

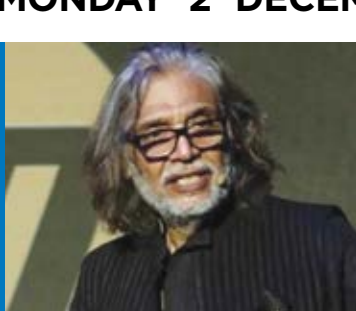
# THE ASIAN AGE

NEW DELHI MONDAY 2 DECEMBER 2019

TABLOID 17  
New age fads: Effective or insane?



**WORLD | Iran**  
Opposition leaders say Ayatollah Khamenei is like ousted Shah of Iran



**NATION | Disaster**  
Filmmaker Muzaffar Ali's documentary on Bhopal gas tragedy 'canned'



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Actress Deepika Padukone during the launch of the book *Sridevi* at an event in New Delhi on Sunday.

**Winter chill grips North India, J&K & Ladakh shiver**

New Delhi: North India was swept by chilly winds on Sunday, with many places in Kashmir, Ladakh and Himachal Pradesh witnessing sub-zero temperatures and the mercury dropping to 9.4°C in the national capital. Leh town witnessed the coldest night of the season at -13.2°C, while Srinagar recorded a low of minus 0.9°C. In Himachal, Manali, Lahaul-Spiti and Kinnaur recorded freezing temperatures. **Full report on Page 4**

**Airtel, Voda & Jio hike pre-paid rates**

New Delhi: Mobile calls and internet charges will go up by up to 50 per cent in the country, as top private sector players Bharti Airtel, Vodafone Idea and Reliance Jio on Sunday announced their plans to raise tariffs from December 3 onwards. **Full report on Page 9**

**Sweden King, Queen arrive in Delhi today**

New Delhi: King Carl XVI Gustaf and Queen Silvia of Sweden will arrive in Delhi on Monday on a five-day visit to India, the ministry of external affairs said on Sunday. **Full report on Page 4**

### COUNTERPOINT



Forget *deshbhakt*, they are our *bhakt*s... let us take them on some parliament panel!

### WEATHER

Max: 23°C  
Min: 9°C  
RH: 70%  
Rainfall: Nil  
Forecast: Mainly clear sky

### ASTROGUIDE

**Vikari:** Dakshinayana  
**Tithi:** Margasira Shudda Shasthi till 9.01 pm  
**Star:** Shraavanam till 11.44 am  
**Varjyam:** 4.10 pm to 5.56 pm  
**Durmuhurtam:** 12.27 om to 1.11 pm and 2.39 pm to 3.24 pm  
**Rahukalam:** 7.30 am to 9 am

SUNSET TODAY 5.24 PM  
SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.57 AM  
MOONRISE TOMORROW 11.45 PM  
MOONSET TODAY 9.48 AM

## Japan to aid N-E projects; China focus of 2+2 talks

SRIDHAR KUMARASWAMI  
NEW DELHI, DEC. 1

The subject of China came up in a major way at the inaugural India-Japan 2+2 Dialogue that took place in New Delhi at the foreign and defence ministers' level on Saturday, and both agreed that it was important to "encourage" Beijing to follow international rules, Japan foreign ministry deputy press secretary Atsushi Kaiфу told reporters here on Sunday. In response to a question, Mr Kaiфу also said his country was looking at the situation in Kashmir "carefully", and hoped for a "peaceful resolution" of the issue through dialogue.

Asked whether Japan would extend financial aid to projects in India's northeastern state of Arunachal Pradesh — which China claims as its own — the Japanese official said his country was continuing to discuss the issue "very carefully" in view of the "current status of that area". However, he added that Japan was interested in development projects in the Northeast as a whole. Asked about the Japanese-aided high-speed rail project — popularly known as the bullet train — to connect Mumbai and Ahmedabad, in view of comments from certain quarters in the new ruling alliance in Maharashtra questioning the need for the project, the Japanese **Turn to Page 4**



Girls, along with activists, take part in a candlelight protest over the Hyderabad rape and murder case in New Delhi on Sunday.

## HYD HORROR CM orders fast-track court RTA had chance to halt rapists' lorry, but failed

IREDDY SRINIVAS REDDY  
HYDERABAD, DEC. 1

Road Transport Authority (RTA) officials had a chance to impound the lorry used by the killers of Dr P. Priyanka Reddy. They did not. Had they done so, she might have woken to a new week this morning. Prime accused Mohd Ali alias Mohd Arif was stopped by the Mahabubnagar RTA while carrying a load of iron bricks from Gangavathi in Karnataka to Hyderabad on November 24. Arif did not have his driver's licence and so the lorry was seized. Arif contacted the lorry owner, Srinivas Reddy, who advised the driver to avoid the impounding by

**'Reject mercy plea in Nirbhaya case'**

New Delhi: The Delhi government has "strongly recommended" to reject the mercy petition filed by one of the 2012 Nirbhaya murder case convicts, sources said on Sunday. Delhi home minister Satyendar Jain has sent the file to L-G Anil Bajjal with Arvind Kejriwal government's recommendations in the case, they said. **Page 13**

immobilising the vehicle. Accordingly, Arif removed a motor cable from the lorry. With the lorry unable to start, the RTA left it and went away. Arif then restarted the lorry and took it to a petrol pump at Bhoopur road in Mahabubnagar, where he parked. Then, Arif phoned Chennakeshavulu (another accused) who biked over and they had food. A bit later, Naveen (also an accused) and Arif proceeded on bike while Chennakeshavulu drove the lorry to Thondapally village. At about 9 pm, they parked on the side of the road, and slept in the lorry cabin. The next morning, the police told them to move the lorry, so they drove and reached the Thondapally toll plaza on the service road near the Gachibowli outer ring road. Shiva, the fourth accused, **Turn to Page 4**

## Cong's Patole is Speaker; deputy CM later NCP set to get key portfolios in Maha

AGE CORRESPONDENT  
MUMBAI, DEC. 1

The expansion of the Uddhav Thackeray-led Cabinet is expected to take place in the first week of December with the Sharad Pawar-led Nationalist Congress Party getting key ministries. However, NCP leader Pratul Patel has said the appointment of the deputy chief minister would be done after the Winter Session of the new Assembly.

After the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) proved its majority on the floor of the House on Saturday, all eyes are now on the expansion of the Cabinet. According to sources, the expansion is likely to take place in the first week of December as the Winter Session is beginning from December 16.

"The crucial portfolios of home, urban development, revenue and housing may be distributed among the three constituents (Shiv Sena, Congress and NCP) of the MVA," said sources. It is to be noted that NCP ministers Jayant Patil and Chhagan Bhujbal have earlier experience of running the home department. On the other hand, Mr Patil and Congress' Balasaheb Thorat have also handled the revenue portfolio in the past. According to a political commentator, a powerful minister must handle the revenue department since the state treasury is not in good shape. Sources also said that the NCP is all set to



NCP MLAs take selfies with party leader Supriya Sule at Vidhan Bhavan in Mumbai on Sunday.

## Pankaja to 'introspect': FB post creates flutter

AGE CORRESPONDENT  
MUMBAI, DEC. 1

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Pankaja Munde, who lost the Assembly polls to her cousin Dhananjay Munde of the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), created a flutter in political circles on Sunday after stating that she might make a big decision in

the coming days. It has led to speculations that she is planning to quit the BJP.

If Pankaja quits the party, it will be a big jolt to the BJP, which is already reeling under the shock of losing power to the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA). Pankaja is the elder daughter of BJP heavyweight late Gopinath Munde. **More on Page 3**

emerge as the biggest gainer in the impending Cabinet expansion and bag high-profile portfolios like revenue, home and the public works department. It is also likely that the NCP may get one more ministry than the Shiv Sena, which has emerged as the second-largest party in the recent elections.

Moreover, the Sharad Pawar-led party is likely to get the deputy chief minister's post. Speaking to reporters on Saturday, Mr Patel had said: "The deputy CM's post will be with the NCP. We will fill the post after the Nagpur session of the Assembly (also known as the Winter Session) ends around **Turn to Page 4**

## SJM to govt: Halt sale of 5 PSUs, it is 'imprudent'

Seeks debate on disinvestment, says junk Niti report

AGE CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI, DEC. 1

Joining the Opposition parties' chorus of protest against the Narendra Modi government's move for strategic disinvestment of major public sector enterprises, the Swadeshi Jagran Manch (SJM), an affiliate of the RSS, on Sunday it as "an imprudent business decision" and also against the national interest. The Opposition had raised this in the ongoing Winter Session of Parliament. "The strategic disinvest-

**Terming the Niti Aayog report on PSEs the 'handwork of a few consultants,' the RSS affiliate has demanded that the report should be 'junked'.**

ment of PSEs is not only an imprudent business decision, but is also against the national interest. It not only denies the people of India — the real owners of the PSEs — the fair value of the assets and capital investments, but it also brings in

unfair advantage for those who intend to buy. The SJM believes that the government has no business to be in business, but resists the plan to hand over the national assets to corporate houses or multinational corporations (MNCs) at throw-away prices," reads the resolution passed at the SJM's national assembly meeting in Hardwar. The SJM has been consistent in its opposition to the disinvestment of public sector undertakings. Terming the Niti Aayog report on PSEs the **Turn to Page 4**



Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, Haryana chief minister Manohar Lal Khattar, RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat and other religious leaders pose for a picture during the Geeta Prerna Festival at Red Fort in Delhi on Sunday. **Report on Page 3**

## If court approves, Ganguly can be board chief till 2024 Sourav to SC: Roll back BCCI reforms

Mumbai, Dec. 1: The Sourav Ganguly-led BCCI on Sunday decided to seek the Supreme Court's approval to water down administrative reforms on tenure cap for its office-bearers and named secretary Jay Shah as its representative for the ICC chief executives' committee meeting. The decisions to seek apex court's approval for dilution of tenure cap, which is aimed at clearing the path for an extended stint for Ganguly, and appoint Shah for the ICC meet were taken at the Board's 88th Annual General Meeting (AGM) here.

"At the end of the day, the court will decide," Ganguly said in a press conference after the AGM. Ganguly, who took



BCCI president Sourav Ganguly with secretary Jay Shah and treasurer Arun Singh Dhumal during the board's annual general meeting in Mumbai on Sunday. **PTI**

charge on October 23, was to vacate office next year but a dilution could see him continue till 2024. The current dispensation wants the cooling-off period to kick in only after the individual has finished two terms (six

years), at the board and state association separately. The move, if approved, will also pave the way for Shah to get an extension as time left in his current tenure is also less than a year. Shah was named India's representative to attend future meetings of the International Cricket Council's (ICC) chief executives committee.

BCCI CEO Rahul Johri was the Board's representative for these meetings when its administration was being handled by the Supreme Court-appointed Committee of Administrators (CoA). But with a full-fledged Board in office now, the role has gone back to the secretary's position. **PTI** **More on Page 14**

## Humanity's war against nature has to stop: UN

Madrid, Dec. 1: UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said Sunday that the world's efforts to stop climate change have been "utterly inadequate" so far and

Guterres there is a danger global warming could pass the "point of no return." Speaking before the start Monday of a two-week international climate conference in Madrid, the UN chief said the impact of rising temperatures — including more extreme weather — is already being felt around the world, with dramatic consequences for humans and other species.

He noted that the world has the scientific knowledge and the technical means to limit global warming, but "what is lacking is political will." "The point of no return is no longer over the horizon," Mr Guterres said. But he insisted that his message was "one of hope, not of despair. Our war against nature must stop and we know that that is possible." Mr Guterres said growing demands from citizens, particularly young people, have shown there is widespread desire for climate action. **AP** **More on Page 12**



# Muzaffar Ali's Bhopal docu 'buried'

**The 28.27-minute film, sponsored by Madhya Pradesh Madhyam, a wing of public relations department of the state government, has been "canned" for the last 33 years since certain scenes in the documentary were reportedly not to the liking of the state government. The state government officers are tightlipped on the issue.**

**RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY BHOPAL**

**C**elebrated filmmaker Muzaffar Ali's Sheeshon Ka Maseeha (Lord made of glass), an "artistic" documentation of the awesome trail and human misery left behind by the horrific Bhopal gas tragedy of 1984, has been "barred" from public screening since 1985, thanks to "reservations" by the Madhya Pradesh government.

The 28.27-minute film, sponsored by Madhya Pradesh Madhyam, a wing of public relations department of the state government, has been "canned" for the last 33 years since certain scenes in the documentary were reportedly not to the liking of the state government.

The state government officers are tightlipped on the issue.

Protests by social activists and intellectuals for the past three decades have failed to deter the state government from lifting "restrictions" on public screening of the film, accessed by this newspaper.

"The disaster is depicted through mere narratives of the survivors, enlivened by a melancholic ghazal of famed poet Faiz Ahmed Faiz played in the background. There is no reason why public should be denied the opportunity to watch an artistically documented of the tragedy," S.R. Azad of MP science forum told this newspaper on Sunday.

"This is suppression of information on the tragedy by government," said Satinath Sarangi, an activist espousing the cause of the victims of the gas disaster.



Stamp of Muzaffar Ali, the creator of iconic and timeless Umrao Jaan, was clearly discernible in the picturisation of the movie.

The film sets out its journey of depicting the tragedy through heart-wrenching accounts given by the survivors of the world's worst industrial disaster, occurred following leakage of deadly methyl isocyanate (MIC) in a plant of Union Carbide in Bhopal in the intervening night of December 2-3, leaving over 15,000 people dead and

**The film sets out its journey of depicting the tragedy through heart-wrenching accounts given by the survivors of the world's worst industrial disaster, occurred following leakage of deadly methyl isocyanate (MIC) in a plant of Union Carbide**

one lakh maimed. "Bodies were brought for burial here hours after the incident. Several bodies were also taken to other burial grounds in the city," a man guarding a burial ground in the city was seen narrating the "nightmarish" scenes of the period. As the film progresses, poignant tales of loss of their near and dear ones were narrated by the survivors. The most heartrending story comes from a survivor who was heard describing how he

**Burial of troubled legacy**

spotted his elder daughter's body in a heap of bodies carried by a truck and how he found bodies of his wife, son and daughter in a morgue in a local hospital marked as 108, 140 and 151 respectively.

He also was heard narrating how he could spot his youngest daughter in a state of unconsciousness among orphaned children in similar conditions lying in a hospital.

The documentary ends commemorating the first anniversary of a girl, born on the fateful day.

## SURVIVORS FORM HUMAN CHAIN FOR JUSTICE

**AGE CORRESPONDENT BHOPAL**

Hundreds of survivors of 1984 Bhopal gas tragedy on Sunday formed a human chain around the now-closed Union Carbide factory here, the source of leakage of deadly methyl isocyanate (MIC) in the intervening night of December 2-3 that year, leading to death of over 15,000 people.

The survivors demanded adequate compensation, provision of proper health facilities and treatment and punishment to the culprits of the incident, besides ensuring their rehabilitation.

The event was organised to highlight the plight of hundreds of victims who have been battling with various ailments - physical disabilities to respiratory problems and even cancer - even 35 years after the tragic incident, billed as world's worst industrial disaster.

Various organisations fighting for the cause of victims of the tragedy demanded urgent steps to resume the disposal of toxic waste left in and around the Union Carbide factory, which caused contamination of ground water in the region.

"The victims of the gas tragedy have suffered due to apathetic attitude of the government towards them and have literally been left to fend for themselves in the past three and a half decades," Satinath Sarangi, an activist fighting for the cause of survivors said.

# In dystopian world, violence against women rules



**By invitation**

**Vimala K.S.**

November 25 is observed by the United Nations (UN) as the day for "Elimination of violence against women" all over the world. And we are in the midst of observing 16 days of activism, from November 25 to December 10, the Human Rights Day, to end violence against women.

But on November 27, Hyderabad woke up to the ghastly incident of a veterinary doctor being raped and murdered. The incident was much ghastlier than the one in 2012 in which a medical student, called "Nirbhaya" by the media, was brutally raped in Delhi. In the Hyderabad case, the girl was raped and murdered and taken to another place and burnt. Her charred body was found on the street. Oh my dear country, how many more daughters, mothers, and children will have to undergo this???

Violence against women is reported world-wide. According to a global study conducted by the World Health Organisation in 2013, around 35 per cent of women had experienced physical and/or sexual violence. It said that one out of every three women goes through violence at least once in her lifetime. Unfortunately, society is getting immune to such incidents and instead of changing its attitude, chooses to punish the victims instead. Quiet often when any incident of rape or any other form of violence is reported, the victim or survivor is questioned about her clothes, character, her being friends with men and so on, rather than the perpetrator.

We can never forget the rape of the Delhi medical student and the comments and the outrage, which forced the then government to constitute a commission under the late Justice Varma. We, the people of this country, can never forget him for his commitment to justice and the fact that he treated women's right as human rights and made recommendations, which later became law. But successive governments both at the Centre and state are not really keen on implementing it and the result is the rape of a veterinary doctor of Hyderabad and similar incidents all over the country. As crimes against women continue unabated, a report of the National Crime Research Bureau (NCRB) reveals that nine cases are reported in Bengaluru alone every day.

There are different kinds of crimes against women and not all are



**■ In our country, on the one hand there is 'Yatra Naryastu Pujynte.....(where women are worshipped) and also told 'Na stree swatantra marhasi'(women don't deserve freedom). So whenever rapes and other such heinous crimes are reported against women, they are told that this is only to be expected if they cross the Lakshman Rekha!**

reported, as often a woman is told to remain silent because she is the saviour of our great "culture."

But we have a Constitution, which guarantees us equal rights and opportunities. Right to life is a fundamental right, and we want a life of

dignity. The UN declaration on the "elimination of violence against women" says that "violence against women is a manifestation of historically unequal power relations between men and women" and "violence against women is one of the crucial social mechanisms by which they are forced into a subordinate position compared with men."

World-wide statistics reveal that at least one out of every three women around the globe has been beaten, coerced into sex or otherwise abused in her lifetime with the abuser being usually someone known to her.

In our country, on the one hand there is 'Yatra Naryastu Pujynte.....(where women are worshipped) and also told 'Na stree swatantra marhasi'(women don't deserve freedom). So whenever rapes and other such heinous crimes are reported against women, they are told that this is only to be expected if they cross the Lakshman Rekha!

Recent incidents have also revealed that sexual violence against women is used for cheap political gain by certain political parties or their members. Those who want to take mileage from it recognise the victim and the culprit as representatives of a particular community or religion. This cannot

be tolerated. Crime is a crime. It has no religion or boundary. This kind of attribution naturally dilutes and deviates from the main issue and in the process, justice suffers. The NCRB report also reveals that crimes against women increased in 2017 by 6 per cent over 2016 and 9 per cent over 2015. We dream about safety, and talk of equality and liberty, but is it really there on the agenda of our states?

Now Bengaluru is one of eight cities selected for the "Safe city project," and safety is being assured through use of closed circuit camera surveillance. Perhaps, in some cases, it may help nab the culprit after the incident. But what we really need to do is to light a torch of enlightenment in the minds of people and change their mindset.

Let us carry forward the spirit of the UN call to eliminate violence against women and pledge to end it. This society should treat women at par with men and give them the respect due to them. C.R. Janardhana is a president of Federation of Karnataka Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

The author is vice-president, All-India Janavadi Mahila Sanghatane, Karnataka

## Families pick up pieces after Hulimavu breach

A stench from rotting food and rubbish in damp streets greeted the families that returned home on Tuesday from the relief centres they had moved to on Sunday following the breaching of the Hulimavu tank, that flooded their houses and destroyed their belongings. On day 3, many families returned to start the cleaning process to rebuild their lives. But around 137 families remained in the shelters, waiting for orders to leave by the BBMP while it fumigated their streets and houses.

The relief centres will continue to provide food, medicines, and clothes to all the victims who leave them, in addition to those who remain in the shelters while their houses get ready for occupation. The victims have pinned their hopes on the ₹50,000 compensation promised per family and the 15-day rations, to begin the process of rebuilding their lives.

With tear-filled eyes, a group of women at a relief centre said, "We are left with nothing at home. We have been sitting here for three days now. The earlier we get to leave, the better, because we have to get back to work."

Left with no clothes or food, the women are waiting to go home to assess the loss they have suffered. "Promises have been made. I hope it translates into reality soon. Because we are left with no other option other than to wait for help," they added.

For those who returned home, the experience was as traumatic as leaving it. "My child has been vomiting continually from the time we have come back," said a worried woman, Gowamma, who was told Tuesday afternoon with a few other families to move to their homes by the authorities, who claimed that the BBMP had cleared the streets and sanitized the area. But on reaching their lane,



**The relief centres will provide food, medicines, and clothes to all the victims who leave them, in addition to those who remain in the shelters while their houses get ready for occupation. The victims have pinned their hopes on the ₹50,000-relief.**

Gowamma and the others were disturbed to see the shape their houses were in. "Who will come to our rescue? When will our lives get back to normal?" wailed a distraught Gowamma as her husband added, "All our documents, including the aadhar card, ration card, original vehicle documents like RC book, insurance, driving license, and our daughter's official papers for the Bhagyalakshmi scheme are gone."

The two have sent their children away to their hometown for a few days till they clear the mess. Gowamma, who works as a sweeper and her husband works as garbage collector, regretted, "We help to clean the city, but there is no one to help us."

Elsewhere, Mr Suresh, owner of a printing press in Krishna Layout, moaned that he had suffered a loss of close to ₹1 lakh over the last two days. "The motors and generator have stopped working and our raw material

perished. The orders that were ready for delivery have also been destroyed," he complained.

When the floods occurred, Mr Suresh was out of town and was shocked on his return, to see the press in knee-deep water.

Some other locals like Roopa were also shocked. "I was watching television when my children came running home to say that there was water everywhere. My husband wasn't at home and I didn't know what to do. I immediately took my children to my neighbour's house, which was on relatively high ground, but by the time I returned home, I found buckets, water bottles, vessels, books, etc. floating in water," she recounted. Fear-stricken, she immediately called her husband and the family moved to a relief centre.

Returning on Tuesday, Roopa and her husband were successful in clearing up the mess, but found little comfort in the job, considering the loss they had suffered. "The 4 to 5 kgs of rice that I had bought home, and other provisions for the house have all perished. There is a rotten smell coming from the rice, ragi, and wheat," Roopa lamented. Her husband, who is a food delivery person, hasn't been able to go to work for two days.

"Although we have seen waterlogging in our street during heavy rain, this was totally unexpected," said Roopa.

Vishaka V. Warriar, Chandrashekar G. and M.K. Ashoka report





The Constitution is under threat and a mass movement is needed to protect it, alleges Congress leader Udit Raj



Graph of the BJP is going down because of its 'negative thoughts'

— Ashok Gehlot, Rajasthan chief minister

BRIEF

Goa MLA rejects Sena prediction

Panaji: A couple of days after Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Raut said there would be "big movement" in the political circles of Goa...

BJP MLA's nephew, 4 killed in accident

Garhwa (Jharkhand): Five persons, including the nephew of a BJP MLA, were killed on Sunday after their vehicle collided with a truck near Paswan village in Garhwa district.

Odisha Govt fails to put brakes on HIV

Bhubaneswar: Multiple interventions and awareness campaigns launched by both the Union and Odisha governments to put brakes on the spread of HIV infection seem to have proved inadequate.

RAPE VICTIM FOUND HANGING IN HOSTEL

AKSHAYA KUMAR SAHOO BHUBANESWAR, DEC. 1: A 23-year-old college teacher ended her life by hanging herself from a ceiling fan after she was allegedly blackmailed by a youth who raped her a few days ago.

Munde creates flutter via FB post

BJP leader says will introspect, hints at major political declaration

AGE CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI, DEC. 1

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Pankaja Munde, who lost the Assembly polls to her cousin Dhananjay Munde of the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), created a flutter in political circles on Sunday after stating that she might make a big decision in the coming days.

Vikas Aghadi (MVA). Pankaja, the elder daughter of BJP heavyweight late Gopinath Munde, has considerable clout among the Other Backward Classes (OBC) communities.

Pankaja put up a post on social networking site Facebook on Sunday, calling for a meeting of her supporters on December 12, which is also the 70th birth anniversary of her late father.



Pankaja Munde

she could not speak with them due to the uncertain political situation in the state.

She cryptically also suggested that she would have to decide her future course

of action in the changed political scenario. "You are asking me for time to meet me. I am going to give you time after eight to ten days. During this time, I want time to introspect a little bit. What to do next? Which way to go? What can we give to our people? What do people expect? After pondering upon these questions, I will appear before you on December 12," she said in her post which was written in Marathi.

Contesting from Parli constituency in Beed, considered her stronghold, Pankaja — a former women and child develop-

ment minister — suffered a shock defeat in the hands of her cousin Dhananjay.

There were also reports that some elements in the party had worked hard to ensure her defeat in the poll.

However, Maharashtra BJP spokesperson Shirish Boralkar said that Pankaja is still with BJP and will continue her work to make the BJP stronger in the state.

"I have read the Facebook post of Pankaja Munde. This post nowhere conveys that Pankaja is not happy with the BJP," Mr Boralkar said.

Congress' Patole elected Maha Assembly Speaker

BHAGWAN PARAB MUMBAI, DEC. 1

Senior Congress MLA Nana Patole was unanimously elected as the speaker of the Vidhan Sabha on Sunday. His election was a foregone conclusion as the Maharashtra Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government, consisting of Shiv Sena, NCP and Congress, had won the floor test by a comfortable margin a day earlier.

The BJP on Saturday had announced Kisan Kathore as its nominee for the speaker's position. However, just before the

poll, the party decided to withdraw the nomination, which paved the way for Mr Patole's election. BJP legislature party leader Devendra Fadnis said that his party decided to withdraw keeping in mind the tradition of not holding an election for the speaker's post.

"We did not feel that the speaker should be chosen through an election," he added.

The CM and some senior MLAs escorted Mr Patole to the speaker's chair. Mr Thackeray and Mr Fadnis praised Mr Patole's work as legislator and farmers' leader.



Maharashtra chief minister Uddhav Thackeray receives governor Bhagat Singh Koshiyari at Vidhan Bhavan in Mumbai on Sunday. —DEBASISH DEY

RSS chief Bhagwat says lacklustre approach on safety of women unacceptable Religious leaders condemn vet's rape & murder

New Delhi, Dec. 1: Religious leaders on Sunday condemned the heinous rape and murder of a veterinarian in Hyderabad while RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat said there can't be any compromise with the dignity of women and children should be taught to always respect them.

The incident, which has sparked outrage in the country, was clearly on the minds of the leaders of various faiths who participated in a conclave here on the importance and relevance of Hindus' holy book Gita.

