

Deccan Chronicle

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HYDERABAD | TUESDAY | 3 DECEMBER 2019

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WEATHER

Max: 26.8°C
Min: 21.7°C
RH: 36%
Rain: Trace

Forecast: Cloudy sky with traces of rain.
Max/Min temp: 28/21°C

ASTROGUIDE

Vikari: Dakshinayana
Tithi: Margasira Shudda Saptami
till 11.15 pm

Star: Danishita till 2.17 pm
Varyam: 10.21 pm to 12.08 am

Dumirahastu: 3:47 am to 9:31 am and 10:49 pm to 11:40 pm
Rahukalam: 3 pm to 4:30 pm

HIJRI CALENDAR
Rabi-ul-Akher 6, 1441 AH
PRAYERS

Fajar: 5:27 am
Zohar: 12:16 pm
Asar: 4:05 pm
Maghrib: 5:47 pm
Isha: 6:56 pm

SUNSET TODAY 5:40 PM
SUNRISE TOMORROW 6:30 AM
MOONRISE TOMORROW 12:02 AM
MOONSET TOMORROW 11:45 PM

COUNTER POINT



...80% of which goes to our cadre!

20% searches go vernacular

Bhopal: Language searches have grown manifold in the country in the past five years with as many as 20 per cent of all the billions of online searches being carried out in the local languages, says Google. This is a massive growth since 2014 when language searches were only 2 per cent of the total online searches. — PTI

Hedge spills Maha 'secret'

Bengaluru: BJP MP Anant Kumar Hegde has stoked a political row with his claim that Devendra Fadnavis was made the Maharashtra CM last month for few days only to protect ₹40,000 crore central funds from being used. Mr Fadnavis, however, dismissed the claim. — Full on Page 7

Railway finances are worst: CAG

New Delhi: The Railways recorded an operating ratio of 98.44 per cent in 2017-18 which is the worst in the previous 10 years, the Comptroller and Auditor General has said in a report tabled in Parliament. Operating ratio shows how efficiently the railway is operating and how healthy are its finances. — PTI

EASY HIT

■ AP CM speaks on Oppn using religion to target him

Humanity is my religion: Jagan

S.N.V. SUDHIR | DC
VIJAYAWADA, DEC. 2

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy gave a sharp rebuttal to his detractors' allegations on his religion and caste, saying "my religion is humanity and my caste is keeping the promises made".
Brushing aside remarks raking up his Christian credentials by the Hindutva gang, both online and elsewhere, Mr Reddy said nothing would deter him from moving forward with his welfare agenda. He was speaking at the launch of YSR Post Operative Sustainance (YSR Arogyasri



Asara) scheme here on Monday.
"It is unfortunate that some people are talking about my religion and my caste," he said. "I tell you now that humanity is my religion and keeping my word is my caste. Despite all such talk, we will go forward with our welfare

■ **SAVEHINDUSFROM** JaganReddy trended for two days and garnered around 60,000 tweets. This was for the first time 50 many tweets with religious tinge against Mr Jagan Mohan Reddy emerged since he became the Chief Minister.

■ **BJP** state chief Kanna Lakshminarayana had gone a step further and expressed doubt that Jagan's government had a hidden agenda to promote conversions by introducing English medium instruction in government schools. A few days ago, Jagan was

targeted on social media, particularly Twitter, for his Christianity.
"SaveHindusFromJagan Reddy trended for two days and garnered around 60,000 tweets. This was for the first time 50 many tweets with religious tinge against Mr Jagan Mohan Reddy emerged since he became the Chief Minister.

Besides opinions on government programmes and issues, Twitterati also shared pictures of Jagan wearing a cross and taking a holy dip during one of the pushkarams for the river Godavari. They found fault with ₹5,000 per month to pastors, and the razing of a temple recently for road widening in Guntur.

Bloodlust in Parliament over Disha's gang-rape

Jaya asks government how it will stop repeat of such incidents

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, DEC. 2

The gang-rape and murder of a veterinary doctor ("Disha") in Hyderabad reverberated in both Houses of Parliament on Monday with Samajwadi Party MP Jaya Bachchan going to the extent of demanding that the accused be lynched.

"These types of people need to be brought out in public and lynched," Ms Bachchan said. "I think it is time. The people want the government to give a proper and definite answer."

She led a chorus of angry voices in the Rajya Sabha over the rape and murder. "I don't know how many times I've stood and spoken about this kind of crime. I think it is time... whether Nirbhaya or Kathua or what happened in Telangana... I think the people now want the government to give a proper and definite answer."

■ **Page 2: Mercy shouldn't be shown Venkatesh**

'Disha rape' top porn site search

SICK SOCIETY

MADHY DEEKSHITH | DC
HYDERABAD, DEC. 2

While people are demanding capital punishment for the accused in the "Disha" rape-murder case, many sick individuals are searching her name on porn websites, looking for a video of the crime. It tops the most-visited porn sites. Though a pornography ban is in effect, porn addicts have created mirror websites with slightly altered addresses (Pornhub, the world's biggest porn site set up pornhub.net).

"Disha" was a top search on a popular porn site "XVideos" which has been officially banned by the Centre. The authorities claimed that the evolution of technology has enabled consumers to browse gruesome videos with a different IP address located in a foreign nation. Activists say the mobile operators providing free internet have been



the root culprit. "A person can search her name 100 times or 100 people have searched for her videos," psychology professor G. Padmaja said. "Even animals have an ethical code which is lacking in some humans and these perverts have to be serious about it."

The idea of providing free internet has been root cause such brutal acts in society, said V. Sandhya, the All India convener of the Progressive Organisation for Women (PoW).

■ **Page 2: Internet is misused: Activist**

Selfie tourism is on at crime site

SANJAY SAMUEL PAUL | DC
HYDERABAD, DEC. 2

Rape tourism: people are visiting the scene of the crime where "Disha" was raped and murdered, stopping their cars and bikes, and clicking photos as souvenirs. Some even took selfies.

Police are finding these youths tough to handle and chase away. Sometimes entire families turn out for this ghoulish exercise. While the police try to shoos one set of photo-shooters away, another will come from behind to do the same.

Policemen claimed they could not even take a bio-break.

The open plot where the crime took place has been cleaned of weeds and bushes; the wall has been broken and cleared. It is next to the toll gate at Shamshabad, where lorries are usually parked. Police now does not allow any vehicle to be parked.

A road leads to the Chatanpalai bridge where Disha's body was burnt, but few people come here as it is under the bridge, and people feel spooky. Still, it is not exempt from the odd voyeur.

ONIONS WILL MAKE PEOPLE CRY LONGER

■ **KANIZ GARRARI | DC**
HYDERABAD, DEC. 2

Onions will bear dear for the next two months as stocks are dwindling. Telangana earlier had 80 trucks supplying the wholesale market but nowadays it is only 40 trucks. The state has controlled the price to ₹100 per kg, but vendors are incurring losses and unwilling to stock onions.

December and January will see a shortage, said wholesale vendors. They rue that Telangana is the only state where it is ₹100 per kg; in other states it ranges from ₹120 to ₹140 per kg.

The government has told wholesalers that the price must not peak. "The state is under lampur is over," said wholesale Venkar Ramana. "Only stock from Sholapur is available. But as prices in Telangana are controlled, they are not sending any here." In Sholapur, 60 per cent of the crop was spoiled and the rest is selling at a higher price in other states.

■ **Page 7: SC exercised its plenary powers wrongly**

■ **Page 2: Vendors are cutting onion sale**

JuH files review plea on Ayodhya

PARMOOD KUMAR | DC
NEW DELHI, DEC. 2

The Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind (JuH) on Monday moved the Supreme Court seeking reconsideration of its November 9 verdict giving ownership of the disputed site at Ayodhya for the construction of Lord Rama's temple, saying it not only amounted to condoning the illegal acts of Hindu parties but also awarded them.

Pointing out that he was conscious of the sensitive issue and understood the need to maintain peace and harmony in the country, petitioner Maulana Syed Ashraf Rashidi (president, Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind, Lucknow) asserted that the destruction of the Babri Masjid in 1994, the desecration of the Babri Masjid by placing the Ram Lalla idols under the central dome in 1949, and the demolition in 1992.

The direction "virtually amounts to a mandamus to destroy, because the Babri Masjid was not illegally demolished on December 6, 1992, the execution of the present order would have required the destruction of an existing mosque to make space for a proposed temple", says the petition.

Though the top court in its verdict had noted three of the illegalities committed by the Hindu parties, the JuH's review petition says that yet it only condoned the said illegal acts but to award them the same by allotting the disputed site to the Hindu Parties.

Today is the 24th day since the judgment by the five-judge Supreme Court bench and the plea seeking reconsideration was to be filed within 30 days. The three illegalities included damaging the domes of the Babri Masjid in 1994, the desecration of the Babri Masjid by placing the Ram Lalla idols under the central dome in 1949, and the demolition in 1992.

■ **Page 7: SC exercised its plenary powers wrongly**

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Zindagi ke saath hi, Zindagi ke baad hi.

Suspension move
BJP's Sangareddy unit suspends its youth leader T. Asish Goud, who is facing allegations of sexual harassment



The accused in rape-murder of Disha must be brought to justice within 30 days

— Nama Naageshwar Rao TRS MP

IN BRIEF

CENTRAL PRISON TURNS INTO FORTRESS

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, DEC. 2

The police has increased security measures at the Cherlapalli Central Prison, where the accused in the rape-murder of Disha have been housed since Saturday. This happened after four to five people came in the morning with banners to the protest to stage a protest. They were sent away after a while. There is a battery of police and special forces deployed near the jail who are not allowing more than four people to gather at a spot. The road outside the jail connects to the industrial zone and there is constant movement of vehicles. There are also two petrol bunks. The jail was the venue of protests on Saturday. There were fewer people on Sunday. Barricades have been placed as the police does not want to be taken by surprise. So far no one has come to meet the accused — Mohd. Ali, J. Navven, J. Shiva and Chennakeshavulu — and they have kept separately in cells meant to house those accused in terror cases.

■ THERE WERE protests on Saturday but Sunday and Monday have seen only two to three people come with banners who were sent away. There are barricades kept handy as they do not want to be taken by surprise.

DISHA'S FAMILY PERFORMS HER LAST RITES

SAJANY SAMUEL PAUL | DC HYDERABAD, DEC. 2

The family of Disha, the veterinarian who was raped and killed, immersed her ashes and returned home. The residents of Nakshatra Vilas at Siddanthi Shamshabad, where she stayed, took out a candle-light rally where 500 residents participated. The gated community has 137 villas and five apartments.

Disha's family has asked that no outsider be allowed to meet them. Politicians A. Revanth Reddy, Prof. Kodandaram and other politicians who visited the place were not allowed entry.

A large number of police personnel was stationed outside the gated community. Fifty metres from the colony gate is a Matsyantra temple (Shivara), caretaker of the temple, said Disha used to stop to pray to the Goddess every day.



Thousands of students, led by the ABVP, hold a protest rally from Baghlingampally to Indira Park on Monday against the gangrape and murder of veterinary doctor Disha.

— S. SURENDER REDDY

Shut wine shops, cry residents

5 outlets run near the spot where Disha was raped and killed

MADDY DEEKSHITH | DC HYDERABAD, DEC. 2

The new liquor policy has enabled five liquor shops to open in a two-kilometre radius of the Tondupally toll plaza in Shamshabad, where a veterinarian now known as Disha was brutally raped and murdered.

Residents in the vicinity claimed that the area has become unsafe and women are living in constant panic. They claim that the liquor shops near the toll plaza encourage commuters to stop and drink liquor which can lead them to commit heinous crimes.

"The new liquor policy allows them to open till 11 pm in Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation limits. There are at least five liquor shops within a radial distance of 2 km from Tondupally toll gate, where the rapists consumed liquor. Stop liquor shops. Single biggest factor that makes localities unsafe," said Mr D. Bhardwaj, a resident of the area.

Another resident, Ms K. Kalavathi, said, "The area has been attracting commuters who stop and consume alcohol because there is sufficient parking place. We are living in constant panic and request authorities to take serious note of the issue to protect residents, especially women."

The new liquor policy follows a cluster system that enables wine shop owners to set up 18 wine shops in the demarcated area.

"Telangana Wine Dealers' Association president D. Venkateswara Rao said that he merged eight wards and made it a cluster and allowed wine shop owners to set up 18 liquor shops in any location within the cluster. Mr Rao said that the pre-

ereral of ABVP Nidhi Tripathi criticised the police, Telangana State home minister Mahmood Ali and the state government for the way the case was initially dealt with. They demanded that a fast-track court be set up immediately to try the accused and award death penalty to Disha's rapists. A large number of policemen guarded the procession. On one stage, students sat down near the Indira Park and raised slogans relentlessly.

KANIZA GARARI | DC HYDERABAD, DEC. 2

More than 2,500 students protested on Monday demanding a stringent action against the four accused in the Disha rape and burning case. Female students were present in the procession that started from Indira Park, taking the police by surprise.

The students, under the banner of Akhila Bharatiya Vidhyarthi Parishad, went in a procession from Indira Park to gather at Bagh Lingampally. Those who spontaneously turned up to register their protest included students from universities and colleges in and around the city. Initially, police estimated that only a few of the students would assemble, but their numbers picked up gradually.

The protesting students carried banners and placards during their march, while also shouting slogans condemning the incident. National secretary general of ABVP Nidhi Tripathi criticised the police, Telangana State home minister Mahmood Ali and the state government for the way the case was initially dealt with. They demanded that a fast-track court be set up immediately to try the accused and award death penalty to Disha's rapists. A large number of policemen guarded the procession. On one stage, students sat down near the Indira Park and raised slogans relentlessly. Excise department officials were not available for comment.

Victim not spared even during periods

PILLALAMARRI SRINIVAS | DC YELLAPATAR (KUMARAMBHEEM ASIFABAD), DEC. 2

Police said Aparichita, 30, (name changed) who was raped by three men and murdered was on her period when the incident occurred on November 24. The trio said she pleaded with them to spare her but they did not listen. Her health condition was reported by her husband. Aparichita who used to collect fallen hair in households and offer balloons and trinkets in exchange. She would sell the hair to traders.

Police said the accused had pushed her near a well while walking with a load of utensils, gagged and assaulted her near Yellapatar in Lingapur



Accused Sheikh Shahabuddin's brother Sheikh Sharfuddin with the silver bowl given by the rape victim just before she was raped and murdered in the Yellapatar village in Lingapur mandal in Kumarabheem Asifabad district, on Monday.

mandal in Kumarabheem Asifabad district. At the scene of the assault, bloodstains remained on the stones and dry leaves almost a week after the attack. Footwear said to belong to Aparichita still lay there. The spot is just 100

metres from the government school at Rannaik handa. As it was a Sunday, the road to the village was deserted. It has now emerged that Aparichita had gone to the house of one of the perpetrators to give a container just two hours before the incident. The two families knew each other well. She had asked her brother to give a container to collect waste hair. Accused Sheikh Shahabuddin's elder brother Sheikh Sharfuddin said he (Sharofuddin) was feeling guilty. He said the villagers, especially the women and children, had good relations with Aparichita. Mr Sheikh Chand, the brother of Sheikh Babu, another accused, said their family had failed to change his character and lifestyle. The local police seem to have failed to keep a close watch on the three accused who had a criminal background. A section of villagers says that the family members of the accused used to protect them.

Mercy shouldn't be shown: Venkaiah

From Page 1

Samajwadi Party MP Jaya Bachchan also demanded that people who failed to protect women and children from such horrific assaults should be "named and shamed". Rajya Sabha Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu also suggested a rethink on allowing convicts in heinous crimes to submit mercy appeals.

"What happens even after punishment is given," he asked. "We all are witness. Appeal, mercy (petition). Can anybody think of having mercy on such people?"

"We should really think about a change in the legal system, in our judicial system," he said after MPs expressed outrage over the rising incidents of crime against women.

Mr Naidu said crime against women was a "societal disease" and there are lacunae in the system, both legal as well as in policing. "This kind of violation of dignity of women cannot go on unchallenged. It should be nipped in the bud," he said. The Chairman also suggested photographs of the guilty should be published so that there is social stigma and fear.

While the Chairman described the incident as a disgrace to humanity, Leader of the Opposition in Rajya Sabha Ghulam Nabi Azad said society will have to tackle this problem at its root. The guilty should be given stringent punishment without any discrimination of religion or caste, he said.

Similar voices were raised in the Lok Sabha.

Congress MP from Telangana Uttam Reddy described the Telangana home minister's comment, that the victim should have contacted police and not her family, as extremely insensitive.

He claimed that the family had to walk to two or three police stations before a case was registered. "If the first police station would have registered a case and started investigation then the life of the victim would have definitely been saved," he said. He also blamed the indiscriminate sale of liquor in the state for the increase in crime rate and said he demanded that a fast-track court give a quick verdict and hang the accused.

TRS MP Kotha Prabhakar Reddy termed the incident as shameful and said, "We need to bring an act to curb such incidents". DMK's T.R. Baalu also raised the issue of the sexual assault of a schoolgirl in Coimbatore.

Those involved in the crime should be punished, Mr Baalu said, adding the government should come forward and ensure time-bound action. Intervening on behalf of the government, defence minister Rajnath Singh said the government was ready for a discussion in the Lok Sabha on the issue of crime against women and willing to explore stringent provisions in laws to check incidents like the Hyderabad rape and murder case.

Cops seek 10-day custody of rapists

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, DEC. 2

Shadnagar police has filed a petition in court asking for 10-day police custody of the four accused in the rape and murder of veterinarian Disha. The police said it needed more time to gather evidence and has

not questioned the four suspects thoroughly. The police has also pointed out that Disha's mobile has not been found. Meanwhile, at a review meeting on Sunday, DGP M. Mahendhar Reddy said the probe must be completed in a time-bound manner.

Preventive step



The usually bustling Charminar looks deserted as police prevented midnight revellers from visiting the place in view of the recent rape and murder of Disha.

— P. SURENDRA

Congress wants KCR to resign

SREEPARNA CHAKRABARTY | DC NEW DELHI, DEC. 2

The Congress has decided to hold a demonstration and candlelight in Hyderabad on December 4 in protest against the gang-rape and murder of a veterinarian.

The vigil will be organised by the All India Mahila Congress — the women's wing of the party — and will be attended by Mahila Congress chief Susmitha Dev and leaders of the Telangana Congress.

"We demand the resignation of the Telangana Chief Minister and time-bound punishment for the rape-murderers," Congress general secretary in-charge of Telangana R.C. Khuntia told this newspaper. The Congress leader said that in addition to the



Telangana Congress MPs hold placards as they protest demanding justice for rape and murder victim Disha, during the ongoing Winter Session at Parliament House in New Delhi on Monday.

Mahila Congress's vigil and demonstration on December 4 in Hyderabad, the Youth Congress will hold protests across the country. The Congress had in the morning raised the issue of the gang-rape-murder vociferously in both Houses of Parliament.

Internet is misused: Woman activist

From Page 1

"The Modi government should be held responsible for rise of porn-watching in the country. While people in the country are deprived of food, shelter and education, the government joined hands with corporates to provide free internet to citizens who were missing it. Disha's name search on porn-sites is proof of it," Ms Sandhya from PoW said.

Dileep Konatham, director of Digital Media for the government of Telangana, which helps mask internet people can watch videos easily through virtual private networks (VPNs) which help mask internet browsers' IP address in India. Reports on social media said Disha's name had been searched 80 lakh times by Monday morning.

GOVT CRACKDOWN

■ In July 2015, the Supreme Court refused to allow the blocking of pornographic websites and said that watching pornography indoors in the privacy of one's own home was not a crime.

■ In August 2015, the Government of India issued an order to Indian ISPs to block at least 827 websites that it considered to be pornographic.

■ In 2015, the Department of Telecommunications (DOT) partially rescinded the ban after a lawyer filed a petition in the Supreme Court arguing that online pornography encourages sex crimes and rapes.

