called 'Chile-Madrid Time for Action' declaration, which merely calls for the 'urgent need' to cut planet-heating greenhouse gases in line with the goals of the landmark 2015 Paris climate accord.



Carolina Schmidt

Scientists say global emissions of carbon dioxide and other pollutants have to start falling rapidly as soon as possible to meet the Paris goal of keeping global warming by the end of the century well below 2 degrees Celsius, and ideally 1.5 degrees Celsius.

Regulating global carbon markets
Market mechanisms can speed up the shift from fossil fuels to renewable energy sources. One way to do this is by putting a price on carbon dioxide, and gradually reducing the amount countries and companies are allowed to emit. The argument that carbon markets that are not transparent enough and leave loopholes for double counting can

undermine efforts to reduce emissions won at the end, postponing the decision on the issue for Glasgow.

Aid for the poor
In summit lingo the issue is known as 'loss and damage'. Developing nations are much more vulnerable to the negative effects of climate change, even though they contribute least to the problem. A tentative agreement was reached in 2013 that rich countries would help them foot the bill.

But attributing specific weather disasters such as hurricanes and floods, or slow but irreversible changes like sea level rise and desertification, to climate change remains a delicate issue given the potential costs involved.

Heat on the street
Chile, which chaired the conference, chose to give it the slogan 'Time for Action'. That echoed the blunt demands from protesters, who have been staging mass rallies around the world for the past year demanding leaders take what they call the 'climate emergency' seriously. — AP

Taking on tall claims



An anti-government protester stands on a traffic light, as she shouts slogans during a protest near the parliament square, in downtown Beirut, Lebanon. Lebanese security forces fired tear gas, rubber bullets and water cannons to disperse hundreds of protesters for a second straight day, ending what started as a peaceful rally in defiance of the toughest crackdown on anti-government demonstrations in two months. — AP

Beijing urges US to correct its mistake in expulsion of diplomats

Beijing, Dec. 16: China on Monday called the expulsion of diplomats from the US a 'mistake', following reports that Washington quietly expelled two embassy officials in September after they drove onto a sensitive military base in Virginia.

The incident is the latest spat between the world's two biggest economies and comes days after they announced a truce in the form of a mini-deal to reduce some tariffs in a bruising trade war which has weighed on both sides. Commenting on *The New York Times* report, foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang called the accusa-

- The incident is the latest spat between the world's two biggest economies and comes days after they announced a truce in the form of a mini-deal to reduce some tariffs in a bruising trade war which has weighed on both sides



tions 'completely contrary to the facts' and said they "strongly urge the United States to correct its mistake." Geng Shuang said

Chinese diplomats." The incident appeared to be the first time in more than 30 years that the US has expelled Chinese diplomats on suspicion of espionage, the newspaper said, citing people familiar with the episode.

At least one of the diplomats was believed to be an intelligence officer operating undercover, the *Times* said.

US President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping have been embroiled in a 17-month trade war that has slowed global growth and dampened profits and investment for companies around the world. — AFP

AGAINST | ODDS ■ Kabul's female tattoo artist gets death threats for taking on the taboo of the ink-on-skin

Afghan woman takes on society's taboos with tattoos

Kabul, Dec. 16: A female tattoo artist, a rarity in ultra-conservative Afghanistan, is taking a big risk with every customer she takes on.

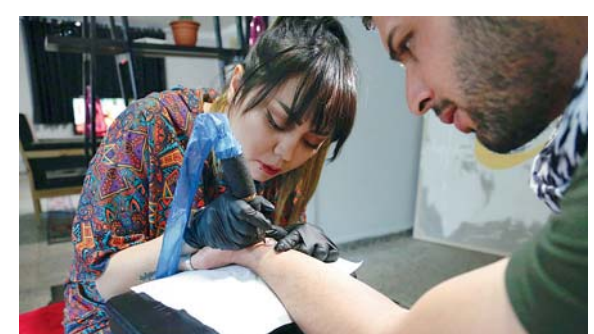
It's been 18 months since Suraya Shaheedi started her mobile tattoo shop in the capital, Kabul. She's received death threats for taking on the taboo of the ink-on-skin drawings she does — as well as being a single woman willing to work with men.

"I have struggled a lot,

even been threatened with death, because people in Afghanistan think doing tattoos is haram," she said, using the Arabic word meaning prohibited by religion.

"Whether my customers are men or women doesn't matter to me. I do tattoos for both," says Shaheedi, a 26-year-old, divorced single mother.

In a black curtained room, surrounded by his friends, a young customer shrieks in pain as the nee-



Tattoo artist Suraya Shaheedi is seen drawing a design on a customer in Kabul, Afghanistan. — AP

dle pierces and inks his skin. "I can't leave the profession I love," Shaheedi adds.

She easily gets customers, whether men or women, as social attitudes toward tattoos loosen up and more ink parlors open. It's the kind of small, but important change that Shaheedi feels a return of Taliban rule could threaten.

After decades of war, Afghans want peace. A big concern for many like

Shaheedi is that US-led peace talks with the Taliban will boost the militant group.

"I am happy if the Taliban return results in peace, but if they disagree with my work and impede the freedom and progress of women, then I will be the first to stand against them," she vowed.

Women like Shaheedi have carved out a space for themselves in a society where custom heavily restricts women's roles

and education. Close to 40% of Afghanistan's eligible girls are not allowed by their families to go to school, and almost 20% are forced by their families to leave school after grade six, according to a survey by the Asia Foundation released this year.

Shaheedi uses Instagram and other social media to find and meet customers. She prefers not to keep a parlor with a fixed address out of concerns for her safety. — AP

SHORT TAKES



DISNEY+ TO DEBUT IN MARCH IN FRANCE

Paris, Dec. 16: Walt Disney will launch its Disney+ streaming service on Vivendi's pay-TV business Canal+ platform by the end of March next year, executives of the two groups said in a joint interview released in the daily *Les Echos*.

Traditional media companies like Canal+ are under pressure to find ways to bulk up their content as they face competition from deep-pocketed online streaming platforms such as Netflix and newcomers in the sports rights business such as Chinese-owned Mediapro.

"This exclusive partnership is a new major step in the transformation of the Canal+ model," said the French broadcaster's chief executive, Maxime Saada.

Saada declined to say how much Canal+ would charge for Disney+.

Kevin Mayer, who heads Disney's Direct-to-consumer & International business, confirmed the US group hoped to acquire 60 million to 90 million customers by 2024.

Data from analytics firm Sensor Tower estimated that Disney+ had been installed by an estimated 28 million customers across five countries since its launch on November 12.

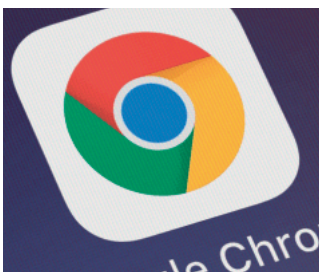
—Agencies



GRAB LAUNCHES NUMBERLESS CARD

Singapore, Dec. 16: Grab, Southeast Asia's leading everyday super app, announced the launch of GrabPay Card, Asia's first numberless card that offers users unparalleled card security, access to an expanded rewards ecosystem and hassle-free Grab payments integration in order to bring cashless convenience to millions in Southeast Asia. Huey Tyng Ooi, managing director, GrabPay, said: "As the leading everyday super app in Southeast Asia, we are at an inflection point in the adoption of digital payments. The GrabPay Card is a continued evolution of GrabPay."

—Agencies



CHROME 79 UPDATE HALTED FOR ANDROID

Hyderabad, Dec. 16: After a critical bug erased data in certain applications that use Android's WebView feature, Google has halted the roll-out of its latest Chrome v79 browser update, according to *AndroidPolice*.

Android's WebView, a feature used by various third-party applications to open a page, is responsible for rendering web pages inside applications. In such cases, Google Chrome loads the content. Twitter Lite and PhoneGap are some of the various apps that use the WebView feature.

"Android WebView is a system component powered by Chrome that allows Android apps to display web content. This component is pre-installed on your device and should be kept up to date to ensure you have the latest security updates and other bug fixes," Google said.