From Ram temple activist Sadhvi Rithambara to head of All India Imam Organisation Umer Ahmed Ilyasi, various religious leaders

besides union ministers condemned the barbaric crime in strong words. It is easy to worship women, but difficult to ensure that society respects them, Rithambara said adding, "It is unfortunate that the land that gave the world the message of the Gita has to see crimes against women".

Ilyasi demanded public hanging of culprits so that a message can be sent. "All those who are behind this deplorable crime should be hanged in public in daylight so that a message could be sent," he said. Speaking at the same event, Bhagwat, citing the Gita, said it talks about Karma and the society needs to respect women for its uplift. "There can't be any compromise with

their respect and dignity. The government has made strict laws in this regard and they should be implemented. The lacklustre approach of administration on safety of women won't be accepted," he said.

Mr Bhagwat said that the "administration and the government will do what they have to do, but it is also the responsibility of society to reflect and ponder why such incidents happen."

Emphasising that there is need for promoting value education, Mr Bhagwat said, "Every home in the country should inculcate such values and morals in their children that they never forget to respect women and always look at them with purity and dignity." —PTI

Pakistan nefarious designs stand exposed: Punjab CM

Chandigarh, Dec. 1: Punjab chief minister Amrinder Singh on Sunday said Pakistan Railway Minister Sheikh Rashid's disclosure that Kartarpur Corridor was the "brainchild" of their Army Chief Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa and it will hurt India forever had exposed Islamabad's nefarious intent behind the initiative.

Mr Singh expressed serious concern over this admission by the Pakistan minister and said that in validating his stand on the issue, Rashid had completely bared the wicked design of Pakistan behind the Corridor, which India

had hoped would emerge as a bridge of peace between the two countries.

Given Rashid's revelation, the chief minister also urged his former cabinet colleague Navjot Singh Sidhu to be cautious in his dealings with the Imran Khan government in Pakistan.

Mr Singh took strong exception to Rashid's remarks that "the Corridor would hurt India forever, which would forever remember the wound inflicted on it by Gen Bajwa with the Kartarpur

Corridor." Terming it an open and blatant threat against India's security and integrity, he warned Pakistan to not attempt to indulge in any misadventure against its neighbour.

"Don't make the mistake of reading weakness in our gratitude for the opening of the Corridor," he said, warning India would give a befitting response to any bid by Pakistan to attack its borders or its people. On Saturday, Rashid claimed the opening of the Corridor was the brainchild of Gen Bajwa and it will hurt India forever. —PTI

Cong leader shares dais with Bhagwat

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, DEC. 1

Congress leader Janardan Dwivedi on Sunday shared the dais with RSS Chief Mohan Bhagwat and Ram Temple activist Sadhvi Rithambara on the occasion of 'Gita Mahotsav' being held at Red Fort in New Delhi.

Mr Dwivedi's presence raised several eyebrows as he has been the General Secretary of the Congress during the entire tenure of the UPA in power. He was close to the then



Janardan Dwivedi

Congress chief Sonia Gandhi. Mr Dwivedi is no stranger to controversy as he has often had a divergent view from that of the official party line.

When the party was in power he had called for an end to the reservation on caste lines and urged the then Congress vice president Rahul Gandhi to introduce a quota for financially weaker sections, bringing all communities under its ambit.



Police personnel rehearse for Himachal Police Raising Day function at Ridge in Shimla on Sunday. —PTI

K'taka bypolls: Cong open to alliance with JD(S)

Bengaluru, Dec. 1: Sounding upbeat after forming a coalition government in Maharashtra, Congress in Karnataka on Sunday indicated it was not averse to joining hands with JD(S) once again, in case the ruling BJP fails to garner required number of seats to be in majority, after December 5 by-polls.

Even though JD(S) leaders have already dropped enough hints about the party being open to such a possibility, JD(S) patriarch H.D. Deve Gowda's contradictory statement on Sunday points to lack of clarity within the regional party on the matter.

The Congress and JD(S), who ran a coalition government for 14 months in the state and contested Lok Sabha polls in alliance, have parted ways after the collapse of the H.D. Kumaraswamy ministry in July following the rebellion by 17 MLAs, and are contesting the bypolls independently.

The ruling BJP led by chief minister B.S. Yediyurappa needs to win at least six seats in the bypolls to 15 constituencies to remain in a majority in the 224-member assembly, which would still have two vacant seats - Maski and R R Nagar.

BSY rejects talks of possible Cong-JD(S) tieup post bypolls

Bengaluru, Dec. 1: Karnataka chief minister B.S. Yediyurappa on Sunday rubbished indications by Congress and JD(S) leaders of a possible post by-poll alliance in Karnataka, saying such talks don't have any value. He also asserted that BJP's candidates in all the 15

assembly constituencies going for bypolls would be victorious.

To a query on Congress and JD(S) hinting at the possibility of coming together, Mr Yediyurappa said, "such talks don't have any value. Those who are insane are talking such things." —PTI

and asserted that BJP's candidates in all the 15 assembly constituencies going for bypolls would be victorious.

With the campaigning for bypolls ending on Tuesday, leaders are indulging in hectic electioneering in 15 constituencies to woo voters. "In order to protect the constitution, democracy and to provide social justice with secular principles, when the situation arises, we will take necessary steps after discussing with our allies and UPA partners on such a matter," veteran Congress leader Mallikarjun Kharge said. —PTI

Naqvi on Ayodhya: It is not about Babri but barabari

If some people are unable to digest the fact that the unity has been strengthened after this verdict, it is sad

— Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi, Union minister

New Delhi, Dec. 1: Hitting out at the All India Muslim Personal Law Board and the Jamiat-Ulema-e-Hind for their decision to seek a review of the Ayodhya verdict, minority affairs minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi on Sunday said they are trying to create an "atmosphere of division and confrontation" after the matter was laid to rest by the Supreme Court.

He also said that for the Muslims the important issue is not just "Babri (mosque) but barabari (equality)" in the areas of education and economic and social upliftment. In an interview to PTI, Naqvi said that in a democracy everyone has a right to have an opinion and liberty to approach courts. However, he asserted that in an ideal scenario attempts should not be made to entangle the decades-old complex issue which has been solved by a unanimous verdict of the SC.

"All sections of the society have welcomed and respected the Supreme Court verdict. But if some people are unable to digest the fact that the unity has been strengthened after this verdict, it is sad," he said. Sources in the

Drugging & dacoity in long-distance trains on rise

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, DEC. 1

Though the number of robbery cases in long distance trains declined in 2018, theft, dacoity and cases of drugging passengers increased slightly.

The highest number of incidents took place in Central Zone where 5,930 cases of theft, 79 incidents of robbery, 10 cases of dacoity and 39 cases of drugging of passengers were registered, the railway ministry said in reply to a question in Lok Sabha.

The lowest number of cases were reported from Northeast Frontier Zone — 134 cases of theft, two of robbery, zero cases of dacoity and six of drugging. Data for 2019 is yet to be collected.

Railways claimed that it has also taken certain steps in coordination with the GRP for the safety and security of passengers in trains and at stations under its Integrated Security System (ISS) plan.

Officials said that 2,200 trains are escorted by RPF daily. Besides, surveillance is also kept through CCTV cameras, provided at about 473 stations.

Marathi actor held in ₹15L extortion case

Pune, Dec. 1: Marathi actor Sara Shrawan was arrested by the Pune police from Mumbai in connection with a ₹15 lakh extortion case filed by a fellow actor, an official said on Sunday.

Shrawan, also known as Sara Sonawane, is the fourth arrest in the case, he said.

Shrawan had worked with aspiring actor Subhash Yadav and then filed a molestation case against him after their film got released, he said.

"One of the accused Ram Jagdale tried to broker a settlement, as part of which Yadav recorded a video apologising for his act. The accused demanded ₹15 lakh from Yadav in return for not making the video public," he said. —PTI





Congress leader Rahul Gandhi to address rally for J'khand polls today



The govt is trying to fool the people by saying the next quarter will be better

— Yashwant Sinha, Ex-finance minister

SHORT TAKES

Armyman kills wife, kin, shoots himself

Patna: An Army personnel, ailing and on a vacation, on Sunday shot dead his wife and her younger sister near here before pulling the trigger at himself after what was apparently a squabble, the police said.

Man arrested for raping 8-year-old

Rajkot: A man was arrested on Sunday in Gujarat's Rajkot for allegedly raping an 8-year-old girl after abducting her, the police said.

6 Central forensic labs to be upgraded

New Delhi: Six Central forensic laboratories in the country will soon be upgraded for carrying out efficient and scientific investigation in serious and heinous crimes, officials said on Sunday.

SWEDISH ROYALS TO ARRIVE TODAY FOR 5-DAY VISIT

Swedish royal couple King Carl XVI Gustaf and Queen Silvia will begin their five-day visit to India on Monday, and will meet President Ram Nath Kovind and Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday besides visiting the Mughal-era historic mosque Jama Masjid and the Red Fort.

Jairam: No ifs or buts, Cong to oppose CAB in Parliament

RS MP says BJP allies in Assam must take lesson from Shiv Sena

MANOJ ANAND GUWAHATI, DEC. 1



Refusing to join the ongoing attempt to create consensus on the Citizenship Amendment Bill in the Northeast, senior Congress leader and Rajya Sabha MP Jairam Ramesh said that the Congress will "cent per cent" oppose the bill, with no ifs and buts.

Infiltration from Bangla down significantly: BSF

AGE CORRESPONDENT GUWAHATI, DEC. 1

The BSF guarding the frontier with Bangladesh said that there had been no report of infiltration from Bangladesh, but it has been attributed largely to the growing economy of the neighbouring country.

recorded in the last three months. The PM claims that the country's economy is alright. But, the

during the NRC updation process in Assam, BSF DIG J.K. Rodula, who is in-charge of border in Dhubri frontier, said that infiltration from Bangladesh has come down significantly.

country is facing a deep economic crisis. This is what the government data says. Unemployment is on

the up, growth rate is declining, farmers are suffering, small traders and industries are under a fearful environment. The economic crisis is real and deep," Mr Ramesh said.

Coming down heavily on the ruling BJP-led government for allegedly trying to divert attention of the people from the economic slowdown by politicising the citizenship issue, he said that the Congress would play a key role in mobilising the like-minded forces to oppose the CAB in Parliament.

Pointing towards BJP's Assam ally AGP, which is in a dilemma on whether to come out openly against the bill, he said that BJP allies should take a lesson from the Sena, which decided to walk away from the coalition with the party.

'Problem causing damage to N. India population' Pollution crisis 'disaster for all', says Spain envoy

SRIDHAR KUMARASWAMI NEW DELHI, DEC. 1



Jose R. Baranano

Spanish ambassador to India Jose R. Baranano has described India's pollution problem as a "disaster for all". The comments come even as Spain is all set to host the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference of Parties (COP) from Monday. The much-anticipated international conference will be held in Spanish capital Madrid from December 2 to 13.

Spain is playing a leading role in the world on the issue of combating climate change and protecting the environment.

Baranano said, "It is a disaster for all. It is causing a big damage to the population. It is affecting children. We are increasing the number of air-purifiers (at offices and residences). We are sealing a number of windows. We are wearing masks. It is affecting everyone. Someone has to stop."

In an apparent reference to the practice of stubble-burning in states like Punjab, the Spanish envoy suggested some change in the crop patterns as a possible solution, while at the same time pointing out the "government's responsibility to its citizens".

The Spanish ambassador also referred to the patterns of regular floods that have wreaked havoc every year in some part of India or the other, whether it was in Mumbai in 2005 and subsequent years, the Kashmir Valley in 2014, Chennai in 2015 or Patna this year. Referring to the phenomena of global warming, the Spanish ambassador said that as temperatures rise, the air absorbs more moisture and finally when it can support no more, it pours abnormally instead of raining as normal.

"The climate pattern is changing," Mr Baranano pointed out. The Spanish envoy referred to the commitment of his country to protect the global environment.

MUZAFFARPUR RAPE CASE

Key accused transferred funds for self gain: ED

New Delhi, Dec. 1: Brajesh Thakur, the main accused in the sexual assault case of several girls at a shelter home in Bihar's Muzaffarpur, transferred government funds meant for child welfare for his personal benefits and illegal activities, an ED probe has found.

The federal investigation agency had filed a criminal case of money laundering against Thakur, his family members and others in October last year after reports of sexual abuse of minor girls at the shelter house run by Thakur's NGO — Sewa Sankalp Vikas Samiti — came to light.

— PTI



Devotees offer prayers ahead of the month long Magh Mela at Sangam in Prayagraj on Sunday.

Winter chill grips N. India, parts of J&K, Ladakh shiver

New Delhi, Dec. 1: North India was swept by chilly winds on Sunday, with many places in Kashmir, Ladakh and Himachal Pradesh witnessing sub-zero temperatures and the mercury dropping to 9.4 degrees Celsius in the national capital.

Leh town witnessed the coldest night of the season at minus 13.2 degrees Celsius, while Srinagar recorded a low of minus 0.9 degrees Celsius.

The famous ski resort of Gulmarg in north Kashmir, which experienced several feet of snowfall last week, was the coldest place in the valley with a low of minus 8.0 degrees Celsius, the official said.

ture in Jammu stayed over two notches below normal at 8.2°C. Katra, which serves as the base camp for pilgrims visiting Vaishno Devi Shrine in Reasi district of Jammu region, recorded a low of 7.8 degrees Celsius.

After witnessing snowfall for over five days, it was a sunny day in the Valley.

A traffic department official said efforts are on to restore the 434-km Srinagar-Leh national highway, the only road linking Ladakh with Kashmir, and Mughal Road.

While the Srinagar-Leh highway was closed for traffic on November 27 following heavy snowfall in Zojilla pass and adjoining

areas, Mughal Road was shut on November 6 after high altitude areas, including Pir Ki Gali, along the road experienced heavy snowfall.

Delhiites woke up to a chilly morning as the minimum temperature settled a notch below the season's average, while the maximum temperature was 23.4 degrees Celsius, two degrees below normal.

The sun shone bright in the city, but the air quality index (AQI) by 9 AM was "poor" at 275, according to the Central Pollution Control Board.

The city was wrapped in a blanket of fog on Saturday morning with the minimum temperature settling at 12°C.

Two Bangla border officers transferred

RAJIB CHOWDHURI KOLKATA, DEC. 1

BSF JAWAN KILLING

The Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) has transferred its two senior officers and also initiated court martial proceedings against its havildar who shot dead BSF head constable Vijay Bhan Singh and injured his colleague Rajbir Singh when they were returning to Kakmarichar in Murshidabad of West Bengal across Padma river after a flag meeting on an Indian fisherman's detention by the BGB at Charghat in Bangladesh on October 17.

It has conveyed its decisions while expressing "regret" to the BSF during two meetings on October 22 and 29. On the other hand, the BSF has also found its troops' violations in the standard

operating procedures (SOP) during the flag meeting. It has started a Court of Inquiry against a team of three personnel, including a sub-inspector posted at Kakmarichar. The BSF will also raise the incident of shooting with the BGB during the Director General (DG)-level meeting to be held next month.

Speaking during the 55th BSF Raising Day celebration at BSF Camp Tagore Villa in Kolkata on Sunday, BSF (South Bengal Frontier Headquarters) DIG S.S.Guleria said, "After the firing, we held two meetings with the BGB regional commanders of Jessore and Rangpur. We placed our versions before them."

Working on tech to combat UAVs along border: BSF D-G

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, DEC 1

India's premiere border guarding agency, Border Security Force (BSF) is exploring all technical possibilities to deal with the existing threat of drones coming from Pakistan which are being used to drop sophisticated weapons inside the Indian territory in border areas of Punjab. Speaking at BSF's

Raising Day event its chief VK Johri also said Centre's recent decision to split J&K into two separate Union Territory along with revocation of Article 370 had led to increased activities by subversive elements along the border in both J&K and Punjab. The DG however, said the Force was ready to deal with any eventuality to protect the country's integrity and sovereignty.

2 Pak Army officers hurt in retaliatory fire by India

PAWAN BALI NEW DELHI, DEC. 1

Pakistan Army's two officers were injured on Sunday in Indian Army's retaliatory firing in Poonch sector along the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir.

Pakistan's armed forces spokesperson Maj. Gen. Asif Ghafoor in a statement admitted that two Pak Army officers were injured in Indian Army's firing. "Mortar (meant mortar) rounds fired on Pakistani Post.... During exchange of fire two officers of Pakistan Army got injured," he said on Twitter.

According to Indian Army sources the Pakistan Army initiated unprovoked ceasefire violation by firing of small arms and shelling with mortars along LoC in Poonch sector.

"Indian Army retaliated befittingly and in this two Pak Army officers have reportedly got injured," he added. "There has been an increase in ceasefire violation by the Pakistan at the Line of Control after the Centre revoked Article 370 from J&K and bifurcated the state. In 2019, there has been 2,835 ceasefire violation by Pakistan (till November 27, 2019). In 2018, there were 1,600 ceasefire violations.

Japan to aid N-E projects

Continued from Page 1 official said he was "not aware of local developments" there, but expressed confidence that officials of the two countries would "continue to work closely to overcome challenges". The 2+2 Dialogue was conducted on Saturday from the Japanese side by foreign minister Toshimitsu Motegi and defence minister Taro Kono, while external affairs minister S. Jaishankar and defence minister Rajnath Singh led the Indian side. Saturday's dialogue came just about a couple of weeks ahead of the crucial annual summit expected to be held in India in mid-December between Japanese PM Shinzo Abe and Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Despite the speculation about Assam's capital Guwahati being the venue, Mr Kaifu said: "We are still working on the timing. When and where (exact dates and venue), we cannot say."

Asked about whether Kashmir figured in the 2+2 Dialogue, Mr Kaifu said: "I don't remember the ministers going through detailed discussions on the Kashmir issue, but at the same time I can say we (Japan) looked at the situation very carefully. We are also aware of longstanding differences of views on Kashmir. So we hope a peaceful resolution through dialogue will be done." The comment comes a day after an Indo-Japanese joint statement, issued after the dialogue, asked Pakistan to take action on terrorist networks operating from there. It also shows that major world powers, including Japan, are continuing to monitor the situation in the Kashmir Valley.

The Japanese official also said China was a topic of discussion at the Indo-Japan Dialogue. He also said ties between China and Japan are now "back on normal track". The reference was to the festering maritime territorial disputes between the two East Asian countries, and although ties have improved between them, the concerns still remain. "We don't compromise on principled issues like maritime issues and security issues, including the South China Sea and East China Sea," Mr Kaifu said. "If China follows and acts as per international rules, there will be more opportunities for both sides (China and Japan). So it is important for us to reach out to China, to keep engaging it and encouraging it (to follow international rules)," he added. "We have a lot of challenges in the direct neighbourhood," he pointed out, in a veiled reference to the disputes between the two countries.

RTA had chance to halt rapists' lorry

Continued from Page 1 confessed that Chennakesavulu, Naveen and he sold some iron scrap to a scrap dealer near the Raikal toll plaza for about ₹4,000, and with that they bought whiskey etc at around 5:30 pm on November 27. They were drunk when they saw Dr Priyanka Reddy at around 6 pm. That's when they hatched their plan to rape and kill her. None of which would have happened if the RTA had impounded the lorry. Meanwhile, Dr Priyanka Reddy's family locked politicians, police and media out of their colony in Shamshabad on Sunday, spurning their VIP condolences. They were assisted by their colony's fellow residents, as everyone felt vexed with the attempts of Raikal toll plaza for about ₹4,000, and with that they bought whiskey etc at around 5:30 pm on November 27.

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NCP set to get key portfolios

Continued from Page 1 December 22". Nevertheless, the NCP may face a real headache in choosing a deputy CM as both Ajit Pawar and Mr Bhujbal have held the largely symbolic post earlier. Sources suggest that the Sena may take the health department. In the earlier government too, the Sena headed the department. Eknath Shinde, who was sworn in along with Mr Thackeray, may be entrusted with the ministry. Six ministers, two each from the Sena, NCP and Congress, were sworn in on Thursday at Shivaji Park. They include Eknath Shinde, Subhash Desai, Chhagan Bhujbal, Jayant Patil, Balasaheb Thorat and Nitin Raut. Meanwhile, MVA candidate and senior Congress leader Nana Patole was elected as Speaker unopposed after the BJP withdrew its candidate at the eleventh hour. The ruling alliance, as well as the Opposition, congratulated Mr Patole, a fourth-term MLA from Sakoli. In his speech after getting elected to the post, Mr Patole vowed to work for the betterment of farmers and the downtrodden. Sunday's session also saw former CM Devendra Fadnis becoming the new Leader of the Opposition.

SJM to Centre: Halt sale of 5 PSUs

Continued from Page 1 "handwork of a few consultants — who continue to work on the gameplan of vested interests" — the RSS affiliate has demanded that the report should be "junked". Instead, it said, a fresh assessment of the value and worth of PSEs, keeping in mind the vision of doubling the GDP in the next five years and accelerating it further in later years — should be conducted. The SJM has also demanded a comprehensive PSE policy and insisted that PSEs like Air India, BSNL and others, which are required for the strate-

gic needs of the country, can also be turned around. Asserting that there are cases of "conflict of interest" and "formation of cliques to capture India's assets", the SJM demanded a probe into the way consultants are appointed to advise the government in these matters and to "assist them to offload the equities". "A national debate on disinvestment in profitable PSEs is the need of the hour. A white paper is needed on the previous disinvestment of HPCL, where ONGC acquired the equity. How has this benefited

HPCL's operations? The government must explain the benefits which BPCL will get after its privatisation," the resolution reads. The government had recently decided to effect the strategic disinvestment of government shareholdings in five public sector enterprises, along with management control — Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL), Shipping Corporation of India, Container Corporation of India, Tehri Hydro Power Development Corporation and North Eastern Electric Power Corporation Ltd.



50 YEARS AGO IN DECCAN Chronicle

Violence again at Ajoy's tent: 6 policemen hurt

Calcutta: Police made a lathicharge as violence flared up today at the Curzon Park tent where chief minister Ajoy Mukherjee and 30 other Bangla Congress members were continuing their fast for the second day in protest against the prevailing atmosphere of violence in West Bengal.

The lathicharge was resorted to after a crowd of demonstrators started stoning the tent, injuring about half-a-dozen policemen, one of them seriously.

Police commissioner P.K. Sen told newsmen that one of the demonstrators was suspected to be carrying bombs in a bag but he had escaped arrest. Ten persons had been arrested.

Among the injured was joint police commissioner Kalyan Chakravarty. One injured constable was admitted to hospital.

After calm was restored, chief minister Mukherjee told a gathering in front of the tent that he was informed that the police had been rendered inactive by official orders. He also knew that the police were being forced to serve the interests of a particular party by threats of transfers and dismissals.

The home portfolio is held by deputy chief minister Jyoti Basu.

"Some of the CPI(M) men are seen moving about donning steel helmets and carrying spears and lathis. What are they up to?" Mr Mukherjee said.

He said the administration could not be run through dacoities, arson and robbing of small landholders of their meagre possessions. People did not vote the United Front to power to spread violence.

The Bangla Congress could not be a party to such goings on in the state, he declared.

ODDLY ENOUGH

Culinary symbols of Hong Kong divide

Hong Kong: A humble loaf of bread has become a new symbol for Hong Kong's pro-democracy protesters who have embraced a slew of colourful and sometimes surreal memes.

Activists have begun bringing loaves of "Life Bread" — a local brand beloved by Hong Kongers — to demonstrations, or leaving them next to protest walls after a video of a police officer taunting protesters went viral. "Come 6.30 am another group of police officers will take over from me. You eat Life Bread, while I will go to Shenzhen to eat hotpot," the officer said.

The largely leaderless democracy movement quickly seized on the symbolism of a Hong Kong police officer tucking into hotpot on the authoritarian mainland. — AFP

# Iranians are a proud people and won't be cowed down by threats



Seema Guha

focus

How has Iran managed to survive the severe sanctions so far? Much of it is because it is self-sufficient in most things. Also, despite the sanctions, Iran continues to work around them. 'The world wants Iranian oil,' said foreign minister Javad Zarif. The only difference is some people make a massive profit. They buy cheap and sell dear. Trump's hopes that Iranians will rise against the government because of economic hardships are misplaced.

Iran was a surprise. Should not have been, as everyone is familiar with the richness of Persian civilisation, the ruins of Persepolis (the city was set aflame by Alexander the Great after plundering the capital), its renowned poets Hafeez, Rumi, Omar Khayyam and Sadi. The mosque in Maashad is a must visit for Shias around the world.

The Iranian Revolution of 1979 pushed back much of the romantic aura about Iran. Front page pictures of Revolutionary Guards and supporters of the Islamic Revolution shouting death to America was a common sight. Though Indians did not share this perception of Iran, the powerful Western narrative influenced India's mindspace. So there were usual questions such as: Is Iran safe? Can women drive? Are women in hijabs? The nuclear stand off between Iran and the US naturally dominated the news for decades. The fact that India was forced by the US, like other buyers, to stop lifting oil from Iran was a major point of discussion here.

Iran has been under sanctions for the last 40 years. The latest series of crippling sanctions kicked in this May. So when we, a group of journalists from the Indian Women's Press Corps, landed in Tehran's Imam Khomeini International airport on a balmy morning, expectations were of an austere country bogged down by economic woes and concerns of a possible attack by the US or its allies in the not too distant future.

What we saw was very different. It was a voyage of discovery. For one, Iran did not give the impression of a nation under siege. The people look happy. Young couples in love hold hands in the many gardens and parks that dot the urban landscape. Streets are tree-lined, wide and smooth. The country is clean. Isfahan more so. Music and poetry is very much a part of life. Yes, they are facing hardships, but shops are crowded though inflation has skyrocketed to nearly 40 per cent. The shop shelves are filled, food stocks plentiful, restaurants crammed and roadside eateries do brisk business. Import substitution is common. With Coke and Fanta no longer avail-



able, the local fizz drinks are Zam Zam cola and Zam Zam Fanta. A favourite is a mint flavoured yogurt drink.

Women are beautiful, the older generation are in black hijabs, but not the young, though everybody wears a scarf. Hair is covered. Make up and false eyelashes are everywhere. And young women go in for a nose job. It is common in Tehran, Shiraz and Isfahan. Why the obsession for a perfect nose is not clear.

But yes, sanctions are hurting. The protests over the rise in oil prices happened soon after we returned. The government's aim is to raise oil prices to make money available to the poorest sections that need help the most. That possibly misfired.