■ In February 2016, the Supreme Court asked the Government to suggest ways of banning all forms of child pornography. In October 2018, the government directed ISPs to block 827 websites that host pornographic content following an order by the Uttarakhand High Court. The court cited the rape of a class 10 girl.

■ However, immediately after blocking websites, VPN mobile applications have increased. In span of 12 months, 33.19 million downloads were reported.



Global recognition

City-based social crusader Rohith Vakrala conferred Karmaveer Chakra Award 2019 by ICONGO, UN for his contribution in social work

Pleasant showers on a sultry night



Commuters caught unawares as the city received light showers on Monday evening after the sky remained overcast throughout the day.

—DEEPAK DESHPANDE



The deteriorating air quality in Central India is due to biomass burning

—Vijay Kanawade researcher University of Hyderabad

POWER SHUTDOWN

9 am to 5 pm: Sagar Society Colony, Kamalapur Phase-III, Arora Colony area; Krishnanagar, Roads No. 5, 5.9, Jubilee Hills Check Post, Care Hospital area, Banjara Hills Road No. 2 area, Balagoud PT area behind Masjid, Water Works area, Road No. 12, Vijaya Rama Rao house area; Sony TV showroom aea, Apple Software area, BSNL Exchange, Jubilee Hills Road No. 82, Ramalayam area behind LV Prasad Marg, LV Prasad Film Labs, Eye Hospital; Venkatagiri water works

10 am to 5 pm: Anjali theatre area, Kalaniketan, Kalasiguda, SD Road area, Swapnalok Complex, Manju theatre area, Margadarshi Chit Funds office, Andhra Bank ATM, CMR Teles, Chennai Shopping Mall, RP Road, Passport office, Sri Sai Ganesh Lodge, Rathifile bus stop, Hotel Basera area, ICICI Bank, St Mary's Church, IBP Petrol Bunk area, St Ann's School area, South India Church, Madhava Hospital, HP Petrol Pump, St Mary's School, Nagarjuna Health, Regimental Bazaar

10 am to 1 pm: BSNL Office, Meraj Colony, IAS Colony, Janakinagar, Chota Janakinagar, Bakthavarguda, Paramount Colony, MCH Colony, Hakeempet, Al Hasnath Colony, Youssuf Tekdi, Military area, Mandar Restaurant, 4 Seasons, Pista House area.

2 pm to 5 pm: Brundava Colony, Chota Janakinagar, Bada Janakinagar, Fathima Colony, Paramount Colony, Mini Brundavan Colony, Viratnagar, Al Hasnath Colony, Youssuf Tekdi, Nizam Colony, Toli Chowki, Deltux Colony, Dowlet Gulshan Colony area near KFC, Hakeemshakunta.

Staff crunch hits food safety checks

Telangana performs badly in food enforcement, reports FSSAI data

ADITYA CHUNDURU | DC HYDERABAD, DEC. 2

Around a week ago, the Food Safety Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) released data on food enforcement in the country. Telangana has performed poorly along with West Bengal, Karnataka and Assam.

"That Telangana is at the bottom of the charts in food safety is not surprising. The commission of Food Safety in the state is running on a skeletal staff. It has fewer employees than a typical restaurant whose food it is supposed to monitor. These officers have far too many responsibilities and very few resources.

There are 58 sanctioned posts of food safety officers (FSO) in the state, but only five are filled. In fact, GHMC alone has 30 sanctioned FSO positions, though none of them is filled. The five serving FSOs are each

stationed in the districts of Suryapet, Mancherial, Warangal Rural and Mahbubnagar.

Another pain point for the department is that there are only nine district officers (DO) working across the state's 32 districts (excluding the GHMC region). Though districts were reorganised in 2016, the jurisdiction of the DOs corresponds to the erstwhile districts. Since most of

them have no FSO working under them, they themselves are asked to act as the FSO. Between themselves, these officers have the unenviable task of ensuring food safety across the thousands of restaurants and street vendors in the state.

A senior official from the department said that hiring new employees is next to impossible. "There is no budget. In fact, we can't buy a couple of copies of the Food

Safety and Standards Act, 2006. That's how short of funds we are," he said. Indeed, the money is so non-existent that there is only one computer across the entire department, which is at the head office in Hyderabad! None of the DOs or FSOs has a computer on which to file reports. There isn't even a printer anywhere. The officers have to get everything done externally from cyber cafes. The official quoted above said

DOs and FSOs rarely ever check their emails. All business is done over phone and WhatsApp.

The DOs have no assistants and act completely on their own. "They have to travel across their jurisdiction on their own and collect samples from restaurants and street vendors all on their own. Things can get hairy in rural areas, where restaurant owners can gang up on the officer and threaten him."

measures. This PIL has been heard many times and, on the last occasion, the court had asked the government about the action it had taken.

Mr S. Sharath, special counsel, said the Hyderabad police commissioner had taken control of the Exhibition Society and DCI; central zone, appointed as nodal officer to supervise the arrangements. He, however, failed to submit the plan of action and the requisite permissions. Responding to this, Chief Justice Chauhhan said "Merely making statements won't suffice, there should be documentary evidence because it involves the lives of innocent traders and people."

₹5L for flyover crash victim's kin

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, DEC. 2

Mayor Bonthu Ramnathan on Monday handed over ₹5 lakh to the family of Pasala Naga Venkata Satyaveni,

who died in a freak mishap at the Biodiversity flyover in Gachibowli on November 23. Satyaveni was standing on the footpath beside the flyover when a car flew off the

newly-inaugurated structure and landed on a tree near her. The tree fell on Satyaveni, killing her on the spot. She was house-hunting along with her daughter when the accident occurred.

The car was driven by one K. Milan Krishna, 27, who was speeding on the flyover. The car was travelling at 104 kmph. He lost control of the vehicle, which hit the flyover wall and fell on the road.

JANAHARAL NEURU ARCHITECTURE AND FINE ARTS UNIVERSITY
Mahaveer Marg, Masab Tank, Hyderabad - 500 028

Third Convocation Notification - 2019

The Third Convocation of JNAFAU will be held in the 1st week of January, 2020. The exact date, time and venue of the Convocation will be notified in the University website shortly. All candidates, who have qualified for the award of Gold Medals and Degrees, from the Academic Year 2012-13 to 2018-19 and have obtained Provisional Certificates, shall apply online on or before 31.12.2019 by 5.00 P.M.

Please visit University website www.jnafau.ac.in for detailed instructions, dress code, payment forms etc.

Sd/- Registrar
Date: 01-12-2019
JNAFAU

Urban heat effect is at its worst during nights

ADITYA CHUNDURU | DC HYDERABAD, DEC 2

A five-day international meet, "Countdown to Urban Heat Islands" was kicked off by municipal development secretary Arvind Kumar at the IIIT Hyderabad on Monday. The term "urban heat island" refers to a metropolitan area that is significantly warmer than surrounding rural areas due to human activity.

The conference targets scientists, engineers, builders, architects and government officials, who have been called upon to find solutions to

relieving excessive heat and air pollution during summers in hot cities. It had earlier been held in Tokyo, Berkeley (California, USA), Venice and Singapore.

Mr Kumar said the conference was extremely relevant to Hyderabad. "The business space occupied in Hyderabad may go up from the current 120 million sq ft to 140 million sq ft in 2025. What that happens, the UHI effect will double," he said. The senior bureaucrat shared some of the state government's countermeasures to reduce the heat island effect. "All 33 districts in the state will have a

green action plan for all urban local bodies (ULB). Each ULB will also have a nursery, 10 per cent of its budget earmarked for a green budget. Also, the town planning department is taking the necessary measures to fix traffic and infrastructure issues. The state is encouraging the development of integrated townships," he said.

Explaining the concept, Mr Vishal Garg, head of the Centre of IT in Building Sciences, IIIT-H, and organising chair of the conference, said, "The temperature difference in an urban heat island is usually larger at night."

Vendors quitting onion sale

From Page 1

"We can't bring stock from Gujarat as the government is not willing to increase the price," said Duggu Jagdish Kumar, another wholesaler. "We are supplying 50 bags to rythu bazaar in the state at a loss. The onion procured by us is ₹55 per kg but we have to give to the government at ₹40 per kg. We are incurring losses so that people can get onions." Many vendors have quit the market as they cannot afford this loss. Crop damage has made it difficult to get returns on investments. The losses will come down once the new crop comes by January-end.

Now, shell out more for RTC bus travel, pay minimum ₹10

IREDDY SRINIVAS REDDY | DC HYDERABAD, DEC. 2

If anyone is breathing easy that bus services have been regularised and things are back to normal with Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TSRTC) then better be prepared to shell down more on travel costs, hereafter.

The corporation has hiked bus fares following the government's decision to increase 20 paise per km towards which it issued orders on Monday. The revised fares would come into effect from Tuesday midnight.

Following the November 28 Cabinet meeting, Chief Minister K Chandrababu Naidu informed that the increase in the bus fares would fetch profits for the Road Transport Corporation.

The buses departing from all depots after 12 am will charge the revised fares. The minimum fare in ordinary buses in Hyderabad has been doubled to ₹10 from the existing ₹5, while it has been enhanced to ₹15

THE FARE HIKE CHART CITY SERVICES					
Service	Existing	New	Service	Existing	New
Ordinary					
2 km	₹5	₹10	8 km	₹15	₹20
6 km	₹10	₹15	16 km	₹20	₹25
12 km	₹15	₹20	26 km	₹25	₹30
20 km	₹20	₹25	36 km	₹30	₹35
30 km	₹25	₹30	40 km	₹30	₹40
40 km	₹30	₹35			
Metro Deluxe					
2 km	₹10	₹15			
6 km	₹15	₹20			
14 km	₹20	₹25			
24 km	₹25	₹30			
32 km	₹30	₹35			
40 km	₹30	₹35			
LONG DISTANCE SERVICES					
Service	Existing	New	Min		
Pallevelugu	₹63	₹83	₹5		
Semi Express	₹75	₹95	₹5		
Express	₹87	₹107	₹15		
Deluxe	₹98	₹108	₹20		
Super Luxury	₹116	₹136	₹25		
Rajadhani AC					
Vajra AC	₹146	₹166	₹35		
Garuda	₹171	₹191	₹35		
Garuda+	₹182	₹202	₹35		
Vennela	₹253	₹273	₹70		

Hyderabad 75 YEARS OF DECCAN CHRONICLE

Hyderabad IMAGES AND MEMORIES

We wrapped up our celebrations to mark the 75th anniversary of Deccan Chronicle on May 15, by bringing a special compilation of seventy-five stories filled with intrigue and delight from the final days of the Nizamshahi, titled Hyderabad: Images & Memories

From the palace mysteries and murder plots to the Nizam's 3,000 wives and how the ruler faced allegations of kidnapping his bride, all under the watchful eyes of the British, it is all there.

We scoured the archives and collected anecdotal evidence from several actors of that era to discover delightful asides like how the mottcher laddus got their name, how an aide saved the Nizam's legendary treasures for the royal family and how Indira Gandhi floored the Nizam.

There are more than 75 pictures, a few of them rare and perhaps being published for the first time.

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Heartly Congratulations

Dr. SANDRA STHUTHI
Dr. S. Krupa Rao Joseph

Congratulations on successful completion and award of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D) from Department of Economics, Osmania University, Phone No. 924740085

Sangareddy collector M. Hanumantha Rao gets best collector award for providing facilities to persons with disabilities during elections



Gandhi Hospital's blood bank has been recognised as best in state sector

— Etala Rajender Health minister

Man gives fake job offers, held

Hyderabad: The police on Monday arrested a city resident who duped job aspirants by collecting money and provided fake appointment letters with the Airports Authority of India.

2 held with 45-kg ganja

Hyderabad: Two persons from Punjab who were smuggling ganja from Andhra Pradesh to Delhi in a train were arrested by the Government Railway Police of Secunderabad on Monday.

Burglars held in Khammam

Khammam: Two persons allegedly involved in thefts in four states, were caught in Khammam on Monday. Property worth of 30 lakh including a multi-utility vehicle was recovered from them.

Weak helmet proves deadly

Poor quality helmet breaks upon impact, MBA student on bike dies

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, DEC. 2

A 22-year-old MBA student died of a severe head injury when the helmet he was wearing broke in a mishap at Langer Houz on Monday.

Pranay left home at about 10.40 to go to the college located at Ibrahimbagh on his bike (TS12 EF 1844). When he reached the main road at Nanal Nagar, he lost control over the bike rammed it into a water tanker (AP28 TD 1160) belonging to the GHMC from the rear and fell down.

MOLESTER BEATEN UP, GIRL SAVED

DC CORRESPONDENT TIRUPATI, DEC. 2

Villagers thrashed a youngster at Peddakondamarti in Chowdepalli mandal of Chittoor district on Monday for trying to molest a nine-year-old girl.

Attender at Vijaya Reddy office dies

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, DEC. 2

The death toll in the murder of the talsildar Ch Vijaya Reddy at the Abdulquader mandal revenue office increased to four with the death of Kavali Chandraiah on Monday.

Balapur cop succumbs to suicide bid

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, DEC. 2

An assistant sub-inspector working in Balapur police station who had set himself ablaze alleging died at the Apollo DRDO hospital on Monday.

Stuck again



With the Biodiversity Park flyover closed, heavy traffic is seen on the road on Monday. The flyover was after the accident in which a speeding car flew off and killed a woman standing on the footpath.

LIVES LOST Fear of rejection turns fatal

2 couples fear their families, end lives

JAYENDRA CHAITANYA T. I DC HYDERABAD, DEC. 2

Apprehending outright rejection by family elders, two young couples committed suicide separately at Keshampet and Shabad in Rangya Reddy district on Monday.

As the news spread in the village, Sriramulu also committed suicide. He was found hanging to a tree located on the outskirts of the village at around 7 a.m., said the SI.

MAN GETS 3-YEAR RI FOR SEXUAL ABUSE OF MINOR

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, DEC. 2

A 31-year-old man who sexually abused a minor girl when she was alone in her hut at Balanagar has been convicted and imprisoned by a court for three years.

LIVING BEYOND LIFE

Birth Anniversary of SRI S.R.N. MUDIRAJ SPIRIT & SOUL OF JOHNSON GRAMMAR SCHOOL



Sri.S.R.N. MUDIRAJ FOUNDER CHAIRMAN (03.12.1930) Your Life was a Blessing, Your Memory a Treasure You are Loved beyond words and Missed beyond Measure.

OBITUARY

Mrs. BASA VINODINI (Wife of Late Mr. Basu Vinodini) D.O.B: 14-12-1945 D.O.D: 02-12-2019

UNQUENCHABLE FIRE THAT IGNITES US EVEN TODAY

CELEBRATING FOUNDER'S DAY 3rd December Remembering S.R.N. MUDIRAJ (1930-2003)

Every master was once a beginner. "Never while, never complain, never try to justify yourself." These golden words were aptly put into practice by the Founder Chairman Sri S.R.N. Mudiraj.

OBITUARY

KOTHAPALLY REV. JOHN CLEOPHAS (Sri Late Kothapally John Cleophas) D.O.B: 22-12-1945 D.O.D: 02-12-2019

33rd FOND MEMORY

Mr. RAINMATH MEHAN (Sri Late Rainmath Mehan) D.O.B: 14-12-1966 D.O.D: 3-12-1996

OBITUARY

Rt. Sub. HARDIT SINGH (1928-2019) With great grief we inform you that our beloved Prasad left for his heavenly abode on 25.11.2019.

SHRADDANJALI

Smt. CHANDRAPRABHA DAMODARAS SHAH (2nd December 2019) Inserted by Grieving Son & Family

3rd DEATH REMEMBRANCE

MADISHETTY BHUSHIAH (D.O.D: 02-02-1997) Inserted by Sri Madishetty Bhushiah & Family

SHRADDANJALI

Smt. CHANDRAPRABHA (Hira Bai) (Wife Late Damodaradas Mahandras Shah) (2nd December 2019)

SHRADDANJALI

Smt. Chandraprabha Damodaradas Shah (A woman to be remembered. A life to be honored.)

OBITUARY

Mrs. BASA VINODINI (Wife of Late Mr. Basu Vinodini) D.O.B: 14-12-1945 D.O.D: 02-12-2019

SHRADDANJALI

Smt. Chandraprabha Damodaradas Shah (D.O.D: 2nd December 2019)

SHRADDANJALI

Smt. Chandraprabha Damodaradas Shah (D.O.D: 2nd December 2019)

OBITUARY

James Vijay Kumar (Late: Rajawade Engineering) D.O.B: 16-05-1950 D.O.D: 02-12-2019

SHRADDANJALI

Smt. CHANDRAPRABHA DAMODARAS SHAH (D.O.D: 2nd December 2019)

SHRADDANJALI

Smt. Chandraprabha Damodaradas Shah (A woman to be remembered. A life to be honored.)

IN LOVING MEMORY



U. VIJAYA KUMAR, IREPS (14 Jan 1954 - 03 Dec 2019) As time goes by, your memories continue in times of weakness, our strength renews.

IN LOVING MEMORY 33rd ANNIVERSARY



Late Mr. L.M. RAMNATH (Signal Sports, Abids) RAMNATH in name and spirit. To serve there is no limit.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

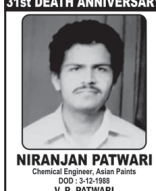


RAGHU KUMAR GORTHY (1960 - 2015) Inserted by: Wife: Dr. B. Bhavani Daughter: Radha

SHRADDANJALI

Smt. CHANDRAPRABHA DAMODARAS SHAH (D.O.D: 2nd December 2019)

31st DEATH ANNIVERSARY



NIRANJANI PATWARI (Chemical Engineer, Andhra Pradesh) Inserted by: V.R. Patwari

Disability Day

P. Chokka Rao, national general secretary, All India Confederation of the Blind, urges people to extend financial support to the disabled



We need stringent laws to punish those who indulge in violence on women

— Malothu Kavitha TRS MP

SHORT TAKES

SCHOOLS TO COME UP ON 50 WAKF LANDS

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, DEC. 2

Fifty Wakf properties have been earmarked to build minorities residential schools. Government adviser on minority affairs A.K. Khan, who is also the society president, is keen to build residential schools on Wakf properties as they are non-functioning from private buildings for which the TMREIS is paying about ₹150 crore annually in rent.

The Central Wakf Council has accorded consent. The Telangana Minorities Residential Educational Institutions Society (TMREIS) runs 204 residential schools and 12 junior colleges.

A meeting of the Wakf Board and TMREIS officials was held in the presence of home minister Mohammed Mahmood Ali on Monday.

Mr Khan also held discussions with MIM legislator Akbaruddin Owaisi. Mr Khan will send a detailed proposal to the government. Wakf Board Chairman Mohammed Saleem said there is a provision in the Wakf Act for long-term lease. Amendments carried out in the Wakf Act in 2015 envisage leasing of a Wakf property for commercial activities, education or health purpose for up to 30 years with the approval of the state government following certain guidelines laid down in the act.

'KCR failed to maintain law and order, provide safety' Cong raps CM on fare hike

S.N.G.N. ACHARYULU | DC HYDERABAD, DEC. 2

Telangana state Congress leaders slammed the TRS government for the failure to maintain law and order and for increasing bus fares. AICC secretary and former MP V Hanumantha Rao demanded that a suo moto inquiry be registered against Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao, holding him responsible for the death of 30 RTC employees and cheating the courts during the RTC strike period.

Speaking in the media in Zaheerabad, he asked how Mr Rao is employing cops to RTC employees and cheating the courts during the RTC strike period. Mr Hanumantha Rao demanded that the accused in the Disha rape-and-murder case should be given capital punishment immediately.

Meanwhile, TPCC vice-president Mallu Ravi and former minister Nagam Janardhan Reddy, also speaking to the media at Gandhi Bhavan on Monday, alleged that the

Vijayashanthi said that it is surprising that it took the CM 72 hours to react on the rape and murder of Disha.

law and order situation had deteriorated in the state. People have lost confidence in the police and "friendly policing" is only for the TRS leaders. They said that had the CM made the announcement not to have diesel rupees to the RTC employees a few days ago, 30 RTC employees would not have died.