—Agencies

DESPITE PM NARENDRA MODI ESPOUSING DIGITAL INDIA, 67 PER CENT OF THE WORLD'S DOCUMENTED INTERNET SHUTDOWNS TOOK PLACE IN INDIA IN 2018

60 internet shutdowns between January 2012 and January 2019 lasted less than 24 hours



113 number of shutdowns has no information was available

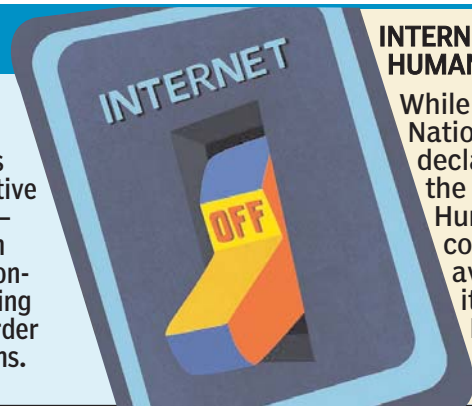


3 in 2012
5 shutdowns each in 2013 & 2014
8 in 2015 and 20 in 2016, 51 in 2017
126 in 2018 and 6 till January 2019)
19 targeted both mobile and fixed-line Internet services
4 each in 2015 and 2016, 9 in 2017, and 4 in 2018)

278 Internet shutdowns recorded between January 2012 and January 2019

160 were observed to be preventive measures — restrictions imposed in anticipation of law and order breakdowns

118 shutdowns were reactive in nature — imposed in order to contain on-going law and order breakdowns.



INTERNET ACCESS, A HUMAN RIGHT

While the United Nations has in 2016 declared access to the Internet as Human Right, the contradictions in availability of digital liberties in India, continue to be glaring.

NO-INTERNET TOOLS

Firechat | Firechat can be used for messaging each other without the internet, even if the internet is shut down.

Signal | With India ranking only behind China and Russia in regards to surveillance of its own citizens, Signal, which can also be used to send messages without internet connection, should be used. Other option would be riot.im

Txti | To create webpages that load quickly and can be used from any device, txti is a solid option.

Citizen Band Radio | For short distance communication, one can set up their own citizen band radio using free radio network software.

● Until two years ago, shutdowns were imposed largely under Section 144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), which gave the police and district magistrate powers to prevent unlawful gatherings of people and "direct any person to abstain from a certain act."

2 shutdowns targeting fixed-line services alone were recorded during the period of study.

● In Aug. 2017, the Centre promulgated the Temporary Suspension of Telecom Services (Public Emergency or Public Safety) Rules, 2017, under the authority granted to it by the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885.

Security remains 5G's biggest shortcoming

GSMA working on collective resolution for challenges

DC CORRESPONDENT with agency inputs Hyderabad, Dec. 16



There are other ways that users can be tracked and there are questions about how to guarantee the trustworthiness of the 5G software

— Ravishankar Borgaonkar research scientist, SINTEF Digital

The hype about the lightning-fast 5G has been around for years now. While researchers say that the new network will bring major improvements with increased security and privacy protections for users, certain shortcomings related to anti-tracking and spoofing features are yet to be handled.

The features make it harder for bad actors on a network to track and manipulate individual device connections. To do this, 5G encrypts more data, reducing chances of interception. 5G is also a much more software and cloud-based system than previous wireless networks, which will allow for better monitoring to spot potential threats. It will also enable operators to do "network slicing" — segmenting the system in numerous virtual networks that can be managed and customized separately. It means that vari-

ous slices could have custom-made protections for specific types of devices. "5G has really good promise for security," Ravishankar Borgaonkar, a research scientist at the Norwegian tech analysis firm SINTEF Digital, was quoted as saying by *Wired*. "Encrypting identifiers is a really good thing, and network slicing is a network paradigm shift. But there are still other ways that users can be tracked and there are questions about how to guarantee the trustworthiness of the 5G software. So there's always room for improvement." Over the last year, Borgaonkar and other researchers have found

and reported a number of security weaknesses in 5G to the mobile trade group GSMA, one of a group of organisations which manage the standard. Many of the findings focus on ways that users can still be tracked while connected to 5G, using information that remains unencrypted as it is transmitted or that leaks because of a flaw in the standard. Researchers have also pointed out that some flaws in 5G allow for "downgrade" attacks, in which a target's phone connection is manipulated to downgrade to 3G or 4G service, where hackers could use unresolved flaws in those older net-

works to carry out attacks. The GSMA says that it welcomes scrutiny of the 5G standard, because it has allowed the organization to catch and fix potential vulnerabilities before the 5G networks are widely deployed.

"The GSMA has been getting the industry ready for 5G, working on the security technology that underpins the standards which define the new secure-by-design 5G technologies," says Amy Lemberger, cybersecurity director, GSMA. She notes that since April, the GSMA's "5G Security Taskforce" has been bringing mobile operators and vendors together so they can coordinate proactively on issues like network slicing requirements and 5G fraud models.

"5G is a big step forward on several fronts, but won't actually provide a full security upgrade until we see pure 5G networks with no legacy tech — so not for another 10 years or more," says Karsten Nohl, founder of the security research firm SRLabs.

Google, Apple among cos accused of child labour

DC CORRESPONDENT with agency inputs Hyderabad, Dec. 16

The ghost of child-labour accusations has come back to haunt some of the biggest tech companies on the planet. In the latest turn of events, Google, Apple, Microsoft, Dell and Tesla have been named in a lawsuit alleging the exploitation of underage labour in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), an *appleinsider.com* report said on Sunday.

The suit was filed in the US District of Columbia by Terrence Collingsworth of International Rights Advocates on behalf of the affected.

The companies have been accused of knowing the fact that underage

children were used for mining cobalt, which is a key component in manufacturing lithium-ion batteries.

"The young children cobalt are not merely being forced to work full-time, extremely dangerous mining jobs at the expense of their education and futures," says the suit.

"They are being regularly maimed and killed by tunnel collapses and other known hazards common to cobalt mining in the DRC." The suit sheds light on the nature of fatalities and injuries that it says are common in the line of work. "Miners are regularly maimed or killed when a tunnel collapses, and frequently, the bodies of those trapped in the

darkness of rubble are never recovered," an excerpt from the suit says.

Besides a trial by jury, and damages and costs to the miners, the suit also wants the companies to fund "appropriate medical care" for the plaintiffs, "and clean up the environmental impacts."

The companies have yet to comment on the lawsuit.

However, a spokesperson for Glencore — the company that owns the mines — has reportedly said it "does not tolerate any form of child, forced, or compulsory labour."

Apple was accused of similar practices in 2010. At the time, Apple had responded by saying that it was not able to determine the origin of cobalt it used.

Android may launch auto-update feature

DC CORRESPONDENT with agency inputs Hyderabad, Dec. 16

The days of manually updating your Android smartphones may soon become a thing of the past. Going by the new code listed in the Android Open Source Project, the search firm seems to be aiming at introducing automatic updates for devices. The latest feature would not require smartphone owners to input their PIN or passphrase when it reboots, according to an *Express* report on Monday.

For security purposes, Android asks for your password, secure pattern or PIN whenever the handset reboots. This is because the secure storage, known as the "credential encrypted" (CE) storage is locked down. This secure portion of the message is where Android squirrels away your personal files and apps. So, when apps and core operating system parts need to access this data, it needs your PIN to

unlock the data. The objective of the giant technology company this time could be countering the fact that Android already struggles to convince its users to update at the same rate as rival Apple's iOS.

The objective of the giant technology company this time could be countering the fact that Android already struggles to convince users to update at the same rate as rival iOS. While waking up to an updated device with the latest features would seem enticing to many, there are some security concerns as well. Any technology that stops secure passwords, PIN or patterns should be viewed with a healthy amount of caution. After all, if you use the same password for your smartphone as multiple online accounts or online banking logins then leaving it in the hands of software while you're asleep might not be the best way to guard your data.

TCS LAUNCHES BLOCKCHAIN APP KIT

Bengaluru, Dec. 16: Tata Consultancy Services on Monday announced the launch of its Quartz DevKit, an intuitive kit for enterprises to quickly build and deploy blockchain applications on any popular blockchain platform.

The DevKit abstracts out the complexity of the underlying blockchain technology and provides a low code approach to build and deploy blockchain applications on any preferred blockchain platform while allowing for platform-specific code to be written as an extension over the pre-built templates, TCS said in a statement. "Using its pre-built components for platform setup, administration and deployment, platform security authentication, encryption, and node as well as identity and user management, programmers can write smart contracts 40 per cent faster," it claimed.—PTI

TOP 5 MID-RANGE INTEL LAPTOPS

DELL GAMING-G3 3590 (₹65,890)

Powered by ninth Generation Intel Core i5-9300H processor and Nvidia GeForce GTX 1650 (4GB GDDR5), this gaming laptop is a powerhouse in the mid-range segment. Moreover, users also get the trust of Dell. This gaming laptop, which boasts of 8GB DDR4 RAM and a 512GB SSD, is a solid choice in the segment.