While President Rouhani has tried to hike up salaries for government employees, up 25-30 per cent two years ago, its clearly not enough. Most people are finding it hard to make ends meet. Many are taking two jobs, espe-

cially those in private jobs. But no one is pointing a finger at the government. "We are not against the government. It is not Iran's fault. We did not break any rules, it is President Donald Trump who did so. He walked out of the nuclear deal negotiated under Obama," Abdollah, a carpet merchant in Vakil Mosque at Shiraz said. He admitted that his business has been hit.

"The US can do its best, but we are resilient. We can stomach this. I am not the only one who is facing problems everywhere, so it's okay," he added quite cheerfully.

"Prices have gone up by nearly 300 per cent. Buying a home is becoming almost impossible," said Darius, who gave only his first name. "I wanted to have a home before getting married, but wait for

that... I will miss both a wife and a house," he added with a twinkle in his eye.

A common refrain is that sanctions have made Iran stronger. Foreign minister Javad Zarif said so, as did the head of a transplant unit we visited in the Fars province. Dr Sayed Ali Malik Hosseini runs a charity hospital called the Abu Ali Sina Hospital. He is known as the father of transplants in Iran.

His institute performs 500 liver transplants a year. The first liver transplant performed in Iran was in June 1992 by Hosseini. Besides liver, pancrea, kidney as well as heart transplants are done at the centre. Patients come not just from every province in Iran, but from neighbouring countries as well. The hospital according to

Hosseini is among the top ten in the world for organ transplants. Hosseini felt that "medicines should never be affected by sanctions... It is inhuman and a violation of human rights".

But the doctor admitted that while over 70 per cent of medicines are manufactured and sourced locally, there are problems with high-end medicines. The institute substitutes, but sometimes these don't work as well as the original.

"For renal replacement surgery, we would import fluids from Germany. That has now stopped. We are using filters with a little less efficiency," Dr Reza Nikandish of the hospital's intensive care unit said. "The sanctions have given us the opportunity to use our own resources better".

Unlike its Arab neighbours, Iran has a pool of scientific talent, and women research assistants are aplenty. At the Royan Institute for Biotechnology in Isfahan, where a sheep was cloned

in 2017, and stem cell research is on, women are all around poring into their microscopes. Over 60 per cent of students in the universities are women — except in engineering, girls outnumber boys in most other streams.

How has Iran managed to survive the severe sanctions so far? Much of it is because it is self-sufficient in most things. Also, despite the sanctions, Iran continues to work around them. "The world wants Iranian oil," said foreign minister Javad Zarif. Only difference is some people make a massive profit. They buy cheap and sell dear. Iran borders seven countries and open orders help trade. Donald Trump's hopes that Iranians will rise against the government because of economic hardships are misplaced. Iranians may or may not like their government but will they are a proud people and will not be cowed down by threats.

The writer is a journalist based in New Delhi

Unlike its Arab neighbours, Iran has a pool of scientific talent, and women research assistants are aplenty

## Make future accessible for disabled, leave no one behind



Mala Kapur Shankardass

meanwhile



Recent global statistics indicate that one in seven persons experiences disability. With over one billion stated to be in the category of disability and it disproportionately affecting older people (whose number is rapidly increasing), women (who are more than half of the total population) and poor people (the growing proportion of whom is a cause of worry in many countries, especially in developing nations), the concern is with how to make future more accessible for people with disability. It is a known fact that disability is universal but what is not generally recognised is that people with disabilities are 50 percent more likely to suffer catastrophic health expenditure than the general population though have the same healthcare needs.

National data from some countries indicates and it could be in most of them that people with disabilities are four times more likely to be treated badly in the healthcare system. There is no doubt that as WHO member countries are gradually recognising that making all kinds of healthcare services accessible to people with disabilities will reduce unacceptable health disparities. This is an achievable goal and especially in recent times as disability is included in five of the goals of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Goal 4, 8, 10, 11, and 17 can fast track the process towards inclusive and sustainable development for persons with disabilities.

We must all, as members of civil society, as governments, as rights based advo-

ates, work towards a future where barriers of no matter what kind that stand in people's way no longer exist be it in policies, programmes, services, goods and products. It is our responsibility that people are not excluded because of their impairments and if this happens it is our duty as citizens to overcome them. Disability is now universally recognised based on the WHO Global

Disability Action Plan 2014-2021 "as an umbrella term for impairments, activity limitations and participation restrictions, denoting the negative aspects of the interaction between an individual (with a health condition) and that individual's contextual (environmental and personal) factors". Not wanting to be pessimistic, but we cannot ignore the fact that with ageing societies becoming

the norm and age related infirmities becoming the experience of many, disability is a public health issue as much as it is human rights agenda and development priority. We have to strive for promoting concern for disability issues, mobilising enabling environments and supporting the cause for making facilities and provisions accessible for people with disabilities to maintain

Tuesday, December 3, is World Disability Day

their dignity, rights and well-being.

As is now being acknowledged by those who feel for disability issues, we must identify the disabled by their strengths, promote their coolability, forget charity and subsidy-based thinking and encourage rights based approach for their inclusion and participation in development. The national strategy must be of empowering people with disabilities to let them have equitable share in resources, and as the SDGs agenda states "no one should be left behind" in meeting the targets of development by 2030. The key to success of achieving SDGs is in implementation. As we see in India and also seen in other developing countries it is the poor implementation of legislations to empower persons with disabilities that is the culprit of nation's not making much progress in this regard. For instance, in India, the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, has various implementing

limitations. It has not achieved much in terms of providing enabling environments across sections of populations with various forms of disabilities. We don't see public places fulfilling the building standards by-laws that make pathways and buildings accessible to the disabled. Few places have put ramps in place but that is not enough infrastructural input. The inclusivity of "leaving no one behind" is missing and inter-departmental coordination to fulfill goals to make accessibility a priority is lacking as much as it is in understanding and accepting people with disability.

It is true that both structural and attitudinal change is required across countries for including persons with disabilities in development and this is not achievable unless accessibility is a fundamental criterion for their inclusivity. We need an overarching focus on removing physical, technological and attitudinal barriers for people with disability. I see so much ageism prevailing in our societies as a result of age related impairments, which

needs to be earnestly stopped. Improving the lives of people with disability, their families and carers must be strategically an agenda of all governments. There is need as seen in India for a national framework for reform to include people with disability in the development agenda, in education, employment, health, infrastructure considerations, in economic planning, and so on. The government and civil society must seek to create a society that enables people with disability to fulfill their potential as equal citizens as is happening for example in Australia. The future lies for persons with disabilities in accessibility through a rights based approach.

The writer is a sociologist, health social scientist and gerontologist working as associate professor in Maitreyi College, University of Delhi, India. She is also chairperson (development) at the Welfare and Research Foundation and Asia representative of the International Network for Prevention of Elder Abuse.



**THE ASIAN AGE**

2 DECEMBER 2019

**Speaking truth to power: Govt should listen more**

In the UPA-2 government's last phase, industrialist Azim Premji made an observation that came to mark an inflection point in the political atmosphere. He brought the charge of "policy paralysis" against the government. This virtually became a battle cry.

Criticising the government has been par for the course in India. Each period brought its own slogans. There was never any fear of those holding power going for their critics (except in the Emergency era). That was rightly assumed to be the country's default political culture, flowing from our liberal, democratic Constitution, which values free speech.

Under the present government, however, the perception is that the luxury of criticising comes at a price. Since the government has shown no disinclination to use its agencies — CBI, Enforcement Directorate, income-tax department — against its political opponents, senior figures in industry and business have so far preferred to keep their thoughts to themselves.

The case of Congress leaders P. Chidambaram and D.K. Shivakumar too have served as a warning. "Tax terrorism" began to be faintly heard when a top entrepreneur in South India ended his life, fearing harassment by the state, but the critics spoke in measured tones and soon there was a hush.

Given this background, it must have taken some doing on the part of Rahul Bajaj, from a storied industrialist family, to speak truth to power at an event in Mumbai on Saturday, with Union home minister Amit Shah in the audience.

Mr Bajaj spoke relatively freely. He said industrialists were afraid to be critical of the government for fear of consequences. He didn't limit his remarks to the economy and business. He spoke of lynching episodes that went unpunished, creating a sense of "intolerance". He brought up Bhopal MP Pragna Thakur's recent description in Parliament of Mahatma Gandhi's assassin as a patriot.

Repeating to these remarks, Mr Shah proclaimed there was no cause to be afraid, and said all criticisms will be viewed on merit. The whole thing was so public that Mr Bajaj may have nothing to worry about. However, he will do well to wait before he assesses his situation. But there is no gaining that he broke the mould.

Where did the industrialist draw his courage from? Did he find his freedom because the sorry state of the economy is now being discussed in every home and in every newspaper and television studio? Or because, in spite of the presumably magical powers of the Modi-Shah combine, the BJP has fared below par in recent state elections in Haryana and Maharashtra, losing its government in the latter state? This is possible.

On the economic side, there were prominent critics before Mr Bajaj — like the government's chief economic adviser Arvind Subramanian and former Niti Aayog vice-chairman Arvind Panagariya, both well-known economists who resigned and went back to the United States. The former spoke of demonetisation and GST mishandling. But Mr Bajaj has been broader in his sweep. The international media too are now speaking of the BJP government delivering poor economics and majoritarian politics.

**Answer difficult questions**

The debate on women's freedoms has returned to Indian drawing rooms after a gap. The ghastly rape and murder of a veterinarian in Hyderabad on Wednesday night has horrified urban India. It took place on a news day when five other crimes of a similar nature were reported from as many cities — Ranchi, Kanchipuram, Cuddalore, Chandigarh, Vadodara. People are outraged at the apathy of the Cyberabad police that asked the family inappropriate questions and delayed lodging an FIR even when it approached them within one-and-a-half hours of her SOS to her sister. Yet state home minister Mahmood Ali made so bold as to claim that had the victim called up the police instead, she would have lived. It places in grave doubt the ability of the law and order machinery to protect the citizen. But when in an exigency, complaining is no strategy.

While it may seem counter-intuitive to contemplate them, there are a few social facts that are crying out to be reckoned with, and in these are perhaps hidden the solutions to this malaise. (a) Women in India are still shamed for rape. Nevertheless, educate mothers to give girls agency. It is, after all, survival of the fittest, and women must be able to have the freedom to trust their own instincts, take care of their vehicles and themselves, own the streets and take their own decisions when under duress. (b) Street rapes are mostly committed by underprivileged men, and these men view all independent women as undeserving and products of privilege. To defeat your opponent or even to deter him, you must first defeat him morally. As economic inequalities will continue to exist, one way and an important one to beat this system of conjuncturing would be for women to pay their moral dues to society so they have the courage of conviction to face down assailants and others who post-facto come and shame them.

Remember, harsher punishment for rapists like the death penalty won't work. It will only make the courts more stringent about our police's shoddy investigative skills. Don't forget, India is a country where judges often ask victims to marry their rapists.

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Subhani

**Can govt let pvt sector take lead on growth?**



Sanjeev Ahluwalia

In early 2014 Narendra Modi as a prime ministerial aspirant made three pledges to the people of India, which swept him to power and kept him at the helm. First, the pledge to employ jobless young adults in decent jobs. Second, to shrink the government while increasing governance. Third, to put ₹15 lakhs into every family's bank account.

The tide has gone out from under the BJP's boat, making it timely to review how fully have these pledges been redeemed and what the government needs to do now to improve its record on redemption.

There is a great deal of noise in the jobs data. But most analysts are agreed that the opportunities for part-time or casual work to add to the family income have reduced significantly. So high is the over-supply of workers that women's participation rates in the workforce have fallen to historic lows along with opportunities for inexperienced young workers.

Sadly, the paucity of jobs is unlikely to go away even if the economy revives. The nature of work is changing globally. Machines and robots are replacing unskilled humans in dangerous or monotonous work. Restrictive labour laws make downsizing and contractual work administratively difficult and expensive, tragically inducing a flight of employers to robots.

While reframing basic and tertiary education to align with the demand for labour is urgently needed, it will not expand the volume of work available sufficiently, at our levels of low competitiveness. Improving competitiveness is all about doing more with less and a shrunken workforce is the low hanging "fruit" of

most such attempts. The implication is that public budgets need to be refocused and the allocations on human development and social protection enlarged significantly. The burden of developing infrastructure, investing in manufacturing, research and development, all of which have imposed a heavier burden on public finance resources in the recent past, has to be shifted to the private sector.

Bringing the private sector centre-stage requires a sea change in the manner of its participation and its role in nation-building. Unless we can reduce the risk profile of infrastructure projects — make land acquisition legislation practical and effective along with it being equitable and sustainable; reduce red tape and reverse the growing sentiment of mistrust in the private sector, it is unlikely that "invest in India" would become a credible narrative. And unless we can push investment up to 40 (from around 30) per cent of GDP, a recovery to eight per cent GDP growth levels is unlikely.

Making private sector investment the primary growth engine in the economy would require the rules of the game to be set by the private sector, with minimal oversight by regulators and the government to guard against anti-competitive behaviour or price gouging while using benchmark environmental and labour regulatory mechanisms to improve operating performance and standards. Active participation by the private sector in policy and rule-making wherever they impinge on business should become a necessary practice, rather than the hush-hush, wink-wink business it is today.

This approach is aligned with reducing the

size of the government while improving governance outcomes. Privatizing public sector entities is a key milestone, not as a tool to fill the fiscal deficit but to enhance the productive use of assets and capital.

This "private sector first" approach also requires that the government stand ready to step in and provide safety networks for those who lose jobs or are shouldered aside by the march of technology in the evening of their life. Essentially, it implies a complete reversal of what all Indian governments have been doing since the 1970s — being the supplier of private and public goods.

The government must quit the business of supplying private goods and services. Telecom services is one such example as are airlines, railway passenger and goods carriage services. Trade liberalisation can free domestic markets for agricultural products and replace the administered pricing mechanism.

At the time of his taking over as Prime Minister, Mr Modi had advised young IAS probationers that they should devote themselves to the social impact sectors since business and industry could look after themselves. Sadly, this simple but powerful message has since been lost with the same, post-colonial, generalist configuration persisting today in decision making roles across the spectrum of ministries, with one difference — that the Gujarat cadre is much more in prominence in the Union government than ever before.

The fly in the ointment is that there is no blueprint of government actions to drive the

**The fly in the ointment is that there is no blueprint of government actions to drive the process of capital allocation across departments and agencies for results**

process of capital allocation across departments and agencies for results. Nor is there a subsidiary process to determine capital allocation for results within a department or agency.

Staffing patterns resemble the allocations in colonial times rather than responding to the development needs of today, with a horizontal structure. Directors and special secretaries have proliferated, creating an officer cadre with seven panicked layers.

Unexpectedly, there has been the most progress on the pledge to transfer ₹15 lakhs of wealth to every family. The primary instrument for delivering private assets is the Prime Minister's Awas Yojna — currently around 11.2 million homes in urban areas and another 14 million in rural areas — a total of around 25 million homes have been targeted and around 10 million homes built since 2015.

Extending the scheme to 48 million homes comprising the bottom quintile of the total number of families over the next four years to FY 2024 would require ₹2 trillion per year as up-front capital assistance for homes and an additional annual amount of ₹30 billion increasing to ₹130 billion by FY2024 as interest subsidy on the loan component. This appears unaffordable at low rates of growth. But the unaffordable can be doable if the "private sector first" mantra is evoked. A trika of the government, banks — which are flush with funds — and private construction companies, which are short on work, can deliver the upfront money if a suitable interest subsidy element is guaranteed by the government.

Mr Modi was right in 2014 when he identified less government with better governance and a more effective transfer of income to the bottom quintile. It is just that poor execution has come between intent and reality.

The writer is adviser, Observer Research Foundation

**LETTERS**  
**FREEDOM THE KEY**

Apropos the report, "Hyderabad gangrape, murder rock nation" (Dec. 1), the gangrape followed by the burning of the body of a 27-year-old Telangana veterinary doctor is bone-chilling, but condemning it in preference to other rape-murders around the country would not only be unjust but also pointless — it will only serve to temporarily appease the collective conscience of the very society that enables such crimes. One can see that bringing in a stringent law after the Delhi 2012 bus gangrape has failed to deter rapists. Only police reforms, reform of the justice delivery system and a progressive mindset among both women and men can eradicate this phenomenon of "punishing" working women with rape.

S.S. Paul  
Chakdaha, Nadia

**RECESSION HERE?**

THE ECONOMIC SLOWDOWN is deeper than what has been thought so far. Growth has sunk to an over six-year low of 4.5 per cent in the second quarter of the current financial year, falling well below the psychological five per cent mark. The headline number, largely propped up by higher government spending, is well below the RBI's estimate of 5.3 per cent, signalling the severity of the slowdown. The government must take immediate steps because the prosperity of the country depends on it.

Seraj Ali  
Bengaluru

**MILKING THEIR DUE**

A LITRE OF MILK was served to 81 children at a primary school in UP's Sonbhadra district recently. This is a nasty joke played on the future of our nation. Stealing public provisions is reprehensible but depriving young ones of nutrition is unforgivable. The district administration should hand out exemplary punishment to perpetrators of this crime.

Mahmoodul Hasan  
Bengaluru

₹500 for the best letter of the week goes to Sravana Ramachandran (Nov. 27). Email: letters@asianage.com



Anita Katyal  
**Political Gup-Shup**

**When Shah lost his cool; has India Inc switched sides?**

While the loss of a government in Maharashtra has proved to be a big setback for the BJP, the drama enacted in the country's financial capital has added to the Narendra Modi government's worries but for a different reason. Party insiders said in private conversations that these developments suggest that they have lost the support of the corporate sector, known to play a crucial role in the state's politics. A BJP leader expressed surprise at how several five-star hotel managements threw open their doors for newly-elected MLAs of the Shiv Sena, Congress and the Nationalist Congress Party. Not just that, the BJP could not believe that the owners gave these political parties a free run of their hotels, even allowing them to stage a show of strength on their premises. They recalled that when the BJP was in Opposition, their leaders would have a tough time booking rooms as hotel managements did not wish to get on the wrong side of the ruling dispensation. According to them, the party should not over-

look this aspect of the Maharashtra imbroglio and take immediate steps to win back the confidence of the corporate sector, which appears to be unhappy with the ruling alliance.

Political circles are busy speculating why BJP president Amit Shah did not travel to Mumbai after the Assembly election results in Maharashtra threw up a fractured mandate and the Shiv Sena, its pre-poll alliance partner, started acting tough. According to the capital's grapevine, Mr Shah was furious with the party's state unit which failed to deliver on its repeated assurance to the central leadership that the BJP would cross the half-way mark on its own. The party chief felt betrayed as he and Prime Minister Narendra Modi had campaigned extensively in Maharashtra but their hard work came to naught.

Taking a cue from Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who has made concerted efforts to woo Bollywood stars and

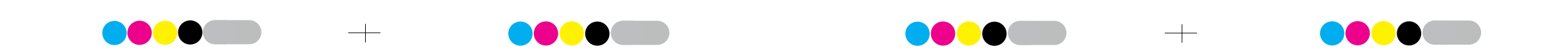
filmmakers, the BJP's ideological mentor, the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, is doing the same as it too realises the importance of popular cinema in shaping public opinion. It was, therefore, not a coincidence that heads of frontal organisations affiliated to the RSS and its media chiefs from across the country were invited as delegates to this year's International Film Festival of India in Goa. During their stay in Panjim, RSS reps held extensive informal interactions with filmmakers. Their objective: to persuade them to make films that reflect Indian culture and traditions and promote the spirit of nationalism and patriotism. In other words, Bollywood films should desist from encouraging the adoption of Western values which have a corrupting influence on the young. Mr Modi's outreach was a success as was evident from the release of films like *Uri: The Surgical Strike* and *Mission Mangal*, which propagate the government's agenda on nationalism. It is to be seen if the RSS succeeds in its mission.

Two Rajya Sabha members of the People's Democratic Party, Mir Fayaz and Nazir Ahmed Laway, were marshalled out of the house in the last Parliament session when they tore up a copy of the Constitution to protest the government's decision to scrap Article 370. The matter was referred to the Rajya Sabha's ethics committee. The two MPs have not been seen since this session because the ethics committee is yet to take a view on their case. It transpires that a decision is being delayed deliberately following instructions from the BJP top brass to its party MPs on the committee to keep this case pending. The government apparently does not want the PDP members to return in a hurry to deny them an opportunity to place their views on record or raise angry protests in case the RS schedules a discussion on the Kashmir situation.

When former steel minister Birender Singh asked for a Lok Sabha ticket for his son in the last election, he told

BJP president Amit Shah he would resign from the Cabinet and the Rajya Sabha. Mr Singh gave up his ministry after his son was elected to the Lok Sabha and followed it up by resigning his Rajya Sabha seat before this Parliament session commenced. Mr Singh stopped attending the proceedings on the assumption his resignation had been accepted. He was, therefore, baffled when the Rajya Sabha secretary continued to send the agenda papers and other documents to his residence. On enquiry, he learned there was no official word about his resignation. Mr Singh promptly started attending the session on realising he had unnecessarily lost out on his ₹2,000 daily allowance for several days. Meanwhile, no one knows why Mr Singh's resignation has been kept pending since decisions in such cases are normally taken immediately.

Anita Katyal is a Delhi-based journalist





HYDERABAD RAPE-MURDER SHOCKER

# If society doesn't respect all women, it's hard to stop rape, sexual crimes



Sowjanya Tamalapakula

The horrific news of rape and murder of veterinary doctor Priyanka Reddy shocked the nation. She was abducted, raped, brutalised and killed on the night of November 27, 2019 allegedly by four young men working as lorry cleaners. In the early hours of the next morning, her charred body was found under the bridge at Shadnagar. At around 9.30 pm on the night she was abducted, she phoned her younger sister to inform that she was stuck on the road as her bike's tire was punctured and was feeling scared due to the sinister stares of the men around her.

Protests broke out with the first peace march by the Veterinary Association and the residents of the gated community from her residence to Ambedkar's statue at Rallaguda, Shamshabad, on the night of November 28. Students from various colleges, women's rights activists, NGOs and ordinary people have organised protests at various places in Hyderabad and other parts of the country. Within 48 hours, the police — at a press conference — announced that the four accused were caught and would be presented before the court

**The rage of the middle classes against sexual violence is selective and is in most contexts directed against public violence and not domestic violence. Almost every other day, people hear news of women being killed in the name of 'honour'.**

The very conditionality of respect to women in Hindu culture is problematic. The protesters demand that every woman should be respected like a mother and sister in this country. The image of the mother sets the conditions upon which women deserve to receive respect and security in our society. Respect to women on the conditions of compliance to the traditional dress code, sexual purity and controls on mobility is nothing but the perpetuation of violence against women who break the norms either once or once and for all. Arjun Reddy intimidates a woman with a knife in his hands to strip off and provide sexual favours in the opening scene. She is a woman who had already accepted a sex-date with him and refuses to go ahead as her fiancé knocks at the door while Arjun Reddy is with her in her house. She clearly doesn't deserve the empathy of the middle classes and as well as Arjun Reddy since she is engaged in sexual activity outside marriage. She is hardly a victim and in fact deserves rape according to the same crowd that demands capital

punishment for the rapists. The "pure victims" of sexual violence are sexually pure and innocent, according to the Indian middle classes. However, a part of this Indian middle class society might as well find fault with victims like Nirbhaya and Priyanka Reddy. The question here is whether the problem is only the accused or the patriarchal and misogynist nature of the society? The rage of the Indian middle classes against sexual violence is selective and is in most contexts directed against public violence and not domestic violence. Almost every other day, people hear news of women being killed by families in the name of "honour killings", dowry violence, domestic violence and cruelty. However, the rage of the middle classes is not similar in case of domestic violence that middle class women face because the middle classes deliberately uphold the violent institutions of marriage and endogamy. Therefore, the middle classes, who are complicit in the process of familial and domestic violence against women, do not express the same rage in cases of that violence. The demand to kill the accused publicly contradicts the democratic nature of the nation itself. Going against the democratic judicial process would lead to injustice against the marginalised. Anyone who is accused of rape and sexual violence also should be proved guilty before being punished. The response of the middle classes to sexual violence in the context of communal violence on minority women, endemic caste violence against dalits and dalit women, the Indian

Army's brutality towards women from certain regions, the rape of adivasi women is not the same as the response to sexual violence against middle class women. One among the protesting women shouted at the police, "She is an educated girl from a respectable family and not a woman from Lambada Thanda of Shamshabad". This comes like a harsh reminder of how the value of women is determined by the social location and its masculine power/vulnerability in relation to the other locations within the larger caste system. Sexual violence is fundamentally linked to the patriarchal nature of the society that owns the bodies of women at various levels by husband, families, caste groups and communities. The value of a woman's body is determined by who has ownership claims over it. Therefore, sexual violence against a tribal woman from Lambada Thanda may not receive the same response from the Indian middle classes. The structural complexities of caste, class, ethnicity and gender play a vital role in sexual violence against women. In such cases, the hierarchies implicit in the social locations of the victim and the perpetrator become important to determine the response and rage of the Indian middle classes. The same middle class society may be apathetic to dalit women being paraded naked and lynched or adivasi and Muslim women being raped and brutalised by our security forces.

*The writer teaches at the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Hyderabad*

## Did Abdus Salam get Chinese help for Pakistan nukes?



Pervez Hoodbhoy

Public interest in Abdus Salam, Pakistan's legendary theoretical physicist, has surged with the worldwide release of *Salam, The First \*\*\*\*\* Nobel Laureate*, a Netflix documentary. While the movie dwells on his scientific achievements — and even more upon his deep personal disappointments — absent is any mention of his numerous missions to China. The makers of the movie cannot be blamed. Until now, this aspect of his life was largely unknown to even those of his colleagues who knew him well. I was born a Pakistani and I'll die a Pakistani: Abdus Salam. But two Chinese physicists, Jingnan Sun and Xiaodong Yin, have just lifted the curtain. Their paper, titled *Abdus Salam and China — A View on Salam's Influence on China's Science Development Based on His Six Visits to China* was published from Beijing in March 2019 in a Chinese language journal. It draws upon transcripts of various meetings held at the Chinese Academy of Sciences. My Chinese physicist friends have kindly translated some parts into English, to be dwelt upon below. The Sun-Yin paper reveals Salam's effort to seek China's help for Pakistan's nuclear weapon programme. This goes some way towards answering: what was Salam's role in Pakistan's bomb project? His many enemies allege he played no role while others claim he spilled Pakistan's nuclear secrets over to America, Israel, and India. On the other hand, his admirers insist Salam was a man of peace who never wanted nuclear weapons. Where's the truth? The facts are now before us: Salam, already an academic superstar in the 1950s, visited China six times and met the highest Chinese leaders. On his first trip in March 1958, Salam accompanied President Ayub Khan as his scientific adviser and had a one-on-one meeting with Chinese Premier Zhou Enlai. The two formed a personal bond. At Zhou's invitation, Salam visited China again in 1959 for a conference. China was not yet a nuclear power and Ayub Khan had no interest in nuclear weapons.