The TPCC conducted protest rallies in all district headquarters on Monday against the hike in RTC fares. TPCC Campaign Committee chairperson and former MP Vijayashanthi said in a statement that it is surprising that it took the CM 72 hours to react to the Disha rape and murder. The Chief Minister held a press meet immediately after the Huzuragar by-election result was declared recently, but it took him three days to react to the ghastly rape-and-murder of a woman.

Ms Vijayashanthi said when the CM has said earlier that no one can save the RTC, how has he done so in two months? She said the CM values a dog in Pragathi Bhavan more than he does Telugu society.

HC on strike: All's well that ends well

VJUNINI VAMSHIDHARA | DC HYDERABAD, DEC. 2

The Telangana High Court was not inclined to go into the issue of the government ignoring the TSRTC trade unions. It also dismissed a PIL filed on seeking a direction to hold the government responsible for the death of employees that were talked with the PIL filed during the strike period.

A division bench comprising Chief Justice Raghavendra Singh Chauhan and Justice A. Abhishek Reddy dismissed the PIL filed by retired Osmania University professor P.L. Vishveshwar Rao saying that the prayer in the PIL had been answered as the government had taken the employees back.

The bench drew from the Ramayana and said that the brahmin Vibhishan was crowned king only after Lanka had been destroyed. The bench dismissed the PIL with citing the name of a Shakespearean play, "All's Well That Ends

Prayer in the PIL had been answered as the employees were taken back, the High Court said. Prof. Rao, submitting his arguments on his own, said that Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao had called the workers and held talks with them without the trade unions being a part of the talks.

He said the unions were part of the democratic set-up and were recognised and had come into existence since the 1920s. "The state is acting as per its convenience and all its decisions are not in consonance with the Constitution," Prof. Rao said.

The bench said that the government had done many things for the workers. If at all the trade unions had a grievance, they can approach the appropriate forum. The trade unions do not require the support of the common citizen in this issue, the bench said.

Kaleshwaram-like miracle can be done on Musi: HC

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, DEC. 2

Concerned over the delay in revival of Musi river, the Telangana High Court on Monday decided to hear all the pending petitions which have become a hindrance to the work of the officials.

Some persons who have encroached into the Musi river have approached the High Court and obtained a stay order which has hamstrung officials.

The division bench comprising Chief Justice Raghavendra Singh Chauhan and Justice Justice Chauhan was dealing with two PILs that sought revival of the Musi river.

The court felt that the government was not serious in going ahead with river clean-up.

"The Chairman and Director of the Musi River Flood Development Authority during the meetings held with me assured that the stretch of 5 km of the Musi river which flows in front of the High Court will be cleaned and encroachments removed. The High Court is waiting for the assurance to be fulfilled," the Chief Justice said adding that there were no stay orders on the work on this stretch.

Justice Chauhan said, "We are forced to breathe the terrible air... we do not know what chemicals we



A file photo of the polluted Musi river.

are breathing and what adverse affects it will have on our health, apart from the mosquito menace. We are not able to hold the meetings on the administrative side in the evening hours due to the mosquito menace."

The bench expressed dismay that no lake in the state had potable water. "We the citizens of this state polluting our lakes and the environment, imperilling our lives." Expressing confidence that the government was capable of reviving the Musi, the Chief Justice said, "When the government can create a miracle like the Kaleshwaram irrigation project, why can't it take up the Musi river issue? It is lagging behind due to the lack of will power."

CM in Delhi, awaits PM meet

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, DEC. 2

Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao is expected to reach Delhi on Monday night for three days. Depending on the situation, Mr Rao may extend his Delhi visit.

The purpose of the visit is to attend the marriage of Pragathi Bhavan Finance Corporation chairman Rajeev Sharma's son on Tuesday. Mr



K. Chandrasekhar Rao

Rao will also undergo a dental check-up and is scheduled to return to Hyderabad on December 5.

Two days ago, at a media conference, Mr Rao said he was going to Delhi on December 3 and would meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi to discuss pending issues related to the state.

He said he would request Mr Modi to set up the Indian Institute of Hyderabad (IIM) at Hyderabad. But the appointment with the Prime Minister has not been confirmed. Should it come through, his

stay on. Mr Rao was also going to discuss with the centre the privatisation of RTC routes in the state as per the central government's Motor Vehicle Act.

But now he seems to have shelved the privatisation plan. He did say that the Central government owes RTC around ₹25,000 crore, so if he meets Mr Modi, this issue will be discussed.

Excess toll: FASTag empties cash faster

N. VAMSI SRINIVAS | DC VIJAYAWADA, DEC. 2

FASTag users at certain toll plazas are ending up paying excess fee than mandated when completing the return journey within 24 hours. Users can do nothing about it, as the fee is automatically deducted from the vehicle's FASTag account. Under the manual system, vehicle users could take the return ticket by paying just 1.5 times the regular fee.

For example, the Kalaparru toll plaza near Eluru on Chennai-Kolkata National Highway deducted a toll fee of ₹40 when a vehicle passed it at 8:13 am on Sunday while proceeding in the direction of Kolkata. The vehicle user got within minutes an SMS and mail from the banker on deduction of the toll fee. The same vehicle passed the Kalaparru plaza in return direction about 12 hours later at 9:38 pm. The same amount of ₹40 was deducted from the FASTag account, instead of ₹20 collected in the manual process.

The board at toll plaza clearly indicates that only ₹20 to be collected for the return journey on the same day," the dismayed vehicle user pointed out.

Toll fee collection is in the process of getting automated through FASTag, the Centre making it mandatory for all vehicles that will pass through toll plazas from December 15 onwards. Based on the concessional agreement for the plaza concerned, the National Highway Authority of India notified collection of subsidised toll fee which, in most cases, is half the regular fee, provided the return journey is completed within 24 hours. For some old projects, however, there is no subsidy on return.

According to gazette notification 371 issued by the Ministry of Transport and Highways on February 16, 2013, the rate for light motor vehicle at Kalaparru toll plaza, taking 2006 as the base year, is ₹0.65, which

Toll fee collection is in the process of getting automated through FASTag, with the Centre making it mandatory for all vehicles that will pass through toll plazas from December 15 onwards.

works out to ₹40 for a one-way trip. Column 6 of the gazette lists out the fee for multiple journeys, according to which only 1.5 times the regular fee should be collected when a vehicle completes two trips within a day. At some plazas, like Kaza between Vijayawada and Guntur, a vehicle can pass any number of times within 24 hours for the same fee.

A senior official at Regional Office of NHAI, Vijayawada, told Decan Chronicle that individual toll plazas do not have access to the main server, wherein the highway authority integrates toll plazas. "None can tamper with the rates," he maintains. When the excess collection was brought to his notice, he merely said the vehicle user can bring a complaint with NHAI.

The NHAI website tis.nhai.gov.in contains details on when the excess is collected at every plaza in the country. Vehicle users can cross check the fee on the website and bring excess collection, if any, to attention of the authorities concerned.

Incidentally, information on the website is too confusing in case of Keesara toll plaza between Vijayawada and Hyderabad. The website, which charged ₹55 for each trip even if the return journey is completed within 24 hours. The website, however, shows that only ₹15 should be charged for the return journey.

"This might be a discrepancy. There is no concessional tariff for return journey at Keesara," the NHAI official clarified.

RAIL LAND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (A Statutory Authority under Ministry of Railways, Government of India) REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL THROUGH E-TENDER (RFP No. RLDAR/RF/CD/20 OF 2019 DATED 11.11.2019) DEVELOPMENT OF RAILWAY LAND NEAR TAMBARAM SANATORIUM, CHENNAI FOR 45 YEARS OF LEASE PERIOD

Table with 5 columns: Land Part, Plot Area (Sqm), Permissible FSI, Bid Ceiling, Reserve Price. Plot A: 9352, 3.25, 35.00 Lakhs, 18.20 Crore. Plot B: 3719, 3.25, 30.00 Lakhs, 8.00 Crore.

For further details of the project, please visit our website www.rlda.in/indianrailways.gov.in or on e-procurement Portal www.tenderinterrail.com/RLDA. Under the heading 'e-tender'.

Table with 4 columns: BDM/RLDA, Bidder, RLDAR, Consultant/RLDA. Contact details for BDM/RLDA (770319078), Bidder (9717110016), RLDAR (9677985778), Consultant/RLDA (9873971138).



GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT A-Wing, Shastrri Bhawan, New Delhi - 110001

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Table with 5 columns: S. No., Name of the post, Number of Post, Educational and Grade Pay, Qualifications and Age Limit, Remarks. Post 1: Deputy Secretary (Administration & Planning) in Government of India, Grade Pay: Rs. 6600, Qualifications: B.A. (Hons) or B.A. (General) with 30% marks in the Parent Cadre/Department or with atleast 30% marks in the post in the pay scale of Rs. 15,600-39,100 + Grade Pay of Rs. 5,400/- or Rs. 9,500/- in Grade Pay of Rs. 4,800/- or equivalent respectively and having experience in administration, establishment and accounts matters.

Interested candidates who fulfil the prescribed conditions may apply for the post of Deputy Secretary (Administration & Planning), National Institute of Social Defense. The applications may be forwarded to Deputy Secretary, Senior Citizens, Room No. 643, A-Wing, Shastrri Bhawan, New Delhi - 110001. The full details of the advertisement and prescribed proforma may be downloaded from the website of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, www.socialjustice.nic.in. The last date of receiving the application form along with attested copy of vigilance clearance, Integrity Certificate and APARs of last five years will be within 30 days from the date of publication of the advertisement in the Employees of Central Government / State Government / Public Sector Undertakings etc. should send their application through proper channel. The Competent Authority reserves the right to reject any application or all applications without assigning any reason. Applications received after the last date or without all or any of the documents (photocopy) pertaining to the education, experience and age or otherwise found incomplete will not be considered and no correspondence will be entertained in this regard.

Deputy Secretary Senior Citizens Phone: 011-23388837 email:kumar.ss@nic.in davn 381011/1/0029/1920

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA Ministry of Human Resource Development (Department of Higher Education) Technical Section - I Appointment of Director, IIT Bhubaneswar, Director, IIT Patna & Director, IIT Ropar. Applications are invited for appointment to the post of Director of Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) at Bhubaneswar, Patna and Ropar.

చరిత్ర.. చరిత్ర.. చరిత్ర.. ఆంధ్రజ్యోతి సచిత్ర వారపత్రిక 15 రూపాయల వారపత్రిక. విభిన్నమైన ఇతివృత్తాలతో సీనియర్స్ కథలు సుల్పర స్ట్రీన్ హాట్ టాపిక్స్. ఆంధ్రజ్యోతి వారపత్రిక ప్రధానాధికారి. ఆంధ్రజ్యోతి వారపత్రిక ప్రధానాధికారి. ఆంధ్రజ్యోతి వారపత్రిక ప్రధానాధికారి.

Law and order



AAP spokesperson Atishi alleged that law and order has deteriorated in Delhi after Amit Shah took over as Home Minister



Yet to get financial help for Cyclone 'bulbul' despite PM Modi's assurances
— Mamata Banerjee, West Bengal Chief Minister

SHORT TAKES

ODISHA MAN ARRESTED FOR RAPING MINOR

Odisha, Dec. 2: Odisha Police Monday arrested a 45-year-old man on charges of allegedly raping a 9-year-old in Kondrapara on the outskirts of Odisha, police said on Monday. The incident took place on Sunday night at a village under Derabhis police station limits. The minor girl was returning home from her private tuition when the accused came in his motorcycle, offered to drop her home and offered her potato chips. The man then took the girl to a deserted spot and raped her, the police said. The victim returned home later that night and narrated her ordeal to her mother. Her family complained to the police, who nabbed the man from a neighbouring village, said SDPO Rajib Lochan Panda. The man was arrested and was produced before the local court and charged under sections 376(rpe), 506(criminal intimidation) of Indian Penal Code. —PTI

NITISH SET TO BEGIN STATE YATRA

Patna, Dec. 2: Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar will begin his statewide 'Jal-Jeevan-Hariyali Yatra' against climate change from December 3, officials said on Monday. Emphasising the importance of water conservation and afforestation, the chief minister will undertake the four-day first phase of the tour in the northwestern districts of the state, they said. "Kumar will commence the 'yatra' from Bagha in West Champaran district and after traversing East Champaran and Siwan districts, he will conclude the first phase of the tour at Gopalganj district, a senior official said. The chief minister will speak in public meetings on climate change, launch projects under his 'Jal Jeevan Hariyali Abhiyan', inspect ponds and water conservation units and hold talks with officials concerned, he said. Initiatives such as a ban on sale and consumption of liquor and drives against dowry and child marriage will also be showcased during the tour, the official said. The tour comes less than a year ahead of the state Assembly elections. —PTI

TMC TO HOLD THANKSGIVING RALLY

Kolkata, Dec. 2: West Bengal Chief Minister and Trinamool Congress supreme leader Mamata Banerjee on Monday said she would hold "thanksgiving" programmes in Kharagpur, Karimnagar and Kailashpur assembly constituencies to mark her party's victory from the three seats in the recently held bypolls. The chief minister also said that she would begin with Kharagpur Sadar, vacated by BJP state president Dilip Ghosh following his Lok Sabha win from Medinipur. TMC's Pradip Sarkar west-end Kharagpur Sadar seat from the BJP in last week's by-elections. "I will hold thanksgiving programmes at the three constituencies. The first one will be held in Kharagpur on December 9," Banerjee told reporters. Sources close to the TMC chief said the party would take out a rally in Karimnagar on December 14, after Banerjee returns from her industrial meet in Digha. —PTI

Fadnavis made CM to transfer funds to Centre, alleges Hegde

Ex-Maha CM rubbishes Anantkumar Hegde's claim on central funds

DC CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI, DEC. 2

Just when it looked like the month-long political crisis in Maharashtra was a closed chapter, Karnataka Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MP Anantkumar Hegde dropped a bombshell on Monday, claiming that Devendra Fadnavis was made chief minister for the second time only to prevent the 'misuse' of central funds that were meant for development from falling into the hands of the Shiv Sena, NCP and Congress. Mr Hegde claimed that Mr Fadnavis — in a bid to prevent the 'misuse' of the funds — had transferred the amount to the Centre just 15 hours after becoming chief minister despite lacking a majority. "You all know that Shiv Sena came to power for just 80 hours our person was chief minister, but soon Fadnavis resigned. Why did we have to do this drama? Didn't we know, despite knowing this, we don't have majority, why did he become CM? This is the question commonly everyone ask (sic)," Mr Hegde said speaking in Uttar Kanada district. "More than about ₹40,000 crore was under CM's control. If NCP, Congress and Shiv Sena come to power, certainly that ₹40,000 crore would not have gone for development work and would have gone for different things," he said. "It was entirely planned earlier itself. Once we got to know about three par-

Bullet train a burden on Maharashtra: Shiv Sena Shiv Sena MP's car knocks down deer

DC CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI, DEC. 2

A day after chief minister Uddhav Thackeray said that the bullet train project will be reviewed, the Shiv Sena highlighted that the party is not against development. Sena leader Sanjay Raut Monday said that the project is a "burden" on the people of Maharashtra, which is reeling under a financial crisis. Farmers in Palghar and Dahanu welcomed the move. Sena leaders have been expressing concern over PM Modi's ambitious bullet train project. Mr Raut Monday told media persons, "The Sena is against imposing the burden of the bullet train project on the citizens of Maharashtra. The financial condition of Maharashtra is very serious. The tribals in Palghar and Dahanu, who had been resisting the project welcomed the move.

Mumbai, Dec. 2: A car belonging to Shiv Sena MP Rajendra Gavti knocked down and killed a spotted deer at the Sanjay Gandhi National Park (SGNP) here, an official said on Monday. Gavti, the Lok Sabha member from Palghar near Mumbai, was not in the vehicle when the incident took place last Wednesday evening near the main gate of the park, he said. The spotted deer was crossing a road near Trimurti station, a part of the Van Rani narrow gauge train route in the national park, when it was run over by the vehicle, the official said. The animal was then rushed to a veterinary

hospital where it was declared dead, he said. "We have registered an offence against the SUV's driver under provisions of the Wildlife Act. The car belongs to MP Rajendra Gavti though he was not in the vehicle at the time of the incident," SGNP director Anwar Ahmed said. The vehicle has been seized, he added. Another forest official said there is a speed limit of 20 kmph and protected it," he said. Mr Fadnavis, apparently embarrassed by the claims, promptly issued a denial, stating that no major decision was taken during his second stint as chief minister. However, the claims proved fresh ammunition to

PANKAJA NOT QUITTING BJP, SAYS PATIL

DC CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI, DEC. 2

The suspense over Pankaja Munde's next move has increased after the BJP leader removed the party name from her Twitter bio Monday. On Monday, Ms Munde removed all details from her Twitter bio, including the word "BJP" and the description of her political journey. Incidentally, in her recent tweets, she also congratulated new chief minister Uddhav Thackeray. Sena MP Sanjay Raut further raised speculation by claiming that many leaders are keen on joining the Uddhav Thackeray-led party. In the event Ms Munde quits the BJP it will be a big jolt for the party which is yet to get over the shock of losing power in Maharashtra. Ms Munde has considerable clout among the OBC community. However, state BJP chief Chandrakant Patil denied that Ms Munde is leaving the party. "BJP leaders are in touch with Ms Munde. She is introspecting after her defeat. She may be having good family relations with the Thackerays but it does not mean she is joining the Sena," he said.

Security breach at PriGa house

SANJAY KAWI | DC NEW DELHI, DEC. 2

Soon after Special Protection Group (SPG) security cover was withdrawn from the Gandhis, a security breach occurred at Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra's Lodhi Estate residence. In an incident that highlights the miscommunication between the Delhi Police and the CRPF, now responsible for guarding her house and providing her personal security — seven people, drove straight to the porch area of Ms Vadra's residence and got photos clicked with her. At about 2 pm on November 26, a black Scorpio SUV carrying three men, three women and a child drove towards Ms Vadra's residence. As a meeting was going on in her office, her aide came out and enquired what they wanted. The car's occupants said they had come to the way from a town in Uttar Pradesh to have a photo clicked with the Congress leader. "They were not from the party. This is a serious matter, a complete breach of security norms," he said. New Delhi district deputy commissioner of police Gish Singh, however, said early on Monday that they haven't received any complaint. "No complaints received in the local Police Station regarding entry of any unauthorised vehicle in the house of Mrs Priyanka Gandhi." It was learnt later that Delhi Police has ordered a probe into the breach.

■ MIS-COMMUNICATION Between Delhi police and the CRPF led to the security breach at the Congress leaders residence.

security detail closed in on the visitors and the entire compound was put on alert. This was one of the worst security breaches, as the guards not only let the car come in but also did not check the identity of the passengers. Later, when Ms Vadra's office filed a complaint with the CRPF to ascertain how the car breached the security cover, they were told that access to her house is controlled by the Delhi Police and a blame game between the two agencies ensued. Through the incident is reported to have occurred on November 26, minister of state (Home) for Home Affairs, G. Kishan Reddy said, "I don't know the details yet. I discuss the matter with the officials of the state." The breach was confirmed to a news agency by the Congress leader's husband, Mr. Anand Vadra. "They were not from the party. This is a serious matter, a complete breach of security norms," he said. New Delhi district deputy commissioner of police Gish Singh, however, said early on Monday that they haven't received any complaint. "No complaints received in the local Police Station regarding entry of any unauthorised vehicle in the house of Mrs Priyanka Gandhi." It was learnt later that Delhi Police has ordered a probe into the breach.

