

THE ASIAN AGE

NEW DELHI TUESDAY 3 DECEMBER 2019

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Movie Pati, Patni Aur Woh has a bold Bhumi dialogue about sex life



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CM Uddhav Thackeray says bullet train project in Maha will be reviewed

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Nepal's woman cricketer Anjali Chand claims 6 wickets for 0, makes T20 record

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WINDOWS



Sub-lieutenant Shivangi, from Muzaffarpur in Bihar, was commissioned as the first woman pilot of Indian Navy at a ceremony in Kochi on Monday.

Hit-and-run mishap leaves 2 Indians dead in Tennessee

Washington: 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.

Full report on Page 11

Tiger population up by 750: Javadekar

New Delhi: Environment, forest and climate change minister Prakash Javadekar on Monday said in the Rajya Sabha that tiger population in the country has increased by 750 in the last four years to 2,976. Earlier, the country's tiger count was 2,226.

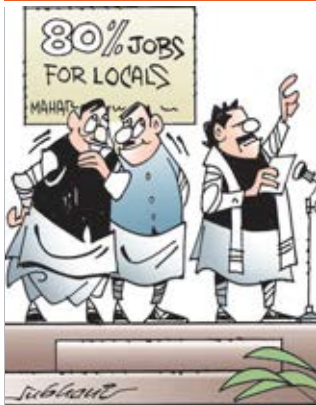
Full report on Page 4

17 killed as wall collapses in TN

Coimbatore: In a major rain-related incident in Tamil Nadu, at least 17 people, including ten women and two children, were killed in their sleep when a wall came down crashing on a row of houses at a village.

Full report on Page 4

COUNTERPOINT



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

WEATHER

Max: 23°C
Min: 8°C
RH: 47%
Rainfall: 0%

Forecast: Sunny

ASTROGUIDE

Hemalaba: Dakshinayana
Tithi: Margasira Shudda Saptami till 11.15 pm
Star: Danishta till 2.17 pm
Varjyam: 10.21 pm to 12.08 am
Durmuhurtam: 8.47 am to 9.31 am and 10.48 pm to 11.40 pm
Rahukalam: 3 pm to 4.30 pm
SUNSET TODAY 5.23 PM
SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.58 AM
MOONRISE TOMORROW 12.56 AM
MOONSET TODAY 11.36 PM

All infiltrators will be expelled by 2024: Shah

Chakradharpur/Baharagora, Dec. 2: BJP chief Amit Shah on Monday set a 2024 deadline for implementing the hugely divisive NRC across the country, asserting "each and every" infiltrator will be identified and expelled before the next general election.

Notwithstanding the admission by some BJP leaders in West Bengal that apprehensions over the NRC had cost the party dearly in the recent bypolls there, the Union home minister told poll rallies in neighbouring Jharkhand that the nation-wide exercise will be conducted despite reservations voiced by Opposition parties.

"Today, I want to tell you that before the 2024 polls the NRC will be conducted across the country and each and every infiltrator identified and expelled. Rahul Baba (Congress leader Rahul Gandhi) says don't expel them. Where will they go, what will they eat? But I assure you that before the country goes to polls in 2024 all illegal immigrants will be thrown out," he told election rallies in Chakradharpur and Baharagora.

Mr Shah said national issues like uprooting terrorism, Naxalism and construction of a grand Ram temple in Ayodhya were as important in the Jharkhand elections as local matters like development.

Raking up the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri mosque dispute once again, the BJP president alleged the Congress made attempts to thwart the hearing of the case in the Supreme Court. "Congress leaders



Today, I want to tell you that before the 2024 polls the NRC will be conducted across the country and each and every infiltrator identified and expelled — Amit Shah, Home minister

would tell the Supreme Court that there is no need for hearing the Ram Janmabhoomi case. With your (people's) backing, we submitted that it be taken forward, and the result is that the apex court has ruled that only a Ram temple will be built in Ayodhya," he said.

He also attacked the JMM-Congress-RJD alliance, which is crossing swords with the BJP for electoral laurel in Jharkhand.

The BJP leader also gave credit to the state's BJP government for "uprooting" the Naxalite menace and for bringing in development.