Things changed drastically after East Pakistan separated on December 16, 1971. Barely six weeks later, on January 20, 1972, President Zulfikar Ali Bhutto convened a meeting of Pakistani scientists in Multan. An emotional Bhutto exhorted them to make an atomic bomb, a desire he had first articulated in 1965. Salam was present and also spoke. From Sun-Yin we learn that subsequently Bhutto sent Salam to China in 1972 to seek China's help with nuclear weapons technology. On page 120 the authors say that Salam emphasised his third trip was "not an ordinary visit". In his meeting with Zhou on the evening of September 5, 1972, Salam made his upfront request for nuclear assistance. Zhou's recorded reply was circumspect: "The (Chinese) Academy of Sciences needs to study this carefully and make preparations. We will send some people over to you for experiences and technology." It is unclear if the authors are inserting their own opinion when they write: "Salam did not accomplish his objective ... although China was very hospitable, it was also extremely cautious." But a recent article by Dr Yangyang Cheng of Cornell University emphasises that two months after Salam's visit a Chinese team led by Jiang Shengjie attended the opening ceremony of KANUPP, the Canadian nuclear power plant gifted to Pakistan. A chemist and nuclear engineer, Jiang played an important role in the Chinese nuclear weapons programme and was deputy director of the Atomic Energy Institute in Beijing. Salam took on the bomb project but didn't get into design details — the physics of nuclear implosions was old hat and he was busy chasing bigger fish. So in late September 1972 he summoned his former student Riazuddin (died 2013) to his office at the ICTP in Trieste, Italy. Riazuddin, my senior colleague, had founded the physics department at Quaid-e-Azam University and was intellectually well equipped for the task. Salam instructed Riazuddin to create a group of theoreticians for understanding the physics of nuclear implosions. PAEC chairman Munir Ahmad Khan, with whom Salam had a warm relationship, agreed. Riazuddin — who received the prestigious Hilal-i-Pakistan after the 1998 nuclear tests — dutifully obeyed. How it all worked out can be found in Riazuddin's memoirs, to be published soon. Were inputs from Riazuddin's group important? The Americans claim Pakistan possessed detailed blueprints of the nuclear weapons China had tested in the 1960s. One set was confiscated in 2004 from the ship BBC Cargo intercepted on route to Libya. Other nuclear materials sold by Dr A.Q. Khan were also captured. Gen. Musharraf had subsequently ordered Dr A.Q. Khan to apologise on PTV. But even if Pakistan had these blueprints, they would have been useless without a sound understanding of the underlying theoretical principles — Libyans possessing the same blueprints could do nothing with them. For Pakistan a design template together with physics knowledge made the task much easier. The second step — tuning weapons for different yields and creating different warhead options — is then a relatively small increment. That Salam palmed off Pakistan's nuclear secrets to other countries is a flat lie created by those very persons who were actually into this business and were thereafter exposed. He was not involved in the bomb's development work (except in a broad sense) and knew no technical secrets. Nevertheless, Salam was in for a big shock; 1974 turned his life upside down. He was devastated when his Ahmadi community was declared non-Muslim by Bhutto's government. Earlier it was possible to be an Ahmadi as well as a Pakistani nationalist. Although Salam tried valiantly to remain both, his attitude towards the atomic bomb did gradually change. Eventually, he saw it as an existential threat to humankind. To end on a side note: among my life's countless regrets, major and minor, is that I never summoned the courage to engage with Salam on the bomb issue. From 1984, continuing until two to three years before his death in 1996, he and I had intermittently discussed many issues — social, political, and scientific — but never this. Did he regret his earlier involvement? He was certainly aware that I often spoke and wrote against all nuclear weapons (including Pakistan's). Though I suspected Salam's feelings had changed, I felt myself too junior to ask.

*By arrangement with Dawn*

# Will police keep us safe? Cops, leaders must learn citizens' safety is their duty



Reshmi A.R.

I am scared..." These were the last words of Dr Priyanka Reddy, a 27-year-old veterinary doctor whose life was tragically cut short after she was raped and burnt alive in Hyderabad. What the young girl suffered at the hands of four ruthless beasts is beyond anybody's comprehension. Clearly, women's safety remains a much bandied about slogan in a country where human life, much less that of a woman, has simply no value. Tragedies like Nirbhaya continue to take place with alarming regularity and what is the reaction of our self-serving politicians? The epic, misogynist response of the Telangana home minister, Mahmood Ali, summarises it all: She ought to have called the police on 100 and not her sister! While he clarified later that he was not blaming the victim, but only trying to tell people, especially young women what to do when they feel unsafe, the damage was done. The social media, already outraged, went apoplectic and to the ordinary

citizen, it was a classic case of political apathy. A few years ago, one of our so-called national leaders infamously said something like "boys will be boys" while referring to the perpetrators of the crime in a sensational rape case. In our country, more than anywhere else in the world, as much as things seemingly change on the surface, they remain the same. The Nirbhaya Act, women's commissions — nothing makes the lives of women, especially in our metropolises, any safer. Priyanka Reddy's horrific rape and murder rub this fact in searingly, once again, as we, ordinary citizens, are once again left to fend for ourselves and convulse with collective fear and shame. It was like any other day going to work and back for the young doctor who left home that day. On the fateful evening she made a stop at the toll plaza, only a few kilometres away from the Rajiv Gandhi International Airport, not knowing that death was lurking there, waiting to strike in a few hours. Little did she know

**Tragedies like Nirbhaya continue to take place. The epic, misogynist response of the Telangana home minister, Mahmood Ali, summarises it all: She ought to have called the police on 100 and not her sister!**

that she would become a victim of the beastly lust of some drunken sexual predators who were plotting their shameless move while she was innocently parking her bike. While the victim left her bike, these beasts set about puncturing her scooter so they could approach her on the pretext of helping her. In her last call to her sister, Priyanka is heard anxiously expressing her fears. The phone call should send a shiver down the collective spine of the policemen who refused to file an FIR, asking the family to wait, saying the missing girl might have eloped with somebody. Then they refused to file a complaint saying it didn't fall under their jurisdiction. These are the first responders the state's home minister would have us reach out to! Now, what is baffling is the number of tweets the Telangana police put out hours after the horror came to light. City police

commissioner Anjani Kumar telling people that the department had innumerable police patrol vehicles which will rush to their rescue no matter where they were in a matter of minutes and his counterpart in Cyberabad, Sajjanar, urging people not to lose their confidence. How on earth would anyone have an ounce of strength or confidence to go to the police when their response gets as predictable as it did? The irony is that even when the family took the trouble to go all the way to the police station to lodge a complaint in the state of mind that they were in, the cops came up with frivolous excuses simply because they didn't want to get out of the comfort of their police station on to the streets where a murder more chilling than Alpine winters had taken place. The family ran from pillar to post trying to seek the police's help while the men in khaki who are supposed to maintain law and order in the city and ensure the safety of citizens conveniently excused themselves saying the case didn't fall under their jurisdiction. The home minister's statement capped it all. Why did she call her sister? This timeline of events should explain it if he or his officers, who waste no opportunity to have TV cameras on them, care to follow it. At least she had her one last conversation with her sibling and probably even provided a

clue on her predators. That's not all. Mahmood Ali goes on to say that there is no match for Telangana when it came to low crime rates. What was he thinking? Under 154 (1) of the CrPC, the police has to take down every written complaint, failing which one could invite a jail term of about six months to two years under 166A (C) of the IPC Act. Talking of the fast-track courts that were set up after the Nirbhaya rape to speed up justice in such cases, the Delhi victim's mother says that justice for her daughter is still pending with the court and not moving forward due to a paucity of judges in the fast-track court. Thus, there is no death warrant yet for the perpetrators of the Nirbhaya rape. Now we are talking about the cases that are being reported. What happens to those that go unreported? It's high time the system is given a relook. The takeaway is a lot remains to be done with respect to women's safety, beginning with a refresher course of sorts in sensitising politicians, police officers at all levels and judicial officers on the subject. It's about time someone told these ministers and senior police officers who are busy sermonising and looking for photo-ops and media attention all the time, to learn to simply do their job — keeping their citizens safe.

## Nouns are a fiction created by man



Amrit Sadhana

We have heard that life is in flux, but we have only heard so from the enlightened people, it is not our experience. That is why we ignore it and try to create permanent dwellings in this fleeting world. The mind wants to possess everything and wishes that things would not slip out of its hands. But it doesn't know that this is the real cause of its misery. Osho has explained it in a new way: that life is not a noun; it is a verb — because the noun is

static, and the verb is always flowing. But our problem is, we would like this life to be a noun, which means static, labelled, immobile so that we can possess it; and overlook that the whole of existence, which is like a verb, which means it is running, it is constantly moving, always incomplete. If you understand deeply, things have not happened, they are still happening, and they will go on happening endlessly. Life is not a finished product. It is scary to live with this uncertainty, and it makes us feel insecure. When we say this is a tree, just as we are saying it, the tree is bringing new leaves, and old leaves are falling; fresh flowers are blossoming, early flowers are disappearing. It is not a dead thing; hence, it cannot be a noun. It is a living entity, and it is continually changing.



Ponder Osho's words: "You have to understand one thing which is very fundamental: the world consists of verbs, not of nouns. Nouns are a human invention — necessary, but after all, a human invention. But existence consists of verbs, only of verbs — not nouns and pronouns. Look at this. You see a flower, a rose. To call it a flower is not right, because it has not stopped flowering, it is still flowering; it is a verb; it is a flow. By calling it a flower you have made it a noun. You see the river. You call it a river — you have made it a noun. It is "rivering". It would be more accurate to the existential to say that it is "rivering" — flowing. And everything is changing — flowing. The child is becoming a young man; the young man is becoming old. Life is turning into death; death is turning into life. Everything is in

continuity, continuous change; it is a continuum. There never comes a full stop. It comes only in language. In existence, there is no full stop. Do you remember when you stopped being a child? — When, at what point, the stop came, and you became a young man? There is no place, no demarcation, no full stop. The child is still flowing in you. If you just close your eyes and look within, you will find everything that has been, is still there, flowing. The river is becoming big, new rivulets are joining it, but the original is still there. When you say God, you are using a noun, something static, dead. When I say godliness, I am using a verb for something alive, flowing, moving."

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







New purchase

Codemasters announces it will purchase Slightly Mad Studios, the developer of the Project Cars series

SHORT TAKES



TWITTER TESTS REDDIT-STYLE REPLIES

Washington, Dec. 1: Twitter has started testing a new method on its website to show replies to a tweet.

Discovered by app analyst Jane Manchun Wong, the new Reddit-inspired format, called 'conversation tree,' shows nested replies and also includes the ability to click on any tweet to focus on it, Engadget notes.

The conversation tree format is expected to roll out in 2020. — Agencies

SWEDISH BIZMEN IN INDIA FOR TECH TRANSFER

New Delhi, Dec. 1: A high-level delegation comprising of over 100 business leaders from Swedish companies like ABB, Ikea, Ericsson and Volvo is accompanying the King and Queen of Sweden during their six-day official visit to India.

Giving details about the visit, Anders Wickberg, Swedish trade commissioner to India, said the delegation will hold meetings with Indian industry leaders in Delhi as well as Mumbai.

He said the visit is likely to generate high quality investments in the country which in turn will create technology transfer and employment opportunities.

Currently, over 200 Swedish companies are operating in India, employing over 2 lakh people.

In the last two years, employment through Swedish companies and investment have grown at over 20 per cent, Wickberg said.

India is Sweden's third largest trade partner in Asia, after China and Japan. Mutual economic interests in areas including manufacturing, cleantech, and healthcare, among others, are driving trade relations between both the countries, he said.

Moreover, there has been an influx of Swedish retail companies, with Ikea and H&M pursuing rapid expansion both online and offline, Wickberg said, adding that media services provider Spotify too recently established its presence in India.

Ikea, which has a store in Hyderabad, plans to open 20-25 more stores in the country, he added.

During Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Stockholm in 2018, a Joint Action Plan as well as a Joint Declaration on Sweden-India Innovation Partnership for a sustainable future were signed. This, Wickberg said, is set to deepen bilateral ties in the field of innovation, underpinning a mutual commitment to drive prosperity and address global challenges such as climate change and sustainable development through innovation. — PTI

Google in more trouble over data

EU body asks cos on Google's data practices

Brussels, Dec. 1: European Union (EU) anti-trust regulators are seeking details of Google's data collection practices, according to a document seen by Reuters, a move that could signal more regulatory woes for the world's most popular internet search engine.

The EU's executive commission has handed down fines of more than 8 billion euros (\$8.8 billion) to Alphabet unit Google in the last two years and ordered it to change its business practices, following an investigation that showed the company abused its dominance.

Last week, the EU competition enforcer sent out questionnaires to several companies, asking them about Google's data practices and giving them a month to reply.

The focus is on data related to local search services, online advertising, online ad targeting services, login services, web browsers and others.

Companies were asked about agreements providing data to Google or allowing it to collect data via their services in recent years, and whether they were compensated for this.

Regulators also wanted to know the kind of data sought by Google, how it uses it and how valuable the companies consider such data.

Another question was whether Google and the companies were subjected to contractual terms that prohibit or limit the use of the data.

Regulators also wanted to know if Google had refused to provide data and how this affected the companies.

The Commission declined to comment on the questionnaire and it was unclear which companies were canvassed.

In an email to Reuters, Google said: "We use data to make our services more useful and to show relevant advertising, and we give people the controls to manage, delete or transfer their data. We will continue to engage with the commission and others on this important discussion for our industry."

— Reuters

Apple reviewing its map policies

Washington, Dec. 1: Apple is "taking a deeper look at how we handle disputed borders" after it referred to the Russian-annexed Crimean Peninsula as part of Russia in its Maps and Weather apps for Russian users, a company spokesperson said.

The spokesperson, Trudy Muller, said Apple has not made any changes to its Maps outside of Russia and made the change for Russian users because of a new law that went into effect in that country.

"We review international law as well as relevant US and other domestic laws before making a determination in labeling on our Maps and make changes if required by law. We are taking a deeper look at how we handle disputed borders in our services and may make changes in the future as a result," Muller said.

Russia and Ukraine have both been highly sensitive to the way global companies identify Crimea, since Russian troops seized the territory and Moscow annexed it in March 2014 after a referendum that Kiev and its Western allies say was illegal.

Russian and Ukrainian embassies in the US did not immediately return requests for comment.

Apple appeared to have changed the way it displays locations in Crimea in its software, in a nod to

The name of Crimean provincial capital Simferopol into Apple's Maps and Weather apps is displayed as 'Simferopol, Crimea, Russia.'

Apple said it made the change for Russian users because of a new law that went into effect in that country.

Russian politicians who have demanded the peninsula be referred to as part of Russia. Reuters reporters in Moscow who typed the name of the Crimean provincial capital Simferopol into Apple's Maps and Weather apps, saw it displayed as "Simferopol, Crimea, Russia." Users elsewhere — including in Ukraine's capital Kiev and in Crimea itself — see locations in Crimea displayed without specifying to which country they belong to.

Ukraine's foreign minister, Vadym Prystaiko, wrote on Twitter that Apple did not "give a damn" about the country's pain. The EU and the US do not recognize Crimea as Russian and have imposed sanctions against the peninsula and individuals they accuse of violating Ukraine's territorial integrity. — Reuters

CHINA BANS FAKE NEWS CREATED WITH AI, BOTS

Beijing, Dec. 1: China has issued new rules banning online video and audio providers from using artificial intelligence (AI) and virtual reality technologies to produce 'fake news.' The regulation, published by China's cyberspace authority, said that both providers and users of online video news and audio services are 'not allowed' to use new technologies such as deep learning

and virtual reality to create, distribute and broadcast fake news. Fake news has been generalised to mean anything from a mistake to a parody or a deliberate misinterpretation of facts. The rules come into effect on January 1, 2020.

Failure to follow them could be considered a criminal offence, the authorities said, without offering details on punishments. — AFP

CONNECTED CAR PRICES BANK ON QUALCOMM CASE

Washington, Dec. 1: The cost of cars equipped with ultra-fast 5G wireless technology is likely to go up if microchip supplier Qualcomm Inc's patent licensing practices fail to change, a trade group representing major automakers and two leading automotive suppliers said in court filings.

Qualcomm is seeking to overturn a sweeping antitrust decision requiring it to renegotiate its licensing agreements at reasonable prices. Trade groups representing the US units of BMW, Ford Motor Co, General Motors Co and Toyota Motor Co, among others, made various claims about adverse effects of Qualcomm's licensing practices in the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. — Reuters

'Sharing' to be global practice: PwC

Mumbai, Dec. 1: At 29, Spandan Sharma doesn't own a flat, a car, or even a chair — one of a growing number of Indian millennials bucking traditional norms and instead opting to rent everything from furniture to iPhones.

"Millennials in my age bracket want freedom and earlier what was seen as stability is now seen as a sign of being tied down," Sharma said.

"My parents don't understand the concept of renting furniture at all. They have never been completely on-board with the idea," he said.

"They said it would be much better to buy rather than rent furniture in the long term." For ₹4,247 a month, the Mumbai-based executive furnished his entire home, sourcing furniture for his bedroom, living room and dining area as well as a refrigerator and microwave.

Sharma isn't alone. Tens of thousands of young Indians are switching from buying to renting so they can live life with few strings attached.

APPLE AIRPODS PRO

Ever since the launch of AirPods in 2016, users have felt the need for noise cancellation and replaceable tips to make it convenient to use. After many critics expressed this, Apple finally delivered both the features and then added some more with the new AirPods Pro. The new design sounds a lot better and will drown out background sounds even in noisy environments. It comes with tips in three different sizes to ensure the right fit for the user.



SONOS MOVE

Sonos speakers have long been considered one of the top-notch home entertainment speakers in the market. But users always complained of the portability issue. The completely portable Sonos Move is a speaker that sounds as good as all the Sonos previous devices. Users have access to Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, or Apple's AirPlay 2 to stream music through the device.



AMAZON ECHO BUDS

Technology enthusiasts have already made it a point that 2019 was the year of wireless earbuds. Amazon's Echo Buds received good response and they cost far less than Apple's AirPods Pro. The earbuds have Alexa built-in, have active noise cancellation, and work with iOS and Android devices.



NINTENDO SWITCH LITE

The smaller, more portable, Nintendo Switch, optimized for personal, hand held play, features a sleek, uni-body design with fully integrated controls. The screen has been cut down to 5.5-inches, and the Joy-Cons are permanently attached to the device. Except for that, it's still the same old Switch.



SAMSUNG GALAXY NOTE 10 PLUS

The Note 10 Plus is arguably the best Android phone of 2019. With a well-designed, sleek body and a long list of features, the device is certainly the gadget of the year for Android lovers. It has multiple of cameras to harness user creativity. The S-Pen is another highlight.



APPLE IPHONE 11 PRO MAX

The iPhone 11 Pro Max was an unexpected surprise to Apple users. The tech giant not only impressed users with its camera features, but new features like Night Mode also stood out. Above all, battery life on the 11 Pro Max is simply the best on any phone users can get.



DJI MAVIC MINI

The Mavic Mini is the ideal combination of a capable drone at a low price. With a range of up to 4 kms and battery life of 30 minutes, it's a go-to drone for someone looking for a decent drone.

FOSSIL HYBRID HR SMARTWATCH

The Fossil Hybrid HR is promoted as a smartwatch, but it can also function as a normal watch. Underneath the physical watch hands, an energy-efficient display that provides notifications from a connected phone is a huge plus. Also, weather and calendar details can also be accessed.



MOBILE BUYERS IN CHINA TO GIVE FACE SCANS

Beijing, Dec. 1: China will require telecom operators to collect face scans when registering new phone users at offline outlets, according to the country's information technology authority, as Beijing continues to tighten cyberspace controls.

In September, China's industry and information technology ministry issued a notice on "safeguarding the legitimate rights and interests of citizens online," which laid out rules for enforcing real-name registration.

The notice said telecom operators should use "artificial intelligence and other technical means" to verify people's identities when they take a new phone number. — AFP

BABY YODA IS SOCIAL MEDIA'S NEW HERO

Washington, Dec. 1: Baby Yoda, a character from Disney's Star Wars series The Mandalorian is currently the most favourite subject of discussion in social media, far more than the US 2020 Democratic candidates.

According to Axios, Baby Yoda, which broke the internet since the show's premiere on November 12, is overpowering the 2020 race entrants. Michael Bloomberg and Deval Patrick based on data by NewsWhip. Baby Yoda has 1,671 interactions on Facebook and Twitter, while Bloomberg has 173 interactions and Patrick has 134 interactions. The character has also gained an average interaction rate 10 times higher than theirs. — Agencies

DIGITAL LAW S'pore laws require Facebook to label posts identified as having fake information

FB issues notice to user over fake news post

Singapore, Dec. 1: Facebook said it had issued a correction notice on a user's post at the request of the Singapore government, but called for a measured approach to the implementation of a new 'fake news' law in the city-state.

"Facebook is legally required to tell you that the Singapore government says this post has false information," said the notice, which is visible only to Singapore users.

The correction label was embedded at the bottom of the original post without any alterations to the text. The Singapore govern-

ment said it had instructed Facebook "to publish a correction notice" on a November 23 post which contained accusations about the arrest of a supposed whistleblower and election-rigging.

Singapore, which is expected to call a general election within months, said the allegations were 'false' and 'scurrilous' and initially ordered user Alex Tan, who runs the States Times Review blog, to issue the correction notice on the post.

Tan, who does not live in Singapore, and says he is an Australian citizen, refused and authorities

THE CORRECTION LABEL was embedded at the bottom of the post after the Singapore government instructed Facebook to publish a correction notice on the post which contained accusations about the arrest of a supposed whistleblower and election-rigging.

said he is now under investigation.

"As required by Singapore law, Facebook applied a label to these posts, which were determined by the Singapore government to contain false information," a spokesman for Facebook said in an statement.

"As it is early days of the law coming into effect, we

hope the Singapore government's assurances that it will not impact free expression will lead to a measured and transparent approach to implementation."

Some Singapore users, however, said that they could not see the correction notice. Facebook could not immediately explain why the notice

was unavailable to some users.

Facebook often blocks content that governments allege violate local laws, with nearly 18,000 cases globally in the year till June, according to the company's 'transparency report.'

Two years in the making and implemented only last month, Singapore's law is the first to demand that Facebook publish corrections when directed to do so by the government.

The Asia Internet Coalition, an association of internet and technology companies, called the law the "most far-reaching

legislation of its kind to date," while rights groups have said it could undermine internet freedoms, not just in Singapore, but elsewhere in Southeast Asia.

In the only other case under the law, which covers statements communicated in the country even if they originate elsewhere, opposition political figure, Brad Bowyer, swiftly complied with a correction request.

The penalties range from prison terms of as much as 10 years or fines up to \$51 million (\$7,33,192). — Reuters



SIGNAL NOW AVAILABLE ON IPAD

Washington, Dec. 1: Secure messaging service Signal announced its availability on iPad. In its official blog, the company notes that version Signal 3.0 is now available in the Apple App Store. With iPad support, users can set up their tablet as a linked device.

Key features of the secure app include a message forward option between threads, editing support, built-in video trimming support, quick calling feature, and more. It now supports Bangla, Hindi, Marathi, Tamil, Telugu, Ukrainian, Urdu, and Vietnamese. — Agencies





No deduction for grandson's cover

Where to invest for assured returns as FD interest rates fall



Money

## quick BITES

INDICATORS		%
Sensex	40,793.81	-0.82
Nifty 50	12,056.00	-0.78
S&P 500	3,140.98	-0.40
Dollar (₹)	71.89	+0.13
Pound Sterling (₹)	92.73	-0.18
Euro (₹)	79.21	+0.09
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	37,905.182	+0.48
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	60.49	-4.39
IN 10-Yr bond yield	+6.460	+0.007
US 10-Yr T-bill yield	+1.781	0.014

\* As of Saturday

## FPIs invest ₹25,230 cr into equities in Nov.

Foreign portfolio investors remained net buyers in the capital market for the third straight month in November, putting in Rs 22,872 crore on net basis, according to depositories data. FPIs put a net sum of Rs 25,230 crore into equities and pulled out Rs 2,358.2 crore from the debt segment, translating into a total net investment of Rs 22,871.8 crore by FPIs in November.

## NBCC may offer more land to Jaypee lenders



NBCC is considering giving additional land to lenders in lieu of its offer to provide profit share in unclaimed flats and reduce timeline for completion of about 20,000 flats in its final bid to acquire Jaypee infratech, sources said. For homebuyers, NBCC is looking to reduce the deadline for completing pending flats from four years timeline proposed in the bid submitted on November 17.

## Efforts on to address India's RCEP concerns

Japan gave clear indications that efforts were on to make India join in the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership, saying all member countries were committed to address New Delhi's concerns. Japan's spokesperson said PM Modi explained India's position on the RCEP at a meeting with Japanese Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi and Defence Minister Taro Kono on Saturday.

## MMTC to import 11K tonne onion from Turkey

MMTC, which is importing onion on the behalf of the Centre, has placed an order of 11,000 tonnes of onion from Turkey as part of its efforts to boost domestic supply and ease soaring prices, sources said. This is the second import order placed by the MMTC. It is already importing 6,090 tonnes from Egypt. Last month, the Union Cabinet approved importing 1.2 lakh tonnes of onion.

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## Investors seek proactive steps to guard against broker default

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD  
MUMBAI, DEC. 1

Broker defaults are rising, latest being Karvy Stock Broking's huge default that is being examined by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi). It is time retail individual investors and high net worth investors become more vigilant when dealing with their brokers. It may be noted that even after a direction from the Securities Appellate Tribunal, the Sebi has late Friday turned down a Karvy request to let it use clients' power of attorney (PoA). The regulator cited the enormity of violations found in the preliminary findings to refuse the broker's plea.

Karvy had said that Sebi's November 22 inter-

im order that barred it from using PoA was hurting its more than 2,000 clients.