Will ensure farm loan waiver: Rahul

NAVY AZAD | DC NOV. 2, PATNA

Ahead of the second phase of polling in Jharkhand, political parties have intensified their campaigning and are making bigger claims, promises and accusations against their opponents in order to woo voters. Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, while addressing a rally in Jharkhand on Monday said that his party would ensure that farmer's loans are waived off after Congress is elected to power. He also used the occasion to highlight the achievements of the Congress government in other states including Chhattisgarh. He said, "The face of Chhattisgarh changed after Congress was elected to power. BJP was busy acquiring tribal land for industrialists but it was the Congress which returned them. We will protect your land in Jharkhand. We also promise to waive off farmers' loan". This was his first political rally in Jharkhand after the dates for the elections were announced. Adding further, Rahul

Gandhi said that the revenue generated from common people in the form of demonetisation and GST were distributed among big industrialists. "During demonetisation, common man, poor and tribal people like you were standing in the queue. Did you see any industrialist standing in line? GST money was also distributed among only industrialists of this country", Rahul Gandhi said. However, BJP national president Amit Shah, who was also in Jharkhand, addressed two political rallies on Monday raised the political pitch by blaming the Jharkhand Congress alliance for misleading people. While addressing a rally, Mr. Shah challenged Rahul Gandhi to give an account of his party's developmental schemes for last 55 years while he was ready with what we did in the last five years in the state". The BJP chief also set 2024 as the deadline for construction work of the metro line 4, also known

The royal tour



Swedish King Carl XVI Gustaf and Queen Silvia with Jama Masjid Imam Shaban Bukhari, at Jama Masjid, in New Delhi on Monday. This is their third visit to India. President Ram Nath and Prime Minister Narendra Modi held talks with the Swedish monarch. The President later hosted a banquet for the royal couple. —PTI

SC's interim stay on tree felling

SONALI TELANG | DC MUMBAI, DEC. 2

The Supreme Court Monday ordered strict quo on the felling of 1,023 trees in the Thane area for construction work of the metro line 4, also known

as the Wadala-Thane-Kasarvadavali line. The apex court ordered an interim stay for two weeks while hearing a petition moved by a Thane activist after the Bombay high court last week lifted the earlier stay on tree-cut-

ting. A bench headed by Chief Justice S.A. Bobde Monday heard the plea filed by activist Rohit Joshi, challenging the HC order of lifting its earlier stay. The original petition had demanded that the metro line be made under-

ground instead of the proposed elevated corridor. "We had also highlighted in the high court that the tree-cutting was approved illegally by tree authority of the Thane Municipal Corporation," Mr Joshi said.

PRIDE OF INDIA

■ Sub Lieutenant Shivangi, qualified as a Dornier pilot, set to join Navy

Indian Navy gets its first woman pilot Shivangi



Sub-Lieutenant Shivangi stands in front of the Dornier surveillance aircraft. —PTI

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, DEC. 2:

The Indian Navy on Monday got its first woman pilot, Sub Lieutenant (SLT) Shivangi. A batch of three trainee officers, including SLT Shivangi, on Monday qualified as Dornier pilots and were awarded the coveted golden 'wings' at a simple ceremony held at INS Garuda. It signifies their qualification as naval aviators. Vice Admiral A.K. Chawla, the Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Southern Naval Command presented the 'wings' to the passing out officers. Sub Lieutenant (SLT) Shivangi is the first

Shivangi joined operational duties at Kochi naval base and will be flying the Naval Dornier surveillance aircraft woman pilot of the Indian Navy. The award of the 'wings' marks the culmination of one year of flying training at the Air Force Academy, Dundigal, and Indian Naval Air Squadron (INAS) 550, INS Garuda in Kochi. From here on, these pilots will join the Operational Maritime Reconnaissance Squadron. SlT Shivangi is from

Muzaffarpur in Bihar and was inducted into the Indian Navy under the Short Service Commission (SSC)-Pilot entry scheme, and was part of the 27th naval orientation course at the Indian Naval Academy, Ezhimala. She was commissioned into the Navy in June last year. As part of her training, SLT Shivangi has flown Pilatus PC 7 Mk II, Basic Trainer at the Air Force Academy and completed Dornier conversion with the Indian Navy at Kochi. She will continue her training at INAS 550, the Dornier squadron at INS Garuda, to become a fully operational pilot on Maritime Reconnaissance (MR) aircraft.

17 die in TN wall collapse

ANANTH MATHIVANAN | DC COIMBATORE, DEC. 2

In a heart-wrenching rain-related tragedy, as many as 17 persons including 13 women and children, were killed after a huge compound wall collapsed over three houses at Mettupalayam near here in the early hours of Monday. Accented by heavy rains at the foothills of Nilgiris in Mettupalayam late on Sunday night, a huge 25-ft high, 80-ft wide wall at Nadur AT Colony there suddenly collapsed over three shed-roof houses around 3.30 am on Monday, hopelessly trapping its occupants. "We could see NE monsoon lashing Nilgiris and Coimbatore districts, amid frequent, but moderate rain fall for the past two months, resulting in minor landslides in the foothills of the spot at Mettupalayam, have been taking the brunt of the heavy rains in the last two days. The tragedy was fall-out of acute wetness. As the landscape was inclined, the compound wall fell over the houses beneath, while the residents were sleeping. Before they could get up hearing the huge sound, they were buried under the debris of both the collapsing wall and the side walls of their houses that crumbled along with it. On information from local residents, fire fitting commandos and divers were sent to the spot and undertook rescue operations amid pouring rain. The bodies were recovered and sent to Mettupalayam GH for post-mortem. Expressing deep shock and pain at the tragedy, Chief Minister Edappadi Palaniswami announced ₹4 lakh as compensation to the next of kin of each of the deceased. He will visit Mettupalayam on Tuesday DMK leader M. K. Stalin will also visiting the town.

No man is good enough to govern another man without the other's consent to eat the bread of dependence

DECCAN Chronicle 3 DECEMBER 2019

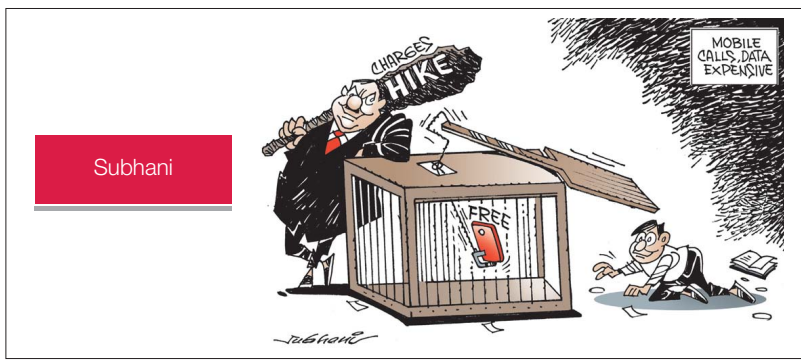
New labour bill is a missed opportunity

Workers are up in arms against the latest labour code bill. It amalgamates three old and very successful industrial laws — Trade Unions Act 1926, Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act 1946, and Industrial Disputes Act 1947 — to draft a new one that contractualises their work, introducing the concept of "fixed term employment" across sectors, and curtails their right to strike.

It can't be denied that strikes and lockdowns are a big loss of man-hours and have led to a tragic breakdown of ethical work culture among white collar workforces. But also remember that if an individual goes to court, or an industrial tribunal, they don't have any staying power versus big business.

Lanka: Pragmatism is key

Sri Lanka's new President Gotabaya Rajapaksa made New Delhi his first port of call, after our external affairs minister S. Jaishankar flew in right after the results of a decisive election in 2019, not shying away from using questionable means that drew an adverse global reaction.



Subhan

US-China wrangling on HK just sound & fury?



Sunanda K. Datta-Ray Reflections

The Chinese could take as much exception to the August 30 march in New Delhi by exiled Tibetans in support of the Hong Kong protesters as to US President Donald Trump signing the so-called Hong Kong Human Rights and Democracy Act last Thursday.

Although comments by foreigners are resented as interference in China's internal affairs, the Chinese are politically mature enough to know that the American bark is worse than its bite

"seriously jeopardised China-US relations, and deeply hurt the Chinese people's feelings". But both sides pulled back from the brink. This time too, the sound and fury are expected to stop short of action.

Hefty Chinese tariffs have already seen US soybean sales to China fall by 90 per cent since 2017, largely replaced by imports from Brazil.

Readers in Kolkata, and especially the old boys of La Martiniere, will be interested to learn that the Hong Kong protesters last met in the park named after Sir Paul Chater in 1966, whom the school pryer eulogises as "our benefactor".

Democracy in Hong Kong can expect more than lip service only if the cause also serves someone else's interest. That ensured Indian support for East Bengal (eventually Bangladesh) in 1971.

LETTERS

NOOSE, A DETERRENT I am ashamed that I am living in a country with too much law and very little justice. We only blame the systems, politicians, courts, prosecutions and media.

Mansoor Dashti Sikh Village, Secunderabad

MARTIAL ARTS

Every rape and murder of a woman is followed by blame games, candle marches, television debates and even questioning the victim's character.

Krishna Murthy Thanki Kantol, Bowenpally, Hyderabad

RTC SOPS

The government made several statements on the RTC strike that it was illegal, employees self-dismissed, RTC would not exist in the present form, privatisation etc.

Dr O.P. RAO Lower Tank Bund, Hyderabad

WHY HIKE FARES?

Why should we pay for salaries of the RTC staff for their strike period? It sets a wrong signal, please reconsider.

Balaji Shanker Lower Tank Bund, Hyderabad

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View from Pakistan

Who's behind Bajwa petition? Imran wanted him to stay on Abbas Nasir The six-month extension given to Army Chief Gen. Qamar Bajwa by the Supreme Court will effectively keep him in office for at least the next three years as the court-mandated parliamentary approval to the legislation for this is a foregone conclusion.

establishment's hand in bringing the party to the finish line and carrying it over any secret? More significantly, since the party has been in power and its government has looked no better than a rudderless ship, listing from one crisis to another, the security establishment has stood firmly behind it and publicly reiterated its support more than once.

Keen Islamabad observers also make another important point. They say the petition challenging Gen. Bajwa's nomination was submitted by a lawyer who is known for his "patriotic" credentials, track record and is not a rebel of any sort.

An aging process in which people remain active physically and mentally

The words, idioms and peculiarities of spelling and grammar characteristic of online communication

Kowtowing to US, India at losing end in Afghan



Anand K. Sahay
Far & Near

When India is attempting to rebuild relations in the Saarc region, with the outcome of the exercise likely to depend on the openness of communication and intent, and in the display of transparency and approachability on New Delhi's part, there appears to have been a damaging recent development in relation to Afghanistan, whose ominous shadow could hurt this country's regional strategy, unless repair work is undertaken at the earliest, and in earnest.

This stands in stark contrast with India's persistence in looking to operate in America's shadow, and having no gameplan of its own for the post-US period, for which it could have, with relative ease, leveraged the enormous goodwill it has enjoyed in Afghanistan in the past decade-and-a-half.

On the contrary, India appears to have suffered an erosion of its stock in New Delhi's oft-noted, but questionable recent act which is being openly discussed in political and diplomatic circles in Kabul, and also more widely in the public domain — an act that in the minds of Afghans can hardly be divorced from New Delhi's oft-noted subservience to Washington in the complicated Afghan arena, and also more generally.

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Only after this did the US obliquely give the green light to the long-delayed Afghan presidential election which had been held hostage to the prospect of the signing of a US-Taliban agreement.

In this election, Washington backed the incumbent President, Ashraf Ghani, against the main rival Abdullah Abdullah, probably in the not unlikely expectation that Dr Ghani might be more amenable to accept without too much fuss the return of the Taliban to the country's power grid on the lines that America desires, while the country's other leading public figures may advance conditions in arriving at a settlement with the Taliban for the sake of national peace.

As a major national event, the election proved to be a resounding flop. It yielded the lowest turnout since the first presidential poll in 2004, with reliable recent estimates putting the turnout at 12 million votes were cast (total electorate: close to 10 million). The ground had just not been prepared for the election, which was busy working on a deal with the Taliban.

In the low-polling September 2019, the Americans had initially shown scant interest, and with Dr Abdullah's chances being rated as more than fair, India — it is being strongly suggested in Kabul — gratuitously interfered in the ongoing counting process to help pad the votes for Dr Ghani.

Will Trump, in London for a Nato meet, jump into UK election fray?



Christopher Meyer

On December 3 and 4, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson will host a grand international conference of 29 North American and European nations to mark the 70th anniversary of the foundation of Nato — the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, which, led by the United States, kept the peace during the fraught years of Cold War confrontation with the Soviet Union. We are told that Queen Elizabeth II will give a reception in honour of the heads of state and government and that Donald Trump has accepted the invitation.

When I first joined the UK Diplomatic Service, there was a well-nigh sacred convention that Western democracies did not intervene in each other's internal affairs, especially elections. This meant avoiding state and official visits during the sensitive period immediately before an election day. You did not make public comments about the party leaders or their manifestos, and above all you did not express a preference between them. (I once asked a Soviet official who he wanted to see win the 1970 general election. He growled: "They are all jackals from the same lair.")

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Trump, with his fondness for disruption and unthinking improvisation. And herein lies the danger to Nato, to the Queen, and even to the Dufferin. It is potentially incendiary.

Pradeep S. Mehta & Prashant Sharma

With the legacy of supporting the Green Revolution that transformed scarcity into abundance, the innovation potential of the United States can help address socio-economic disparities in India.

Pradeep S. Mehta & Prashant Sharma

Pradeep S. Mehta & Prashant Sharma

Strive to be go-givers, not just go-getters



Francis Gonsalves

A boy accidentally fell into a shallow pond. Panicking, he began to shout "Help! Help! Help!" Seeing him in predicament, a passer-by held out his hand and said "Give me your hand!" The boy did not do so, but kept struggling. Then, the passer by shouted "Take my hand!" The boy immediately grabbed his hand and was pulled out.

My hand, you grabbed it! Now it's my turn to help you. Give me your hand!"

Francis Gonsalves is a professor of theology. He can be contacted at fragons@gmail.com

50 YEARS AGO IN
DECCAN
Chronicle

Violence again at Ajoy's tent: 6 policemen hurt

DECCAN
Chronicle

Violence again at Ajoy's tent: 6 policemen hurt

DECCAN
Chronicle



Tough talk

Australia's foreign minister Marise Payne said on Monday said the treatment of an Australian writer detained in China was unacceptable



For years humans have been at war with the planet, now it is fighting back — Antonio Guterres UN chief

IN BRIEF

Putin, Xi launch gas pipeline

Moscow: Russia, the world's top gas exporter, is planning to launch three major natural gas pipelines in the near future. Billed by Russian President Vladimir Putin as "the world's biggest construction project", the giant pipeline will run from Siberia to China. The 3,000-kilometre pipeline runs from remote regions of eastern Siberia to the Chinese border. Gazprom is to supply the world's fastest-growing market with 38 billion cubic metres of gas annually when the pipeline becomes fully operational in 2025. The 30-year, \$11-billion deal was signed in 2014 after a decade of talks.

Malta PM to quit over jurno probe

Valletta: Malta's Prime Minister Joseph Muscat, under fire over his handling of the murder of 28-year-old Daphne Caruana Galizia, said he would step down after his replacement is chosen in January. Muscat earlier said to make a link with Caruana Galizia's 2017 murder, saying that he was resigning "as this is what needs to be done". The announcement came after two weeks of mounting pressure and popular protests calling for Muscat to quit for his handling of the probe into Caruana Galizia's car bomb killing. Muscat said he would resign after his successor is chosen by January 12. Earlier, the Labour leader got the unanimous backing of party MPs at an emergency meeting.

London: Terror checks intensified

London: Britain's Boris Johnson said the security services were stepping up monitoring of convicted terrorists released early from prison, as the London Bridge attack became embroiled in the election campaign. The prime minister revealed officials were scrutinising around 74 people with terrorist convictions who had been released early from prison like Usman Khan, who left jail last December and went on to stab a 39-year-old woman to death in Friday's rampage. "They are being properly investigated to make sure there is no threat," Johnson said. "We've taken a lot of action as you can imagine in the last 48 hours." Khan, 28, was shot dead nearby by a fake explosives vest by police on London Bridge after a stabbing spree launched in a bid to host an ex-offender event that also left three people injured.

FIREWORKS LAND INDIAN IN TROUBLE

Singapore, Dec. 2: A 43-year-old Indian-origin man was charged with setting off fireworks in Singapore's Little India precinct during the festival of Diwali in October. Sivarasvaman Supuran Murugan faces a charge under the Dangerous Fireworks Act, which prohibits a person to possess or discharge any dangerous fireworks. Under the Act, he could be jailed for up to two years and fined up to \$7,500 or both. According to court documents, Murugan allegedly set off a box of fireworks at around 12.35 am on October 27 at the junction of Campbell Lane and Madras Street in the Little India precinct. The police had earlier said that no injuries were reported. It was the second time that day that fireworks were set off in Singapore. In a separate incident, a 38-year-old man was arrested for allegedly setting off fireworks in Jurong West, the housing estate in industrial estates of Singapore.

US military ships, aircraft not allowed into Hong Kong

We urge the US to stop interfering in our internal affairs, says China

Beijing, Dec. 2: China said on Monday US military ships and aircraft would not be allowed to visit Hong Kong, and also announced sanctions against several US non-government organisations for encouraging protesters to "engage in extremist, violent and criminal acts".



A pro-democracy protester runs away from the tear gas fired by riot police during a rally in Hong Kong.

The measures were announced by China's foreign ministry in response to US legislation passed last week supporting anti-government protesters. It said it had suspended talks with the US on military visits indefinitely, and warned of further action to come. "We urge the US to correct the mistakes and stop interfering in our internal affairs. China will take firm measures if necessary to uphold Hong Kong's stability and prosperity and China's sovereignty," said Chinese spokeswoman Hua Chunying. China last week promised it would issue "firm

counter measures" after US President Donald Trump signed into law the Hong Kong Human Rights and Democracy Act, which supports anti-government protesters in Hong Kong and threatens China with potential sanctions. Meanwhile, protesters returned to the streets of Hong Kong, ending a brief election lull and demanding the government make concessions a week after pro-democracy candidates won a landslide victory. The US-headquartered NGOs targeted by Beijing include the National Endowment for Democracy, the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs, the International Republican Institute, Human Rights Watch, and Freedom House.

Economy facing economic stress

Hong Kong, Dec. 2: Hong Kong is set to record its first budget deficit in 15 years, the city's finance chief warned on Monday, as the business hub reels from the twin shocks of the trade war and seething democracy protests.

In the latest grim assessment for the city's financial secretary Paul Chan told lawmakers that the economy was set to contract 1.3 percent in 2019 hitting the city's usually bulging coffers. Chan blamed the 2019-2020 deficit on decreased tax revenues, a slowdown in sales and recent economic sweeteners he unveiled in a bid to win over the public during a tumultuous year of unrest.

"At the end of the financial year, the SAR government will be in the red," Chan said, using an abbreviation for the Hong Kong government. "Hong Kong's economy is now in extremely difficult times," he added, as he called for political violence to cease. The city has been battered by nearly six months of protests triggered by rising public anger over China's rule and the police's response to protests. The increasingly violent protests have hammered the retail and tourism sectors, with mainland Chinese visitors abandoning the city in droves. Figures showed mainland arrivals fell a record 46 percent in October. —AFP

Hit-and-run kills 2 Indian students

Washington, Dec. 2: Two Indian students were killed in a hit-and-run accident in South Nashville, Tennessee on Thanksgiving night, authorities have said.

Judy Stanley (23), and Vybhav Gopisetty (26), were graduate students of the Tennessee State University (TSU) and were pursuing food science degrees in the College of Agriculture, the university said. The university students have raised, through a GoFundMe Page, more than USD 42,000 for their last rites and funeral in India. "They're dead but we are going to make them alive again, so people get their chance in court get him because that guy ran... he didn't even care about their lives," Mireles said. Bharat Pokharel, Gopisetty, a doctorate, at the department of agricultural and environmental sciences, College of Agriculture said the students were humble, innocent, and hardworking. "I could not believe what had happened to the lives of these two young energetic scientists, he said in a Facebook Post. Sharath Julakanti of the food science club at TSU has created the GoFundMe page.