ASUS ROG STRIX G (₹57,990)

With GeForce GTX 1050 graphics, the 15.6 inch Strix G enables stunning visuals that immerse the user deeper. Moreover, the laptop, which is powered Intel Core i5 9300H processor, is paired with 8GB DDR4-2666 RAM to slice through intensive games and apps. The Dual Storage design lets users carry entire game library.



LENOVO IDEAPAD L340 (₹65,390)

The Ideapad L340 delivers excellent gaming performance with Intel Core i5-9300H processor, 8 GB RAM and 1 TB HDD. It also features a 15.6 inch FHD ant glare display and Nvidia GeForce GTX 1650 (4GB GDDR5) graphics to ensure stunning visuals for an ultimate gaming experience.



HP PAVILION GAMING (₹59,990)

Yet another gaming laptop that is powered by the impressive ninth generation Intel Core i5-9300H processor. Like others, this too has 8GB of DDR4 RAM and a 15.6 inch screen. However, this Pavilion laptop uses an NVIDIA GTX 1050 4GB as its graphics solution.



ACER NITRO 5 (₹46,990)

This laptop, like HP Pavilion Gaming, is powered by the ninth generation Intel core i5 9300H processor and the Nvidia GTX 1050 graphics card. However, this gaming laptop sports the 3GB variant of the graphics card. It also boasts of twin fans to prevent it from heating up.



SECURITY ISSUE | Bill demands age verification and consent from guardians of children for data processing

Data Protection Bill, an unfinished piece of work



Rohan Seth

Shashi Tharoor has a strong case when he says that the personal data protection Bill should have come to the information technology standing committee. It does set a precedent when issues as important as the bill do not go through proper channels of debate. Because of the nature of the Bill, there is a tremendous amount of scope for discourse and disagreement.

Let us begin with the most debated aspect of this legislation, the Data Protection Authority (DPA). Because the man-

date of the Bill is so large, it can only go on to set guidelines and give direction on where the data protection space should go. The heavy lifting of enforcement, monitoring, and evaluation has to fall on the shoulders of a different (and ideally independent) body. In this case, it is the DPA that has the duty to protect the interests of data principals, prevent any misuse of personal data, ensure compliance with the act, and promote awareness about data protection. The body needs to enforce the Bill

down to auditing and compliance, maintaining a database on the website that has a list of significant data fiduciaries along with a ranking that reflects the level of compliance these fiduciaries are achieving, and act as a form of check and balance to the government.

However, the DPA may end up not being the force of objective balance that it has often been made out in the Bill. Here is why. The body will have a total of 7 members (a chairperson with 6 others). All of them will be appointed by the government, based on the recommendations of the cabinet secretary, secretary to the Government of India in the ministry (or department) dealing with legal affairs, and the secretary to the ministry (or department) of electronics and information technology. All of this falls under

● In what can be seen as a loss to Facebook, the Bill prohibits profiling, tracking, monitoring or targeting ads at individuals under 18. The minimum age to be on Facebook is 13.

the mandate of the executive and has no involvement required from the judiciary or for that matter the legislative. Also, the current version of the Bill does not specify who (or which department) these recommendations will go to in the central government. Is it MeitY? NITI Aayog? PMO? There is no clarity.

One cannot help but notice a pattern here. The Bill itself is going to go to a committee dominated by members of the ruling party and the enforcer is going to be wholly constituted by the executive.

Where is the feedback loop? Or the chance for scrutiny? You could at this point begin questioning how independent the DPA is going to be in its values and actions.

That is not to say that the Bill is all bad. Specifically, it does a good job of laying out the rights of the personal and sensitive personal data of children. And that is not often talked about a lot. The Bill here has a unique approach where it classifies companies that deal with children's data as guardian data fiduciaries. That is crucial because children may be less aware of the risks, consequences and safeguards concerns and their rights in relation to the processing of personal data. Here the Bill clearly requires these guardian data fiduciaries to demand age verification and consent from

guardians for data processing. Also, fiduciaries are not allowed to profile, track, monitor or target ads at individuals under 18.

This is a loss for Facebook. The minimum age to be on the social media platform is 13. And Facebook's business model is to profile, track, monitor, and micro-target its users. One of two things will happen here. Facebook will either have to change the bar for entry onto the platform to 18 as per the Bill. Or, it will need to ensure that its algorithms and products do not apply to users who are below 13. Either way, expect pushback from Facebook on this, which may or may not result in the section being modified.

The other thing the Bill should add on children's rights is the requirement

to simplify privacy and permissions for children to be consistent with global standards. For instance, the GDPR mandates asking for consent form children in clear and plain language. There is value in making consent consumable for children and for adults. So provisions in this regard should apply not just for children but also for adults, mandating a design template on how and when consent should be asked for.

In sum, the Bill is an unfinished product in so many ways. It has good parts, such as the section on the personal and personal sensitive data of children. However, it needs debate and scrutiny from multiple stakeholders to guide the DPA to be the best version of itself and it is in the government's hands to make that happen.

Foreign buying of Asian bonds plunges in November

Interest subvention rules eased for SMEs



quick BITES

INDICATORS		%
Sensex	40,938.72	-0.17
Nifty 50	12,053.95	-0.27
S&P 500	3,195.78	0.85
Dollar (₹)	71.0	-0.25
Pound Sterling (₹)	94.91	0.08
Euro (₹)	79.12	-0.08
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	38,698.50	0.12
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	65.48	0.40
IN 10-Yr bond yield	6.794	0.191
US 10-Yr T-bill yield	1.852	1.702

* As of 9:30 pm IST

CBI files charge sheets against Zoom Developers

The CBI has filed six charge sheets in as many cases of bank frauds worth Rs 558.16 crore by Mumbai-based Zoom Developers, officials said. Besides the firm, the CBI has chargesheeted its promoters and directors Vijay M Choudhary, Sharad Tikamdas Kabra, CA Shailesh Thakkar, Ramesh D Ajmera and Sovan Dasgupta, besides Manjiri Choudhary as accused.

RIL signs pacts with BP, Brookfield



Reliance Industries and BP signed a partnership agreement to jointly grow RIL's network of petrol pumps to 5,500 from current 1,400. The venture will be formed in the first half of 2020. RIL also said it will divest Jio's telecom tower assets to Brookfield Infrastructure Partners for Rs 25,215 crore. RIL said its unit, RIHL has inked binding pacts with Brookfield.

Auto ind. needs to grow by 14% for \$5 tn economy

Auto manufacturing will have to grow by 14 per cent if India has to meet the \$5 trillion economy target in five years, Mahindra & Mahindra MD Pawan Goenka said. "\$5 trillion economy target by 2025-26 means a CAGR of 8.5 per cent. Within that, the target of manufacturing is \$1 trillion...if manufacturing has to grow 12-13 per cent auto must grow by 14 per cent," Goenka said.

Equitas SFB files papers for ₹1,000-crore IPO

Equitas Small Finance Bank said it has filed draft red herring prospectus with the Sebi for an Rs 1,000 crore initial public offering. The IPO comprises a fresh issue of up to Rs 550 crore and an offer for sale of up to 80,000,000 equity shares by Equitas Holdings Limited, the promoter, the bank said. The offer includes a reservation of up to Rs 100 crore for subscription by EHL shareholders.

Printed & Published by T Venkateswarlu on behalf of Deccan Chronicle Holdings Limited, Printed at Deccan Chronicle Press at Deccan Chronicle Holdings Ltd. #563/9/D&9/E, Behind Andhra Bank Pet Basheerbagh, Kompally, Ranga Reddy Dist. Editor: T.Venkateswarlu, RNI Reg No.APENG/2008/24282. © All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission of The Editor, Financial Chronicle is prohibited.

Risk aversion of banks to reduce over the year NBFCs woes could ease by mid-2020

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD
MUMBAI, DEC. 16

After a dismal 2019, the new year brings hope for the NBFC sector with a gradual improvement in demand and the liquidity situation, but a turnaround could take another six months to one year, said reports by top brokerages and rating agencies.

Non-banking finance companies were largely dependent on banks for their financing need while mutual funds as a source had mostly dried up, but things could improve with the government, along with the Reserve Bank of India, actively trying to inject liquidity.

ICICI Securities in an outlook report on NBFCs said, "Calendar year 2019 is destined to be a forgettable year for most NBFCs/HFCs except a few marquee names that outperformed despite the demand slump. While their outperformance was partly due to their brilliant franchises, it was also helped by the relatively low competitive intensity from their peers."

"Calendar year 2020 however brings hope because we expect gradual improvement in both



demand uptake and liquidity by mid-2020. This would come on the back of improvement in consumption resulting from all the policy/regulatory interventions made by the government/RBI in 2019," the brokerage said.