Rejecting the Karvy plea, Sebi's Whole Time Member Ananta Barua said, "Forensic audit of Karvy, initiated by the NSE is in progress and the full magnitude (of) misutilisation of clients' securities (would) be known upon completion (of the) forensic audit. Therefore, taking into consideration, the facts and circumstances of the case including enormity of the prima facie violations observed against Karvy in the interim order, it would not be prudent to allow use of PoA (by) Karvy."

The Sebi order said Karvy's clients could use other options like delivery slip instructions (DIS) to

sell their shares.

Considering that innocent investors pay the price of murky dealings by brokerages, market participants feel the regulator should introduce a mechanism for clients to know the credentials—including the financials—of their brokers. Just like the mandatory know-your-client (KYC) requirement, a mandatory know-your-client (KYB) mandate could be introduced to avert cheating by brokers. Also, settlement of trades needs to be moved out from broker's function to well-capitalised bank custodians, say market participants.

Deven Choksey, Managing Director, K.R. Choksey Shares & Securities, said, "Regulators must realise that brokers should be taken out of the task of



performing clearing of trades and management of custody for non-institution segment of customers. Let clearing and custody function of trade settlement of cash and derivatives market for non-institution customers take the institution way of settling the transaction."

In the past few years, defaults by brokers such as Fairwealth, BRH Wealth

Kreators, Guinness, Kassa Finvest, Ficus Securities and now Karvy Stock Broking have led to heavy losses for investors.

Timeet Modi, Founder & CEO, Samco Securities, said, "There is a need for governance, financial and disclosure reforms."

"Currently, brokers are required to disclose their proprietary trading status to the exchanges and Sebi; however, transactions with related parties are nowhere captured. In any case regulators, clients, customers and investors have no access to actual related party and counterparty transactions carried out by the broker. Also, there is no framework for approval or processing of related party transactions like that is required in the Companies Act 2013. Had

these brokers disclosed that they had dealings with related parties, exchanges and auditors would have taken note of such dealings to investigate further and could have identified defaults much earlier. This issue definitely needs to be addressed as such cases of intentional fraud go unnoticed by the clients and also possibly to some extent by regulators and exchanges," Modi said.

"As a governance reform measure at broking firms there should be at least one mandatory independent director on the board of a broker entity. This will bring about transparency and accountability, which will improve internal corporate governance of companies," Modi said.

As a part of financial reform in a broking firm

mandatory Capital Adequacy Ratio is a must. A financial industry becomes robust when participants work with capital adequacy ratios, just like banks. However, currently the capital requirements are static and not dynamic with regards to the size of the business of a broking company," he added.

Net worth criteria of several Sebi registered intermediaries have gone up over the years. Mutual funds' net worth has increased from Rs 10 crore to Rs 50 crore. Portfolio management services (PMS) net worth has also increased from Rs 2 to 5 crore last week. However, there has been no change in the net worth requirement of brokers for the past 20 years.

## Airtel, Voda Idea raise tariffs by up to 50%, Jio by 40%

## Mobile calls, data to get expensive from Dec. 3

FC BUREAU  
NEW DELHI, DEC. 1

Telecom operators Bharti Airtel and Vodafone Idea on Sunday announced new plans under which call and data charges will be dearer for its pre-paid customers by up to 50 per cent from December 3.

Arch-rival Reliance Jio, too, said it will launch new unlimited plans from December 6, which will raise its voice and data tariff by up to 40 per cent. The increase in tariff announced by Bharti Airtel, however, are marginally lower compared to new rates announced by Vodafone Idea.

Both Vodafone Idea and Bharti Airtel too will increase its entry level unlimited plan with a year-long validity by about 50 per cent to Rs 1,499 from with 24 GB of data in place of existing plan of Rs 998, which comes with 12 GB data usage limit.

Airtel said the price of plan with 365 days validity in the same category with

## Customer pays

Plans	Airtel		Vodafone-Idea	
	Old	New	Old	New
Unlimited Plan (365 days Entry Level plan)	998 with 12 GB data	1499 with 24 GB data	998 with 12 GB data	1499 with 24 GB data
365 days plan with 1.5 GB data per day	1,699	2,399	1,699	2,399
Annual (365 days) unlimited category	1,699	2,398	1,699	2,398
84 days plan with 1.5 GB data per day	448	598	458	599
28 days plan with 1.5 GB data per day	199	248	199	249

Source: Companies

daily data usage limit of 1.5 GB per day will cost 41.2 per cent more at Rs 2,399 from December 3 as against 1,699 at present for the users of both operators.

"Airtel's new plans, represent tariff increases in the range of a mere 50 paise per day to Rs 2.85 per day and offer generous data and calling benefits. These tariffs will be applicable from Tuesday, December 3, 2019," the company said in a statement.

Customers of both Bharti Airtel and Vodafone Idea will have to pay a minimum of Rs 49 to stay connected for about a

month after December 3.

Like Vodafone Idea, Bharti Airtel has also capped outgoing calls that can be made on to network of other telecom operator to 1,000 minutes in case of plans with 28 days validity, 3,000 in 84 days validity plans and 12,000 in 365 days validity plan. Beyond this limit, customer will need to pay 6 paise per minute for outgoing calls.

Highest rate increase of 41.14 per cent has been announced by both operators in annual unlimited category plan which will cost Rs 2,398 instead of 1,699 at present.

The starting plan with data offering of 1.5 GB per day with 84 days validity in "unlimited" category will cost around 31 per cent more at Rs 599 compared to Rs 458 at present for Vodafone Idea users and Rs 598 for Airtel users.

Vodafone Idea and Airtel will also raise the price of Rs 199 unlimited plan, which offers 1.5 GB data per day, by about 25 per cent to Rs 249 and Rs 248.

The move from both the companies follows the Supreme Court judgement on adjusted gross revenue.

Vodafone Idea, which is reeling under a massive debt of around Rs 1.17 lakh crore, had earlier cited acute financial stress on the company behind the decision to raise mobile call and data charges.

Reliance Jio said said that customers will get up to 300 per cent more benefits under the new plans and it will offer fair usage policy for outgoing calls from its subscribers on the network of other telecom operators.

## GST mop-up crosses ₹1 L cr

FC BUREAU  
NEW DELHI, DEC. 1

After two months of negative growth, Goods and Services Tax (GST) revenues saw a notable recovery in November, with the mop-up crossing the Rs 1 lakh crore mark and turning in 6 per cent year-on-year growth to Rs 1.03 lakh crore, government data showed on Sunday.

The government, however, said the revenues shot up sharply in November due to festival demand in October. The GST collections stood at Rs 95,380 crore in October and at Rs 97,637 crore a year ago.

"We have seen a healthy number this month, reflecting a pick-up in consumption and improvement in compliance. Non-intrusive means of tax collection has also helped improve compliance," officials sources said.

Commenting on the latest GST numbers, MS Mani, Partner, Deloitte India, said crossing Rs 1 lakh crore in a festive month after few months of tepid collections would act as a sentiment booster. "It will help in keeping the fiscal deficit under control, hoping that this trend continues in the coming months," he said.

## GST collection

Month	Revenue
July	1,02,000
August	98,203
September	91,916
October	95,380
November	1,03,000

Figures in ₹ crore

As per data, during November, the GST collections on domestic transactions witnessed a growth of 12 per cent, the highest during the year. "Of gross Rs 1,03,492 crore in November, CGST is Rs 19,592 crore, SGST is Rs 27,144 crore, IGST is Rs 49,028 crore (including Rs 20,948 crore collected on imports) and cess is Rs 7,727 crore (including Rs 869 crore collected on imports)," it added.

The statement further said that November 2019 collection is the third highest monthly collection since the introduction of GST, next only to April 2019 and March 2019 collections. This is the eighth time since the inception of GST in July 2017 that monthly collection has crossed the mark of Rs 1 lakh crore.

## Slowdown blues continue for automakers in November

MICHAEL GONSALVES  
PUNE, DEC. 1

The reprieve from the festive season for long struggling domestic automobile industry is proving to be very short-lived.

Except for Hyundai, India's second largest car maker, which reported 2 per cent rise in sales at 44,600 units in November, all auto majors registered decline in sales.

The decline in Maruti's sales just when it looked like the worst was over in October, adds to the narrative of a deepening slowdown in the overall Indian economy now inching towards a recession.

On Friday, the government data showed GDP growth for the second quarter has slowed down to a 26 quarter low of 4.5 per cent. As the November figures show, the fear is that the third quarter maybe even worse.

Sales at Maruti Suzuki, which had posted a 2.3 per cent increase in sales in October, breaking a series of seven straight months of decline, fell again in November posting a 3.3 per cent drop in its passenger vehicle sales over the last year.

While sales at Mahindra and Mahindra also dropped 10 per cent at 14,637 units, it was a steep fall at 39 per cent at Tata



Motors, India's biggest automaker by revenues, at 10,400 units last month.

"After an encouraging festive period, in November, industry declined sharply," Mayank Pareek, President, Passenger Vehicles at Tata Motors, said. In addition, industry is also preparing for the

BS-VI transition, which would also pose sales challenges with rising prices from April, he said.

Similarly, Honda Cars also reported a whopping 50.33 per cent decline at 6,459 units in November as against 13,006 units in the same month last year.

"Our sales numbers are better than our plan for the month," Rajesh Goel, Senior Vice President and Director, Sales and Marketing at Honda Cars India, said.

Vikas Jain, National Sales Head at Hyundai Motor India said despite on-going market challenges, Grandi10, Nios, Venue, Creta and Elite i20 showed good sales performance.

Carmakers in India count dispatches from the factory gates to their dealerships as sales.

Maruti's entry level hatchback segment comprising of the Alto, new S-Presso and the old Wagon R saw dispatches of 26,306 units, down 12.2 per cent as against 29,954 units last year. The recently launched S-Presso has initially seen demand and the company will be hoping it continues to bring some much-needed fizz to sales in this segment and overall numbers.

The six-member compact car lot comprising new Wagon R, Celerio, Ignis, Swift, Baleno and Dzire together sold a total of

78,013 units, down 7.6 per cent from 72,533 last year.

The premium Ciaz sedan's sales were down a whopping 62.3 per cent at 1,448 units in November as against 3,838 units sold in the previous year.

However, sales at Volkswagen India rose 17 per cent year-on-year in November at 2,937 units. "Amidst strong headwinds within the industry, this has been a consecutive month of growth," Steffen Knapp, Director at Volkswagen Passenger Cars, said.

New entrant MG Motor, which started selling its maiden model MG Hector SUV a few months ago, sold 3,239 units last month.

## Estimates of 2020 sugar production, exports vary

RITWIK MUKHERJEE  
KOLKATA, DEC. 1

The projected sugar production for SY2020 (sugar marketing year, 2020) has been revised downwards by different analysts. The Indian Sugar Mills Association (ISMA), which in July 2019, had projected the figure to be 28.2 million MT, has now brought it down 7.8 per cent to 26 million MT. Marex Spectron, a London-based commodities broker, has put the figure slightly higher at 27 million MT. The Marex Spectron study suggests that India is expected produce not less than 26 million

tonne and not more than 30 million tonne of sugar in SY2020. The average anticipated sugar production, therefore, will be 27.2 million MT. The sugar marketing year in India runs from October to September.

In sync with the lower projected output, export projection has also been brought down. The Centre had earlier set an export target of 6 million MT for sugar. But now, given the current situation, India is expected to export 3.5 million MT of sugar during SY2020. Marex Spectron feels that widely varying estimates of production notwithstanding, India is likely to export nearly 4

million MT of sugar, which is a fairly large tonnage. Nearly 2 lakh tonne of sugar have been shipped out for exports and sugar mills said that contracts for another 12 lakh tonne have been signed up for exports.

This has to be seen in light of the fact that India's economic growth is expected to slow to a six-year low in 2020, potentially threatening domestic sugar demand and leaving more supplies for exports. Besides, consumers across the world are becoming more concerned about health

risks, prompting food producers to seek alternatives, and governments have also levied taxes on sugary drinks. And India has been no exception. Little wonder therefore that consumption has plateaued out in India for more reasons than one. India is expected to consume 25 million tonne to 25.2 million tonne in 2019-20. Icrs, however, expects sugar consumption to increase to 26.7 million MT in SY2020 and the consumption is likely to marginally outstrip production by around 0.7 million MT.

Sabyasachi Majumdar, Senior Vice President & Group Head, Icrs Ratings, said: "We expect the closing sugar stocks for SY2020 at around 10.0-10.5 million MT post downward revision of the sugar production estimate as against 12.0-12.5 million MT earlier. Hence, the domestic demand-supply situation would relatively be better, supporting the sugar prices in the near term, which are currently hovering around Rs 33-34/kg. Further, the FRP sugarcane price is fixed at Rs 275/quintal in SY2020 which is the same as that in previous year. This non-increase in FRP sugarcane price

is a saving grace for the sugar industry."

The other issue facing the sector is that higher ethanol production is dependent upon continuation of government support to the industry as price support to ethanol, especially those manufactured from B molasses and sugarcane juice. The Centre has continued the remunerative prices for the ethanol produced from C-grade molasses, B-grade molasses and sugarcane juice for season 2019-20. Several large sugar mills' distillery capacities would become operational in SY2020 and SY2021 is a positive thing for the sector, Icrs feels.

Commodity Compass



# Brokers BYTES

## Mphasis is sure of growth in direct core biz

Mphasis reported an in-line operating performance with 3.1 per cent quarter on quarter US dollar revenue growth and 50 basis points sequential improvement in EBIT margins to 16.1 per cent for the September 2019 quarter. Net profit at ₹270 crore was also in line with market estimates. While digital risk rebounded, driven by a cyclical recovery, flat revenues in HP/DXC channel (continuing the trend of sharp moderation in recent quarters), along with recently announced plans by DXC, continue to raise concerns around growth prospects here. Deal wins of the company remain healthy at \$174 million as against \$151 million on quarter-on-quarter basis along with strong headcount additions, similar to that of the peers. The company remains confident of growth prospects in the Direct Core business. Earning per share (EPS) for financial year 2020-22E remains broadly unchanged. The broking house retains hold rating on the stock and target price of ₹1,000 based on 15x September 2021E EPS. The broking house continues to not have any Buy rating in its tier-II coverage universe given its sector thesis. HCL Tech is the lone Buy-rated stock among Tier-I stocks.

**Broking firm:** Emkay  
**Rating:** Hold  
**Closing price:** ₹79.00

## Hero Motocorp may gain from rural demand

Hero MotoCorp (HMCL) is one of the largest two-wheeler company in the country. Rural market has started showing positive sentiment post favourable monsoon, though pick up is at lower pace. Rural would continue to outpace the urban market on the back of higher agri income and penetration. Record high crop production and higher MSP are the key booster for rural income and rural spending going forward. Hero being leader in rural market would be key beneficiary. The broking house believes that the government's continuous efforts to boost rural economy and regional disparity in penetration (north region growing) would result in decent two wheeler volumes in FY21, while the company's competitive pricing of BS-VI product would help on market share gain. In view of 24 per cent return of equity, healthy margin profile and strong leadership position, the broking house recommends buy on HMCL with target price of ₹3,050, valuing the stock at 14x FY22E EPS.

**Broking firm:** Reliance Securities  
**Rating:** Buy  
**Closing price:** ₹2,431.95

## Colgate is all set to focus on premiumisation

Colgate-Palmolive (India) Ltd's market share has been stable over the past few quarters. Volume growth and market share expansion have taken precedence as part of its new strategy, even if it is at the cost of near-term profitability. Direct reach has increased by 30 per cent over the past year. Good Rabi crop may not necessarily translate into a significant boost for FMCG sector volumes. It may take rural growth at par with urban growth. Anything additional will be a bonus. Premiumisation is back in focus. No material downtrading is happening either and no material capex required until December 2022. However, Colgate must arrest the hemorrhage in the toothpaste market share before resuming the growth path. In that regard, the company has done well over the past few quarters to maintain a stable market share of 52 per cent (although still below the peak of 58 per cent), led by the launch of a host of herbal products and higher ad spends. Targeting 45x September 2021E, the broking house maintains its target price of ₹1,815 with a Buy rating and remains bullish in the medium-term.

**Broking firm:** Motilal Oswal  
**Rating:** Buy  
**Closing price:** ₹1,474.70



## Where To Invest For Assured Returns As

# FD interest rates fall



**Money talk**  
Adhil Shetty

Earlier in November, the State Bank of India slashed the interest rate offered on its deposits with tenures ranging from one to two years. The rate currently stands at 6.25 per cent. As such, the Reserve Bank of India has been slashing the policy lending rate in 2019, bringing it down from 6.50 per cent to 5.15 per cent. This has only marginally impacted deposit rates. The SBI's 1-2 year deposit rate, for example, was 6.80 per cent around the start of February. But for those who prefer fixed income instruments for generating returns, low interest rates are a dampener. So what are some of the alternatives available to them?

### CHECK OTHER BANKS

Scan the market for interest rates offered by other banks. If you are a high value depositor, it will make sense for you to shift your deposit to a bank offering a higher rate. If you are with a government bank, you may find marginally higher returns with smaller government banks, or private banks of various sizes. Several private banks currently offer interest rates of seven per cent or higher on select tenures. Not just that, small-sized private banks offer higher rates, but you must take cognizance of risks associated with small banks.

### PPF

The Public Provident Fund is the best debt investment option.

It is government-backed, provides capital safety, tax deductions under Section 80C, and your returns are completely tax-free. However, it has a full maturity period of 15 years, and you can only make partial withdrawals after six years. Currently, it offers an interest rate of 7.9 per cent per annum compounded annually and subject to quarterly revisions. If immediate liquidity isn't a concern for you, PPF is an excellent debt investment for amounts up to ₹1.5 lakh a year. You can open a PPF account with a post office or an authorised bank.

### SUKANYA SAMRIDHI YOJANA

A must for families with girl children, the SSY currently offers returns of 8.4 per cent per annum compounded annually. The government-backed scheme provides assured returns, capital safety, tax deductions under Section 80C, and tax-free returns on investments up to ₹1.5 lakh a year. A family can start one account per girl child before she attains the age of 10. The account matures when she turns 21; however, deposits to the account can only be made up to 14 years from the date of account opening, after which it only accrues interest. Like PPF, the SSY is a great long-term investment and hence not ideal for managing liquidity needs. You can open an account via a post office or an authorized bank.

### NATIONAL SAVINGS CERTIFICATE

A great way to earn assured returns for five-year blocks, the NSC currently provides a rate of return of 7.9 per cent per annum compounded annually. The investment provides

assured returns, capital safety, tax deductions under Section 80C, and the interest earned in the first four years is reinvested and thus qualifies for fresh deductions under 80C. The NSC is a good alternative to the five-year FD because it offers comparatively higher returns than many banks. You can avail NSCs from your local post office.

### SENIOR CITIZENS SAVINGS SCHEME

This is an essential investment scheme for senior citizens and other eligible individuals below the age of 60. The government-backed scheme currently returns an excellent 8.6 per cent per annum compounded quarterly over a five-year deposit which can be extended by one more block of three years. A maximum of ₹15 lakh per eligible investor person can be deposited via this scheme. Premature withdrawals are allowed after the first year with interest deductions. You can avail the scheme at a post office or eligible banks.

### POST OFFICE TIME DEPOSITS

These are fixed deposits that you can open at a post office for one, two, three, or five years. The five-year deposit offers an interest rate of 7.7 per cent while the other three tenures offer 6.9 per cent, compounded quarterly. These rates are marginally higher than those offered by large government banks and many private banks.

### CORPORATE DEPOSITS

These are deposits you make with companies, NBFCs, housing finance companies, etc. The pull is that these options normally provide a higher rate of return than bank deposits.

Fixed deposits are ideal for low returns and liquidity management. But for long-term investment, look at small savings

While going for a corporate deposit, select one with a high credit rating (AAA or similar). A high rating indicates greater safety of capital. Since there have been a spate of high-profile corporate defaults, picking the right company for your deposit is critical, so don't be swayed simply by the rate of return alone. Also, your returns are fully taxable as per your income tax slab. You can avail these deposits via online channels, net banking, via offline agents, or online trading platforms.

### 7.75% SAVINGS BONDS

This is a long-term debt investment option. Backed by the government, this is a safe investment option currently providing 7.75 per cent returns per annum compounded semi-annually. Its duration is long. But the carrot dangled before the investor is the rate of return. At a time when interest rates are trending downwards, getting assured returns of 7.75 per cent isn't a bad deal. You can avail these bonds via banks or online trading platforms.

### LIQUID MUTUAL FUNDS

Debt mutual funds containing securities with very short maturity durations can provide capital safety, moderate returns, and easy liquidity. If held for three years or longer, the investment becomes long-term and thus qualifies for indexation of returns, which make it tax-efficient.

Fixed deposits are ideal for low returns and liquidity management. But for long-term investment needs, look at small savings schemes, mutual funds, and the other options mentioned here, as these will provide you better returns.

—The writer is CEO, BankBazaar.com

## TOP 10 FD INTEREST RATES FROM GOVERNMENT BANKS

Bank	Less than 1 year	1 to 2 yr	2 to 3 yr	3 to 5 yr	Over 5 year	W.E.F
Union Bank	6.6	6.4	6.4	6.45	6.45	Oct. 1, 2019
IDBI Bank	6.45	6.4	6.25	6.45	6.25	Nov. 11, 2019
Indian Bank	6.45	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.3	Nov. 4, 2019
Punjab National Bank	6.4	6.4	6.25	6.25	6.3	Nov. 1, 2019
Bank of Baroda	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.25	6.25	Nov. 1, 2019
Canara Bank	6.4	6	6.25	6.25	6.25	Nov. 18, 2019
Bank of India	6.4	6.4	6.25	6.25	6.25	Oct. 10, 2019
Central Bank	6.4	6.4	6.25	6.25	6.25	Nov. 8, 2019
Syndicate Bank	6.4	6.6	6.25	6.25	6.25	Oct. 15, 2019
State Bank of India	6.25	6.25	6.25	6.25	6.25	Nov. 10, 2019

For each range, maximum interest rate offered is considered. Interest rates for normal fixed deposit amount below ₹1 crore. Banks are ranked in descending order on the basis of highest FD interest rate offered for tenure up to 1 year i.e. the bank having the highest interest rate for tenure up to 1 year is placed on the top. Table contains the top 10 government-owned banks based on liability (as per last available balance sheet).

—Data compiled by BankBazaar.com via respective bank's website as on Nov. 20



**Tax matters**  
Kamal Rathi

## No deduction for grandson's cover

I want to buy an insurance cover of ₹1 crore for my 19-year-old grandson. I am also a senior citizen. Will I get the deduction benefit under Section 80C for the contribution made towards premium for my grandson?  
KRISHAGIRI RAO  
Via e-mail

A) Under section 80C, following sums paid or deposited by an individual/ a Hindu undivided family, at any time during the previous year, qualifies for deduction:

- Any amount paid by an individual, on his/her life or on life of his/her spouse or, on life of any child; and
  - By a Hindu undivided family, on life of any member of the family.
- Therefore, you will not be eligible to claim the deduction under Section 80C for life insurance premium paid for your grandson.

My brother and I constructed two separate but similar houses on the land inherited equally from our father in 1992. We constructed the houses in 1999 and the cost of construction was ₹20 lakh for each one of us. We are now proposing to sell the property and expected to receive around ₹2.2 crore on its sale. What will be the long-term capital gains liability? Our father purchased this land in 1980. I wanted to know the valuation of the property after claiming the indexation benefit provided in the Income-Tax Act.

RAJENDRAN  
Via mail

A) You will be liable to pay tax on the capital gain arising on the sale of property individually. As the property has been held by you for more than 24 months, the gains arising on sale will be taxable as long term capital gains (LTCG). You will need to determine the fair market value of the property as on April 1, 2001, on the basis of valuation as per registering authorities, both for land and the house constructed. You have the option of adopting the Fair Market Value for the property as on April 1, 2001, or the actual cost incurred on the property (including the cost of land incurred by your father). After determining the cost of acquisition of property as on April 1, 2001, the same will be indexed using the cost inflation index for FY 2001-02 (which is 100) and the FY of sale (assuming 2019-20 which is 289). The difference between the net sale consideration (after payment of brokerage if any) and the indexed cost of acquisition after applying the cost inflation index will be the taxable as long-term capital gain (LTCG).

The LTCG is taxed at 20.8 per cent. However, the option of investing the LTCG in a residential house within a specified period or investment of LTCG in capital gains bond specified under Section 54EC within a period of six months from the date of sale to be held for five years, are available to avoid/reduce the tax liability.

(The writer is a chartered accountant. He can be reached at info@rathindmalanis.com)

## GOLD PRICES

Gold, the glittering yellow metal that most Indian like, has performed exceedingly well in terms of returns. From ₹2,735 a gram a year-ago to ₹3,379.27 a gram on November 29, the gold price rose ₹644, giving a return of 23 per cent.



**Financial planning**  
By L. Ravindran

GANESH,  
41 years

PROFESSION: Private employee  
DEPENDENTS: Three

### WHERE DOES SHE STAND NOW?

Income ₹20 lakh  
Expenses: ₹12 lakh (includes household expenses)  
Net disposable income ₹8 lakh

### NET WORTH

Asset	Value
Savings	₹22 lakh
Gold	₹5 lakh
Car	₹4.6 lakh
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>₹33.6 LAKH</b>

### FINANCIAL GOALS (AT CURRENT COSTS):

Expenses	At cost
Children's education and marriage	₹1.4 crore
Post-retirement expenses	₹1.6 crore

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

## FUNDS REQUIRED TO MEET GOALS

₹3 CR

### ASSUMPTIONS

(L. Ravindran is a certified financial planner and managing director of Wealthmax Enterprises Management Pvt Ltd. Readers can send their queries to ravind0099@gmail.com)

## PLAN OF ACTION

- Retirement is quite sometime away but risk exists on life and health. Term assurance of ₹50 lakh may be taken for about 25 years which will cost about ₹12,000 per year.
- The disposable surplus of ₹8 lakh needs to be invested in the following manner every year for the next 20 years:
- Invest in a systematic investment plan of balanced (equity and debt) of ₹50,000 per month over the next 20 years. This shall help create a corpus of ₹1.2 crore at cost (₹2.96 crore in value terms if growth is aimed at eight per cent a year). This will help him to plan for his children's marriage and retirement.
- A sum of ₹1.5 lakh needs to be parked every year in a PPF yielding eight per cent a year (assumed long term historical average). Over 20 years, this will translate into a future value of ₹81.68 lakh. This money can be placed in a debt fund from the age of 61-65 years and systematically withdrawn for later on needs in life. In between the term, if required, funds can be partially withdrawn if required.
- The EPF accumulation presently of ₹10 lakh with funding at same pace, earning eight per cent a year and gratuity at retirement will fetch him a minimum of about ₹75 lakh.
- The PPF at maturity can be used to buy an immediate pension policy at retirement.
- Bank deposits may be kept at minimum to meet contingency requirement for the next 15 years.
- Create a will in favour of his wife.