According to the page, Vybhav Vipul Sudhir Gopisetty, a student in Nashville with a dream to shine in the field of food science and completed his master's degree with excellent scores and four publications in international journals. "Judy Stanley came from a middle-class background," it said. —PTI



Visitors walk into pollution pods, an immersive art installation which encourages visitors to walk and experience the daily reality of air pollution level by millions, during the UN Climate Change Conference COP25 in Madrid.

Ukraine President denies quid pro quo with Donald Trump

Berlin, Dec. 2: Ukraine's president on Monday renewed his denial of a quid pro quo with Donald Trump over military aid, despite a growing case against the US president in impeachment proceedings in Washington.

"I did not speak with US President Trump in those terms; you give me this, I give you that," Volodymyr Zelensky said. In remarks published in German, Zelensky said he "did not understand at all" the accusations heard at the hearings and did not "want to give an impression that we are beggars" in Ukraine.

The scandal centers around a phone conversation on July 25 in which the Republican leader is suspected of putting pressure on Ukraine to launch investigations against former Democratic vice-president Joe Biden and his son Hunter, who worked for a Ukrainian gas company. The key issue is whether



(File) Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelensky and his US counterpart Donald Trump.

Trump set up a "quid pro quo" — Latin for seeking one action in exchange for another — with Zelensky by holding back promised US military aid for Ukraine until the Bidens were investigated. In the interview published on Monday, Zelensky also played down expectations ahead of a summit on December 9 in Paris in which he is set to meet his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin for the first time. He said that an end to the conflict with Russia-backed separatists in eastern Ukraine could not be discussed until three preliminary steps had been taken. He said there should first be a prisoner exchange with a "reasonable time period", followed by a genuine ceasefire and the retreat of all armed forces to allow local elections to be held in the region. —AFP

WHITE HOUSE TO SKIP COMMITTEE HEARINGS

Washington, Dec. 2: US President Donald Trump's attorney said that the White House will not participate in congressional hearings set to begin this week that will consider passing impeachment articles against the president.

"We cannot fairly be expected to participate in a hearing while the witnesses are yet to be named and while it remains unclear whether the Judiciary Committee will afford the President a fair process through additional hearings," White House counsel Pat Cipollone wrote in a letter to the Democratic chairman of the Judiciary Committee in the House of Representatives, "Jerry Nadler." —AFP

Pinera, go home



Protesters take part in a march near Chilean President Sebastian Pinera's home in Santiago. Dozens of protesters showed their rejection against the right-winger in front of a large security operation preventing the approach to Pinera's residence.

2-week climate summit begins

Madrid, Dec. 2: The world must choose hope over surrender in the fight against climate change, UN secretary-general Antonio Guterres said on Monday, warning a summit in Madrid that governments risked sleepwalking past a point of no return.

Two weeks of talks aimed at bolstering the 2015 Paris Agreement to curb global warming began against a backdrop of unusually severe weather disasters this year, from fires in the Arctic, Amazon and Australia to intense tropical climate activism underscored the urgency of the task. Guterres, a former Portuguese PM and leading advocate of more ambitious action to reverse the "upward march of greenhouse gas emissions, urged governments to avoid a "path of surrender" that would endanger the health and safety of all. "Do we really want to be

remembered as the generation that buried its head in the sand, that fiddled while the planet burned?" Guterres told an opening session at the summit, held in a hangar-like conference centre. He urged delegates to resolve an important outstanding issue from the Paris accord: rules on carbon trading, seen as vital for kick-starting faster action to cut emissions. Michael Kurtyka, Poland's climate minister who led the last round of UN climate negotiations in Katowice last year, had said a surge in youth-led climate activism underscored the urgency of the task. Guterres pledged more under the Paris accord fall far short of reversing the "upward march of greenhouse gas emissions, urged governments to avoid a "path of surrender" that would endanger the health and safety of all. "Do we really want to be

SEXUAL HARASSMENT ■ Youth suffer in silence while offenders holding power are not punished: Activists

Japan job-seeking students facing sexual exploitation

Tokyo, Dec. 2: Japanese activists on Monday called for drastic steps by the government, companies and universities to stamp out sexual harassment of job-hunting students, a problem they said lurks in the shadows because victims fear speaking out. Members of Safe Campus Youth Network (SAY), a volunteer group of professors and students at six Tokyo universities, told a news conference.

"desirable" for students and other non-employees. Despite some diversification in recruitment, many Japanese firms tend to hire new graduates, who begin the job hunt while still at university. Many feel too vulnerable to denounce harassment, members of Safe Campus Youth Network (SAY), a volunteer group of professors and students at six Tokyo universities, told a news conference.

The labour ministry drafted guidelines in October to prevent power harassment in workplaces. "Today, harassment against job-hunting students, especially sexual harassment against female students, is a serious issue that could interfere

with life choices on their career path," the group said in a statement demanding action. "These cases are almost never reported and employees can say anything they like because students are the weak ones," said Rhea Endo, a 19-year-old student at Tokyo's International Christian University. "People suffer in silence and offenders are not punished."

Harassment runs the gamut from forced sex and inappropriate touching to verbal harassment, such as asking the job-seeker what kind of sexual relations

the activists said. The guidelines against power harassment are expected to be finalised this month after a period of public consultation but have come under fire from some experts who say the definition of power harassment is too narrow. Employers in most countries are asked to conduct education and sensitisation programmes. —Reuters



SHORT TAKES



FB UNVEILS DATA TRANSFER FEATURE

Washington, Dec. 2: Facebook launched a transfer tool that allows users to easily send pictures and videos to other online services, including Google Photos. The feature has been made available in Ireland for now.

The company plans to release the feature worldwide in the first half of 2020. After its release, users can access the option in Your Facebook Information section in settings.

All the data that is transferred is encrypted and users will be asked to enter a password before data is moved, Facebook said.

The social network developed the tool using code developed through its participation in the open-source Data Transfer Project, which it joined in July, along with technology giants like Apple, Google, Microsoft and Twitter, with an aim to give people more control of their online data.

The initiative was set up after several tech giants found themselves embroiled in data scandals. —Agencies

Smart TVs could be risky, FBI says

Warns about hacking risks, privacy issues

Washington, Dec. 2: Did you just buy a smart TV? Or do you intend to buy one soon? Wait, there are a few boxes in the FBI checklist you may have to tick before you decide to buy.

We all know that smart TVs are the latest innovation in tech world which comes with an internet connection. This is also one of the most sold electronic appliances, thanks to the advent of Netflix and other live streaming options. But did you know that Smart TVs are vulnerable to security risks? Even though most smart TV sets come with a camera and microphone, they don't come with a security warning for consumers.

The FBI has raised security concerns over these smart TVs. They have warned consumers against making a blind buy.

In a warning message posted on its website, the FBI stated: "Beyond the risk that your TV manufacturer and app developers may be listening and watching you, that television can also be a gateway for hackers to come into your home. A bad cyber actor may not be able to access your locked-down computer directly, but it is possible that your insecure TV can give him or her an easy way to get behind your router."

Your smart TV could be prone to hacking and hackers could use microphone and camera on your smart TVs. Smart TVs being hacked is not unheard of but rare. This is because the software inside these TVs is of the manufacturer. Thus, the security risks cannot be ignored. In fact, recently, hackers demonstrated how Google's chromecast streaming



stick and broadcast videos could be easily hacked. More than anything else, what viewers watch is always of interest to advertisers and it was reported that even popular smart TV brands like LG and Samsung collect this information to pass on to the advertisers. After a serious breach of privacy, Smart TV maker Vizio was penalised \$2.2 million for secretly gathering customer viewing data.

As per FBI, it helps to keep the smart TV cams covered and also ensure that your smart TVs are better protected. —Agencies

NOKIA SMART TV LAUNCH ON DECEMBER 5

New Delhi, Dec. 2: After a long wait, Flipkart is finally announcing its new range of smart TVs 'Made in India,' with Nokia branding and JBL audio on December 5.

Flipkart confirmed that it would be entering a strategic partnership with Nokia to make smart TVs for the Indian market, a few months ago. This is Nokia's first venture into the television segment globally.

The e-commerce company will handle the manufacturing, distribution, and marketing of these Nokia branded TVs.

The smart TVs will also be a part of the Make in India initiative. Flipkart has a similar arrangement for Motorola TVs. According to Flipkart's consumer insights, audio quality and experience are the key pain points for consumers. To resolve the issue, JBL has been inducted to the project to make use of its expertise in the audio segment.

It will also be JBL's first partnership with a TV manufacturer. DTS TrueSurround sound and Dolby Atmos are also provided. —Agencies

Windows OS is biggest victim of malicious ads

Washington, Dec. 2: Windows users are most vulnerable to malicious advertisements, according to data shared by cyber-security firm Devcon.

The company stated that 61 per cent of the malicious ads observed between July 11 and November 22 were aimed at Windows users.

This included malicious ad campaigns designed to redirect the user to malicious sites or to trick the user into downloading a piece of malware.

The firm said the reason behind it could be attributed to Windows' huge market share, and most malware in the past 30 years has targeted Windows devices.

However, the firm also came with a targeted discovery — malvertising campaigns over the past four months have targeted ChromeOS in surprising numbers.

Devcon said 22 per cent of the malicious ads they observed in the past 30 days targeted Google's fledgling OS, more than macOS (10.5 per cent), iOS (3.2 per cent), and iPadOS (0.8 per cent).

The least targeted OS was Linux, which accounted only for 0.3 per cent of all malicious ads

61% of the malicious ads observed between July 11 and November 22 were aimed at Windows users

22% of the malicious ads targeted Google's fledgling OS, more than macOS (10.5 per cent), iOS (3.2 per cent), Android (2.1 per cent), and iPadOS (0.8 per cent)

0.3% The least targeted OS was Linux, which accounted only for 0.3 per cent of all malicious ads

the company recorded, which is no surprise, since most Linux systems are used as servers.

A different report published recently by ad security firm Confiant, looked at the entire ecosystem, and the source of these malicious ads.

The company said it analyzed more than 120 billion ad impressions published from July to September 30 via 75 advertising networks called supply-side platforms (SSPs).

The company said that at one point or another, every advertising platform will have its platform abused by malvertisers (malicious advertisers) all the time.

However, while some ad networks fight against abuse and have security

measures in place, some platforms tolerate malvertisers on a regular basis.

Confiant said it found that nearly 90 per cent of all the malicious ads it recorded came from just three advertising platforms.

"Most alarmingly, a single SSP was responsible for 30 per cent of malicious ad impressions," Confiant said.

The company didn't name the three ad platforms, but it did say that an SSP should be able to detect an ongoing malvertising attack performed by a platform, as these tend to be quite noisy and have even been seen to swallow up to 13.84 per cent of a platform's entire ad impressions. —Agencies



GOOGLE TO KEEP AN EYE ON STEM CELL ADS

Washington, Dec. 2: Despite the fact that transplanted stem cells can be as lifesaving as donated organs, US authorities have recently warned consumers against believing in certain stem cell clinics which only pretend to be in the business of producing miraculous recoveries.

After years of showing ads for questionable stem cell treatments, Google is now trying to protect its users. The company stated that it will stop allowing bad actors to post Google ads that "take advantage of individuals by offering untested, deceptive treatments."

Google spokesperson Alex Krasov said enforcement of the new policy started at the end of October. "That change, while helpful, is unlikely to shutter clinics that cloak themselves in a facade of reputable science in order to peddle questionable stem cell treatments. —Agencies

SOFTWARE TO KEEP POWER OUTAGES AT BAY

Los Angeles, Dec. 2: A new technology being tested by California utilities is aimed at diagnosing problems before they can cause power outages or spark wildfires.

The technology, invented by researchers at Texas A&M University, was designed to provide greater reliability for utility customers, but its biggest selling point could be its use in preventing wildfires. Pacific Gas & Electric Co. and Southern California Edison have been testing the software billed as a one-of-a-kind diagnostic tool called Distribution Fault Anticipation.

Professor B. Don Russell, who invented the technology, said the software detects problems on power lines long before they occur and could be used to determine when to shut off electricity to prevent a fire from starting in high winds. Utilities in California have been blamed for several of the deadliest and most destructive fires. —AP

SMS UNSAFE FOR BUSINESS COMMUNICATION

In a major revelation that signifies the need for a strong encryption, a massive database with tens of millions of text messages has been compromised. Most of the messages in the database, monitored by TrueDialog, were sent by businesses to potential customers and were found online publicly by security researchers.

TrueDialog is a commercial SMS provider for businesses and higher education providers, which helps companies, colleges, and universities send bulk text messages to their clients. The US-based company claims that one of the advantages to its service is that recipients can also text back, allowing them to have two-way conversations with businesses.

An examination of a portion of the data reveals logs of messages sent by customers who used TrueDialog system, including phone numbers and SMS message contents. The database contains information about university finance applications, marketing messages from businesses with discount codes, and job alerts, among other things.

The database has years of sent and received text messages from its customers and since it was left unprotected on the internet without a password, none of the data was encrypted and can be easily accessed.



As part of their internet scanning efforts, security researchers Noam Rotem and Ran Locar found the database.

The data also contains sensitive text messages, such as two-factor codes and other security messages, which may have allowed anyone viewing the data to gain access to a person's online accounts.

Many of the messages have codes to access online medical services to obtain, and password reset and login codes for sites including Facebook and Google accounts.

The data also has usernames and passwords of TrueDialog's customers, which if used could have been used to access and impersonate their accounts.

Some of the two-way message conversations contained a unique conversation code meaning reading the full conversation is possible.

TrueDialog is just one of many SMS providers that have recently left systems and sensitive text messages on the internet for anyone to access. This shows why text messages may be convenient but is not a secure way to communicate, particularly for sensitive data, like sending two-factor codes.

MESSAGING MATTERS

Creative tools like Bitmoji, Memoji make conversations interesting and innovative

Emojis compensate for emotional flavour in texts

Washington, Dec. 2: It all started in 1982, when a computer scientist named Scott Fahlman was chatting on an online bulletin board and used a combination of a colon, a hyphen, and a round bracket to indicate that he was joking. It was perhaps the first emoticon, a symbol that emerged in online communication to compensate for the loss of facial expressions, gestures and the like. Then came emoji, which began spreading rapidly into wider use around 2011. Emojis are now used by roughly 90 per cent of the online population.

Emojis are a keen topic of interest to linguists like Philip Seargeant, a senior lecturer in applied linguistics at The Open University in England. His speciality is the study of language and social media, with a particular focus on the politics of online interaction. Given his expertise in linguistics, he naturally found himself intrigued by the rise and eventual dominance of emoji in online communication, and that fascination led to his first popular science book: 'The Emoji Revolution: How Technology is Shaping the Future of Communication.'

"I have always been interested in a mixture of the visual as a sort of language," he says. "Emojis are often seen as very frivolous, a little bit childlike. But at the same time, there's something more serious about the way they are being used, despite their cartoonish look — both in the way people use them, and in the sophistication they have as language." The evolution of emoji has been driven by rapid technological changes as the Internet became a dominant force for global mass communication. Far from being a unique feature of the Internet era, Seargeant argues that human beings have long sought to find these kinds of visual shortcuts to indicate tone. For example, John Wilkins, a co-founder of the Royal Society in the 17th century, believed that the limitations of language were holding back

Emojis are at the vanguard of rapid changes in language

PHILIP SEARGEANT The Open University, England

scientific progress. He dreamt of inventing a universal language and, along with several colleagues, went so far as to construct a group of symbols he called "Real Characters." These were not written representations of spoken words; rather, they represented key concepts visually, much like emoji do today. Philip Seargeant argues in his new book that emojis are at the vanguard of rapid changes in language, or emotional flavour, to written language. Asked whether the reason behind emergence of emoji lies in the rapid technological changes, Seargeant said, "You can think of writing itself as a part of that technology that grows up. The alphabet is a technology. Writing was invented. In that sense, emoji are just part of that history, part of the human condition. On the other hand, it's very specifically linked to corporate history and digital communication devices. Emoji is very much suited to what we do on social media now. The main advantage is that it adds emotional colouring, or emotional flavour, to written language. Written language can obviously express things in great nuance. But when you are writing on social media quickly in a conversational style, a lot of that stuff gets lost. Emoji are a way of adding that back in. It's very difficult to invent a language and then assume people will pick up on that. It is sort of organic. It is being in the right place at the right time, being backed by the right people at the right time. When Apple added emoji to the iPhone, that gave it a huge boost. This is why its rise is tightly linked to corporate history and corporate culture. But the creativity part of it is

another reason why they are so popular. You can do quite innovative things with a very simple way with things like Bitmoji or Memoji. You can design them to look like yourself. Responding to claims that emoji usage is ruining languages, he said there's a generational divide, like text slang. But language always changes; patterns of language shift constantly. It's incredibly complex. We all have a repertoire. —Agencies

Electropreneurship park in every state

Bengaluru, Dec. 2: Association Satya Gupta Buoyed by the 1,500 Internet of Things (IoT) startups in the country, the IoT think-tank has decided to set up 'Electropreneurship' centres in every state, said an IoT Forum on Monday. "Basically, this is an intelligent electronics design and prototyping facility which we are trying to set up along with STPI (Software Technology Parks of India) and the Ministry of Information and Technology in all the states. So either it is an electro-park or a centre of excellence, vice-chairman of India Electronics and Semiconductor

The first such incubation centre was started in Delhi and in a couple of months, it would be set up in Bhubaneswar. The next plan is to have an IoT Forum and then an agritech centre in Lucknow and then an agritech centre in Ranchi and one is planned in Pune, Gupta said. So slowly, as the bandwidth becomes available, along with the government, we are trying to cover the whole country through this, he said. Another such incubation centre had been planned in Bengaluru, Gupta said. —PTI

AI cameras to check cellphone driving

Parramatta, Dec. 2: As usage of mobiles while driving remains a problem in many parts of the world, Australian police appear to be making a stride towards checking the problem. The country's New South Wales has started using cameras that can automatically detect drivers using their phones. The camera system uses AI to review photos with signs of phone use, with review of the flagged images is done manually to prevent any false positives. There will be two kinds of cameras — fixed and trailer-mounted — to trace distracted motorists. The initiative, in its first three months, will let

first-time guilty drivers get away with a warning. After that, huge penalties will be levied. Distracted drivers will receive a fine and five demerit points in typical cases, with higher penalties for violations in school zone and 10 demerit points during double demerit periods. Authorities feel the initiative will lead to reduction in accidents. An officer said studies showed that the initiative could prevent 100 fatal and serious injury crashes in five years. If not for the results, the system could serve as a deterrent. However, privacy issues are not significant as the cameras don't look for faces. —Agencies

Kiran Mazumdar Shaw: India Inc not anti-national

Overleaf

Govt finds way to limit palm oil flow



quick BITES

INDICATORS	%
Sensex	40,802.17 +0.02
Nifty 50	12,048.20 -0.07
S&P 500	3,114.31 -0.85
Dollar (₹)	71.65 -0.13
Pound Sterling (₹)	92.58 -0.10
Euro (₹)	78.88 -0.14
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	38,716/161 -0.41
Brent crude (\$/bbl)	61.27 +1.29
IN 10-Yr bond yield	+6.485 +0.387
US 10-Yr Foll yield	+1.847 +3.998

* As of 9:30 pm IST

Crisil slashes FY20 growth forecast to 5.1%

The slowdown in India is deeper than anticipated and will be prolonged, Crisil warned, slashing its growth estimate sharply to a low 5.1 per cent from 6.3 per cent. It attributed the sharp revision to various high-frequency indicators showing a softness and partly blamed the same to the reforms like GST, realty regulation, and the bankruptcy code which are still a "drag" on the economy.

NCLAT bench to be set up in Chennai



The Centre has decided to set up a bench of National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) at Chennai in pursuance of a Supreme Court judgement, junior finance minister Anurag Singh Thakur, told the Lok Sabha. At present, there is an NCLAT bench in New Delhi and 16 NCLAT benches across the country. Five new benches of NCLT were set up in 2018-2019.

NCLT admits RBI plea for DHFL bankruptcy

The NCLT admitted the Reserve Bank's petition to initiate insolvency proceedings against mortgage player DHFL, making it the first financial services firm to be resolved through the bankruptcy code. The move came in after the RBI last Friday referred DHFL to the NCLT Mumbai to resolve the debt crisis at the third largest pure-play mortgage player.