Stock price performance year-to-date of the vehicle financiers and the housing financiers was rather poor, except for a few outperformers. This was largely due to tight liquidity leading to lower disbursements, poor volumes from auto original equipment manufacturers (OEMs), and liquidity

stress on developers leading to asset quality deterioration in the segment, ICICI Securities said.

In 2019 mutual funds remained risk-averse to the debt papers of NBFCs and housing finance companies (HFCs). "A company rated AA and below still finds it difficult to access debt capital markets. However, we feel this risk aversion to NBFCs peaked out in calendar year 2019. Once demand and consumption come back, we can look forward to more mutual funds lending to NBFCs. Also, with the government real-

ly trying hard to make liquidity available to the NBFC/HFC sector, we feel the risk aversion of banks to NBFCs will also gradually reduce through calendar year 2020, it said.

Only the top 25-50 NBFCs were able to manage the liability side pressure; the rest are struggling to raise liquidity in 2019, said a report by Motilal Oswal Financial Services, adding, "In the current period of liquidity squeeze being faced by the NBFCs, banks have been the main source of finance while mutual funds have been very selective."

"This is on account of a few reasons—the debt mutual fund industry's assets under management has shrunk by Rs 2 lakh crore from its peak two years ago, there is a reduction in sectoral caps from 40 per cent to 30 per cent for NBFCs plus HFCs as mandated by Securities and Exchange Board of India, and until recently, there was no clear cut insolvency management framework for financial services companies, making mutual funds hesitant to lend. The situation is likely to persist for a while," analysts at Motilal Oswal said.

Das: Acted ahead of time by cutting rates from February

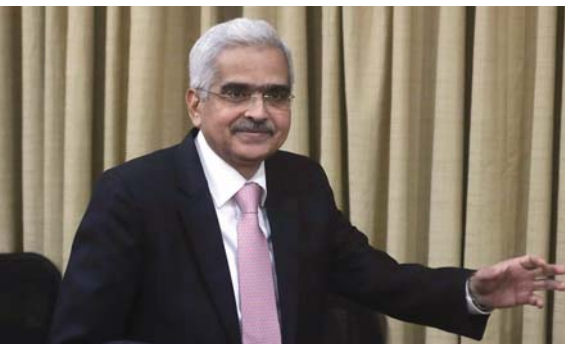
Mumbai, Dec. 16: RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das on Monday said the central bank saw economic growth slowdown in February, prompting it to cut rates ahead of the curve and wondered why markets were surprised with the decision to pause rate reduction.

Noting that there is a need for an "informed and objective discussion" on the country's economy, Das said the RBI would do "whatever is necessary" to address growth slowdown, spikes in inflation as well to ensure good health of banks and non-bank lenders.

The RBI chief hoped that the US-China truce on trade tariffs, announced over the weekend, would last even as he pitched for coordinated efforts to push global growth like those after the 2008 financial crisis.

The apex bank went for five consecutive rate cuts starting in February, making it a cumulative reduction of 1.35 per cent.

"Both the government and RBI have acted in



time... We have acted a little bit ahead of time in terms of reducing our policy rates.

"As early as February this year, the RBI saw that there was a growth slowdown, we saw that a momentum for slowdown was building up, so started cutting rates this year," he said.

Speaking at an event here, Das said that in February, the market was surprised with the RBI's call to cut rates and wondered why are market participants surprised now also with the pause call.

"In the last Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)

meeting when we took a pause, I don't know why the market was surprised. (In) February, I was told that the markets were surprised, but subsequently I am happy and thank all of you for accepting that it was a right call to take.

"This time... I do hope that the events will unfold in a manner which will prove that the MPC decision was right," he said.

At the time of deciding to pause rate cuts on December 5, the RBI had maintained an accommodative stance of the policy and that it would be waiting for upcoming data before taking a final call.

Experts had said that would include level of transmission into actual lending rates in the economy, inflation trajectory which is on the rise and also the fiscal moves by the government. Many market participants had factored another rate cut given that growth had slid to an over six-year low of 4.5 per cent for the September quarter. However, headline inflation accelerated to 5.54 per cent, much above the central bank's 4 per cent medium term target.

On Monday, Das cited a six-month-old statement from the RBI where it had said that growth is the priority for the central bank till inflation is under check.

Apart from rate cuts, Das said the RBI has also ensured liquidity is in surplus mode with over Rs 2.5-3 lakh crore being absorbed through the reverse repo window daily to help in pushing growth.

It has also introduced many policies for helping banks and the troubled non-bank lending sector, he added. —PTI

India is tenth largest life insurance market

SANGEETHA G
CHENNAI, DEC 16

Globally, India ranks 10th in terms of life insurance and 15th in non-life insurance in terms of premium. India is among the few countries with high growth rates for both life and non-life insurance.

In the global insurance market, India has a share of 1.92 per cent. In the life insurance segment, the share is slightly higher at 2.61 per cent and the country ranks 10th among 88 global markets, a study by Swiss Re finds.

India's inflation-adjusted real life premium grew 7.7 per cent in 2018 against the global growth of 0.2 per cent. The growth rate was higher than that of advanced countries, emerging markets and the Asia-Pacific.

The real premiums in non-life grew stronger at



14 per cent against the global average of 3 per cent. With 1.1 per cent share in the global non-life insurance business, India was ranked 15th largest market. India's growth was higher than 1.9 per cent of advanced markets, 7.1 per cent of emerging markets and 6.4 per cent of Asia Pacific countries.

Driven by emerging markets, global life insurance premiums are expected to

grow faster in 2019-20 and above the annual average of 10 years. Non-life premiums too are likely to grow higher than the historical average.

Unlike other markets, India's insurance business is heavily dominated by life, with a share of 73.85 per cent. Non-life accounts for 26.15 per cent share. Globally, life contributes for 54.30 per cent and non-life 45.70 per cent. While life has a penetration of 2.74 per cent, for non-life it is 0.97 per cent. The life insurance penetration has been declining since 2009 when it stood at 4.60 per cent. At the end of March 2019, 70 insurers were operating in India, of which eight are public insurers and 62, private insurers. There are 24 life insurers, 27 general insurers, 7 standalone health insurers and 12 re-insurers.

Under fire, Centre releases ₹35K cr GST compensation

New Delhi, Dec. 16: Facing heat over delay in payment of GST compensation, the central government on Monday released Rs 35,298 crore to states to make up for the loss of revenue from the rollout of the Goods and Services Tax (GST).

When GST was rolled out on July 1, 2017, states were through legislation promised to be compensated for the loss of revenue as not just their taxes such as VAT were being subsumed in the new levy but also their right to levy taxes was being snatched.

The compensation amount was fixed at 14 per cent on top of the revenue in the base year of 2016-17. The corpus for paying compensation was collected by levying a cess over the GST rates on tobacco products, aerated water, automobiles and coal.

This compensation was to be released after every two months but the same was pending since August, drawing protests from states, particularly non-BJP ruled ones.

"The central government has released GST compensation of Rs 35,298 crore to States and Union Territories today," the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) said in a Twitter post.

This comes just days before the 38th meeting of the GST Council—the highest decision-making body of the new indirect tax regime—on December 18, where the opposition-ruled states had planned to again raise the issue of delayed payments.

Opposition-ruled states such as Punjab, West



Bengal and Kerala have since last month upped the ante for the immediate release of GST Compensation Fund. Their finance ministers had also met Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and the issue came up during the just-concluded winter session of Parliament.

Sitharaman had in press conferences and industry events acknowledged the dues but never mentioned timelines for making the payment.

She had on December 12 stated in the Rajya Sabha that in 2017-18, the total cess collected was Rs 62,596 crore, of which Rs 41,146 crore was released to states. The remaining Rs 15,000 crore was accumulated in the Cess Fund.

In the next year, Rs 95,081 crore was collected and Rs 69,275 crore released to states but "cess accumulated in the Fund was zero," she had said, according to a verbatim transcript of her speech available on the Rajya Sabha website.

It wasn't clear how no money was accumulated in the Cess Fund in 2018-19 when, according to her, only Rs 69,275 crore out of Rs 95,081 crore was paid.

She also hadn't said what happens to the surplus accumulates in the Fund. According to Sithara-

man, during the current fiscal year that began in April 2019, cess collections till October 31 were Rs 55,467 crore but compensation released to the states was Rs 65,250 crore.

"The Government of India has released Rs 9,783 crore more than the amount raised through cess collections (this fiscal)," she had said in the Rajya Sabha.