WHILE PLANNING IS CRITICAL TO OUR FINANCIAL WELL-BEING, IT HAS BECOME INEVITABLE IN THE UNCERTAIN TIMES WE NOW LIVE IN. DR RAVINDRAN ANALYSES YOUR FINANCIALS AND LAYS OUT A ROADMAP FOR ACHIEVING FINANCIAL GOALS.





### Novelty

Pakistani PM Imran Khan asked bureaucrats to change the old mindset, saying the old system can no longer work in Naya Pakistan

## ISIS owns up knife-attack on London Bridge

London, Dec. 1: The Islamic State terror group has claimed responsibility for the knife attack in central London where a convicted terrorist killed two people before being shot dead by police.

The group via Amaq news agency its propaganda said that the attack was carried out by 'a fighter from the Islamic State', according to the Site Intelligence Group, which monitors jihadist activities.

"The person who carried out the London attack... was a fighter from the Islamic State, and did so in response to calls to target citizens of coalition countries," the IS statement read. However, it did not provide any evidence to support its claim.

The attacker, identified as Usman Khan, was a convicted terrorist who was jailed seven years ago over



Police officers patrol near London Bridge on Sunday following a terror incident in the area the previous night. — AFP

a plot to bomb the London Stock Exchange and build a terrorist training camp on land owned by his family in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir.

Khan had also discussed

staging a Mumbai-style attack on the UK Parliament and described by the judge who sentenced him for terrorism offences in 2012 as an ongoing risk to the public

with a 'serious, long term venture in terrorism'.

He went on a rampage on Friday and killed one man and a woman and injured three others before being shot by armed police offi-

cers. "This individual was known to authorities, having been convicted in 2012 for terrorism offences. He was released from prison in December 2018 on licence and, clearly, a key line of enquiry now is to establish how he came to carry out this attack," Scotland Yard's head of Counter Terrorism Policing assistant commissioner, Neil Basu, said on Saturday.

The profile of Khan dating back to his conviction in 2012 reveals his links with terror groups. He had been secretly recorded talking about plans to recruit UK radicals to train at a camp in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), the region his family comes from.

He and two other co-conspirators had conducted a surveillance trip around central London, as per reports. — PTI



Jeremy Corbyn



Boris Johnson

## Boris, Jeremy play the blame game

London, Dec.1: Britain's political leaders are sparing over who is responsible for the early release of a convicted extremist who launched a stabbing attack in central London that left two dead.

The argument centers over the early release from prison of Usman Khan, who served roughly half

his sentence before being set free.

Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, on Sunday blamed Khan's freedom on changes in sentencing rules made by the last Labour Party government before Johnson's Conservatives took power in 2010. He promised to toughen sentencing laws. — AP

Thanks to the brave individuals who put their own lives at risk to selflessly help and protect others

— Queen Elizabeth II

### IN BRIEF

#### G20 Presidency now with Saudi

Riyadh: Saudi Arabia became the first Arab nation to take over the G20 presidency as it seeks to bounce back onto the world stage following global uproar over its human rights record. The oil-rich kingdom has promoted a liberalisation drive, including granting greater rights to women, but faced strong criticism over a crackdown on dissent and the murder last year of journalist Jamal Khashoggi. The G20 presidency, which Saudi Arabia takes over from Japan, will see it host world leaders for a global summit next November 21-22. Saudi Arabia will host more than 100 events and conferences in the run-up to the summit.

#### DiCaprio denies Bolsonaro charge

California: American actor Leonardo DiCaprio denied a claim by Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro that he had helped fund groups allegedly linked to fires in the Amazon rain forest. "While worthy of support," DiCaprio said on his Instagram account, "We did not fund the organisations targeted." In his weekly address, Bolsonaro accused DiCaprio of 'collaborating with the fires in the Amazon' by donating \$5,00,000 to a group he said had started fires in the ecologically sensitive forest in order to attract donations. While citing no evidence, Bolsonaro said that DiCaprio had earmarked a part of the \$5,00,000 for the people who were setting fires.

#### 6 killed in Nepal truck accident

Kathmandu: Six people, including the driver of an ambulance carrying them, were killed when the vehicle collided with a truck in Nepal's Sunsari district, the police said. The incident occurred at Haripur area when the ambulance was ferrying the body of one Shiva Maya, who died during treatment at a hospital in Biratnagar, to his home at Gaighat town in Udayapur district. The ambulance collided with the truck, which was en route to Biratnagar from Birgunj, along the East-West highway in Haripur, Udayapur superintendent of police, Bir Bahadur Budha, said. The driver of the ambulance and Shiva Maya's five relatives, including his two sons, who were in the vehicle were killed in the accident, he said. The truck driver was injured in the incident and is currently undergoing treatment at a government hospital.

#### PAK MINISTER DEFENDS MUSHARRAF

SHAFQAT ALI ISLAMABAD, DEC. 1

A Pakistani minister on Sunday defended former military ruler, Pervez Musharraf, in the treason case. "If a treason case has been lodged against Pervez Musharraf, one should be registered against all those in government with him," said Fawad Chaudhry, the federal minister for science and technology. Speaking to reporters in Jhelum, he said Musharraf rid the country of then Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz) chief Nawaz Sharif in 1999, so he did something 'doubly good' for the country. The government filed a petition in the Islamabad High Court, asking it to stop a special court from announcing the verdict in the treason case against the former president until he is able to come to the country. The court approved the request.

## Dutch police arrest homeless man over stabbing attack in The Hague Hague assault suspect held

The Hague, Dec. 1: Dutch police arrested a homeless man over a knife assault in a busy shopping street in The Hague, which three teenagers were wounded.

The 35-year-old suspect was detained in the centre of the city a day after the stabbing which caused panic as shoppers hunted for Black Friday bargains. Police had earlier said they were investigating 'several scenarios' and that it was 'too early to speculate' about whether there was a possible terror motive.

The attack happened just hours after a terror suspect stabbed two people to death in London.

"Following the stabbing incident in Grote Marktstraat, a 35 year-old man has just been arrested in the centre of The Hague. The man has no

fixed place of residence," police said on Twitter. "He will be transferred to a police station, where he will be questioned."

The victims were a 13 year-old boy and two 15 year-old girls, none of whom knew each other, police said. They were all treated in hospital but released overnight.

The male attacker ran off after the stabbings at a department store in the city centre, triggering a

huge manhunt, involving police helicopters. Images on social media showed shoppers running in panic away from the scene, on a nighttime retail street lit by Christmas fairy lights.

Two teenage girls came running into the store after being stabbed, broadcaster NOS quoted witnesses as saying. "I saw two girls screaming and running away. A man fled. He jumped very

athletically over benches to get away. He looked like a cheetah," one witness told NOS. "People were trying to get away, but that didn't work. I was shocked."

Police forensic officers were seen examining a knife found at the scene overnight. "It's a little too early to speculate about that kind of thing," police spokeswoman Marje Kuiper said earlier when asked about a possible terrorist motive, adding that investigators were still looking at several possible scenarios.

In Britain, two members of the public were killed in a stabbing on London Bridge in the heart of the capital on Friday.

The stabbing took place not far from parliament, which is the seat of government for the

Netherlands and home to many international organisations and courts.

The Netherlands has seen a series of terror attacks and plots, although not so far on the scale of those in other European countries. In March, four people were killed when a Turkish-born man opened fire on a tram in the city of Utrecht.

In August 2018, an Afghan man stabbed and seriously wounded two US tourists at Amsterdam's central station, saying he wanted to protect the Prophet Mohammed. He was jailed for 26 years in October this year.

Earlier this month a Pakistani man was sentenced to 10 years in jail for a plot to kill far-right Dutch politician Geert Wilders. — AFP

## Parliament nod to Mahdi resignation

Baghdad, Dec. 1: Iraq's parliament approved the resignation of the embattled Cabinet on Sunday, after two months of violent unrest that have left more than 420 people dead and thousands mourning them in nation-wide marches.

Prime Minister, Adel Abdel Mahdi, had said he would submit his resignation to parliament following a spike in the death toll among protesters who accuse the entire ruling elite of being inept, corrupt and beholden to foreign powers.

The demonstrations spread from their epicentre in Baghdad and the mostly Shiite south to the northern, majority-Sunni city of Mosul, where hundreds of students dressed in black organised a mourning march for fallen activists.

Parliament opened its session on Sunday afternoon and within minutes had approved Adel Mahdi's resignation, which according to the constitution renders him and the entire cabinet a "caretaker government." The speaker of parliament said he would now ask President Barham Saleh to name a new PM. Just before the session began, another protester was shot dead in the capital, medical sources said. The protest movement is Iraq's biggest since the US-led invasion of 2003 toppled Saddam Hussein and installed a democratic system in the oil-rich nation. — AFP



Adel Abdel Mahdi

## Back on the streets



Pro-democracy protesters march on a street during a rally in Hong Kong on Sunday. A huge crowd took to the streets of Hong Kong, some driven back by tear gas, to demand more democracy and an investigation into the use of force to crack down on the six-month-long anti-government demonstrations. — AP

## SPREADING CHEER A relic of Jesus' manger, Christmas gift from the Vatican to Bethlehem

## Relic returns to Bethlehem in time for Christmas

Bethlehem, Dec. 1: A fragment of wood reputed to be from the manger where Jesus was laid after his humble birth, arrived in Bethlehem as a gift from the Vatican on Saturday, kicking off Christmas season at the town revered as the place of Jesus' birth.

The wood piece, just a few centimetres long, was once kept in the Basilica of Santa Maria Maggiore in Rome. It was handed over earlier this week to the custodian of the Bethlehem church, who said it brought great honour to believers and pilgrims in the area. The provenance of ancient relics is often questionable. Still, they are revered by the Chris-

tian faithful, among them the many pilgrims who squeeze through a narrow sandstone entrance in the Church of the Nativity to visit the birth grotto that is its centrepiece.

According to the Custos of the Holy Land for the Catholic church, Francesco Patton, the relic dates back more than 2,000 years and was sent to the Vatican in the 7th century.

Encased in a silver-coloured ornamental table-top stand, it was unveiled to the public on Friday at the Notre Dame of Jerusalem Centre. Marching bands greeted the relic as it arrived in Bethlehem on Saturday. It was placed in Saint



A wooden relic believed to be from Jesus' manger is seen in the Church of the Nativity in the West Bank city of Bethlehem. — AP

Catherine's Church, at the Church of the Nativity compound in Manger Square. "We are proud

that part of the manger is back in Bethlehem because we feel that the soul of God is with us

more than before," said Chris Giacaman, 53, a Bethlehem home-maker. "Others were a little let down. It's a small piece, we thought it would be a bigger piece," said Sandy Shahin Hijazeen, 32. "When we heard that the manger is coming back, we thought it would be the whole manger, but then we saw it." After night fell,

the traditional lighting of the Christmas tree ceremony was underway as hundreds gathered at Manger Square to celebrate the start of holiday season. With a bright red star gleaming at its top, the giant tree was illuminated by hundreds of golden-white bulbs. Bethlehem, in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, is usually particularly busy ahead of Christmas on Dec. 25, with tourists and pilgrims flocking to the Biblical city. Christians make up around 1% of the Palestinian population in the West Bank, Gaza Strip and East Jerusalem. — AFP

## Iran to reconsider IAEA commitments

Tehran, Dec. 1: Iran warned on Sunday that it may 'seriously reconsider' its commitments to the UN atomic watchdog if European parties to a nuclear deal trigger a dispute mechanism that could lead to sanctions.

The 2015 nuclear accord has been unravelling since last year when the United States unilaterally withdrew from it and began reimposing sanctions on Iran. The three European

countries still party to the deal — Britain, France and Germany — have been trying to salvage it but their efforts have so far borne little fruit. "If they use the trigger, Iran would be forced to seriously re-consider some of its commitments to the International Atomic Energy Agency. If they think doing so is more beneficial to them, they can go ahead," said parliament speaker Ali Larijani. — AFP

ciated with him. "The assassins of the year of 1978 were representatives of a non-religious regime, but the agents and shooters in November 2019 were representatives of a religious government." There was no immediate response from Iranian officials nor state media, which has been barred from showing Mousavi's image for years. The protests that struck some 100 cities and towns across Iran, beginning Nov. 15, came after Iran raised minimum gasoline prices by 50%. — AP



Ayatollah Ali Khamenei

Demonstrations that began on Nov. 15 shows people's frustration with the country's situation. It has a complete resemblance to the brutal killing of people on the bloody date, Sept. 8, 1978

— MIR HOSSEIN MOUSAVI  
Opposition leader





## Superhero franchise

**Guardians of the Galaxy** star Karen Gillan says she is happy to have James Gunn back as the director of the third installment

# UN chief: Humanity's war against nature has to stop

Guterres said citizens' growing demands shows desire for climate action

**Madrid:** UN secretary-general Antonio Guterres said Sunday that the world's efforts to stop climate change have been "utterly inadequate" so far and there is a danger global warming could pass the "point of no return."

Speaking before the start Monday of a two-week international climate conference in Madrid, the UN chief said the impact of rising temperatures, including more extreme weather — is already being felt around the world, with dramatic consequences for humans and other species.

He noted that the world has the scientific knowledge and the technical means to limit global warming, but "what is lacking is political will." "The point of no return is no longer over the horizon," Mr Guterres told



He noted that world has scientific knowledge to limit global warming

Speaking before the start of a two-week international climate conference in Madrid, the UN chief said the impact of rising temperatures, including more extreme weather is already being felt around the world.

ble." Countries agreed in Paris four years ago to limit global warming to well below 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 Fahrenheit), ideally 1.5C (2.7F) by the end of the century compared with pre-industrial times. Already, average temperatures have increased by about 1C, leaving little room for the more ambitious target to be met.

Mr Guterres said growing demands from citizens, particularly young people, have shown there is widespread desire for climate action. "What is still lacking is political will," he said. "Political will to put a price on carbon. Political will to stop subsidies on fossil fuels. Political will to stop building coal power plants from 2020 onwards. Political will to shift taxation from income to carbon." he said. —AP

reporters in the Spanish capital. "It is in sight and hurtling toward us." Delegates from almost 200 countries will try to put the finishing touches on the rules governing the 2015 Paris climate accord at the December 2-13 meeting, including how to create functioning international emissions trading systems and compensate poor countries for losses they suffer from rising sea levels and other consequences of climate change.

Mr Guterres cited mounting scientific evidence for the impact that man-made emissions of greenhouse gases are already having on the planet, including record temperatures and melting polar ice.

But, he insisted that his message was "one of hope, not of despair. Our war against nature must stop and we know that is possible."

## Irving Burgie, US composer who popularised Calypso, dies at 95

**Washington:** American singer and composer Irving Burgie, who co-wrote Harry Belafonte's song "Day-O" (the Banana Boat Song) and swung calypso into the mainstream, has died aged 95.

Burgie's death on Friday was announced at the Barbados Independence Day Parade Saturday by Prime Minister Mia Amor Mottley.

She asked for a moment of silence for the songwriter, who composed the country's national anthem.

Burgie died as a result of complications from heart failure.

His death was also confirmed by his son Andrew Burgie, US media reported.

He was best known as the man who helped



Belafonte introduce calypso music to the mainstream.

Based on a Jamaican folk song, "Day-O" was first recorded in 1952 but Burgie re-worked the lyrics for Belafonte's version on the 1956 album "Calypso".

It went on to be the first full-length album ever credited with selling one million copies in the US, according to US media.

The 1950s song Day-O

went on to be also used in films, adverts and even as a wake-up call for astronauts in space.

Born in Brooklyn, Burgie joined the Army and served in an all-black unit building a road in North Burma — now modern-day Myanmar — during World War II.

After the conflict, he studied at New York's prestigious Juilliard performing arts school after receiving government support for war veterans. During his career, the composer worked with artists including Jimmy Buffett, Chuck Berry and Sam Cooke.

His other well-known songs include Island in the Sun, Jamaica Farewell and Mary's Boy Child, which he co-wrote.

— Agencies



Tourists visit the Solang Valley after it received fresh snowfall near Manali in Himachal Pradesh on Sunday.

— PTI



French stylist Nawal Debbouze, Italian actress Sveva Alviti and US actress Blanca Blanco pose during the 18th Marrakech International Film Festival in Morocco on Saturday.

— AFP

## Giles Terera accuses London bar of racism

**London:** Hamilton actor Giles Terera has alleged that he and his friends were racially profiled and denied entry at a London bar.

Terera, a winner of Olivier Award for the Broadway musical, narrated the incident on Twitter and said after them, a group of "white punters" were allowed into the 'Aint Nothin But... Blues Bar'.

"I just took a group of 8 Black actors, who I'm directing in a play about American blues musicians to Aint Nothin But The Blues bar in Soho. We were racially profiled and refused entry as 10 white punters were allowed in past us unchecked. WTF @AintNothinBut1 (sic)" he wrote in a post.

"This group of talented and hard working actors was left devastated, confused and upset while the manager said 'I dont care who you are or what you are.' The fact it happens at a venue, which also exploits Blues music is sick," he added. The bar, however, has offered its statement on Twitter: "It is a shame, people can just put these things up without having facts correct. No one was refused entry. They were id'd inside the bar and it was found some of the group did not have id. Therefore, they could not be served." — PTI

## 'Sounds of healthy reefs can pull fish into degrading corals'

**London:** Young fish can be drawn to degraded reefs using loudspeakers playing the sounds of healthy coral communities, according to a study which may lead to new strategies for restoring damaged corals.

The study, published in the journal Nature Communications, described the new technique to lure fish into damaged reefs by regenerating the sounds that are lost, when the coral communities are quieted by degradation.

The researchers, including those from the University of Exeter in

the UK, said boosting the populations using this kind of "acoustic enrichment" can help to kick-start a natural recovery processes of the reefs, counteracting the damage seen in many coral communities around the world.

According to the study, broadcasting healthy reef sound doubled the total number of fish arriving onto experimental patches of reef habitat and also increased the number of species present by 50 per cent. The researchers said this diversity included species from all sections of the food web such as

herbivores, plankton feeders, predatory fish eaters, and those that eat marine waste and debris.

They added that different groups of fish provide different functions on coral reefs — meaning a diverse and abundant fish population is important for maintaining a healthy ecosystem.

Reefs become ghostly quiet when they are degraded, as shrimps and fish disappear, but they can be restored using loudspeakers which can recreate this lost soundscape and attract young fish back again, the researchers said. — PTI

## 'Humans have ability to repair joints'

**Washington:** Did you ever imagine how our better our life would be if we had the power to repair injuries? The answer to this question lies in a study that suggests, using a process applied by salamanders and zebrafish, humans too can repair their joints.

In the study published in the journal, Science Advances, researchers have identified a mechanism for cartilage repair that appears to be more robust in ankle joints and less so in hips. The finding can potentially lead to

Researcher identified a mechanism for cartilage repair that appears more robust in ankle joints and less in hips. Finding can help treating osteoarthritis.

Researcher devised a way to determine age of proteins using internal molecular clocks integral to amino acids, which convert one form to another.

treatments for osteoarthritis. "We believe that an understanding of this 'salamander-like' regenerative capacity in humans and the critically missing components of this regulatory circuit, could provide the foundation for new approaches to repair joint tissues and possibly whole human limbs," said senior author Virginia Byers Kraus, MD, PhD, a professor in the departments of Medicine, Pathology and Orthopedic Surgery at Duke. Kraus

and colleagues, including lead author Ming-Feng Hsueh, PhD, devised a way to determine age of proteins using internal molecular clocks integral to amino acids, which convert one form to another. Newly created proteins in tissue have few or no amino acid conversions; older proteins have many. Understanding this process enabled the researchers to use sensitive mass spectrometry to identify when key proteins in human cartilage, were young, middle-aged or old. — ANI

### NEWS NUGGETS

#### 18K-YEAR-OLD CREATURE HAS NOSE, FUR INTACT

**Washington:** With his nose, fur and teeth totally intact, researchers in a baffling discovery have found a near-perfectly preserved puppy-like creature, which is 18,000 years old! The discovery was made by Russian scientists near Yakutsk in eastern Siberia and not only was he protected by the permafrost but his nose, fur and teeth were found to be totally in place.

Experts from Sweden's Centre for Palaeogenetics used carbon dating on the specimen's rib bone and confirmed that it had been frozen for around 18,000 years. But DNA tests have been unable to show whether the discovered creature was a dog or a wolf. "It's normally easy to tell the difference between the two," David Stanton, of Centre for Palaeogenetics, told CNN. He added that the period from which the puppy has been found to belong, that it is "a very interesting time in terms of wolf and dog evolution."

— ANI

#### KID ROCK REMOVED FROM STAGE AFTER TIRADE AGAINST OPRAH

**Los Angeles:** Singer Kid Rock was taken off stage during a performance at Nashville after he launched an abusive tirade against Oprah Winfrey.

According to The Hollywood Reporter, the 48-year-old musician was performing at Honky Tonk bar, when he started using derogatory language in reference to the media mogul.

Winfrey was not the only one Rock targeted during his performance. He used derogatory

words for veteran comedian Joy Behar and TV presenter Kathie Lee Gifford.

In a video clip that went viral on social media, the crowd appeared to be shocked by the musician's rant.

Someone can be heard saying in the video, "This is crazy. He's racist. Look at him he's blacked-out drunk as f\*\*k." Towards the end of the clip, Rock is physically removed from the stage by a uniformed officer.

— PTI

#### HOW BODY FREEZES IN RESPONSE TO DEATH DECODED: STUDY

**New York:** A chemical produced by nerve cells to allow transmission of signals between them called serotonin, triggers a startle response, freezing the body momentarily in response to a potential threat, according to a new study.

The researchers, including those from Columbia University in the US, manipulated the levels of serotonin and

another chemical called dopamine — in the ventral nerve cord of fruit flies, which is similar to vertebrate spinal cord. They analysed the steps taken by the insects on a special type of glass, and monitored how they moved. The study offered insights into biology of the startle response which is observed in every animal studied to date from flies to fish to people. — PTI

## Shawn cancels Brazil concert due to illness

**Los Angeles:** Singer Shawn Mendes cancelled his Brazil gig due to being sick.

The 21-year-old Canadian singer revealed on his Instagram story on Saturday that he is suffering from laryngitis and a sinus infection and will have to cancel his second concert in Sao Paulo, Brazil. "Sao Paulo, I'm so sorry to have to tell you this, but today I woke up feeling ill, and went to the doctor, and to find out I have laryngitis and a sinus infection which has caused swelling of my vocal cords. It breaks my heart to do this but my doctors told me I cannot perform tonight." Mendes wrote. — PTI

## Miley Cyrus, Cody celebrate Thanksgiving

**Washington:** Pop-star Miley Cyrus and Cody Simpson are making their bond more strong as the two spent their first Thanksgiving together.

On Friday, the couple was spotted on their way to grab lunch in Los Angeles. The singer was dressed casually in a black jacket and sunglasses, while Simpson opted for a sweater and jeans.

The previous day, the 22-year-old Simpson joined Cyrus and her family to celebrate the annual holiday. In a black-and-white picture shared by the pop star's younger sister Noah Cyrus, Miley and Cody can be seen sitting across from one another at the table, while surrounded by numerous members of their family.

"Extremely thankful for everyone at the table, (a very sober Thanksgiving staying hydrated)," Noah captioned the family photo. According to People magazine, the festive celebration of the two comes just a week after the couple celebrated Cyrus' 27th birthday together. — ANI



Miley Cyrus



Himachal Pradesh chief minister Jairam Thakur meets actors Amitabh Bachchan and Ranbir Kapoor at the Circuit House in Manali on Sunday. — PTI

## Pak museum displays rare statue of Buddha heads

**Islamabad:** The Islamabad museum has put on display a rare statue of Lord Buddha's head after retrieving it from its reserves, where it was locked for decades, according to a media report on Sunday.

The sculpture from the period between the 3rd and the 4th century AD was discovered by the first Italian archaeological mission in Pakistan that was led by Giuseppe Tucci in the Swat Valley area, the Dawn reported.

The artefact was excavated



in the 60s and it was last displayed in a museum in 1997.

"It is extremely rare to find Lord Buddha's statues made of stucco from Swat. The Swat Valley is predominantly home to stone sculptures," Islamabad museum director Dr Abdul Ghafoor Lone said. He said stucco sculptures of Lord Buddha are frequently found in Taxila and Afghanistan. What

also makes Lord Buddha head sculpture unique is its sharp, feminine features with long hair brushed back and wrapped over and around a halo and slanted, feline eyes.

Another three terracotta heads of Buddha have also been pulled out of the museum's reserves and put on display.

The three rare artefacts are from the 2nd to 3rd century AD. They were excavated by British archaeologist Sir John Marshal. — PTI



# DELHI SPECIAL

NEW DELHI MONDAY 2 DECEMBER 2019

DELHI AGE

Matinee  
Ajay-Sara  
to work  
together?

24



SPORT | Cricket

Warner picks  
Rohit to surpass  
Lara's record

14

SPORT | Basketball

Harris, Horford  
ensure victory  
for Philadelphia

15



## GUIDE TO FORTUNE

Tick the answer and check them below.

1 What kind of aircraft was the Enola Gay, the plane that dropped the atomic bomb on Hiroshima?

- B-52 Stratofortress
- B-17 Flying Fortress
- B-29 Superfortress

2 With which fictional poison was King Joffrey assassinated in Game of Thrones?

- The strangler
- Tears of Lys
- Milk of the poppy

3 Which World War I battle is regarded as the first widespread use of tanks in combat?

- Battle of Cambrai
- Battle of Caporetto
- Battle of Verdun

## SHORT TAKES

### 1 held for robbing train passenger

**New Delhi:** A member of a gang, which used to rob train passengers, was arrested from New Delhi railway station on Saturday and ₹8.5 lakh in cash was recovered from him, police said on Sunday. The accused, Sagar, is a resident of outer Delhi's Sultanpuri. A passenger, Jaibir Sharma, lodged a complaint saying he was robbed of ₹3.5 lakh and gold and diamond jewellery when his train was near the New Delhi railway station on November 20. "After we received inputs that Sagar, said to be involved in the same incident, was at Ajmeri Gate side of NDLS, a raid was conducted and he was apprehended on Saturday," DCP (railways) Harendra Singh said. During interrogation, Sagar disclosed that he along with two vagabonds targeted slow moving trains, the DCP said.