Mahindra Fin to get \$200 mn from IFC for MSMEs

World Bank Group arm IFC said it has anchored an investment round of \$200 million (about ₹ 1,435 crore) in Mahindra Financial Services to create a dedicated pool of financing for MSMEs in low-income states. At least \$100 million will be earmarked for women-owned MSMEs. "IFC has invested \$75 million from its own account and is mobilising another \$125 million as parallel loans," it said.

Exchanges cite non-compliance with market rules

Karvy's trading licence suspended

ASHWIN J. PUNNEN
MUMBAI, DEC. 2

BSE and NSE on Monday suspended Karvy Stock Broking Ltd's trading licence for all segments due to non-compliance with exchange and securities market rules.

Besides the two leading bourses, Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX) and MSEI have also suspended the licence of the brokerage firm.

The BSE said it has deactivated trading terminals of Karvy in equity and debt segment and put them in the risk reduction mode in equity derivatives, currency derivatives and commodity segment.

Action by the bourses follows the November 22 Sebi order, which had in its preliminary findings held that the brokerage firm had misused client securities and used it for other purposes. Karvy had sold clients securities and the proceeds were transferred to related party businesses, such as Karvy Realty Ltd.

The Securities and Exchange Board of India had barred the firm from taking on new clients and limited its use of power of attorney for existing clients. The regulator had also directed the exchanges to initiate disciplinary proceedings against the



broking firm.

This suspension order is a culmination of the disciplinary proceedings, where the exchange found that Karvy did not segregate broker securities from client securities and used client securities for fund raising.

Since the NSE suspension order has kicked in, Karvy's existing investors have been unable to square off their derivatives position, said an investor to Mint newspaper. Since payouts are pending from Karvy and positions are not being squared off it will add on to the woes of investors, he added. However, an NSE official clarified that investors are allowed to square off their existing open derivative position.

"Investors will be protected in its use of power of attorney at a later stage too," he said.

Tax collection rises by 5% till Nov: Sitharaman

FC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, DEC. 2

The Lok Sabha on Monday passed the Taxation Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2019, to replace the Ordinance that slashed the corporate tax rate in September. The bill will amend the Income Tax Act 1961 and the Finance (No 2) Act 2019.

In the biggest reduction in 28 years, the government has slashed corporate tax rates for existing companies to 22 per cent from 30 per cent, and to 15 per cent from 25 per cent for new manufacturing firms incorporated after October 1, 2019 and starting operations before March 31, 2023.

In all, the tax breaks amount to a whopping ₹ 1.45 lakh crore. Earlier, replying to a debate on the in the Lok Sabha, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman alleged years that the steep corporate tax cut would impact revenue collection. Asserting that there is no decrease in tax collections,

Marginal rise in mfg activity

FC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, DEC. 2

The country's manufacturing sector activity saw a marginal rise in November as growth rates for new orders as well as production showed a modest amid competitive pressures and unstable market conditions, a monitoring survey said on Monday.

Subdued sales amid challenging economic conditions prevented a rise in November, with payroll numbers declining for the first time in 28 months.

Some firms were able to secure new work amid successful marketing and production demand, but others struggled in the face of competitive conditions, amid a changing economic scenario and troubles in the automotive sector.

The IHS Markit India Manufacturing PMI rose to 51.2 in November from 50.6 in October, which was below the two-year low, indicating only a slight improvement in the health of the sector.

According to the survey, growth was supported by the launch of new products and better demand, though restrained by competitive pressures and unstable market conditions.

PSBs told to outline insurance JW's future

FALAKNAAZ SYED
MUMBAI, DEC. 2

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Irdai) has written to public sector banks that are merger candidates to provide a road map on what they propose to do with their stakes in insurance companies after the merger comes into effect. Public sector banks have responded to the regulator seeking time sources said.

Banking officials said that a couple of banks will shed their promoter tag in their insurance companies by divesting their stake to about 10 per cent to be categorised as an investor.

A top industry official told PTI that the Irdai had written to these banks asking them to submit a road map on what they propose to do with their stake in their insurance companies. One is being a promoter and the other is being an investor.

The regulations would be complied with in this connection," said a senior official of Andhra Bank. A senior official of Union Bank of India said the bank would continue to be the promoter of Star Union Daiichi Life Insurance and had announced the merger of 10 PSBs into four entities,

UNBUNDLING

Andhra Bank starts the process of divesting stake in IndiaFirst Life Insurance Co to below 10%

UBI has to cut stake in one of the 2 JVs—Star Union Daiichi and IndiaFirst.

Remaining an investor will help banks to earn a fee

which will take over Andhra Bank and Corporation Bank, is required to reduce stake in one of the two insurance companies as a result of the amalgamation. Union Bank holds around 46 per cent stake in Star Union Daiichi Life Insurance while Andhra Bank is a promoter in IndiaFirst Life Insurance.

Remaining an investor will help banks to earn a fee income by distributing products of insurance companies.

As entities holding over 10 per cent in an insurance company is categorised as a promoter while one holding below that limit is termed as an investor. Under existing rules, one bank cannot be a promoter of multiple insurance companies of the same segment. However, they can sell products of three life and non-life and stand-alone health insurers each.

PNB holds around 30 per cent stake in PNB MetLife India Insurance as a promoter and OBC holds 23 per cent stake in insurance. Iobh ventures—Canara HSBC Oriental Bank of Commerce Life Insurance Company.

Centre launches databank of Ind. directors

FC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, DEC. 2

In a significant move, the government on Monday launched a databank of independent directors which will be a "comprehensive repository" of existing as well as those eligible to be independent directors.

Independent directors are required to register themselves with the databank—set up under the Companies Act, 2013—within three months from December 1, as per rules notified by the Corporate Affairs Ministry.

"Companies also may register themselves with the databank to search, select and connect with individuals who possess the right skills and attitude for being considered for appointment as independent directors," the ministry said in a release.

The ministry noted that the databank is expected to become a comprehensive repository of both existing independent directors as well as individuals eligible to be appointed as independent directors.

The Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA) under the ministry would be maintaining the databank portal. Independent directors are also required to pass a basic online proficiency self-assessment

pay back," said Shobhit Agarwal, MD & CEO, Anarock Capital. Among the lenders, housing finance companies, or HFCs, account for the largest share or 38 per cent of total realty loans. Banks have nearly 34 per cent share and non-banking finance companies (NBFCs) account for 22 per cent. The majority of the loans, or nearly 58 per cent, of the total NBFC lending is on a watchlist. Compared

to NBFCs, banks and HFCs are better placed with 70 per cent and 65 per cent of their lending book in a comfortable position.

In absolute terms, \$12.35 billion stressed assets of banks is slightly lower than \$15.1 billion of NBFCs. Banks have stressed assets of \$8.49 billion.

Out of the \$93 billion loans, Grade A builders account for over \$65 billion and \$27 billion has gone to Grade B players.

test, which would be available from March 2020. The test has to be taken within 12 months of registration.

"In order to provide sufficient practice to individuals, a number of online mock tests have also been made available in the system. The real test can be taken online through a simple scheduling process. The real test would be remotely proctored," the release said.

Independent directors have a substantial role in ensuring good governance practices at corporates. In a simple scheduling process, the real test would be remotely proctored.

the release said.

Individuals have come under the regulatory lens in connection with irregularities at companies where they were serving as independent directors.

The databank portal has a search facility for resumes and videos for users.

The databank can be accessed at 'www.mca.gov.in' and 'www.indpendentdirectorsdatabank.in'.

—PTI

—PTI

—PTI

FAME provides ₹359 cr support to 2.8 L vehicles

FC BUREAU
CHENNAI, DEC. 2

Under the Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of (Hybrid & Electric) Vehicles in India (FAME India), about 2.8 lakh vehicles have received demand incentives of about Rs 359 crore. Phase II of FAME has a budgetary support of Rs 10,000 crore.

In the two-year Phase-I of FAME India Scheme was launched in March 2015 to promote adoption of electrical vehicles with an aim to reduce dependency on fossil fuel and to address issues of vehicular emissions. The Phase-I of the Scheme was extended from time to time and the last extension was allowed till March 31, 2019. Among the 2.8 lakh vehicles, 425 e-buses also have received support, the government said.

The Phase-II of FAME India Scheme which commenced from April 2019 is for a period of three years. It has a total budgetary support of Rs 10,000 crore.

Axis unveils new services for ultra rich

FC BUREAU
MUMBAI, DEC. 2

Axis Bank announced its private banking platform which would cater to ultra-high net worth segment of customers and is called 'Burgundy Private'.

The third largest private bank's 'Burgundy Private' platform offering tailor made wealth management advisory that has been launched in India and overseas. In 2014, Axis Bank launched 'Burgundy', its wealth management business, which has now more than 1 lakh families as its client.

Suraksha to offer cash & land to Jaypee lenders

New Delhi, Dec. 2: Mumbai-based Suraksha Realty, which is in the race with state-owned NBCC to acquire bankrupt Jaypee Infratech, is likely to offer additional cash and land to lenders, and higher delay compensation to homebuyers to make its final resolution more lucrative for financial creditors, sources said.

NBCC is also actively considering offering more land to lenders and reduce timeline for completion of about 20,000 flats.

In the last meeting of the committee of creditors (CoC) held on November 28, lenders asked NBCC and Suraksha Realty to make a final offer by next Tuesday (December 3) after reviewing their earlier bids.

According to sources, Suraksha is likely to increase the upfront payment to lenders from its current offer of Rs 25 crore.

Under the land-bid swap deal, the company is considering to increase the offer of land parcels in value terms. Currently, it has offered 1,934 acres of land worth Rs 7,800 crore.

—PTI

Plan to insist on 5-litre containers for import Govt finds ways to limit palm oil flow

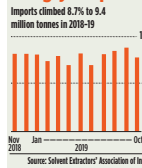
SHRUTI SRIVASTAVA & PRATIK PARIJA
DEC. 2

India is considering imposing new restrictions on refined palm oil imports to curb purchases and boost the local edible oil industry, according to a person with direct knowledge of the matter.

The government is looking to move away from current regulations that don't stipulate unit sizes on refined imports to setting standard import units at five-litre containers, said the person, who asked not to be identified because the information is not yet public. That could increase costs for many buyers, and fits into the government's strategy to cut edible oil imports and double farmers' income by 2022, the person said.

Discussions on which imports about two-thirds of its cooking oil

Hungry for palm



needs, has been trying to cut overseas purchases by encouraging local farmers to grow more. Any move by India to limit palm oil imports may hurt top growers Indonesia and Malaysia and put a lid on soaring benchmark prices, which surged to a two-year high last month.

Discussions on which imports about two-thirds of its cooking oil

ment departments are at an advanced stage, the person said. The Commerce Ministry's spokesperson was not immediately available to comment, while the Agriculture Ministry's spokesperson declined to comment.

The new rule is likely to come into force from January, when import duties on some edible oils will automatically change due to India's existing agreements with some regional associations and countries, the person said. India's vegetable oil imports climbed 3.5 per cent from a year earlier to 15.55 million tonnes in the year ended in October, according to data compiled by the Solvent Extractors' Association of India. Palm oil purchases at 8.4 million tonnes accounted for 60 per cent of total vegetable oil imports last year.

— Bloomberg

LIC waives credit card transaction fees

FC BANKING BUREAU
MUMBAI, DEC. 2

Life Insurance Corporation has waived off the convenience fee on credit-card originated payments towards renewal premium, nor premium, or repayment of loan and interest on loans against the policies will not attract any additional charges or convenience fee its parlance, from December 1, 2019.

"This facility of free transactions using credit cards shall be applicable to and implemented across all collecting systems-card less payment and card/dip/swipe on point of sale machines, LIC, which control over 70 per cent of the life insurance market," LIC said in a statement on Monday.

The customers can download the MyLIC App for online transactions, it added.

Shaw: India Inc not anti-national

New Delhi, Dec. 2: Biocon Chairperson and Managing Director Kiran Mazumdar Shaw on Monday said India Inc is "neither anti-national nor anti-government", continuing her support for veteran industrialist Ravi Bajaj who stated that India Inc was afraid of criticising the Modi government.

Shaw, who had earlier said the government treated India Inc as "pariahs" and doesn't want to hear any criticism of the economy, was responding to Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharman remarks that spreading criticism of the government's policies and added that no one in the business community would speak about this issue.

In the tweet, Sitharaman said, "Home Minister @AmitShah answers on how issues raised by Shri Ravi Bajaj were addressed. Questions/criticisms are heard and answered/ addressed. Always a better way to see an answer than spreading one's own impressions which, on gaining traction, can hurt national interest."

—PTI



The market remained range-bound on account of weak GDP data and subdued auto sales numbers.

Investors were also cautious ahead of RBI monetary policy to be held on Friday.

The Sensex rose 8 points to 40802 while the Nifty closed 7 points lower at 12948.

Sectorally, buying was seen in telecom, energy, and metals while profit booking was seen in auto, IT, and healthcare stocks.

The broader markets underperformed as the S&P BSE Mid-Cap Index fell 0.77 per cent while the S&P BSE Small-Cap Index was down 0.39 per cent.

Analysts said market is cautiously awaiting RBI monetary policy especially post weak GDP data.

OPENING BELL PROJECTION FOR TODAY

Market momentum signalling weakness

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Online B2B investments grow multi-fold in last two years

SANGEETHA G
CHENNAI, DEC. 2

After the Walmart-Flipkart deal, B2C e-commerce has seen a lull in terms of private equity funding and the focus has turned to the larger online space. In the past two years, online B2B has witnessed heightened activity with investments growing multi-fold.

The online B2B space had raised more than \$1 billion and \$28 million funding in 2016 and 2017 respectively. However, in 2018 it surged to \$23 million and more than doubled in 2019 to \$730 million. In the past two years, the segment has raised more than \$1 billion as per the data from RedSeer Consulting.

Ninjacar had raised \$100 million from investors led by Tiger Global. Jumbotail raised Rs 90 crore in its series B round. Shopp, which raised \$25 million in multiple rounds, raised another \$35 million this year. Online B2B marketplace, Udaan secured



B2B generated around \$3.5 GMV for every dollar invested, almost 1.7 times higher when compared to online B2C. RedSeer finds that margins in the business have a potential to double due to direct procurement from brands, providing value added services such as tech solutions and credit. Going further, it can have a strong play in tier-1 and beyond cities as it addresses the myriad of fragmented supplies and inefficiencies in the traditional retail supply chain.

The multi platform connected through a mobile app helps the kirana store do away with the long trail of middlemen including wholesaler and distributor and order products directly from the manufacturer.

The government has made it easier and better access to products. Analytical data about store-level demand can improve efficiency both the retailer as well as the manufacturer," said Ashish Jhina, co-founder of Jumbotail.

Global factory output growth sees green shoots as 2019 ends

FERGAL O'BRIEN & ENDA CURRAN
DEC. 2

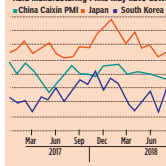
Global manufacturing is looking a little brighter heading into the end of the year, with a pickup in China and Germany validating calls that global growth is stabilising.

The better factory numbers from China in November filtered across Asian economies including South Korea, Japan and Malaysia, all of which saw their Purchasing Managers' Indexes judge better. Europe, Germany's reading came in stronger than initially estimated, rising for a second month.

Both fell, with Germany's from the first part of a trade deal. "The market is positioned for a phase-one deal either by the end of the year or, then that the tariff hike for December will be delayed," said Christoph Rieger, Head of Fixed Rate Strategy at Commerzbank. "The green-shoots spirit regarding the economy probably has room to extend."

Eastern promises

Asia manufacturing PMIs may have bottomed out after a rough 2019



Also fueling the optimism is hope that the US and China — despite mixed messages and ongoing political tensions — is nearing a trade deal. "The market is positioned for a phase-one deal either by the end of the year or, then that the tariff hike for December will be delayed," said Christoph Rieger, Head of Fixed Rate Strategy at Commerzbank. "The green-shoots spirit regarding the economy probably has room to extend."

The next data point for investors is the US ISM manufacturing report later on Monday. Also coming in the week-end readings from German industry plus US monthly payrolls.

Much of the better mood in Asia was down to China's improved performance. The Caixin index rose to 51.8 from 51.7, following news on the weekend that the retail measure jumped to 50.2, the first reading above the key 50 level since April.

— Bloomberg

154 mn debit cards out of use as magnetic strips, zero balance go

SANGEETHA G
CHENNAI, DEC. 2

Discontinuation of magnetic stripe cards and mass closure of zero balance accounts saw 154 million debit cards going out of use at the end of September quarter.

There were about 836 million debit cards and about 53 million credit cards in circulation at the end of September quarter. Between September 2018 and September 2019, there was a reduction of about 154 million debit cards, though the number of credit cards went up by about 11 million, according to data from Worldline India.

"The fall in debit cards is likely due to the discontinuation of magnetic strips and the mass closure of zero balance accounts," finds Worldline. On the other hand, the rise in credit cards may be attributed to the growth in digital payments and the expansion of retail borrowers in the market.

The reduction in cards also reflected



for POS transactions. Of the total transaction value through credit cards, 99.3 per cent was used for POS transactions and only 0.69 per cent came through ATM transactions. On the other hand, 83 per cent of debit card transactions were ATM withdrawals and only 17 per cent were POS transactions.

Consumers tend to make larger ticket size purchases through credit cards at POS terminals when compared to ATM withdrawals, especially for PMJDY account holders, into digital payment transactions.

"While the number of card transactions done at merchant locations is on the up, ATM withdrawals data suggests that cards are being used for withdrawing cash in a big way and this is likely because there are little to no avenues for them to use their cards for digital instrument," said Sunil Rongolia, Vice President, Strategy, Innovation and Analytics, Worldline India.

Intel plans a new incubation centre in Hyderabad by March

FC BUREAU
HYDRABAD, DEC. 2

While painting a gloomy picture of the Indian start-up scenario, Intel India Country Head Nivru Rai, on Monday, announced Intel will launch a new incubation centre in Hyderabad by March 2020.

Speaking at the inauguration of the Intel India design Centre in Hyderabad, Rai said, "Most Indian start-ups tend to die after five years... Start-ups need to grow to the point that it will be able to sustain itself."

Later on, while speaking to *Deccan Chronicle*, she added, "Most Indian start-ups tend to focus on e-tail or

services. However, a start-up that is a product is more like to have a bigger impact not only in India but also on a global scale."

Only innovation can help change the gloomy scenario, Rai said, "We have already committed to set up an incubation centre here. We will now need to work through the logistics... However, incubation centres in Bengaluru or Hyderabad start-ups. Show us the innovation."

Meanwhile, Intel, hot on the heels of Amazon and Microsoft, is seen to be present in the city with the formal inauguration of its Design Centre on Monday.

Market View

Ajit Mishra, VP — Research, Religare Broking Ltd, said, "The weak Q2 GDP data and subdued auto sales numbers is likely to impact the investor sentiments in the short term. All eyes will now be on RBI monetary policy for economic revival measures to be going forward. On the global front, investors are eagerly awaiting a positive outcome from the US-China trade negotiations which could strengthen the rally in the global markets. In addition, currency and crude price movement will continue to impact investor sentiments."

— Ashwin J Punnen

Economy needs Modi to reinvent himself once again

MIHIR SHARMA

It's now official: The Indian economy is suffering from a major slowdown, and one that shows no immediate sign of easing. The only surprise is that the estimate for growth in gross domestic product last quarter isn't even lower than the announced 4.5 per cent.

The Narendra Modi-led government presented its first budget after being re-elected. It expected growth in 2019-20 to be around 7 per cent. A few months later, the Reserve Bank of India slashed that to 6.1 per cent. It is hard now, to see how even that rate — relatively slow by India's past standards —

will be achieved.

Hidden in the disaggregated numbers is the story of what has gone wrong in investment. In Q3 2019, while the total number of credit card transactions went up 25.6 per cent to 540 million, debit cards grew only 6.4 per cent to 3.7 billion. Value-wise also, credit card transactions grew 25.8 per cent, while debit card transactions grew only 2.6 per cent.