On Monday, speaking at a conference, Sitharaman assured states that the Centre will not "renege" on the promise of GST compensation.

The delays to pass on the money are due to slippage in collections and the states have nothing to be embarrassed about, she said. "It is certainly their right, I am not denying. At the same time, I am also making it clear to say that I am not renege on that. States will be given. We are certainly not renege on it. I admit that the payments which had to go the compensation head have not been given for two months slot."

"I do not want them (states) to feel embarrassed because it's not their fault nor is it personally my fault," she said, admitting that GST collections have been much lower than expectations. —PTI

FM takes stock of digital, fin sector issues

FC BUREAU
CHENNAI, DEC. 16

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman started her pre-Budget consultations with stakeholder groups from digital economy, fintech and start-ups on Monday. The minister also met the stakeholders of financial sector and capital markets as well as IT hardware and mobile manufacturers.

The main areas of discussion with those belonging to the digital economy were data-related issues like use of big data technology and its use for SME sector, analysing large data sets and unleashing the power of big data for public governance. Other issues which dominated the discussions included digital infrastructure and



role of government as well as regulation of digital economy especially in privacy. Financial regulation, ease of doing business start-ups, infrastructure gaps for digital India and taxation issues were also discussed.

The representatives of digital economy, fintech and start-ups shared their views and suggestions regarding big data, incen-

tives for encouraging setting up of data centres, fiscal incentives for data localisation, incentives for pushing digital penetration in rural areas and corporate guarantee to start-ups for competing with other nations.

Rationalisation of MAT tax rate, tax exemption for start-up units, creation of specific agency for looking after cross border financial crimes, increasing women employment, training youth in skill development along with international internships and incentivising research & development (R&D) within India were also discussed.

The industry also suggested giving tax sops to start-ups. Mobile manufacturers, during their meeting with the minister, sought clari-

ty over recent reduction in export incentives and demanded rationalisation of tax structure, including GST rate on handsets. On December 7, the Directorate General of Foreign Trade reduced export incentives on mobile handsets from 4 per cent to 2 per cent.

"Many have emphasised that some schemes that are on the anvil can be brought in quickly, like some incentives for large-scale manufacturing," Electronics and IT Secretary Ajay Prakash Sawhney said after the pre-Budget meeting.

The electronics industry too was worried about subdued exports. "Exports in the electronics industry is highly dampened and have a negative impact on investments in this sector.

Electronics exports will be hit hardest without MEIS. Reinstating the MEIS is the need of the hour for continued exports," MAIT Chief Executive Officer George Paul said.

The Electronic Industries Association of India (Elcina) demanded a dedicated fund for the development of component manufacturing ecosystem, which should be floated on the lines of a venture fund with income tax breaks on earnings.

In the meeting with the stakeholders from the financial sector and capital markets, issues like increasing credit off take from banks, governance changes in public sector banks and creation of a well-functioning bond market were discussed, among others.

Arcelor completes Essar Steel buyout

New Delhi, Dec. 16: Global steel giant ArcelorMittal on Monday said it has completed acquisition of Essar Steel, marking its entry into the Indian steel sector.

The deck for acquisition of Essar Steel by L N Mittal-led company for Rs 42,000 crore was cleared by the Supreme Court last month.

This is the single-biggest recovery under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) process.

The company said it has formed a joint venture with Nippon Steel (AM/NS India) to own and operate the debt-ridden firm and Aditya Mittal, President and CFO of ArcelorMittal, has

been appointed as its Chairman.

It said Dilip Oommen of Essar has been appointed AM/NS India's CEO.

ArcelorMittal holds 60 per cent of AM/NS India, with Nippon Steel holding the balance.

SBI Chairman Rajnish Kumar said the resolution of Essar Steel will boost the bank's profitability in the third quarter of the current financial year.

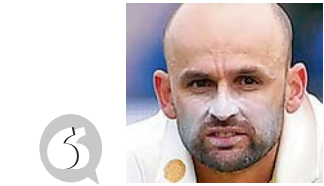
The resolution of Essar Steel is a huge positive for the economy, he said.

"The acquisition of Essar Steel is an important strategic step for ArcelorMittal," said Lakshmi Mittal, Chairman and CEO of ArcelorMittal. —Agencies



Honour

World Cup winner Ben Stokes ended a sensational 2019 by claiming the BBC's Sports Personality of the Year prize



They're lovely guys. They don't sledge me or anything, I've got no dramas with the Kiwis.

— Nathan Lyon, Australia spinner is all praise for New Zealand team

SHORT TAKE Yasir eager to bowl to Kohli in Tests

Karachi: Pakistan leg-spinner Yasir Shah on Monday said it is "unfortunate" to have not got a chance to play red ball cricket against India since making his debut and he is now eagerly waiting to test his skills against the likes of Virat Kohli in Test matches. Shah, 33, who has 207 wickets from 37 Tests, has never played a Test against India since his Pakistan debut in 2011. "It is unfortunate and I feel disappointed when I think about the fact that I have not played a Test against India. Even the white ball matches have been far and few against them in recent years," he said. "I would like to play against them because they have some top players and for a leg-spinner it is always enjoyable when you are bowling too or getting wickets of high profile players (like Kohli)," he said. Pakistan toured India in the winter of 2012 for a short limited over series, but the two teams have not played a Test against each other since the Mumbai terror attacks in 2008. "You feel it at times but it is something beyond the control of players, so we can't do anything. But yes I would love to get a chance to play a Test against them (India) soon," Shah said. Shah, who has struggled for wickets in his last three Tests in South Africa and Australia, defended his form, saying the pitches there are not helpful for slow bowlers. "People are talking about my form but how many Tests have I played since I reached 200 Test wickets against New Zealand — just three — that too on pitches which are more ideal for batting and pacers," he said. Shah, who was not picked for the first Test against Sri Lanka at Rawalpindi, said the head coach and chief selector Misbah-ul-Haq had informed him earlier he was not playing because of the conditions. — PTI



Kohli is Ronaldo of cricket: Lara

Windies legend in awe of Virat's commitment

Visakhapatnam, Dec. 16: Virat Kohli is the cricketing equivalent of football superstar Cristiano Ronaldo for his sheer commitment towards the game even though a KL Rahul can consider himself at par with the India captain in terms of talent, feels West Indies batting icon Brian Lara. One of the greatest batsmen to have played the game and for many, the best left-hander of all-time along with Sir Garfield Sobers, Lara says he is in awe of how Kohli has honed his skills to take batting to an "unbelievable level".



Kohli's fitness level and his mental strength is unbelievable. — BRIAN LARA, Former West Indian skipper

"I think it has got a lot to do with Virat's outstanding commitment besides his preparation. I don't think he is any more talented than a KL Rahul or a Rohit Sharma but his commitment to prepare himself properly stands out. He is, for me, the cricketing equivalent of Cristiano Ronaldo," Lara said. "His fitness level and his mental strength is unbelievable." For the 50-year-old Lara, who scored nearly 12,000 runs in Test cricket, Kohli can fit into the best teams of any era — be it Clive Lloyd's 'Unbeatables' of the '70s or Sir Don Bradman's 'Invincibles' of 1948. "His batting skills are unbelievable. He is a guy you cannot leave out in any era. If a guy is averaging 50 plus in all versions of the game, then that is something which is unheard of," the legend said. Another player Lara praised was English all-rounder Ben Stokes, who enjoyed a stellar run in the

World Cup and the Ashes. Lara himself has been a part of some of the most memorable fourth innings chases against Australia where he batted with the tailenders. Therefore, it wasn't surprising to see Lara gush about Stokes' Ashes-saving 135 not out at the Headingley. "It was an unbelievable innings that he played. You must give him the credit not only for that innings but also for his 84 not out in the ODI World Cup final. He came up through a very rough period couple of years back (Bristol pub brawl and subsequent suspension) and he has shown the mettle to put things aside and soldiered on as a cricketer." Talk about West Indies cricket and how most of the talented players are being lured by private leagues,



Kedar Jadhav

Experts divided on Kedar's utility

Visakhapatnam, Dec. 16: When it comes to street smartness, there are few in the current Indian team's limited overs set-up, who can match Kedar Jadhav's on-your-feet thinking. But in recent times Jadhav has been the most under-utilised cricketer, which has led to varied opinions as to whether he is an ideal fit in India's ODI team combination despite averaging 42 plus in 69 games.

UNDER BOWLED

A piece of statistic shows that Jadhav bowled only 24 overs in his last 13 ODI games which is even less than two overs per game.