### 2 arrested at IGI for smuggling gold

**New Delhi:** An Afghan man has been arrested by Customs officials at the IGI Airport for allegedly trying to smuggle into the country about 1 kg gold by hiding it in the shoes worn by him, an official statement said on Sunday. The passenger was intercepted after his arrival from Mazar-e-Sharif, Afghanistan, on Friday. A detailed personal and baggage search of the passenger resulted in the recovery of 997 gram gold, valued at ₹34.23 lakh, which was concealed inside the shoes worn by him, the Customs department said in the statement. On further investigation, the accused admitted to having smuggled in another 400 gram gold during his previous visit. The passenger was arrested and the gold seized. In another case, a man from Kerala was arrested for trying to smuggle in 660 gram gold, valued at ₹22.47 lakh, by hiding it inside emergency lights. The 24-year-old passenger from Abu Dhabi was arrested and the gold seized.

### Man who killed cop in 2007 held

**Ghazalabad:** A man, who allegedly killed a police constable in 2007, has been arrested after a gunfight here, officials said on Sunday. Nitoo was wanted in half-a-dozen cases of heinous crimes and carried a reward of ₹25,000 on the information leading to his arrest. One country-made pistol, two live cartridges and a stolen motorcycle were recovered from his possession, police said. — PTI



The Daredevil contingent during the 55th Raising Day parade of the Border Security Force in New Delhi on Sunday. — PTI

## 3 minors die as scooty hits pole at Delhi Gate

Trio without helmet sustains fatal head injuries

AGE CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI, DEC. 1

Three minors, who were speeding on a scooter without wearing helmets, met with a fatal accident after their vehicle rammed into a pole near Delhi Gate area here, police said on Sunday. The deceased were identified as Mohammad Saad, Osama and Hamja, said the police. Meanwhile the family members of the victims alleged that it was case of hit-and-run.

According to police, the three juveniles were not wearing helmets and riding the scooter at a high speed when the accident took place on Saturday night. All three persons sustained head injuries and were declared brought dead when taken to a nearby hospital, a senior police officer said.

The impact of the accident was such that their scooter was flung at least 25 ft away from the accident spot while their bodies were found near the pole, he said. The bodies have been sent for post-mortem, he added.

According to sources, preliminary investigation



The accident spot near Delhi Gate cordoned off by police on Sunday. The damaged scooty (left) which crashed into the pole. — PTI

revealed that the scooty skidded for about 300-400 metres before hitting the pole. Blood was scattered all around the pole. When the three boys were seen lying on the road by passersby, they tipped the police. They were taken to a hospital where all three were declared dead on arrival.

The father of Saad Malik alleged that it was a case of hit-and-run. Police and FSL team are investigating the matter. The family members of the victims have alleged that the scooty was being chased by a PCR van,

because of which, the boys must have accelerated their scooty. However, the police said that no PCR van was chasing the boys. The CCTV camera installed near the site of the accident was reportedly not functioning. The police is now checking the CCTV camera of Maulana Azad Medical College, which is located near the accident spot, so that the exact cause of the accident can be ascertained. The family members of the three boys have accused the police of negligence.

## Guards attacked students: JNUSU

**New Delhi, Dec. 1:** The Jawaharlal Nehru University Students' Union (JNUSU) on Sunday alleged that the security guards attacked the students protesting at the administration block against the hostel fee hike. An administration official denied the allegations.

The students have been occupying the Pink Palace, also known as the administration block, in protest against the hostel fee hike. In a statement, the students' union alleged that the JNU V-C sent guards to physically

► JNUSU alleged that the V-C sent guards to physically attack students at the administration block in the morning. "The guards threw away students' belongings, dragged and manhandled students peacefully sitting inside the administration building," they said.

attack students at the administration block in the morning. "The guards threw away students' belongings, dragged and manhandled students peacefully sitting inside the administration building," they said.

Female students, including a B.A. 1st year student, were physically assaulted by the guards, they claimed, adding she received injuries and had to be immediately taken to a hospital. They also alleged that barricades have been placed around the administration block.

An official from the varsity administration said: "The security guards did not manhandle any student. Their job is to secure the administration block and they keep requesting students to not enter or protest inside the block."

NIRBHAYA CASE No merit in petition, says Delhi home minister

## Reject mercy petition of convict, says AAP govt

**New Delhi, Dec. 1:** The Delhi government has "strongly recommended" to reject the mercy petition filed by one of the 2012 Nirbhaya murder case convicts, sources said on Sunday.

Delhi home minister Satyendar Jain has sent the file to Lt-Governor Anil Bajjal with Arvind Kejriwal government's recommendations in the case, they said.

Vinay Sharma, one of the convicts facing the gallows in the gangrape and murder case of a 23-year-old paramedic student, had filed a mercy petition before President Ram Nath Kovind.

► Vinay Sharma, one of the convicts facing the gallows in the case, had filed a mercy petition before President Ram Nath Kovind

"This is the most heinous crime of extreme brutality committed by the applicant (Vinay Sharma). This is the case where exemplary punishment should be given to deter others from committing such atrocious crimes," a source quoted Jain as saying in the file

noting. The Delhi home minister also said: "There is no merit in mercy petition, strongly recommended for rejection".

Sources said the file would now be sent to the L-G for further consideration and it would then be sent to the Union ministry of home affairs along with recommendations of the Delhi L-G.

Sharma is in Tihar Jail since his arrest in the case and had filed a mercy plea, while Mukesh, another convict, had refused, according to officials.

The paramedic student was raped on the intervening night of December 16-17, 2012, inside a running bus in south Delhi by six persons and severely assaulted before being thrown out on the road. She died on December 29, 2012, at Mount Elizabeth Hospital in Singapore, where she was airlifted from Delhi for treatment. One of the accused Ram Singh had hanged himself in the jail and another accused, a juvenile, was convicted of rape and murder and given the maximum sentence of three years' imprisonment in a reform facility. The fourth death row convict, Akshay Kumar Singh (33), had not filed a review plea in the apex court. — PTI

### Minor among 4 held for stabbing 19-year-old

**New Delhi, Dec 1:** Five miscreants, including a juvenile, allegedly stabbed a youth outside his shop at Madangir in South Delhi to avenge a slap that one of them got from the victim a few days ago during a fight on some minor issue, police said on Sunday.

Chirag Bansiwala, 19, was stabbed and critically wounded on Saturday night in front of his 13-year-old nephew, the police said, adding the victim has been admitted to a hospital and is stated to be stable.

After registering a case on the statement of victim's nephew, the police arrested the three youths — Mukesh, Raj and Vicky — and detained the minor boy, allegedly involved in the incident, said South Delhi Deputy Commissioner of Police Atul Kumar Thakur.

The fifth accused Vishal is yet to be arrested, the DCP added.



Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and wife Amita sitting in a vintage car before flagging off Parliamentarians Car Rally to promote road safety in New Delhi on Sunday. — BIPLAB BANERJEE

### Fake IPS officer arrested for harassing women

AGE CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI, DEC. 1

A 38-year-old man, who allegedly posed as an IPS officer from Uttar Pradesh and harassed women by making phone calls and offering fake government jobs, was arrested from a Gurgaon village on various charges including stalking and molestation, Delhi police said Sunday.

Gauri Shankar, a resident of Kushinagar district of Uttar Pradesh, was arrested from Mullaehri village, they said. He has also been booked for having an intent to outrage the modesty of a woman.

Explaining the modes operandi, police said Shankar used to introduce himself as an IPS officer during phone calls to women and lured them with fake government job offers. Once acquainted, he used to send obscene messages to them on WhatsApp.

The matter first came to light on Nov 25, after a woman from South Delhi's Kotla Mubarakpur area reported to police that a man has been harassing her for a month by sending obscene messages and porn videos. He also frequently called and abused her, said Deputy Commissioner of Police (South) Atul Kumar Thakur.

When police called the phone number, the person on the other end introduced himself as an IPS officer, the DCP said.

During surveillance, it was found that the man had procured the number on a fake ID or was using somebody else's number as the real owner was traced to Anand district in Gujarat, the DCP said. Most of the call recipients were from UP and Haryana and they said they were being harassed by the caller.

### Temperature dips to single digit, air quality 'poor'

AGE CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI, DEC. 1

The winter season has set in with Delhi recording a single digit temperature reading of 9.4° Celsius for the first time this season.

According to Skymet Weather, more cold weather conditions are on the way as the night temperatures are set to fall further and might be recorded close to about 8° Celsius during the next few days.

The day temperature is prevailing around 24° C and will also decrease marginally, setting around 21° to 22° C during the next few days.

During the last 24 hours, the night temperature was recorded at 9.4° C at the Safdarjung and Palam Observatory. This is the first time the region has recorded a single digit temperature this season.

Dry northerly and northwesterly winds will be affecting Delhi and the NCR and due to these winds a further fall in night temperatures is likely during the next two to three days.

During the last couple of days, dry weather conditions prevailed over Delhi-NCR region. Shallow to moderate fog and mist prevailed during the morning hours while the days were pleasant with bright sunshine.

The air quality in the national capital turned "poor" again on Sunday, primarily due to slow wind speed, and is likely to dip further. The wind speed has been fluctuating between six and 10 km per hour for the last two to three days.

### Centre creating scarcity of onion in city, says Sisodia

AGE CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI, DEC. 1

The AAP-led Delhi government on Sunday accused the Centre of deliberately creating scarcity of onion in the national capital by not releasing it despite having enough stock. Delhi deputy chief minister and AAP leader Manish Sisodia claimed that the Central government had on September 5 said that it had 56,000 metric tonne onion "but surprisingly it has stopped giving the commodity to Delhi government".

The onion prices have skyrocketed to ₹75-120 per



kg across major cities in the country. Mr Sisodia urged the Central government to release 10 trucks of onion every day, saying "we are well prepared with the complete machinery to sell onions at a lower price".

"Though the rates of onion have increased in entire country and people are unhappy, it appears that in Delhi, the Central government is deliberately creating the scarcity of onion," said Mr Sisodia.

### 2-day Winter Session of Assembly from today

SANJAY KAW  
NEW DELHI, DEC. 1

Regularisation of unauthorised colonies, polluted drinking water, and rising air pollution are going to be some of the key issues that will dominate the two-day Winter Session of the Delhi Assembly beginning on Monday. This is expected to be the last session of the present Assembly as its tenure will end in February 2020.

The regularisation of unauthorised colonies has been a core issue of all the three principal parties — AAP, BJP, and Congress — in the national capital as 40 lakh people residing in these settlements play a

► Regularisation of unauthorised colonies has been a core issue of AAP, BJP and Congress as 40 lakh people residing in these settlements play a

critical role in the state elections.

A majority of the people living in these colonies, who used to vote for Congress, had supported AAP in the 2015 Assembly elections. The Lok Sabha recently

passed a bill for regularisation of the unauthorised colonies. However, chief minister Arvind Kejriwal doubted the Central government's intention to regularise these colonies and asked residents of the settlements to not believe announcements until their properties were registered.

Lashing out at Mr Kejriwal, Leader of Opposition Vijender Gupta accused him of making "false" statements about the BJP-led Centre's intent to regularise these colonies to "mislead" people.

Mr Gupta said that the Central government will start the registration

process from December 16. He added that no arrangement has been made to handle the rush of property owners seeking registry of their properties at sub-registrar offices and demanded that the Delhi government open special counters for it.

The Winter Session will also see the introduction of the Delhi Sports University Bill and Delhi Skill and Entrepreneurship University Bill by the AAP government.

The drafts of the two education bills had been approved by the Cabinet and accorded prior approval by the lieutenant-governor (L-G) for introduction in the Assembly.

THE ANSWER TO TODAY'S GUIDE TO FORTUNE

- Battle of Cambrai
- The strangler
- B-29 Superfortress





### Half-century!

Australian pacer Pat Cummins on Sunday became the first bowler to take 50 Test wickets in 2019

# Shah to attend ICC meetings

## Ganguly-led BCCI makes sweeping changes in Lodha reforms, but to wait for Supreme Court nod

**Mumbai, Dec. 1:** The Sourav Ganguly-led BCCI on Sunday decided to seek the Supreme Court's approval to water down administrative reforms on tenure cap for its office-bearers and named secretary Jay Shah as its representative for the ICC chief executives' committee meeting.

The decisions to seek apex court's approval for dilution of tenure cap, which is aimed at clearing the path for an extended stint for Ganguly, and appoint Shah for the ICC meet were taken at the Board's 88th Annual General Meeting (AGM) here.

"At the end of the day, the court will decide," Ganguly said in a press conference after the AGM. As per the current constitution, an office-bearer who has served two three-year terms, either at the BCCI or at the state association, goes into a compulsory three-year cooling-off period.

Ganguly, who took charge on October 23, was to vacate office next year but a dilution could see him continue till 2024. The current dispensation wants the cooling off period to kick in only after the individual has finished two terms (six years), at the board and state association separately.

The move, if approved, will also pave the way for Shah to get an extension as time left in his current tenure is also less than a year. Shah was named India's representative to attend future meetings of the International Cricket Council's (ICC) chief executives committee.

BCCI CEO Rahul Johri was the Board's representative for these meetings when its administration was being handled by the Supreme Court-appointed Committee of Administrators (CoA). But with a full-fledged Board in office now, the role has gone back to the Secretary's position. "The Board is represented by Secretary at the ICC CEC, that's the ICC rule," Ganguly said.

### Fixing approach made in Mushtaq Ali

Sourav Ganguly also said that a bookie had approached a player during the ongoing Syed Mushtaq Ali T20 tournament, which had been reported to the Board's Anti-Corruption Unit (ACU).

"Even in the Syed Mushtaq, I was told that one of the players was approached but I

don't know the exact name. But there was an approach made and he reported it," Ganguly said.

The former captain said what players do after bookies approach them is the biggest problem. "That's (approach) not the problem, that's not wrong. What is wrong is what happens after they get approached."

Ganguly made the revelation when asked about the fixing scandals that rocked the Tamil Nadu Premier League and Karnataka Premier League.

In September, the police in Tamil Nadu have stumbled upon clues of match-fixing racket in the TNPL. A match-fixing scandal also surfaced in the Karnataka Premier League last month, leading to the arrest of an international bookie and a few players.

— PTI

**Shah has been named India's representative to attend future meetings of the ICC's chief executives committee.**



Jay Shah



BCCI president Sourav Ganguly and treasurer Arun Dhimal during the BCCI Annual General Meeting in Mumbai on Sunday.

— PTI

## Board decides not to appoint full-time CAC

**Mumbai, Dec. 1:** BCCI President Sourav Ganguly on Sunday said a full-time Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC) was not required since it has a limited role to perform, restricted to only one or two meetings.

The BCCI on Sunday deferred the appointment of the CAC with Ganguly saying the controversial conflict of interest clause, which even the CoA found difficult to implement, is coming in the way.

Ganguly himself, Sachin Tendulkar and VVS Laxman had to resign from CAC on allegations of conflict of interest. "CAC doesn't have much work. We keep talking about CAC, but the job of CAC is appointment of selectors and coach. So, once you appoint a selection committee, it stays for four years and once you appoint a coach, it (he) stays for three years. So, where is the need of having a full-time CAC?" Ganguly said while addressing media after Board's AGM.

## Ask Dhoni on his participation in T20 World Cup, says Ganguly

**Mumbai, Dec. 1:** "Please ask Dhoni," was Sourav Ganguly's response when the BCCI President was asked if the iconic wicket-keeper batsman would be part of next year's T20 World Cup in Australia.

Dhoni has been out of action since India's semi-final exit from the ODI World Cup in England in July. He was not part of the tour of the West Indies and the home series against South Africa and Bangladesh. "Please ask Dhoni," said Ganguly on

Sunday when a scribe asked about the possibility of Dhoni featuring in the prestigious ICC event. Ganguly addressed a press conference after the Board's 88th Annual General Meeting (AGM). Dhoni himself had said that till January he won't answer questions on his sabbatical.

The 38-year-old, who captains Chennai Super Kings in the IPL, will miss the limited-overs home assignment against the West Indies. — PTI

"So far it (CAC) is honorary, so even if you pay, you pay on what basis. There is no regular work. To have CAC with conflict of interest, I don't know whether it is the best thing. It is about only one meeting," Ganguly added.

The BCCI chief said they will approach the Supreme Court to get a clarification on the conflict of interest

clause. "Conflict clause stops everyone, that's why we can't make the CAC. That's why we can't bring proper selectors. Conflict should only be for someone like us (office bearers). Conflict stops us from getting good people. We are going back to the court to get clarification about conflict clause," Ganguly said. — PTI

## MSK & Co.'s tenure not to be extended

**Mumbai, Dec. 1:** BCCI President Sourav Ganguly indicated that there will be no extension for members of the selection committee whose tenures have ended, saying "you cannot go beyond".

Going by the Board's old constitution that has a provision for a maximum four-year term for the selection panel, its chairman MSK Prasad and his colleague

Gagan Khoda's terms have expired.

Prasad and Khoda were appointed in 2015, while Jatin Paranjpe, Sarandeep Singh and Devang Gandhi, who joined them in 2016, have one more year left in their respective tenures as per the old constitution. The amended constitution, though, has a provision for a maximum five-year term.

"Tenures are finished (means) tenures are finished. They have done a good job. You cannot go beyond your tenure and all of them don't finish, so majority of them stay and I don't think it should be a problem," Ganguly said when asked about Prasad's tenure. — PTI

## ICC reaches out to B'uru police

**Bengaluru:** The International Cricket Council (ICC) has reached out to Bengaluru Police, promising co-operation in probing the multi-faceted Karnataka Premier League (KPL) betting scam, an official said.

"The ICC has contacted Bengaluru Police regarding the KPL betting scam. We are in co-operation with each other," Crime Branch Deputy Commissioner of Police,

Kuldeep Jain, confirmed with IANS. In 2000, ICC had established the Anti-Corruption Unit (ACU), which works with multiple stakeholders, including member boards, players, support staff, law enforcement agencies and betting regulators to thwart corruption in the game. Alex Marshall is the General Manager of ACU, while Ronnie Flanagan is its Chairman. Similarly, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has also contacted the city police in connection with the scandal-hit local T20 tournament it had approved.

— Agencies

## Kiwis hit back against England

**Hamilton:** Despite centuries to Joe Root and Rory Burns England expressed disappointment at stumps on day three of the second Test against New Zealand after losing late wickets in Hamilton on Sunday. England captain Root ended his run drought with an unbeaten 114 while Burns rode his luck to post 101. But after they took England to 201 for two, the tourists were 269 for five at stumps and still trailing New Zealand by 106. "I enjoyed the fact I got it (hundred) but at the same time disappointed me and Rooty couldn't stretch our partnership and get us deeper into the game," Burn said.

"We're disappointed to lose a couple of wickets at the back end as well." With only five wickets remaining and 16 overs washed out by rain in the final session, England's vision of building a healthy lead was rapidly fading. The tempo swung away from England when Burns was run out. — AFP

**Brief scores:** New Zealand 375 vs England 269/5 in 99.4 overs (R. Burns 101, J. Root (batting) 114; T. Southee 2/63).

## Warner picks Rohit to surpass Lara's record

**Adelaide, Dec. 1:** Dashing Australian opener David Warner believes India's Rohit Sharma has the firepower to surpass West Indies great Brian Lara's record 400 not out in a Test match.

Warner, who scored his maiden triple ton (335) in five-day cricket during the ongoing second Test against Pakistan here, was just 65 runs shy of breaking Lara's record when skipper Tim Paine decided to declare the innings at 589/3.

"Though he couldn't break the record, Warner believes it is possible to surpass the 400-mark and backed Rohit to achieve the feat in near future. Lara's 400 not out is the highest individual score in Test cricket which came against England in 2004.

"Yeah, look, I think it's about the person himself. We've got long boundaries, it is quite difficult at times. When fatigue sets in, it's very hard to try hard and throw your hands at it," Warner told 'Fox Sports'.

"At the end, I tried to run two to lift the ante because I couldn't actually think like I could clear the ropes.

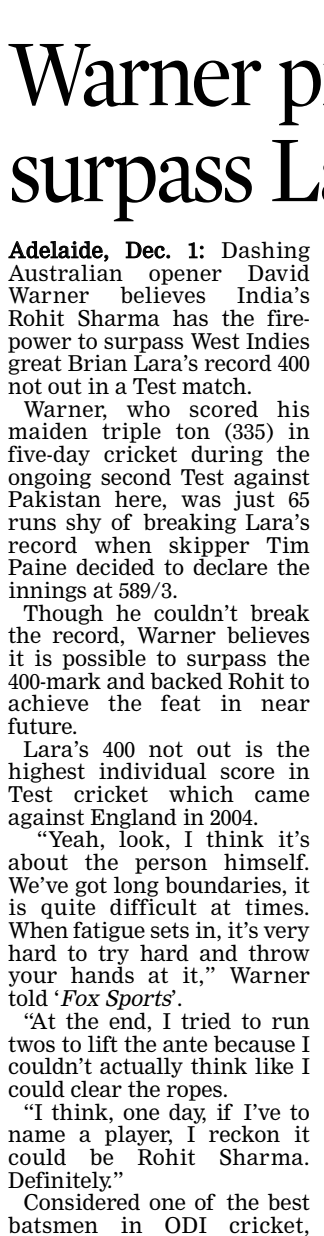
"I think, one day, if I've to name a player, I reckon it could be Rohit Sharma. Definitely."

Considered one of the best batsmen in ODI cricket,

Rohit couldn't achieve much success in Tests initially but the Mumbaier made a successful comeback to the longest format when he was included as an opener for the three-match series against South Africa.

Warner, who surpassed Sir Don Bradman's highest Test score of 334 during his unbeaten knock in the ongoing Day-night Test, also revealed that he had doubts about his Test career and it was former India opener Virender Sehwag, who had predicted that he would be a better Test batsman than a T20 cricketer.

"When I met Virender Sehwag while playing for Delhi in the IPL, he sat down to me and said I will be a better Test player than a Twenty 20 player. I said 'you're out of your mind, I've not played many first-class games,'" Warner told reporters. — PTI



David Warner

## Pakistan battle to stave off defeat in Day/Night Test

**Adelaide, Dec. 1:** Pakistan was battling to stave off defeat in the day-night second Test against a relentless Australia on Sunday after being forced to follow on, with Tim Paine's men needing seven wickets to clinch the series 2-0.

The visitors, who have lost 13 consecutive Tests in Australia, were in big trouble at 39 for three when rain forced an early end, 248 runs behind with two days left and their top order decimated.

They had resumed on an overcast and cold afternoon teetering at 96 for six in their first innings, in reply to Australia's 589 for three declared, built on the back of David Warner's monumental 335 not out.

Yasir Shah smacked a dogged maiden Test century and Babar Azam hit 97 but they were all out for 302 and still 287 runs adrift.

Mitchell Starc was the hero, taking 6-66, but he put Australia's commanding position down to greater consistency within the team.

"The first two Test matches, the huge partnerships we've had, the individual scores. We've talked a lot about big first innings totals and the guys have really responded," he said.

"We've been fantastic in bowling partnerships as well. Pakistan have had a couple of positive innings individually,

### SCORECARD

**Australia (1st innings):** 589-3 decl.

**Pakistan (1st innings):** S. Masood c Paine b Hazlewood 19, Imam-ul-Haq c Warner b Starc 2, A. Ali c Smith b Cummins 9, A. Shafiq c Paine b Starc 9, B. Azam c Paine b Starc 97, I. Ahmed c Paine b Starc 10, M. Rizwan c Paine b Starc 0, Y. Shah c Lyon b Cummins 113, S. Afridi lbw Starc 0, M. Abbas c Warner b Cummins 29, M. Musa (not out) 12. Extras (lb2) 2. Total (in 94.4 overs) 302.

**FoW:** 1-3, 2-22, 3-38, 4-69, 5-89, 6-89, 7-194, 8-194, 9-281.

**Bowling:** Starc 25-6-66-6, Hazlewood 14-2-48-1, Cummins 22.4-2-83-3, Lyon, 22-3-65-0, Labuschagne 10-2-32-0, Smith 1-0-6-0.

**Pakistan (2nd innings):** S. Masood (batting) 14, Imam-ul-Haq lbw Hazlewood 0, A. Ali c Smith b Starc 9, B. Azam c Paine b Hazlewood 8, A. Shafiq (batting) 8. Total (for three wickets in 16.5 overs) 39.

**FoW:** 1-2, 2-11, 3-20. **Bowling:** Starc 4-1-10-1, Hazlewood 8-3-15-2, Cummins 4.5-2-14-0.

but probably haven't had that consistency."

Australian skipper Tim Paine enforced the follow on and it started badly for Pakistan, whose first task was to survive intact for 15 minutes before the dinner break.

They failed with opener Imam-ul-Haq — recalled after being overlooked for the first Test in Brisbane, which they lost by an innings and five runs — out lbw for a duck to Josh Hazlewood.

It was quickly 11 for two with Starc tempting skipper Azhar Ali into a thick outside edge and Steve Smith taking a quality catch just seconds before rain forced them off.

Showers had been threatening all day and when they returned after 30 minutes Hazlewood bagged the key wicket of dangerman Azam for two, caught behind by Paine. But more rain soon blew in, to Australia's frustration, and the umpires called it a day.

Earlier, Yasir and Azam had kept Pakistan's slim hopes alive with disciplined first innings batting.

Better known as a spin bowler, Yasir had never gone better than 42 in his previous 36 Tests, making his 113 against one of the world's most fearsome pace attacks even more remarkable. — AFP



Australia's Mitchell Starc celebrates a Pakistani wicket on the third day of the second Test on Sunday.

— AFP





## Eyes on Croatia

England manager Gareth Southgate is looking forward to their Group 'D' match with Croatia at Euro 2020

### FAST LANE

## Lewis packs it up with clinical win

Abu Dhabi, Dec. 1: Lewis Hamilton delivered sumptuous confirmation of his title-winning supremacy on Sunday when he claimed his 84th career victory and 11th in 21 races this year by dominating the season-ending 'twilight' Abu Dhabi Grand Prix. Starting from a record 88th pole position, the 34-year-old Briton was unchallenged from lights to flag as he cruised to an untroubled triumph 16 seconds ahead of Red Bull's Max Verstappen and Charles Leclerc of Ferrari, who faced a post-race investigation for fuel irregularities. Hamilton's success extended his points-scoring run to a record-equaling 33 races, levelling with his

own record, and brought him his 50th victory from pole position. His fifth win at the Yas Marina circuit also drew level with Ayrton Senna in claiming a 19th start-to-finish triumph. Hamilton's Mercedes teammate Valtteri Bottas, who had started from the back of the grid after taking a new engine, came home fourth ahead of four-time champion Sebastian Vettel in the second Ferrari and Alex Albon in the second Red Bull. It was a welcome morale boost for the competitive Finn, three days after announcing the end of his three-year marriage to Emilia. — AFP

# Indiana outpaced Harris, Horford ensure Philadelphia's win

Los Angeles, Dec. 1: In Philadelphia, Joel Embiid had 32 points, 11 rebounds and nailed all 15 of his free throws as the Philadelphia 76ers edged the Indiana Pacers 119-116 at the Wells Fargo Centre in Philadelphia on Saturday.