Another important trend noticed was that debit cards are largely used for ATM withdrawals while credit cards

fattened the treasury; it looked like his strategy was working.

But the money is rapidly running out. Including spending by the central government, the deficit is approaching 8 per cent of GDP. Claims that public spending would make investment more attractive for the private sector have not been borne out. There simply isn't enough money going to the private sector. Investment taking the lion's share of financial savings, private investment has to be content with the meagre leftovers.

India's government has nobody else to blame. The economy has slowed in the past — most recently, during the commodity boom and the "taproot" — but on each such occasion there was some sort of exogenous stimulus. It had to deal with. There hasn't been a bad monsoon, or sudden commodity price increase, or a decline of payments crisis. The world economy isn't exactly booming, yet export-oriented economies like Vietnam and Bangladesh seem to be doing fine. Vietnam grew to 7.3 per cent in the last quarter, and Bangladesh may see two successive years of 8 per cent growth.

Mismanagement at home

and increasing protectionism abroad have ensured that India has dropped out of that group of fast-growing emerging economies. It's fashionable in India to worry about slumping consumer demand and blame it for the slowdown. The remedy, some argue, is to open the government's spending tap still further. Certainly, it's possible to see a temporary revival in the medium term if handouts increase. But that won't be sustainable. At some point, a ballooning overall deficit is likely going to bite.

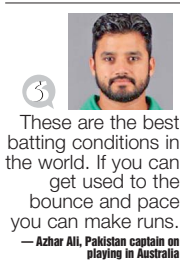
The whole point, surely, is that developing countries shouldn't be dependent only upon domestic demand. Young, labour-surplus



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Mismanagement at home

Undermined!
Former Australian captain Ian Chappell (in pic) feels Steve Smith undermined current skipper Tim Paine by trying to set the field in the second Test against Pakistan



SHORT TAKES

India to take part in 50 year-olds WC

New Delhi: India will play their maiden cricket World Cup for the 50-year-olds to be held in South Africa from March 10 to 24 next year. India will begin the 50-over tournament with a clash against England on March 5 at Green Point Cricket Club. West Indies, Namibia and Zimbabwe will also be making their debut in the tournament which will be played in Cape Town and Stellenbosch. India is placed in Pool 'B' along with Pakistan, England, South Africa, Namibia and Wales, while Pool 'A' includes Australia, West Indies, New Zealand and Sri Lanka, among others. Sports and brand executive Shalendra Singh will lead the Indian team and the legendary Kapil Dev wished the team luck ahead of the tournament. —PTI

Suryakumar named Mumbai skipper

Mumbai: In-form batsman Suryakumar Yadav was on Monday named the captain of Mumbai's Ranji team a week ahead of start of the domestic powerhouses' campaign in the prestigious cricket tournament. Suryakumar was in a red-hot form during the just concluded Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy, a T20 competition in which Mumbai were out in the Super League stage. Yadav, who made his Mumbai debut against Delhi way back in 2010, is one of the senior players of the team. —PTI

Delhi player banned for age fudging

New Delhi: Delhi cricketer Prince Ran Nw Yadav has been banned by the BCCI from domestic cricket for the next two seasons after being found guilty of fudging his age in under-19 tournaments. Yadav, who is registered with the Delhi & District Cricket Association, has been disqualified by the BCCI with immediate effect and banned from participating in 2020-21 and 2021-22 domestic cricket seasons. It is confirmed. We have got information from BCCI that Prince Yadav has been found guilty of age fudging, a senior BCCI official said. The BCCI acted on the basis of the certificate issued by the Central Board of Secondary Education in which his date of birth was given to be June 10, 1996. But the cricketer submitted a birth certificate to the BCCI in which his date of birth was given to be December 12, 2001. —PTI



Australia celebrate after winning the Test series 2-0 against Pakistan.

Pak drown under

Lyon takes five as Australia thrash Pakistan with day to spare

Adelaide, Dec. 2: Spin five wickets, including dangerous half-century makers Shan Masood and Asad Shafiq, as Australia were down a stubborn Pakistan to clinch the second Test and wrap up the series 2-0 Monday. Pakistan resumed day four of the day-night match on a precarious 39 for three with Masood not out 14 and Shafiq on eight for being bowled out for 302 in their first innings and forced to follow on.

It followed Australia's mammoth 589 for three declared, built around David Warner's exceptional 335 not out — the 10th highest Test score of all time. Needing another 248 to force Australia to bat again and avoid a second successive innings defeat, they had a decent crack but were eventually all out for 239 with the home team claiming victory by an innings and 48 runs.

It was Australia's sixth consecutive win in a pink ball Test — four of them at Adelaide — with every day-night Test played so far since the concept was introduced in 2015 producing a result. "Really happy. Barring few slip-ups in the field yesterday, we played excellent cricket in the last two matches," said Australia captain Tim Paine. "David and Marcus

(Labuschagne) have been unbelievably good. We all witnessed a special knock from David Warner. It is among the top one or two innings ever by an Australian." Lyon was Australia's saviour, finishing with 5-69 on a lifeless pitch that offered little for the home side's fast bowlers, who were made to toil. It was his 18th five-wicket haul and his first against Pakistan, who they have played this year after two defeats to South Africa in January. Defeat continued Pakistan's appalling record in Australia, where they have now crashed in 14 consecutive Tests. "I would like to congratulate Australia and especially David Warner," said Pakistan skipper Azhar Ali.

"We have been beaten by a better team. We will take some positives from here. As a bowling unit, we need to control the scoring rate." At least they offered some resistance on Monday, with Masood, who models himself on England's Alastair Cook, playing some glorious strokes as he assumed a leadership role after Babar Azam and captain Ahsan Ali fell cheaply on Sunday evening. His sixth Test 50, in his 17th Test, arrived with a boundary off Lyon, his sixth four before he chipped the spinner to mid-off on 68 where Mitchell Starc collected an easy catch. Shafiq, who has 12 Test hundreds to his name, proved to be Masood's equal and brought up his 25th half-century with a single off Josh Hazlewood. But Lyon struck again, with Shafiq getting a thin edge to a flighted ball that carried to Warner at slip and he was gone for 57. —AFP

Adelaide, Dec. 2: West Indies cricket legend Brian Lara has revealed that he was looking forward to congratulate David Warner had the Australian breached his record of highest individual Test score, just as Gary Sobers had done when he achieved the feat. Lara said "records are meant to be broken." Lara broke the record of highest individual Test score twice, first when he overtook compatriot Gary Sobers' 36-year-old record of 365 by scoring 375 against England in 1994 and then again when he bettered his own record to reach 400 in 2004. Lara, who was in Adelaide attending to some commercial engagements, said he was getting ready to meet Warner. "I was hoping they might catch me and get me (out) there and that was one of the reasons I was hoping they might have let me go for it," Lara said. —PTI

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Nathan Lyon

RECORDS MEANT TO BE BROKEN: RECKONS LARA

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IPL-2020 AUCTION

971 players to go under hammer

New Delhi, Dec. 2: As many as 971 cricketers, including 713 Indians and 258 overseas players, will be up for grabs at the IPL players' auction scheduled to be held in Kolkata on December 19. There are 215 capped players, 754 uncapped and two cricketers from Associate Nation, who will compete for the available 73 spots. With the IPL Player Registration closed on November 30, franchises will now have time till December 9 evening to submit their shortlist of players that will make up the final Player Auction list. Among the registered players, 19 are capped Indians, 634 uncapped Indians, 60 are uncapped Indians who have played at least one IPL match, 186 cricketers are capped Internationals, 60 uncapped Internationals and two are from Associate Nations. Hugh Edmeades will once again set the balls rolling on the day during the auction which will see cricketers from Afghanistan (19), Australia (55),

Country-wise breakdown

Country	Players
Afghanistan	19
Australia	55
Bangladesh	6
England	22
Netherlands	1
New Zealand	24
South Africa	54
Sri Lanka	39
USA	1
West Indies	34
Zimbabwe	3

Aiming to fill up the available 73 spots are 215 capped players, 754 uncapped and 2 players from Associate Nations.

Bangladesh (6), England (22), Netherlands (1), New Zealand (24), South Africa (54), Sri Lanka (39), USA (1), West Indies (34) and Zimbabwe (3) go under the hammer. —PTI

19 Capped Indians	634 Uncapped Indians
Uncapped Indians who have IPL experience	60
196 Capped International	60 Uncapped International
Associate: 2 players	

Nepal girl claims 6 for 0, creates Twenty20 record

Kathmandu, Dec. 2: Nepal's Anjali Chand claimed the best-ever bowling figures of six for nothing in a women's Twenty20 international at the South Asian Games on Monday. Chand, making her international debut, bowled 2.1 overs without conceding a single run as Nepal bowled out Maldives women for 16 in 10 overs in Pokhara. The 24-year-old Chand surpassed the efforts of Malaysian Mas Elysa who claimed six wickets for three runs from her four overs against China's



Anjali Chand

women in January. Nepal needed five balls to achieve their target to win by 10 wickets. India's Deepak Chahar set the best T20 bowling figures for men — six for seven against Bangladesh. —AFP

BCCI may increase hosting fee of domestic matches

Kolkata, Dec. 2: The Sourav Ganguly-led BCCI is likely to increase the hosting fee of domestic matches for both playing and non-playing days after the state associations sought a revision during the Board's 88th Annual General Meeting. Besides the BCCI may also reconsider its decision to forcefully retire 17

scorers who have attained the age of 60 after these points were raised by members during the Board's AGM in Mumbai on Sunday. "We have sought for a revision and also proposed for fees during non-match days to bear the costs of travelling and all other arrangements," a member said. —PTI



Joe Root celebrates his double ton.

Root's epic 226 gives England 101-run lead

Hamilton, Dec. 2: Joe Root's masterful 226 to highlight a return to form gave England a much-needed boost in the second Test against New Zealand on Monday as they ended day four believing they can square the series. It took a five-wicket haul for the tireless Neil Wagner to bring England's first innings to an end at 476, a lead of 101. At stumps, New Zealand were 96 to two and needing to bat late into the final day although rain may yet have

the last word with further bowlers forecast for Tuesday. Jett Reval (duck) and Tom Latham (18) went early in second innings, and for Reval it continued a poor run in which he has failed to reach double figures in six of his last 10 innings. **Brief scores:** New Zealand 375 & 96/2 in 34 overs (K. Williamson 37 (batting), R. Taylor 31 (batting)) vs England 476 in 82.5 overs (R. Burns 101, J. Root 226, O. Pope 75, Wagner 5/124)



Hemant Kenkre

Silly Point

The general response from critics and fans alike on the recent series in the World Championship of Test cricket (WCT) has been elucidated in one word — "mismatch." And rightly so, as we saw in two completed ties against South Africa and Bangladesh in India and the series currently ongoing down under. The Australians are bullying a hapless, inexperienced team from Pakistan while the New Zealanders are giving nightmares to Joe Root's Englishmen. Watching David Warner take Bradmanesque strides in the two Test matches at Brisbane and Adelaide with a total of 489 runs, out just once in two innings, gives us an idea of how badly the scales are tilted in favour of the home team. The capitulation of the Pakistan batsmen, so far in the unbalanced game (cannot call it a "match" on the same pitch that looked great for batting while the Aussies did, shows the power of the home team. Ditto the case when India wrapped their encounters on their home turf. One would have thought that visitors England would have given hosts New Zealand a run for their money but ended up leaking the other kind of "runs," the kind that fill the score-sheets. The Kiwis pasted the Englishmen by an innings and 65 runs in the first Test at Bay Oval, Mount Maunganui. The one aspect that all gives in the WCT must have realised, by now, is that they need to take full advantage of the games

Scales are tilted in favour of home teams

played in their home conditions to maximise their tally of points gained. The three home teams that have dominated the WCT series so far — India, Australia and New Zealand — have "batted once and batted big," as described by veteran Englishman Stuart Broad after two days of play in the second Test at Hamilton. Broad thought he and his fellow compatriots (read bowlers) may have given their side a chance having finished the Kiwi first innings at 375 runs. To follow his advice the batsmen will have to get at least 500 plus runs to put a drop of sweat on the forehead of Kiwi skipper Kane

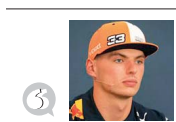


Australia coach Justin Langer with Pakistan players Imam-ul-Haq (left) and Babar Azam at the post-match ceremony.

cricket after his unbeaten 335 against Pakistan. Of the 23 centuries that he has scored in Test cricket, only five have been notched abroad. Two of those came against (and in) Bangladesh and three in South Africa. In non-Aussie conditions, the southpaw's highest average in Test cricket is 27.16 in Sri Lanka while it is 67.25 at home. For those critics who keep hounding batsmen from the Asian sub-continent about their dominance in local conditions, Warner's case is a prime example of a case by a non-Asian whose lack of runs away from home has never been questioned. The general opinion, so far, is that a tussle for the WCT pennant is between India, Australia, New Zealand and England. The teams that win most matches in an "away" series will be the ones to contest the WCT final at Lord's, England in June. One does hope Virat Kohli and company are watching the Kiwis at work before they embark for their first real Test.



Costly slip
Harry Maguire is frustrated that defensive lapses are costing Manchester United crucial points after they let slip a winning position against Aston Villa



As a team we want to move forward so, next year, we want to fight for the title, of course.

— Max Verstappen, after the season-ending race

SHORT TAKES
Martinez carries Inter to table top

Milan Lautaro Martinez's first-half brace sent Inter Milan top of Serie A on Sunday with a 2-1 win over SPAL. Argentinian Martinez put Inter ahead on 16 minutes at the San Siro, and then headed in Antonio Candreva's cross to score the eighth league goal this season. Mattia Valoti pulled a goal back, but second-from-bottom SPAL fell to their ninth defeat of the campaign.

Conte chased Chinese-owned Inter to 12 victories in 14 league games for the first time, and they reclaimed the top spot which they had previously held until their 2-1 defeat by Juventus on October 6. Lazio consolidated third place — seven points behind Inter — with a 3-0 win over Udinese thanks to a double from Serie A top scorer Ciro Immobile, including one from the spot, to bring his tally to 17 goals this season, and a Luis Alberto penalty.

Roma moved up to fourth, two points behind the city rivals, after a 3-1 win at mid-table Verona. — AFP

Hamilton has to pick his loyalty

Abu Dhabi: Lewis Hamilton has admitted he will be torn between loyalty to Mercedes and the novelty of a new challenge at Ferrari when he considers his options for what is expected to be his last racing driver's contract in Formula One.

The 34-year-old Briton had little time to bask in the glory of his stunning domestic victory of Sunday's Abu Dhabi Grand Prix before being pressed to talk about his future and a possible switch from the Silver Arrows to Ferrari.

The six-time world champion was circumspect, however, in his answers during post-race interviews in which he declined offers to deny that he had already spoken to the Italian team's chairman, John Elkann.

Hamilton's current contract with Mercedes ends next year, leaving him free to move for the 2021 season when Formula One ushers in a radical new set of rules that may coincide with Sebastian Vettel choosing to leave Ferrari, possibly for Mercedes in a dramatic swap with Hamilton, or to retire. — AFP

DONCIC DOMINATES AT THE NBA

Los Angeles: Luka Doncic finished just shy of a triple double as the Dallas Mavericks gave the Los Angeles Lakers a bitter check Sunday by snapping their 10-game win streak with a 114-100 win.

Doncic was just one rebound short of the triple double finishing with 27 points, 10 assists and nine rebounds, as the visiting Mavericks avenged a 119-110 overtime loss to Los Angeles one month ago. "It's a great win that means a lot to us," Doncic, 20, said. "It shows that we can play against big teams, too. We just need to keep it rolling."

The first-place Mavericks improved to 13-6 on the season and were too much to handle for the Lakers, whose win streak came against 10 teams, all with losing records, in the last time Los Angeles played a team with a better than .500 record, which was the Toronto Raptors, on November 10, they lost 113-104. Delon Wright came off the bench to tally 17 points and nine assists while Dwight Powell, Kristaps Porzingis and Justin Jackson contributed 15 points apiece in the win.

Anthony Davis had 27 points and 10 rebounds and LeBron James tallied 25 points, nine rebounds and eight assists for the LA. James also had six of the Lakers' 17 turnovers. The Lakers' next two games are against Denver and Utah, who are one and two spot the Northwest Division standings. — AFP

Tilak ticks big box

Makes Indian team for next month's U-19 World Cup

MOSES KONDETY | DC
HYDERABAD, DEC. 2

There was cheer in Hyderabad cricket circles on Monday when promising player Namboori Thakur Tilak Varma was named in the Indian team for the ICC Under 19 World Cup to be played in South Africa next month.

The opening batsman and part-time bowler made it to the side with ease, riding on his performances in the six series that he has played so far since breaking into the national U-19 side in June last year.

Now, he plans to raise the bar. "I want to perform very well at the Under 19 World Cup, be the best batsman at the tournament and help the Indian team win the trophy," the 17-year-old told this newspaper on Monday.

bowler like him. In the current Indian senior side, it's Ravindra Jadeja (with a similar ambidextrous all-round skillset as his) who Tilak tries to emulate. It's natural that he wants to play alongside — big names — "I want to make it to the senior Indian team by the end of next year," says the Intermediate second year student at Lepakshi Junior College in Chandanagar with Civics, Economics and Commerce as his subjects.

The hugely popular IPL is another tournament that he thinks can pave his path to the senior side. He has enrolled himself at the upcoming December 19 auction. "If I get a chance on any of the IPL teams and perform well, I can get into national reckoning," he says.

To achieve his long-term goal, Tilak punishes himself at practice, "with different balls and in simulated conditions," he says. "The series in England (the U-19 series) and that will help me a great deal in South Africa, where the wickets will be similar. I am positive about doing well," he says, adding, "The series in South Africa preceding the big tournament should help us acclimatise to the conditions."

The Indian U-19 side will play three one-day matches against the home team, followed by a Quadrangular Series featuring South Africa U-19, India U-19, Zimbabwe U-19 and New Zealand U-19.

That he has played against most of the teams should stand Tilak in good stead — he has been part of six series with the U-19 team so far, against Afghanistan, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, England, South Africa, Bangladesh U-19 sides.

Tilak has also scored a century against Pakistan at the Under 19 Asia Cup this year, which Indian won. "That 110 (off 119 balls with 10 fours and six) has been my best knock so far. The 90 against England in a bilateral series is another satisfying innings," he smiles.

While growing up, the youngster modelled himself after Suresh Raina, a left-hand batsman and right-arm off-break



Thakur Tilak Varma poses with the Under 19 Asia Cup Trophy in this file photo.

Garg captain of India U-19 side

Mumbai, Dec. 2: Uttar Pradesh batsman Priyam Garg will lead defending champions India in next year's Under-19 ICC Cricket World Cup after the BCCI on Monday named him captain of a 15-member squad for the tournament to be held in South Africa.

The All-India Junior Selection Committee picked the squad for the tournament to be held from January 17 to February 9.

The 19-year-old Garg, a right handed top-order batsman, has a first-class double hundred and a List A century to his name.

He was a part of the India 'C' team that finished runner-up in the Doodhar Trophy. He hit a 74 in the final against India 'B' last month.

In the 2018-19 Ranji Trophy season, Garg was the second-highest run-scorer for Uttar Pradesh with a tally of 814 at an average of 67.83. This performance also featured two hundreds, including a career-best 206.

Another player to watch out for would be 17-year-old Yashasvi Jaiswal. Jaiswal became the youngest to hit a List A double-century during the

Vijay Hazare Trophy earlier this year for Mumbai. He averaged 112.80 with three hundreds and a fifty during the season.

The 13th edition of the U-19 World Cup will be played among 16 teams, split into four groups.

The India U-19 team will be placed in Group A with first-time qualifiers Japan, New Zealand and Sri Lanka. The top two teams will be each group who qualify from the Super League stage.