"When Congress was in power, it fired upon students agitating for

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Assam's student bodies step up stir against CAB

FM defends govt in discussion over taxation in House Nirmala hits back at critics, declares 'I am no Nirbala'

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, DEC. 2

Facing flak from all quarters due to the downward slide of the economy, worrying GDP numbers and India Inc's sense of fear at criticising the government's economic performance and policies, Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday tried to defend herself and the Narendra Modi government by doling out tax collection and loan figures and insisting that all efforts were being made to improve the situation.

Replying to members in the Lok Sabha during a discussion on the Taxation Laws (Amendment) Bill, that



People have called me the worst finance minister without waiting for me to finish even six months in office... We are a government that listens, whether it is criticism or an input. — Nirmala Sitharaman

brings down corporate taxes, whether it is criticism or an input. When the home minister responded to an industry leader, it was with a clear attitude that we are willing to hear or take criticism. This government responds and listens to criticism with positivity," Ms Sitharaman said in the Lok Sabha.

CREAMY LAYER

Centre seeks review of SC's SC/ST ruling

PARMOD KUMAR
NEW DELHI, DEC. 2

The Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind on Monday moved the Supreme Court seeking reconsideration of its November 9 verdict giving the ownership of the disputed site at Ayodhya to the idol of Ram Lalla for the construction of a Ram temple, that it said not only amounted to condoning the illegal acts of the Hindu parties but also rewarding them.

Noting that he was conscious of the sensitive nature of the issue and that he understands the need to put an end to the dispute in order to main-

tain peace and harmony in India, petitioner Maulana Syed Ashhad Rashidi asserted there could be no lasting peace without justice or accountability.

Maulana Syed Ashhad Rashidi is the president of Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind in Lucknow.

Jamiat files review plea against Ayodhya verdict

PARMOD KUMAR
NEW DELHI, DEC. 2

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Arshad Madani

tain peace and harmony in India, petitioner Maulana Syed Ashhad Rashidi asserted there could be no lasting peace without justice or accountability.

Maulana Syed Ashhad Rashidi is the president of Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind in Lucknow.

She had earlier on Monday tweeted praise for home minister Amit Shah's response to industrialist Rahul Bajaj's controversial comment. While saying that questions and criticism are answered and addressed by the Modi government, the finance minister, however, cautioned that adding personal impressions can "hurt the national interest" if they gain traction.

"Home minister Amit Shah answers on how issues raised by Shri Rahul Bajaj were addressed. Questions/criticisms are heard and answered/addressed. Always a better way to

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Security breached at Priyanka residence

SANJAY KAW
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 lack of communication between the Delhi Police and the CRPF — now responsible for guarding her house and provide 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 all the way from a town in Uttar Pradesh to have a photo clicked with the Congress leader.

Though Ms Vadra was surprised, as no visitor had taken any appointment to meet her, it is reliably learnt that the Congress leader chatted nicely with the visitors who took pictures with her and then headed out.

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Lynch all rapists in public, Jaya tells House

AGE CORRESPONDENTS
NEW DELHI, DEC. 2

The gangrape-murder of a Hyderabad veterinary doctor reverberated in both Houses of Parliament on Monday, with Samajwadi Party MP Jaya Bachchan going to the extent of demanding that the rape accused be brought to justice in public and lynched. Rajya Sabha Chairman M. Venkaiah Naidu also suggested a rethink on the practice of allowing convicts in heinous crimes to file appeals for mercy.

"These types of people (rape accused in the Telangana case) 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 said, leading a chorus of angry voices in the Rajya Sabha over the horrific rape-murder. "I don't know how many times I've stood and spoken after 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."

More on Page 3



Sweden's King Carl XVI Gustaf and Queen Silvia (in the middle) with son and daughter-in-law of Imam Ahmed Bukhari at Delhi's Jama Masjid on Monday. Later, the Swedish royal couple visited the Red Fort and spent half-an-hour at the Mughal-era monument. They are on a five-day visit to India. Report on Page 3

Choose hope or climate surrender: UN chief

PARMOD KUMAR
MUMBAI, DEC. 2

Madrid, Dec. 2: The United Nations opened a two-week climate summit in Madrid on Monday, where world leaders face growing pressure to prove they can muster the political will to avert the most catastrophic impacts of global warming.

So far the world's efforts to stop climate change have been "utterly inadequate" and there is a danger that global warming could pass the "point of no return", United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said before the start of the international climate conference in Spain.