A piece of statistic shows that Jadhav, who had sustained a hamstring injury in the past, bowled only 24 overs in his last 13 ODI games which is even less than two overs per game. Worse is that he hasn't got a single wicket and in four of these games, he wasn't even asked to bowl. While batting great VVS Laxman feels that one needs to introspect whether soon-to-be 35 Jadhav is a contender for a place in the squad for the 2023 World Cup, when he will be 38, one of India's finest spinner Harbhajan Singh wants him to bowl more or else there could be a few more viable options at no 6. Irfan Pathan and Deep Dasgupta feel that Jadhav should be persisted with unless a better option comes in the middle-order, who could infuse a bit of calmness. "It would be interesting to know whether Kedar Jadhav is being thought as an option for the 2023 World Cup. If not, then youngsters who are in contention for T20 World Cup berth could have been tried out in ODIs well," Laxman said on air. In fact, Jadhav contributed 40 off 35 balls in Sunday's first ODI against the West Indies but on a slowish Chennai track, he was replaced after bowling just one over during which

he conceded 11 runs. "Kedar is most effective when the wicket is low and slow. I believe that he could have been given a few more overs by the captain. I am not saying Kedar doesn't fit into the team but he has to bowl more," Harbhajan said. "It is because purely as no 6 batsman, when I look around I see a few options like Manish Paney or Sanju Samson. Even Rishabh (Pant) at times won't be a bad no 6 batsman. "I feel rather than young Shivam Dube, Kedar could have been given a few more overs. Had your lead bowler given away 11 in his first over, you would have given him another over. Also I feel for Dube but if he gets as many chances as Hardik, he will also improve," Harbhajan added. Former India all-rounder Irfan Pathan feels that the "utility cricketer" persona is creating a problem for the pint-sized Maharashtra all-rounder. "I would take an average of 42 plus in ODI cricket any day. I don't see any reason why he needs to be replaced," Pathan said. For Deep Dasgupta, Manish Paney is not a bad option at no 6 but he feels that Jadhav brings in "much more calmness" in tense situations. However he agreed that Jadhav needs to bowl more in order to stay in ODI scheme of things. — PTI

It's learning curve: Pant

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, DEC. 16

Rishabh Pant has been under the scanner ever since he stepped into the shoes of M.S. Dhoni. But the young wicket-keeper batsman said he was never worried about the constant criticism. "I will always tell a person that you have to believe in yourself. It doesn't matter what people say around you. Sometimes you don't get runs, sometimes you get runs but the process is always important," said Pant.

Pant scored his maiden ODI half-century, against West Indies on Sunday, and his knock guided India to a competitive total after the top-order collapse. Pant said it's been a big learning curve. "From the team's point of view, whatever I can do to help my team win, to have a good score on the scoreboard, that's what I was focussing on. In the end, I got some runs," he said. "I've realised after playing a fair bit at the international level that unlike at amateur levels of cricket, there isn't anything like a natural game. At the inter-

national level, you have to play according to the situation or what the team demands. As an individual and as a player, I want to focus on my processes. All the talk going around, they're good and sometimes they're not. At the moment, I'm concentrating on my game," said Pant. Pant and Shreyas Iyer put on 114 runs for the fourth wicket. "At the start, Shreyas and I were thinking of first stitching together a partnership and taking the game to the 35th-40th over because a 50-over game is a fairly long one," Pant said.



Rishabh Pant who scored his maiden ODI half-century on Sunday arrives at Visakhapatnam airport for the second match. — K. Murali Krishna

PLAYING CLUB CRICKET IS IMPORTANT, SAYS ZAEHER

Mumbai, Dec. 16: Former India pacer Zaheer Khan on Monday stressed the importance of playing club cricket and gave his own example to prove his point. "Club cricket is a prominent part of Mumbai's cricket and that is where we all learn how to get ready for the higher-level. That's

what Mumbai club cricket is all about," he said. "Keeping that in mind, congratulations to the police for keeping this tradition going. Seventy-two years is a long time for someone to keep at it and keep getting better and better," said Zaheer. — PTI

Auction in Kolkata despite widespread CAA protests

New Delhi, Dec. 16: The protests over the contentious Citizenship Amendment Act notwithstanding, the players' auction for the Indian Premier League will go ahead in Kolkata as scheduled on Thursday. There have been reports of violence in West Bengal but Kolkata hasn't exactly been affected. It is reliably learnt that Delhi Capitals' management team that will be representing the franchise at the auction will be reaching Kolkata on Tuesday. "As of Monday evening, IPL auctions are on. Franchises will start arriving by tomorrow evening and Wednesday morning," a BCCI official said. As many as 332 cricketers will go under the hammer at the IPL auction in Kolkata on December 19 with Australia's Glenn Maxwell and South African Dale Steyn among those opting for the highest base price of ₹2 crore. West Indian



Shimron Hetmyer

Shimron Hetmyer too could be a prize buy. This year's auction with only 73 slots to be filled in the eight franchises and only 29 of them can be foreign buys. The amended

Citizenship law, which seeks to provide citizenship to non-Muslim religious minorities from Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh, has been met with strong protests. — PTI

MARUTI SUZUKI ARENA

5 GREAT REASONS TO BUY YOUR FAVOURITE MARUTI SUZUKI CAR, THIS DECEMBER.

- BEAT THE PRICE HIKE
- BEST YEAR-END OFFERS*
- 100% ON ROAD FINANCE*
- BEST YEAR-END EXCHANGE BONUS*
- BEST EXCHANGE PRICE

BIGGER SAVINGS WAGONR ₹30 000* ALTO ₹60 000* VITARA BREZZA ₹91 100* DZIRE ₹78 900*

SWIFT ₹72 600* CELERIO ₹47 500* EECO ₹37 500*

SOLE COIN OFFER ADDITIONAL GOLD COIN UP TO 4 GRAM*

WAGONR ALTO SPRESSO ERTIGA VITARA BREZZA DZIRE SWIFT CELERIO EECO

E-book today at www.marutisuzuki.com or visit your nearest Maruti Suzuki dealership | Maruti Suzuki vehicles now available under CSD & CPC | For bulk order, mail to: nishant.vijayvergia@maruti.co.in

AUTHORISED DEALERS: HYDERABAD: MITHRA: (HIMAYATHNAGAR) CALL: 040-27634444, (MEHDIPATNAM) CALL: 040-23518600. PAVAN: (SECUNDERABAD) CALL: 7799949968. RKS: (SOMAJIGUDA) CALL: 9848898488, (MALAKPET) CALL: 9848898488, (SECUNDERABAD) CALL: 9848898488. SAI SERVICE: (ERRAGADDA) CALL: 7331168888, (MIYAPUR) CALL: 7331168888, (SANGAREDDY) CALL: 7331168888, (ZAHEERABAD) CALL: 7331168888. VARUN: (BEGUMPET) TOLL FREE: 18008331112, (BANJARA HILLS) TOLL FREE: 18008331112, (KUKATPALLY) TOLL FREE: 18008331112, (VANASTHALIPURAM) TOLL FREE: 18008331112, (GACHIBOWLI) TOLL FREE: 18008331112. ACER: (TIRUMALGIRI) CALL: 9154073240. ADARSHA: (ATTAPUR) CALL: 9160182222, (CHANDRAYANGUTTA) CALL: 8297576633, (SIDDIPET) CALL: 9581656633. AUTOFIN: (BOWENPALLY) CALL: 040-67292222. GEM MOTORS: (KONDAPUR) CALL: 9272506060. JAYABHERI: (GACHIBOWLI) CALL: 8100823456. KALYANI MOTORS: (NACHARAM) CALL: 9100102157, (LB NAGAR) CALL: 9100102157.

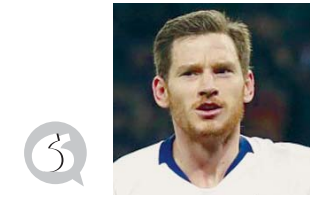
*Offer includes consumer offer, retail support, ISI offer and exchange offer (Wherever Applicable). 2 years standard + 3 years extended warranty is applicable only on Swift (Diesel), Vitara Brezza (Diesel) and DZire (Diesel) and the above offers for the same are inclusive of the extended warranty offers. **Additional gold coin offer upto 4 gram is valid on selected models and variants. *Best year-end offers and Best year-end exchange bonus would not be applicable on Vitara Brezza and Celero. Offer is not applicable on SPRESSO & ERIGA. Terms and conditions apply. The terms and conditions are subject to change without any prior notice. All offers are brought to you by Maruti Suzuki dealers only. Offers may vary from city to city and variant to variant for all models. Parts and accessories shown may not be a part of standard equipment. Colors shown may vary from actual body color due to printing on paper. Images used are for illustration purposes only. *Applicable at the sole discretion of the financier. The article is released in Hindustan Times. Offers are valid till 31st December 2019.