It was Embiid's 12th double-double as the Sixers won their third in a row. "I changed my mindset. I hadn't been as aggressive, so I've been more aggressive creating contact and causing other people to foul me," Embiid said.

Tobias Harris scored 22 points, Al Horford added 15 points in the win.

T.J. Warren led the Pacers with 29 points while Malcolm Brogdon added 28.

Ben Simmons had three steals in the final 13.9 seconds to seal the win for the Sixers.

"I love being able to get steals and turn guys over," said Simmons, who finished with 15 points and 13 assists. "I take pride in it and it gives us energy," Simmons added post their victory.

Elsewhere, Giannis Antetokounmpo scored 26 points as the Milwaukee Bucks breezed to their 11th consecutive victory with a 137-96 rout of the Charlotte Hornets.

Despite his superb performance, Antetokounmpo's double-double streak to begin the season was halted at 19 games.

The reigning NBA most valuable player finished just shy of the double-double with nine rebounds and shot 11 of 19 from the field.

His was the longest such streak since Bill Walton recorded 34 straight in 1976-77.

The Eastern Conference-leading Bucks closed November 15-1 for the month.

The Hornets cut the deficit to three points early in the second quarter but that was as close as they would get.

### HARDEN'S 60 POINTS HELP HOUSTON ROCKET

James Harden tied Michael Jordan for the third most 60-point performances in NBA history Saturday as the Houston Rockets blasted the last-



Tobias Harris (right) of the Philadelphia 76ers goes up for a dunk past Jeremy Lamb (left) and Justin Holiday (center) of the Indiana Pacers during their NBA game in Philadelphia on Saturday. Philadelphia won 119-116. — AP

place Atlanta Hawks 158-111.

Harden finished with 60 points to reach the mark for the fourth time and tie Jordan. Only two players, Kobe Bryant (six) and Wilt Chamberlain (32) have more.

"That's greatness right there. Those guys are something that I'm trying to get to," said Harden,

who finished one point shy of his career high of 61. "Hopefully when I am done, I can be mentioned in that group forever," he added.

Harden made 16 of 24 field-goal attempts, including eight of 14 from three-point range, and connected on 20 of 23 free-throw attempts. He played

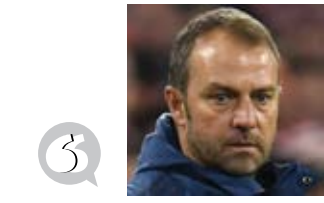
just 31 minutes and also had eight assists.

He is the fourth player to score 50 or more points on 20 occasions, trailing Chamberlain (18), Jordan (31) and Bryant (25).

The two-time reigning league scoring champion came into the game averaging 37.7 points per game and has now scored 40 or more points eight times.

His offense has been boosted this season by the addition of guard Russell Westbrook in the backcourt. Opponents have tried without success to slow him down by double-teaming him.

Harden sat for the full fourth quarter with Houston up 127-73 at the end of three. — AFP



We knew Leverkusen were good on the counter and they took their chances.

— Hans-Dieter Flick, Bayern Munich coach after their 1-2 loss

### SHORT TAKES

## Celtic slam four past Rangers

London: Celtic edged ahead of Rangers at the top of the Scottish Premiership with a 4-1 victory at Ross County on Sunday to record a 10th straight win in all competitions. Ryan Christie was on target as Neil Lennon's men secured top spot in their Europa League group against Rennes on Thursday and the Scottish international midfielder took his tally for the season to 15 with a first half brace.

Christie was fortunate to smash home the rebound after Nathan Baxter had initially saved his penalty to open the scoring on 11 minutes.

However, the Staggies quickly hit back as Celtic conceded in the league for the first time in six games when Ross Stewart headed home a free-kick. Christie put the visitors back in front before the break when he latched onto Kristoffer Ajer's defence-splitting pass.

Tom Rogic then made the game safe as his deflected effort found the bottom corner 23 minutes from time. — AFP

## FIFA pleased with DY Patil stadium

Mumbai: A team of officials from the world football governing body FIFA on Sunday inspected the DY Patil Stadium at Navi Mumbai, one of the proposed venues to host Women's U-17 World Cup next year, and expressed satisfaction at the progress of preparations.

FIFA's Project Lead for the Tournament, Oliver Vogt said he was pleased at the state of facilities at the stadium. "The existing infrastructure is good. What is also very important for us is that we have a very experienced and operationally strong team here who have already hosted a FIFA World Cup. It is human nature to want to do better every time, and that's what we would like to do to make sure we can provide the best experience," he said.

Tournament Director of the LOC, Roma Khanna was happy with the preparations and said, "After a stellar Emblem Launch in the state, we are happy to be in Navi Mumbai, and the DY Patil Stadium. The venue is already well-versed with the requirements of hosting a FIFA tournament and we only need some minor tweaking to improve from 2017. — PTI

## TYPHOON HITS SEA GAMES IN PHILIPPINES

Clark, Philippines: The Philippines has begun evacuating thousands of people, local officials said Sunday, as a powerful typhoon rumbling in from the Pacific forced Southeast Asian Games organisers to cancel or reschedule some events.

Forecasters expect Typhoon Kammuri to make landfall Monday evening or Tuesday morning, packing gusts of 170 kilometres per hour and maximum sustained winds of 140 kph. The storm entered Philippine territory Saturday evening, shortly before President Rodrigo Duterte and boxing superstar Manny Pacquiao launched the Games with a colourful opening ceremony.

This year's Games in Clark, Manila and Subic, which run through to December 11, are already particularly complex with a record 56 sports across dozens of venues that are in some cases hours apart by car. Outdoor events in Subic — on the west coast of the main Philippine island of Luzon in the country's north — were the first to be affected by Kammuri. "The windsurfing has been cancelled until we have a more accurate picture of the weather," Ramon Agregado, the organising committee's head of the Subic cluster of venues, said. Some local government units in central Bicol region urged people to begin leaving their homes. — AFP

# Bayern Leverkusen up

Berlin, Dec. 1: Leon Bailey scored twice as Bayern Munich crashed 2-1 at home to 10-man Bayer Leverkusen, while RB Leipzig top the Bundesliga after a nervous 3-2 win at bottom side Paderborn.

Hansi Flick lost for the first time in five games as Bayern's interim coach after Jamaica winger Bailey scored first-half goals for Leverkusen.

Mid-table Leverkusen finished with 10 men after defender Jonathan Tah saw a late red card for fouling Philippe Coutinho.

Leipzig's win over Paderborn allowed them to open a two-point lead over Borussia Moenchenglabach.

Elsewhere, Jurgen Klinsmann started his tenure as Hertha Berlin's interim boss with a 1-2 home defeat to 10-man Borussia Dortmund at the Olympic Stadium.

The visitors were ahead on 10 minutes as Bailey glided past Benjamin Pavard after a brilliant Kevin Volland pass.

After Serge Gnabry, then Ivan Perisic had hit the woodwork, Thomas Mueller equalised on 33 minutes, but Bayern were level for just 113 seconds as Bailey motored past Javi Martinez to beat Manuel Neuer.

RB Leipzig returned to the top of the Bundesliga with a nervous 3-2 win at bottom side Paderborn. Leipzig regained top spot after winning at Paderborn, capping a fine week for the club that reached the knockout stages of the Champions League for the first time in midweek. — AFP



Bayern Munich's Leon Goretzka (from top left), Javi Martinez, Benjamin Pavard and Robert Lewandowski react during their German league match against Bayer Leverkusen at the Allianz Arena in Munich on Saturday. Leverkusen won 2-1. — AP, AFP

## Lyon edge past Strasbourg

Paris, Dec. 1: Rudi Garcia's Lyon battled back to claim a fourth Ligue 1 win in five games with a 2-1 victory at Strasbourg, moving to sixth in the table.

Lyon were only a point above the relegation zone when Sylvaino was sacked and replaced by former Marseille coach Garcia last month, but are now just two points adrift of Angers in the third and final Champions League place.

Midfielder Jeff Reine-Adelaide scored the winner as Lyon bounced back from the midweek defeat at Zenit Saint Petersburg which left them third in their Champions League group. "We came home at 5 am from Zenit on Thursday so it's normal for my players to have cramps," said Garcia.

"I love it. We were really tired. It's a victory for the group today. I really liked the self-sacrifice, the togetherness. We were pretty shaken in the first half and in the second we were able to put our foot

on the ball," he added. Youssouf Fofana drilled in the opening goal to put Strasbourg ahead midway through the first half, but Maxwel Cornet's fine left-footed finish five minutes before the break drew the visitors level.

The 21-year-old Reine-Adelaide climbed highest at the back post to head home his third goal of the season with 15 minutes remaining.

Third-placed Angers let a lead slip as they fell to a 1-3 loss at Patrick Vieira's Nice. — AFP

### BALLON d'OR

## Rapinoe, Lionel all set to win

Paris, Dec. 1: The biggest names in world football will descend on Paris on Monday for the 2019 Ballon d'Or ceremony, with Lionel Messi and USA women's World Cup superstar Megan Rapinoe tipped to leave with the honours.

It would be an enormous shock if Rapinoe did not depart the Chatelet Theatre with the women's prize as she returns to the country where she was the driving force on and off the field for the United States as they retained their title.

There are 30 nominees in total for the prize, organised by France Football magazine and voted for by 180 journalists from around the world.

Among the names is Ronaldo, as well as several of the stars of the Liverpool side who won the Champions League, chief among them Dutch defender Virgil van Dijk.

At one point he looked like the favourite, but Messi already pipped him to FIFA's The Best title in September. Messi top-scored in La Liga last season with 36 goals. — AFP

● Lionel Messi and USA women's World Cup superstar Megan Rapinoe are tipped to win the biggest honours in the world of football.

## No points for Senthil, Rajiv

Buriram (Thailand), Dec. 1: Honda Racing India finished outside points after both its riders Rajiv Sethu and Senthil Kumar received five-spot penalty for exceeding the track limit in the seventh round of the FIM Asia Road Racing Championship, here on Sunday.

Senthil rode a superb race to finish 11th while Sethu was 13th but were pushed to 16th and 18th respectively for exceeding the track limit on turn 12 during the final lap of the Asia Production 250 cc category.

FIM imposed the penalty on five riders including Mohd Muzakkir, who took the top spot.

Astra Honda's Lucky Hendiransya's seventh place finish was amended to 12th. Starting 16th, Sethu's good start put him at 10th spot by the end of the opening lap but he

soon slipped to 16th. Making recovery, he moved up to 11th position by lap six where top 12 riders were fighting it out in a 1.8 second gap.

By lap eight, the Chennai-based Sethu had overtaken two more riders but a wide cornering on turn 12 in final lap saw Sethu finish 13th.

Senthil, in his debut ARRC season, came up with a splendid effort on Sunday after crashing out of the first race on Saturday and recorded his personal best lap record of 1:54:323.

While four riders including championship contender Irfan Ardiansyah crashed out during the race, local favourite Mukada Sarupuech and Vietnam's Cao Viet Nam couldn't finish the race due to technical problems. — PTI



The famous JK Tyre stunt Balenos entertaining a full house at the Buddh International Circuit during the JK Tyre Festival of Speed in Greater Noida on Sunday.

## Vishnu triumphs in LGB-4 final

### AGE CORRESPONDENT GREATER NOIDA, DEC. 1

Vishnu Prasad of MSport took the top spot in the Formula LGB-4 final, edging out close friend and teammate Raghul Ranganasamy in the final race here on Sunday. Chennai's Vishnu and Raghul were tied on 73 points after Saturday's two races, but Vishnu upped his ante in the final race on Sunday to come first. Pole sitter Ashwin (Dark Don Racing) was second as Raghul finished third. It was the 13th title for Vishnu.

It was an exciting day for the motorsports aficionados as five events lined up for the JK Tyre Festival of Speed at the Buddh International Circuit on Sunday along with the debut of the X1 Racing League. The day started with JK Suzuki Gixxer Cup final followed by Formula LGB 4, the final round of the Indian National rally Championship final round.

The much-awaited debut of X1 Racing League saw the spectators on their toes and ace racer Narain Karthikeyan in attendance after the Superbike 1000cc and 600cc finals and Asia Cup Road Racing. The event embedded with stunt shows by ace Gaurav Gill and live performance by renowned singer Daler Mehendi as the stands were packed to the hilt. The breathtaking drift show and supercar and bike parade with the live DJ was a treat to watch.

The Gixxer Cup final also came down to the wire with Syed Muzammil Ali bagging the title, pipping championship leader Tanay Gaikwad. Tanay, who began the race from the back of the grid, could not manage a third-place finish on Sunday to settle for the second position in the championship. Muzammil, who had an overnight 2-point lead, made sure that he hit the post ahead of Tanay to clinch the Cup.





### Shown door

Watford sack their second manager of the season on Sunday with Quique Sanchez Flores leaving the club bottom of the Premier League table



The boys threw everything on the pitch. It's unbelievable how much they want to win.

— Jurgen Klopp, Liverpool manager after their 2-1 EPL win over Brighton

### SHORT TAKES

#### Churchill ride on Mapuia's brace

Goa: Churchill Brothers blanked Punjab FC 3-0 to get their 13th Hero I-League season underway on a confident note at the Fatorda Stadium here on Sunday. Mapuia (45+1, 81) scored the brace while Plaza (70) added a goal for the winners. Both sides were looking to play to their strengths and fielded their strongest XIs. The duo of Trinidadian Robert Primus in defence and Ghanaian midfielder Kalif Alhassan made the Churchill lineup and started against their former club. Talisman and club skipper Willis Deon Plaza led the line, with Dawda Caesay behind him. Also making his club debut was former Aizawl FC forward Lalkhapuimawia (Mapuia). Punjab FC, on the other hand, went with a traditional 4-3-3 formation. Anwar Ali started in the heart of defence, with former East Bengal man Sanju Pradhan in midfield. Dipanda Dicka started up front, making his Punjab debut. The match kicked-off at a high tempo as both sides pressed and looking to pounce at the slightest of openings. — Agencies

#### India to face Pak in SAG volleyball final

Kathmandu: Defending champions India will face Pakistan in the summit clash of the men's volleyball competition in the South Asian Games after their respective wins in the semifinals here on Sunday. India defeated Sri Lanka 27-25, 25-19, 21-25, 25-21 in a hard-fought match while Pakistan beat Bangladesh 25-15, 25-21, 26-24 in the other semifinal. The final will be played on Tuesday. India are also the defending champions in the women's event and they face hosts Nepal in the summit clash on Tuesday. The Indian women's team had defeated Maldives while Nepal had beaten Sri Lanka in the semifinals. — PTI

#### SOURABH LOSES IN SYED MODI SUMMIT CLASH

Lucknow: Indian shuttler Sourabh Verma's impressive run at the Syed Modi International tournament came to an end after he lost in straight games to Chinese Taipei's Wang Tzu Wei in the men's singles final here on Sunday. The 26-year-old Indian went down 15-21, 17-21 to world no 22 Tzu Wei in a 48-minute summit clash to miss out on his maiden Super 300 crown here. Sourabh came into the summit clash with a 1-1 head-to-head record, having lost narrowly to Tzu Wei at the Tong Yun Kai Cup in March this year. The Indian, who was at the court for 75 minutes during his semifinal win over Korea's Heo Kwang Hee on Friday, couldn't produce his best in the final as Tzu Wei claimed his first title in three years. The duo engaged in long rallies with Sourabh trailing 1-3 initially but the Indian soon managed to make it 4-3 in his favour. Sourabh waited for errors from his opponents and punished any weak returns to grab a 7-4 advantage. Tzu Wei then tried to play closer to the net and it worked as he not only drew parity at 8-8 but lead 10-8. Sourabh grabbed two points before finding the net as Tzu Wei held a slender 11-10 lead at the break. The Taiwanese shuttler dominated the proceedings after the interval and opened up a 18-13 lead after the Indian went long. Tzu Wei eventually sealed the opening game after the Indian made a judgement error at the backline. In the second game, Sourabh struggled with the length and lagged 0-5 at the start. A superb backhand shot gave him a point but Tzu Wei put a lot of power in his smashes to make life difficult for the Indian. — PTI

# RED-HOT VAN DIJK

## Virgil's brace helps Liverpool stretch lead as Chelsea stumble

London, Dec. 1: Liverpool extended their lead at the top of the Premier League to 11 points with a nervy 2-1 win over Brighton on Saturday. Chelsea missed the chance to go level on points with second-placed City as Frank Lampard's men suffered a shock 1-0 home defeat by West Ham, while Tottenham's winning run under Jose Mourinho continued as Dele Alli scored twice in a 3-2 win over Bournemouth. Virgil van Dijk is hoping to beat Lionel Messi to the Ballon d'Or on Monday and showed he can score goals as well as stop them with two towering headers from Trent Alexander-Arnold set-piece deliveries to put Liverpool 2-0 up inside 25 minutes at Anfield. Liverpool goalkeeper Alisson Becker was then

sent off 14 minutes from time for handling outside his area and Brighton reduced the deficit from the resulting free-kick through captain Lewis Dunk. But the 10 men held out for another vital three points to edge closer to a first league title in 30 years. "It was unnecessary," said Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp of the nervy finale. "We had unbelievable chances. "We had the red card for Alisson. Adrian comes in with cold feet and cold hands but made two really good saves. "The boys threw everything on the pitch. It's unbelievable how much they want to win." However, the Blues failed to replicate their fine form over the past two months as West Ham won for the first time in nine games to ease the pressure on Manuel Pellegrini.

### PREMIER LEAGUE

THE RESULTS	
Chelsea	0
West Ham	1
(Cresswell 48)	
Liverpool	2
(van Dijk 18, 24)	
Brighton	1
(Dunk 79)	
Tottenham	3
(Alli 21, 50, Sissoko 69)	
Bournemouth	2
(H. Wilson 73, 90+6)	
Burnley	0
Crystal Palace	2
(Zaha 45+1, Schlupp 78)	
Southampton	2
(Ings 78, Ward-Prowse 83)	
Watford	1
(Sarr 24)	
Norwich	2
(Pukki 21, Cantwell 45+2)	
Arsenal	2
(Aubameyang 29-pen, 57)	

Aaron Cresswell scored the only goal three minutes into the second half with a tidy finish as he cut inside onto his weaker right foot. But it was the Hammers who were the more likely to add to the scoring as the second period wore on with Kepa Arrizabalaga keeping them at bay with a string of saves, while Michail Antonio had a goal ruled out after a VAR review for handball. Tottenham are up to fifth and within six points of Chelsea in the battle for a top-four finish as the in-form Alli preserved Jose Mourinho's perfect start. The scoreline should have been far more convincing for Mourinho's men, who led 3-0 with 17 minutes left as Alli's

fine form continued with a goal either side of half-time before Moussa Sissoko scored for the first time in over two years.

### ARSENAL HELD AT NORWICH

Caretaker manager Freddie Ljungberg could not end Arsenal's long wait for a win as Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang's double only salvaged a 2-2 draw at struggling Norwich on Sunday. The Canaries twice led through Teemu Pukki and Todd Cantwell only for Aubameyang to level, first from the penalty spot and then with a clinical finish after the break. But Arsenal also had goalkeeper Bernd Leno to thank for coming away with a point as the German saved brilliantly from Kenny McLean, Pukki and Emiliano Buendia. — AFP



Liverpool's Virgil van Dijk (second from right) scores against Brighton in their English Premier League match at Anfield in Liverpool on Saturday. — AP

### ITALIAN LEAGUE



Sassuolo's Francesco Magnanelli (left) vies for the ball with Cristiano Ronaldo of Juventus in their Serie A match in Turin on Saturday. — AFP

## Ronaldo rescues a point for Juve

Milan, Dec. 1: Cristiano Ronaldo scored from the spot to rescue a 2-2 draw for Juventus at home against Sassuolo to leave the way open for Inter Milan to claim top spot in Serie A later on Sunday. Leonardo Bonucci had scored early for the eight-time reigning Serie A champions but Jeremie Boga and Francesco Caputo hit back for Sassuolo before Ronaldo's point-saving intervention. Juventus have a two-point lead on top of Serie A but now can be overtaken by Inter Milan, who host struggling SPAL. Sassuolo claimed their first ever point at Juventus and handed Maurizio Sarri's unbeaten champions their third draw of the season. The side from Emilia-Romagna, are 12th in the table. Ronaldo started up front for Juventus, having missed last weekend's league game with a slight knee problem, with Champions League hero Paulo Dybala starting on the bench. Eighteen-year-old Stefano Turati made an impressive debut in the Sassuolo goal, and pulled off a string of fine saves, denying Ronaldo, Higuain and Dybala late. But Juventus counterpart Gianluigi Buffon had a difficult game in Turin as the 41-year-old, making just his fifth start this season, had a role in Caputo's goal just after the break. Bonucci had gotten Juventus off the mark with a long-range effort on 20 minutes.

### THE RESULTS

SUNDAY	
Juventus	2
(Bonucci 20, Ronaldo 68-pen)	
Sassuolo	2
(Boga 22, Caputo 47)	
SATURDAY	
Brescia	0
Atalanta	3
(Pasalic 26, 60, Illicic 90+2)	
Genoa	0
Torino	1
(Bremer 77)	
Florentina	0
Lecce	1
(La Mantia 50)	

Turati got down low to deny Higuain after getting his hand to send a Ronaldo free kick over the bar. Ronaldo's penalty pulled the hosts level on 68 minutes after Filippo Romagna fouled substitute Dybala. It was the Portuguese star's fifth Serie A goal this season.

### PASALIC DOUBLE SEALS ATALANTA WIN

Mario Pasalic scored twice to get Atalanta back to winning ways with a 3-0 Lombardy derby victory at struggling Brescia on Saturday, as Fiorentina fell to a third consecutive defeat at home to promoted Lecce. Pasalic nodded in the opener on 26 minutes for Atalanta, before grabbing a second after an hour with Josip Illicic firing in a late third to end the Bergamo side's four-match winless run in the league. — AFP

## Big Three drawn together

Bucharest, Dec. 1: Reigning European champions Portugal will come up against World Cup winners France and Germany in the standout group at Euro 2020 following Saturday's draw for the tournament in Bucharest, as England came out alongside Croatia. Neither France nor Portugal were in Pot One for the 24-team competition being held in 12 cities across Europe, making them the dangerous teams to avoid for the top seeds.

### EURO 2020

- Group A:** Turkey, Italy, Wales, Switzerland.
- Group B:** Denmark, Finland, Belgium, Russia.
- Group C:** Netherlands, Ukraine, Austria, Georgia/North Macedonia/Kosovo/Belarus.
- Group D:** England, Croatia, Czech Republic, Scotland/Norway/Serbia/Israel.
- Group E:** Spain, Sweden, Poland, Bosnia-Herzegovina/Slovakia, Ireland/Northern Ireland.
- Group F:** Germany, France, Portugal, Iceland/Bulgaria/Hungary/Romania.



Coaches from Group F teams — Portugal's Fernando Santos (from left), Germany's Joachim Loew and France's Didier Deschamps — pose with the trophy during the Euro 2020 football competition final draw in Bucharest on Saturday. — AFP

In the event, they came out together in an incredibly tough Group F alongside Germany, who will play group games at home in Munich. That is where Joachim Loew's team will face France in their first match on June 16. Group 'F' will be completed by one of the winners of the play-offs to be played next March, leaving open several possibilities including Hungary, who will play at home in Budapest should they make it. France beat Germany in the semifinals of Euro 2016 on home soil, before losing in the final to a Portugal side who claimed the title for the first time. Meanwhile, England were drawn with Croatia and the Czech Republic in Group 'D', with Gareth Southgate's team to play home group games at Wembley, which will also be the venue for the semifinals and final. That section will be completed by the team to emerge victorious from Path C in the play-offs, between Serbia, Norway, Israel and Scotland. The latter have the added incentive of knowing they will play home games in Glasgow in the group stage should they

qualify. England faced the Czech Republic in qualifying, winning 5-0 at Wembley but suffering their only defeat of the campaign in Prague, where they went down 2-1 in October. England will kick off at home to Croatia on June 14 in a repeat of the 2018 World Cup semi-final, which was won by the Croatians. However, should England win their group they will have to play the runners-up from Group F, setting up a possible clash with Germany, France or Portugal in the last 16. — AFP

### SENIOR WRESTLING

## Gurpreet, Sunil win gold; team title for Railways

Jalandhar, Dec. 1: Living up to their favourites tag, Asian Championship silver medallists Gurpreet Singh and Sunil Kumar clinched gold medals as the Tata Motors senior national wrestling championships concluded here on Sunday with competition in Greco Roman style. Punjab's Gurpreet overcame two-time junior world championships medallist Sajan Bhanwal, representing Services, 3-1 in the 77kg category, to lift his fourth national title. Sunil also managed an easy win over Punjab's Prabhal. The Railway's grappler used all his experience to crush the Punjab wrestler 5-1 in the 87kg final.



Gurpreet Singh (left) defeated Sajan Bhanwal to win the gold at the Senior Nationals in the 77kg category.

In the 55kg category, Arjun, representing Services, won against Ajay by technical superiority. Enjoying the home support, Punjab's Harpreet Singh, the Asian Games silver medallist, defeated Rajbir Chhikara of Railways 4-1 in the 82 kg category final. Hardeep Singh, who was the first Greco-Roman wrestler to qualify for the Olympics, received a walkover against Ravi Rathi of Railways in 97kg final. Railways finished on the

top with 210 points ahead of Services (170 points) and Jharkhand (109 points). **SAKSHI, RAVINDER TO LEAD INDIAN CONTINGENT AT SAG** Meanwhile, as announced earlier, the Wrestling Federation of India included gold medallists at the Nationals in the country's squad for the South Asian Games, starting from December in Nepal. The seven-member men's and women's contingent will be led by Olympic medallist, Sakshi Malik, and U-23 World Championship silver medallist, Ravinder. "The players have been chosen after an extremely tough competition from the National platform and I am confident that the players will maintain the supremacy and defend their 2016 titles in both the men and women's category," said WFI President Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh. — PTI