India is the most successful team in the tournament, having won four titles till date, including the last edition in 2018, when they beat Australia by eight wickets in the final and remained unbeaten in the tournament.

Ahead of the World Cup, the India U-19 team will travel to South Africa for three one-day matches against the Proteas U-19 side, followed by a Quadrangular Series featuring South Africa U-19, India U-19, Zimbabwe U-19 and New Zealand U-19.

Hyderabad's CTL Rakshank will be the additional player in the squad for the South Africa tour and the Quadrangular Series. — PTT

THE SQUADS

Indian squad for U-19 World Cup: Priyam Garg (captain), Yashasvi Jaiswal, Tilak Varma, Divyansh Saxena, Dhruv Chand Jurel (vice-captain & wicketkeeper), Shashwat Rawat, Divyansh Joshi, Shubhang Hegde, Ravi Bishnoi, Akash Singh, Kartik Tyagi, Atharva Ankoalekar, Kumar Kushagra (wicketkeeper), Sushant Mishra, Vidyadhar Patil.

India U-19 squad for the tour of South Africa: Priyam Garg (captain), Yashasvi Jaiswal, Tilak Varma, Divyansh Saxena, Dhruv Chand Jurel (vice-captain & wicketkeeper), Shashwat Rawat, Divyansh Joshi, Shubhang Hegde, Ravi Bishnoi, Akash Singh, Kartik Tyagi, Atharva Ankoalekar, Kumar Kushagra (wicketkeeper), Sushant Mishra, Vidyadhar Patil, CTL Rakshank.

CAMP FOR RAJASTHAN ROYALS IS UNDERWAY

Nagpur, Dec. 2: Eight players, including new recruits Ankit Rajpoot and Rahul Tewatia, will sweat it out for the next three days at a new training facility at Talegaon as Rajasthan Royals on Monday began their pre-season camp for Indian cricketers ahead of next year's IPL.

The cricketers will undergo training for three days under the watchful eyes of coach of Cricket, Zubin Bhurucha, who will be supported by batting coach Anol Mazumdar, spin bowling coach Sairaj Bahutule and UK Academy director Sid Lahiri. — PTT



Jamaican sprinter Yohan Blake speaks at the launch of Road Safety World Series, an annual T20 cricket tournament in Mumbai on Monday. — PTT

Blake trains his eyes on gold in Tokyo Olympics

Mumbai, Dec. 2: Ace Jamaican sprinter Yohan Blake on Monday said he is eyeing nothing less than a gold medal in the Tokyo 2020 Olympics, his last appearance at the quadrennial extravaganza.

"It is going to be my last Olympics and definitely I am going for the gold," said Blake, who all with losing records, in the last time Los Angeles played a team with a better than .500 record, which was the Toronto Raptors, on November 10, they lost 113-104. Delon Wright came off the bench to tally 17 points and nine assists while Dwight Powell, Kristaps Porzingis and Justin Jackson contributed 15 points apiece in the win.

Anthony Davis had 27 points and 10 rebounds and LeBron James tallied 25 points, nine rebounds and eight assists for the LA. James also had six of the Lakers' 17 turnovers. The Lakers' next two games are against Denver and Utah, who are one and two spot the Northwest Division standings. — AFP

I'm always the favourite, the second fastest man in the universe. Definitely there are some good guys coming and I'll be looking forward to the challenge, Blake said.

— YOHAN BLAKE
Jamaican sprinter

there are some good guys coming and I'll be looking forward to the challenge," he said. "I think it is going to be epic, this is the greatest show on earth and everyone like looking for that blue-carpet event, which is the 100m," Blake added.

The Jamaican sprinter was in the city to promote the "Road Safety World Series", a T20 series, which will be held in February next year.

Blake lashed out at World Athletics chief Sebastian Coe for removing four events, including the 200m race from next year's Diamond League. "It has changed a lot, I am not going to lie. The times we are running have slowed down, track and field is dying a little. If he (Coe) can take away the 200m and triple jump, I don't know if he is trying to build it (track and field) or trying to kill athletics," he said.

"But that's a stupid move he is making. He must enhance the sport, but he is killing it. It is just madness," Blake said.

The 29-year-old also said that he would start a programme in India to unearth talent. — PTT

राष्ट्रीय परीक्षा एजेंसी National Testing Agency
National Eligibility-Cum-Entrance Test (UG)-2020 [NEET (UG) – 2020]

PUBLIC NOTICE
(02 December 2019)

Online applications are invited for National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (UG) – 2020 [NEET (UG) – 2020] to be conducted by the National Testing Agency (NTA).

Section 14 of the National Medical Commission Act, 2019 provides for holding of a common and uniform National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET) for admission to the undergraduate medical courses in all medical institutions including those governed under any other law. Thus, the admission to MBBS course in AIIMS, New Delhi, JIPMER and all AIIMS like institutions will also be made through NEET.

NEET (UG) – 2020 shall be conducted in 11 languages, including English and Hindi.

PATTERN OF TEST: The NEET (UG) – 2020 shall consist of one question paper containing 180 multiple choice questions (four options with single correct answer) from Physics, Chemistry and Biology (Botany & Zoology). The schedule of examination activities and other important information are as follows:

EVENTS	DATES
Date of Examination	03 May 2020
Timing of Examination	02:00 pm to 05:00 pm
Duration of Examination	180 minutes (03 hours)
Mode of Examination	Pen and Paper
Online Submission of Application Form (including uploading of photograph and signature)	02 December 2019 – 31 December 2019 (up to 11:59 pm)
Successful Transaction of Fee through Credit Card/Debit Card/Net-Banking/UPI	02 December 2019 – 01 January 2020 (up to 11:59 pm)
Fee Payable by Candidate	General/Unreserved: Rs. 1500/- General-EWS/OBC-NCL*: Rs. 1400/- SC/ST/PwD/Transgender: Rs. 800/-
Service/Processing Charges & Goods and Services Tax (GST) are to be paid by the candidate, wherever applicable	
Correction in Particulars of Application Form on NTA Website	15 January 2020 – 31 January 2020
Downloading of Admit Cards from NTA website	27 March 2020
Centre of NEET(UG)-2020 Examination	As indicated on Admit Card
Display of Recorded Responses and Provisional Answer Keys	To be announced later on website
Website(s)	www.nta.ac.in, nta.aneet.nic.in
Declaration of Result on NTA Website	by 04 June 2020

* Other Backward Classes (OBC) – Non Creamy Layer as per the Central list of Other Backward Classes available on National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC-Government of India website www.ncbc.nic.in).
The information Bulletin containing detailed information regarding the Test, syllabus, eligibility criteria to appear/admission, age, reservation, categorisation of seats, examination fee, cities of examination, State Code, etc. is available on website www.ntaneet.nic.in.

The candidates, who desire to appear in NEET (UG) – 2020, may check all the details in the Information Bulletin on www.ntaneet.nic.in and apply for the same only online between 02.12.2019 (Monday) and 31.12.2019 (Tuesday). The fees can be paid only online up to 01.01.2020 (Wednesday).

Senior Director
NEET (UG), NTA

Address for Communication: Block C-20/IA/B, Sector-62, IITK, Outreach Centre, Gautam Buddha Nagar, District, Noida-201309, Uttar Pradesh (India)
dadvp 21354/1/1/0007/1920

Man City boss Pep Guardiola praises the progress made at Leicester since Brendan Rodgers was appointed manager earlier this year



The best teams have spirit. This is a team that is so strong together.
— Brendan Rodgers, Leicester manager was all praise for his side's lightbulb after their 2-1 EPL win over Everton

SHORT TAKES

JFC, NorthEast split points in ISI

Jamshedpur Sergio Castel's fine form in front of goal was not enough for Jamshedpur FC as NorthEast United fought back late for a pulsating 1-1 draw at the JRF Tata Sports Complex here on Monday. The hosts were the dominant side in this Hero Indian Super League encounter and Spanish striker Sergio Castel's fifth goal of the season in the 28th-minute seemed to have given all three points for Antonio Iriondo's men. But a 90th-minute equaliser from Panagiotis Triadis ensured NorthEast United's unbeaten record remained intact. The result sees Jamshedpur second on the table, level on points (1) with ATK at the top while NorthEast are now fourth with 10 points to their name. Jamshedpur started on the front foot and looked dangerous going forward. Six minutes into the game, Noe Acosta dribbled to the byline on the left flank and chipped the ball to the centre of the box for Faruk Choudhary whose acrobatic overhead kick flew just over the bar. The NorthEast defence struggled to contain a clever Jamshedpur forward line, led by Castel. — Agencies

Meenakshi, Rituz win on Day One

Kannur, Kerala Punjab's Minakshi, Chandigarh's Rituz and crowd favourite Anchu Sabu emerged winners on the opening day of the fourth Elite Women's National Boxing Championship here on Monday. A total of 235 boxers from 33 teams will be seen in action. A total of 23 matches were played on the first day with Punjab pugilist Anchu Sabu displaying superb control and movement to beat Meghalaya's Eva Marbanang 5-0. Rituz defeated Lakshmi Dechen in a one-sided affair in the light fly weight category. Spurred by home support, Anchu Sabu (48kg) sprung the surprise of the day as she landed a string of power-packed punches on Manika Kumari from Bengal and bagged the bout with an RSC verdict in round 2. The preliminary matches will be played in the first four days followed by the knockout stage starting from December 6. The final matches will be played on December 8. — PTT

BOXER NEERAJ FAILS DOPE TEST, BANNED

New Delhi: International medal-winning Indian woman boxer Neeraj (57kg), who was among the probabilities for 2020 Tokyo Olympics, has been provisionally suspended after failing a dope test. The Haryana-boxer tested positive for performance-enhancing drug Ligandrol and "other anabolic steroids". A former national medalist, Neeraj won a bronze medal at the prestigious Sandja Memorial Tournament in Bulgaria and a gold at a tournament in Russia this year. She was also a gold medalist at this year's India Open in Guwahati. Her sample was collected on September 24 and was tested at Qatar's Anti-Doping Lab, which gave its findings earlier last month. "As per the adverse analytical finding report dt. 03/11/2019 received from Anti-Doping Lab, QATAR, Ms. Neeraj was found positive for presence of Ligandrol (4033 (Ligandrol), Other Anabolic Agents (S1 - WADA Prohibited List 2019)," the National Anti-Doping Agency stated. "Ms. Neeraj, was notified by NADA by issuing notice of charge for violation of Anti-Doping Rules 2015 of NADA and suspended provisionally w.e.f. 15/11/2019," it added. Neeraj has accepted the findings and has declined a 'B' sample test. — PTT

Foxes come to party



Iheanacho scores as Leicester close gap on Liverpool

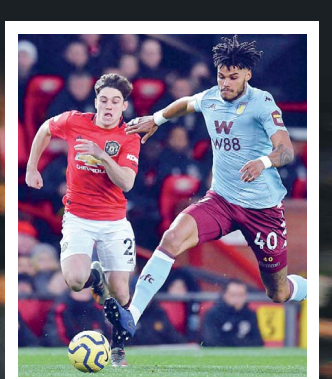
Leicester, Dec. 2: Kelechi Iheanacho was the unlikely hero as Leicester came from behind to beat Everton 2-1 and close the gap on Liverpool at the top of the Premier League to eight points. The Nigerian had not played a single minute of Premier League football this season prior to being summoned from the bench just after the hour mark, but Iheanacho tied up Jamie Vardy's equaliser before scoring the winner deep into stoppage time. "Kelechi is a wonderful demonstration of someone who trains with a great attitude every day. It was about giving him the confidence and reinforcing his role. The rest was him. I'm absolutely delighted for him," said Leicester manager Brendan Rodgers. Richardson had given the visitors a shock lead at the King Power as Everton produced a performance that may do enough to save manager Marco Silva's job ahead of the Merseyside derby on Wednesday. Silva was reportedly on the verge of losing his job earlier in the week after a shocking 2-0 home defeat to Norwich.

Another defeat leaves the Toffees hovering just two points above the relegation zone with Liverpool, Chelsea, Manchester United and Arsenal to come in their next four league games. "A really harsh result for the players and the club. We deserved more from this game," said Silva. "No one can say anything about the players' commitment, attitude or desire. Silva responded with a change of formation and his switch to a 3-5-2 worked to perfection for the opening goal. Djibril Sidibe broke upfield from right wing-back and his cross was bulletted home by Richardson with a diving header. Leicester had already seen two half-hearted appeals for a penalty waived away for challenges on Ayoze Perez by the time that referee Graham Scott did point

PREMIER LEAGUE THE RESULTS

Leicester (Vardy 68, Iheanacho 90+5)	2
Everton (Richardson 23)	1
Man Utd (Heaton 42-og, Lindelof 64)	2
Aston Villa (Grealish 11, Mings 66)	2

to the spot for Mason Holgate's apparent trip on Ben Chilwell. However, a lengthy VAR review concluded no contact had been made and the Foxes were frustrated once more. Leicester laboured in the search for an equaliser, but the introduction of Iheanacho as a substitute just after the hour mark provided the much-needed spark. His first effort was too close to Jordan Pickford, but he got in behind the Everton defence again moments later and squared for Vardy for score his 13th goal of the season at the back post. — AFP



Manchester United's Daniel James (left) vies for the ball with Tyrone Mings of Aston Villa in their EPL match at Old Trafford on Sunday. — AP

Villa frustrate Solskjaer's men

Manchester, Dec. 2: United threw away a second-half lead to remain eight points outside the Premier League's top four with a 2-2 draw at home to Aston Villa on Sunday. Jack Grealish put Villa in front with a superb solo effort, but United levelled before the break when Marcus Rashford's header hit the post and came off Villa goalkeeper Tom Heaton into his own net before Victor Lindelof then headed the hosts in front. But a week after Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's men surrendered a late lead to draw 0-3 with Sheffield United, they did not learn their lesson as Tyrone Mings secured a deserved point for Villa. The loss of those four points has cost United the chance to climb up to fifth in the table. Instead they lie down in ninth and trail two points behind a revitalised Tottenham, who visit Old Trafford on Wednesday with new boss Jose Mourinho eyeing revenge against the club that sacked him 11 months ago. "I wouldn't be sat here talking about us sitting

• **Instead Man United lie down in ninth and trail two points behind a revitalised Tottenham, who visit Old Trafford on Wednesday with new boss Jose Mourinho eyeing revenge against the club that sacked him 11 months ago.**

fifth if we had got that goal extra," said Solskjaer. "The league table at this point is not the biggest concern, it's so tight, I just need to make sure we get performances and get three or four performances like that in so many games and haven't better a superb one of those games. Six or seven times we have been up and we should be better at seeing those games into wins." First, United themselves had to come from behind to beat the 11th-minute opener from Grealish, who has scored three league goals and made four assists in this season.

SOUTH ASIAN GAMES

Sinimol bags 1st gold for India

Pokhara (Nepal), Dec. 2: India opened its medal account in the 13th South Asian Games (SAG) with one gold, two silver and a bronze in the triathlon event on the opening day of competitions here on Monday. M.N. Sinimol gave India the first gold by winning the men's individual triathlon event, which comprised Bishworjit Srikhotm took the silver in a 1:2 finish for the country. Thoudam Sorojini Devi and Mohan Pragnya added a silver and a bronze in the women's individual triathlon event. The individual triathlon event consists of continuous three legs of 750m swim, 20km bike race and a 5km run. The first athlete to complete the course is declared the winner. Sinimol clocked 01:02.51 secs to win the gold in men's event while Bishworjit was second with a time of 01:02:26. Bassant Tharu of Nepal took the bronze in 01:03:06. In the women's individual event, Sorojini clocked 01:14:40 to finish second behind Sony Gurung of Nepal who took the gold in 01:13:45. Another Indian, Pragnya clocked 01:14:57 to win the bronze. India is being represented by 487 athletes

Late Messi winner sinks Atletico

Madrid, Dec. 2: Lionel Messi delivered a major boost to Barcelona's La Liga title hopes by scoring a late winner in a 1-0 victory at Atletico Madrid on Sunday. Messi is the favourite to win a record-breaking sixth Ballon d'Or in Paris on Monday and he came up trumps again for Barca at the Wanda Metropolitano, where an even contest looked destined to finish goalless. "In matches that are close and intense, having Leo is always a big advantage," said Barcelona coach Ernesto Valverde. The Argentinian's 96th-minute strike, after a neat one-two with Luis Suarez, keeps Barcelona level on points with Real Madrid at the top of the table while leaving Atletico with a mountain to climb if they are to reach the final. "It's important for the three points but also for the mental side," said Valverde. "It sends us into the Christmas period with confidence." Atletico now sit six points

adrift of both Real and Barca, with those two also having a game in hand which will be played out in the season's first Clasico at the Camp Nou on December 18. It means Atleti could conceivably head into the Christmas break nine points off the lead, a significant gap, particularly considering they will have to play away against both Barca and Real Madrid in the second half of the season. "We need points," said Atletico coach Diego Simeone. "We are not far from them but we are worried. I am happy with the way we are playing but I will not smile at that because that does not bring us points." Antoine Griezmann was whistled on his return to his former club, whom he led for 129 million euros (\$132.3 million) to join Barcelona in the close season, while top rats were dropped on the league that still bears his name outside the stadium. But Messi scored his 12th goal of the season

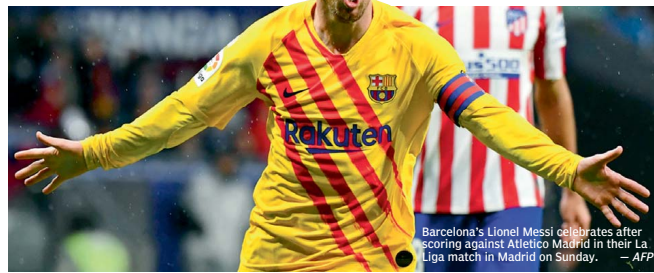
SPANISH LEAGUE THE RESULTS

Atletico Madrid (Messi 86)	0
Barcelona (Suarez 90+3)	1
Sevilla (Carlos 63)	1
Leganes	0
Athletic Bilbao (Raul Garcia 41-pen, Berchiche 83)	2
Girona	0
Espanyol (Roca 20-pen, Calleri 90+3)	2
Osasuna (Santos 46, Avila 49, Maccayola 84, Torres 90+2-pen)	4
Getafe (Cabrera 54, Jorge Molina 60-pen, Rodriguez Diaz 67, Timor 78)	4
Levante	0

and sixth in his last five games. He has now 25 in 27 in the league against Atletico although this was his first at the Wanda Metropolitano. Pique REPRIEVED Barcelona were fortunate not to be reduced to 10 men in the second half when Gerard Pique escaped a second yellow card for a late challenge on Alvaro Morata. They rode their luck in the opening 20 minutes too, marooned in their own half and able only to survive thanks in large part to their goalkeeper. Marc-Andre ter Stegen made two excellent point-blank saves although was given the chance to as Mario Hermoso found himself free at the back post but shot straight at him before Morata met Kieran Trippier's corner but failed to head into the corner. Earlier on Sunday, third-placed Sevilla stayed just one point behind Real and Barca with a 1-0 victory over Leganes. — AFP

PAES HINTS AT HANGING UP RACQUET

New Delhi, Dec. 2: Veteran tennis player Leander Paes on Monday hinted at a possible retirement, saying he now relies on his experience to outsmart opponents and shouldn't be playing past another year. Paes was named in India's Davis Cup squad for the Pakistan tie after several players made themselves unavailable to travel to Islamabad. "The 46-year-old went on to better his own record by achieving his 44th Davis Cup doubles win as India routed Pakistan 4-0 last week. "My experience changes me through now but in the longevity for what's the best for the team I should not be playing past another year," Paes told reporters. "The Olympic bronze medal I added that nurturing a new young team should be the main objective for Indian tennis right now. "Already by 46, I should have been moved out by the next generation coming up," Paes said. "So to really be looking at it objectively, the health of the team, to nurture a younger team is what's important," he said — PTT



Barcelona's Lionel Messi celebrates after scoring against Atletico Madrid in their La Liga match in Madrid on Sunday. — AFP

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