Words of praise

Harry Maguire (in pic) believes Man United are lucky to have "special talent" Mason Greenwood after the teenager scored his seventh goal of the season to rescue a point against Everton

Man City silence Gunners



He's brought that fighting mentality back and we had a lot of meetings about this game.

— Jan Vertonghen hails new boss Jose Mourinho after Tottenham's last-gasp victory at Wolves

SHORT TAKES

Hyd boys lose to Maharashtra

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, DEC. 16

Maharashtra trounced Hyderabad by six wickets in the Under-19 Cooch Behar Trophy match here on Monday and earned six crucial points. After taking a lead of 42 runs in the first innings, Maharashtra easily overhauled Hyderabad's target of 194 with the help of S. A. Veer's 72 in the second innings which was well-supported by Ubaid Zaker Khan's 54. **Brief scores:** Hyderabad 265 in 79.4 overs & 235 in 64 overs lost to Maharashtra 307 in 114 overs & 194/4 in 60.4 overs (A. S. Nalavade 30, Ubaid Zaker Khan 54, S. A. Veer 72, Md Saqlain 2 for 56). **Points:** Maharashtra 6, Hyderabad 0.

Hyd U-23 women probables named

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, DEC. 16

Following players have been named Hyderabad Cricket Association's Under-23 Women's probables for the BCCI Under-23 Women's Tournament. Players should report to their respective captains at 8 am at the NFC Ground on Wednesday. **Team A:** D. Ramya (captain), Shrayya (wicketkeeper), Shreya, Varsha Rajak, Keerthi Reddy, Pranathi Allapathi, Shrivani Bhogi, Parimala, Bhavana G, Likhitha Nandini, Preethi, Shivani Goud, Chnadra Smitha, Sri Chandana, Charishma. **Team B:** Anuradha Nayak (captain & wicketkeeper), Yashashree, Lakshmi Prasanna, Chitra Maheshwari, Sneha More, Vijayashree, Pooja Shree Jadhava, Sakshi, Suvartha, T. Chandana, Akanksha Yadav, Kranthi Reddy, Bhavya Reddy, Niteesha, Sindhuja. **Team C:** Anitha (captain), Mamtha (wicketkeeper), G. Trisha, Pranavi Chandra, G. Hasini, Merlyn, Bavishya, Sai Lekha, Ishitha, Tehniyath, Alivelu (wicketkeeper), Sriha Reddy, Snigdha E, Priyanka, Sukritha Reddy.

IT'S KHIZAR vs HIMANSHU IN BILLIARDS

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, DEC. 16

Himanshu Jain will take on Khizar Raaf in the final of the State Ranking Snooker and Billiards tournament being held at Film Nagar Culture Centre. In the semifinals, Himanshu nailed Nizamuddin 3-1 — 151-55, 129-150, 150-49, 150-65 — while Khizar defeated Vibhas 3-1 (152-118, 149-151, 150-130, 150-135).

THE RESULTS
Senior Billiards semifinals: Himanshu Jain bt Nizamuddin 3-1 (151-55, 129-150, 150-49, 150-65); Khizar Raaf bt Vibhas 3-1 (152-118, 149-151, 150-130, 150-135).
Senior snooker first round: R Vamshi Krishna bt V Sudeer 3-0 (55-44, 49-18, 54-15); P Murali bt MD Rafiuddin 3-2 (42-43, 31-45, 49-36, 43-29, 63-20); Sumair bt Nadeem 3-0 (61-19, 61-27, 79-25); Kishan Tiwari bt G Saiteja 4-1 (41-60, 60-23, 70-10, 78-21); Michael bt Maz 3-0 (72-45, 39-06, 70-01); Avinash bt Vinay 5-1 (10-64, 53-21, 70-36, 64-15); Salmah bt Srinivas Rao 3-0 (57-17, 73-23, 71-09); Naresh bt Shabaz 3-2 (41-54, 80-11, 75-18, 38-70, 71-01); Saleem bt Suresh 3-0 (65-07, 57-21, 75-30); David bt Srikanth 3-2 (65-43, 16-76, 40-50, 54-03, 61-01); Arvind bt Udhay 3-1 (55-20, 66-20, 47-59, 82-09); Retesh Kulkarni bt MdSajid 3-0 (68-35, 47-27, 59-38); Abhishek bt K. Vamshi Krishna 3-2 (62-33, 37-42, 59-09, 48-54, 81-13); Johan Bosco bt Mubashiruddin 3-0 (57-24, 72-01, 68-21); Ramcharan bt Lokesh 3-0 (50-26, 57-49, 53-32); Alvi bt Vishwajit 3-1 (69-10, 13-50, 64-54, 67-28); Khaleel Feroze bt Sravan 3-0 (55-36, 60-29, 64-12); Majeed Khan bt Arveen Banne 3-1 (46-57, 54-45, 64-41, 59-27); Yaseen Ali bt Shaifuddin 3-2 (23-67, 63-32, 36-69, 48-33, 64-30); Phaniraj Koppalle bt Khaja Moinuddin 3-0 (57-52, 60-38, 77-18).
Junior Snooker: Joel bt Rajashekar 2-0 (50-39, 65-15); Imran bt Arbaz 3-2 (43-54, 61-52, 58-28, 36-44, 42-28); Joel bt Bharat 3-0 (57-24, 67-30, 46-44); Akhil Reddy bt Srikanth 2-0 (48-24, 57-31); Zaffar bt Fardeen 2-0 (48-03, 52-26); Mustaq bt Zaffar 3-0 (54-31, 69-19, 58-25); Bilal bt Sayed 2-1 (52-55, 75-47, 88-36); Zubair bt Danish 3-1 (35-61, 57-46, 60-26, 81-32); Aziz bt Daniel 3-2 (65-49, 47-06, 38-53, 09-41, 53-31); Vibhas bt Sai Teja 2-0 (62-28, 78-01).

London, Dec. 16: Caretaker Arsenal manager Freddie Ljungberg believes the club must make a permanent appointment quickly to halt their slide after a Kevin de Bruyne inspired Manchester City cruised to a 3-0 win at the Emirates on Sunday.

De Bruyne scored twice and teed up Raheem Sterling for City's other goal to leave Arsenal down in ninth in the Premier League on the back of just one win in their last 12 games in all competitions.

Ljungberg has been in charge for five of those matches, but is hoping a permanent appointment can be made before next weekend's trip to Everton.

"It is a great honour to do this, but I've said I think it needs to be cleared up, to make a decision so that everybody knows," said Ljungberg.

"It is totally up to the club. I try to do things as well as I can but it would be good to make a decision, regardless of what it is."

There was little doubt City would bounce back from a derby defeat to Manchester United last weekend that left them 14 points behind Liverpool at the top of the table after De Bruyne opened the scoring just 90 seconds in.

Gabriel Martinelli had Arsenal's only shot on target inside the first minute when Ederson blocked from his fellow Brazilian.

City broke straight up the other end and Gabriel Jesus's low cross picked out De Bruyne to stroke the ball into the roof of the net.

Pep Guardiola's men had been ruthlessly cut apart on the counter-attack by United and were conscious not to make the same mistake again as they allowed Arsenal possession for large spells before breaking at speed.

The visitors doubled their lead just 15 minutes in with De Bruyne this time the creator as he carried the ball forward before squaring for Sterling to slot home his 16th goal of the season. — AFP



De Bruyne ensures City bounce back at Arsenal

Arsenal's Nicolas Pepe (left) vies for the ball with Kevin De Bruyne of Manchester City in their English Premier League match at the Emirates Stadium in London on Sunday. — AP

THE RESULTS

PREMIER LEAGUE

Arsenal 0
Manchester City 3
(De Bruyne 2, 40, Sterling 15)

SPANISH LEAGUE

Espanyol 2
(Darder 19, Bernardo 41)
Real Betis 2
(Iglesias 4, Bartra 67)

Sevilla 1
(Munir 61)
Villarreal 2
(Albiol 13, Toko Ekambi 74)

Valencia 1
(Soler 78)
Real Madrid 1
(Benzema 90+5)

Getafe 2
(Cucurella 36, Angel 82)
Real Valladolid 0

Celta Vigo 2
(Rafinha 20, Aspas 50-pen)
Mallorca 2
(Salva Sevilla 33-pen, Budimir 83)

Big Ben-zema again comes to rescue

Madrid, Dec. 16: Real Madrid missed the chance to replace Barcelona at the top of La Liga ahead of Wednesday's Clasico but salvaged a 1-1 draw against Valencia as Karim Benzema scored a dramatic injury-time equaliser on Sunday.

Madrid goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois ventured up for a final corner at Mestalla and it was his header that caused panic in the Valencia box, before the ball fell perfectly for Benzema to strike in the 95th minute. "Opponents can get a little nervous if I go up," said Courtois.

"Toni (Kroos) hit the corner to the near post and I just saw the ball was at my height and I caught it well."

Madrid coach Zinedine Zidane said: "He decided to go up and that shows we want more, than we never give up. The draw is a reward for the effort we made, which was a lot. This is Real Madrid, a team that never gives up."

Valencia looked set for an impressive victory after Carlos Soler had put them ahead in the second half but both sides had to settle for a point at the end of a compelling contest between two of the league's form teams.

It means Barcelona remain top of the table but in front of Madrid only on goal difference, after they were also held to a 2-

● Madrid goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois ventured up for a final corner at Mestalla and it was his header that caused panic in the Valencia box, before the ball fell perfectly for Benzema to strike in the 95th minute.

as group winners to the Champions League last 16.

They stay eighth, now three points adrift of the top four. Real Madrid have been on a good run too, now 10 matches unbeaten to crank up the pressure on Barca and leave behind their early-season stumbles that had put Zidane's future in doubt.

Zidane had said on Saturday nobody at the club would be looking ahead to the Clasico prematurely and while the draw against Valencia may mean an opportunity was missed, their late show still sends them to Camp Nou with a spring in their step. — AFP

LIVERPOOL FACE ATLETICO IN CL LAST 16 CLASH

Nyon (Switzerland), Dec. 16: Holders Liverpool will return to the scene of last season's Champions League triumph after they were drawn against Atletico Madrid in the last 16 of the competition on Monday and Manchester City face 13-time winners Real Madrid.

Jürgen Klopp's side will travel to the Wanda Metropolitan, where Liverpool lifted the trophy in June, for the first leg of their tie against three-time runners-up Atletico.

"The task is going to be difficult because we have an opponent that are the reigning champions," said Atletico director Clemente Villaverde.

"They are the champions, they have all the assets to be called the best team in Europe. We will have to use all our hard work and our experience. We know they are not going to make it easy."

Pep Guardiola's City, who are trying to win a first Champions League crown, face a tough task against Real, the record winners of Europe's top club prize, for a place in the quarter-finals.

The two clubs met in the 2015-16 semi-finals, the furthest City have progressed in the tournament. That tie was won 1-0 on aggregate by Madrid. "It is a difficult one, of course. Real Madrid have won 13 times so they are the best," City director of football Txiki Begiristain said.

"We want to be the best so we want to beat them." Chelsea face German giants Bayern Munich, who boast the competition's leading marksman this season in Robert Lewandowski, scorer of 10 goals in five group stage games. — AFP

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE LAST 16 DRAW

- Borussia Dortmund (GER) vs Paris Saint-Germain (FRA)
 - Real Madrid (ESP) vs Manchester City (ENG)
 - Atalanta (ITA) vs Valencia (ESP)
 - Atletico Madrid (ESP) vs Liverpool (ENG)
 - Chelsea (ENG) vs Bayern Munich (GER)
 - Lyon (FRA) vs Juventus (ITA)
 - Tottenham Hotspur (ENG) vs Leipzig (GER)
 - Napoli (ITA) vs Barcelona (ESP)
- (First legs to be played on February 18, 19, 25, 26. Second legs scheduled for March 10, 11, 17, 18)

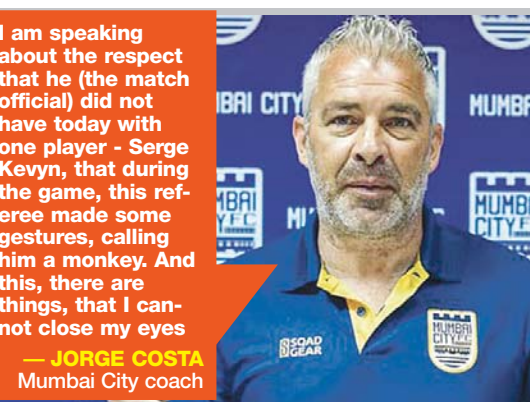
INDIAN SUPER LEAGUE

Referee called my player monkey: Mumbai coach

Bengaluru, Dec. 16: Mumbai City FC head coach Jorge Costa has alleged that the referee, who officiated his side's Indian Super League match against Bengaluru FC, called one of his players a monkey, a charge which the national federation will investigate.

Before starting his media conference after Mumbai City FC's 3-2 win over Bengaluru FC at the Kanteerava Stadium on Sunday, Costa read out a statement, saying that Saudi Arabian referee Turki Alkudhairy called Gabonese player Serge Keveny a monkey and "made some gestures" which were disrespectful.

"I am speaking about the respect that he (the match official) did not have today with one player — Serge Keveny, that during the game, this referee made some gestures, calling him a monkey. And this, there are things, that I cannot close my eyes," Costa said. "ISL, they need foreigners. With all respected



I am speaking about the respect that he (the match official) did not have today with one player - Serge Keveny, that during the game, this referee made some gestures, calling him a monkey. And this, there are things, that I cannot close my eyes — JORGE COSTA, Mumbai City coach

foreigners like me, like Carles (Cuadrat), like all foreigner players, like all foreigner coaches, they need people that (they will) respect the league, the culture and they are here to work and to try that this league can everyday be better," he added.

A spokesperson of the league's organisers — FSDL — said the All India Football Federation (AIFF) has been requested to investigate the allegation. "AIFF has asked the AIFF to investigate the matter fully and it would be inappropriate to comment further at this point of time," he said.

GUWAHATI GAME BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

Meanwhile, the Indian Super League match at Guwahati between NorthEast United FC and Bengaluru FC, scheduled on Wednesday, will now be played behind closed doors. The decision has been taken by Football Sports Development Limited after due consultation and guidance from the city authorities. The League holds safety of fans, players and staff of paramount importance, which has led to this decision. — PTI

TENNIS

'TOP 30 PLAYER INVOLVED IN BETTING SCAM'

Berlin, Dec. 16: More than 135 tennis players, including one ranked in the ATP top 30, are implicated in an international betting scandal, German media reported Sunday.

According to a joint report by daily newspaper Die Welt and broadcaster ZDF, the players are subject to a cross-border investigation involving both the FBI and European authorities.

Among the individuals allegedly involved is a male player in the top 30 who has won three ATP tour titles, the report said.

"We are talking about an Armenian betting mafia network which is spread across seven countries in Europe and has manipulated on a large scale," Belgian state prosecutor Eric Bisschop told ZDF. He added the scandal involved hundreds of small bets on fixed games, wracking up profits of tens of thousands of euros in each case.

ZDF and Die Welt also spoke to Argentinian former player Marco Truogelli, a whistleblower who claims to have been contacted by match-fixers. "There are pros in the world top 50 who have fixed games. It happens at all levels," Truogelli said. — AFP

Juventus back on top

ITALIAN LEAGUE

Milan, Dec. 16: Cristiano Ronaldo scored twice as Juventus beat Udinese 3-1 to join Inter Milan at the top of the Serie A table on Sunday after Antonio Conte's side were held 1-1 at Fiorentina.

Dusan Vlahovic snatched a point for Fiorentina two minutes into injury time to frustrate Inter Milan who had led following Borja Valero's opener after eight minutes in Tuscany.

Both Juventus and Inter Milan have 39 points from 16 games, with Antonio Conte's side ahead on goal difference.

Ronaldo struck twice in the first half to make it five goals in four games as the reigning champions got back winning after last weekend's first defeat of the season to Lazio.

The Portuguese star tapped in a Paulo Dybala rebound after nine minutes at the Allianz Stadium, and burst through to finish off a Gonzalo Higuain cross on 36 minutes.

Leonardo Bonucci sealed the three points just before

the break when he headed in from close range.

ROMA MOVE TO 4TH

Roma moved up to fourth and after three second-half goals sealed a 3-1 win over rock bottom SPAL. Andrea Petagna had put SPAL ahead from the spot just before the break after Aleksandar Kolarov clumsily brought down Thiago Cionek in the box.

AC Milan were held to a goalless draw against Sassuolo as the former European giants marked their 120th anniversary in tepid style. — AFP

Dutch delight



Members of the Netherlands team pose after winning the Women's World Handball Championship at the Park Dome Kumamoto in Japan on Sunday. The Dutch edged out Spain 30-29 in the final. In the match for the third place, Russia defeated Norway 33-28.