We can choose hope or path of surrender, where we have sleepwalked past the point of no return, jeopardising the health and safety of everyone on this planet. — Antonio Guterres

Addressing the opening plenary of conference, he said, that humanity must choose between hope and surrender. "One is the path of surrender, where we have sleepwalked past the point of no return, jeopardising the health and safety of everyone on this planet.

Do we really want to be remembered as the generation that buried its head in the sand, that fiddled while the planet burned?" he said.

The summit began against a backdrop of increasingly visible impacts from rising temperatures in the past year, with wildfires raging from

the Arctic and the Amazon to Australia, and tropical regions hit by devastating hurricanes.

The conference aims to lay the final pieces of ground work needed to support the 2015 Paris Agreement to tackle climate change, which enters a crucial implementation phase next year.

COP25 talks in Madrid will focus on finalising rules for global carbon markets and setting up a fund to help countries already reeling from climate change — enhanced heatwaves, droughts, with wildfires raging from

80-hr Fadnavis drama was for ₹40Kcr: BJP MP

PARMOD KUMAR
MUMBAI, DEC. 2

Fadnavis denies Anantkumar's charge

AGE CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI, DEC. 2

Just when it looked like the month-long political crisis in Maharashtra was a closed chapter, 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 ₹40,000 crore in Central funds meant for development from falling into the hands of the Shiv Sena, NCP and the Congress.

Mr Hegde, an MP from Karnataka, 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

It was entirely planned earlier itself... After oath, within 15 hours, Fadnavis systematically ensured that the money reached where it had to and protected it. — A. Hedge, BJP MP

despite lacking a majority. "You all know that recently in Maharashtra for just 80 hours our person was chief minister, but soon Fadnavis resigned. Why did we have to do this drama?"

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Trump won't join 'unfair' impeachment hearing

PARMOD KUMAR
WASHINGTON, DEC. 2

Washington: US President Donald Trump's attorney said on Sunday that the White House will not participate in congressional hearings set for Wednesday 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," White House counsel Pat Cipollone wrote in a letter to Jerry Nadler, the Democratic chairman of the Judiciary Committee in the House of Representatives. — AFP

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Sports pension

Over 600 sportspersons drawing monthly pensions, says Union minister Rijuji

Demands naming and shaming of those who fail to protect women, children from horrific assaults

Jaya advocates public lynching of rapists

AGE CORRESPONDENTS
NEW DELHI, DEC. 2

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

"These types of people (the rape accused in the Telangana case) 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 said, leading a chorus of angry voices in Rajya Sabha over the horrific rape and murder.

"I don't know how many times I've stood and spoken after 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."

"What has the government done? How have they tackled it? How has justice been done for the victims? I am not taking names... but shouldn't the security be held responsible? I feel only one day earlier something similar happened in that area in Telangana... why wasn't this stopped?" she continued.

She also demanded that the people who had failed to protect women and children from such horrific assaults should be "named and shamed".

M. Venkaiah Naidu suggested a rethink on the practice of allowing serious convicts to go in for mercy appeals.

Mr Naidu said crime against women is a "societal disease".

gana incident as a disgrace to humanity, Rajya Sabha Chairman M. Venkaiah Naidu also suggested a rethink on the practice of allowing convicts in heinous crimes to go in for mercy appeals.

"What happens even after punishment is given (to convicts). We all are witness. Appeal, mercy (petition)... Can anybody think of having mercy on such people," he said, observing this process has been followed for years.

"We should really think about change in 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 is a "societal disease" and there is some sort of lacunae in systems, both legal as well as the police. "This kind of violation of the dignity of women cannot go on unchallenged. It should be nipped in the bud," he said.

The chairman also suggested photographs of people found guilty of crime against women should be published so that there is some social stigma and fear in them.



SP MP Jaya Bachchan (left) during the Winter Session of Parliament in New Delhi on Monday. MPs T. Subbarani Reddy (above), Naresh Gujral and Derek O'Brien interact at Parliament House on Monday. — PRITAM BANDYOPADHYAY

Cong questions PM Modi, Irani silence on issue

SREERPARNA CHAKRABARTY
NEW DELHI, DEC. 2

The Congress has decided to hold a massive demonstration and candlelight vigil in Hyderabad on Monday in protest against the gang-rape and murder of a veterinarian there.

The vigil would be organised by the All India Mahila Congress — the women's wing of the party — and would be attended by Mahila Congress chief Sushmita Dev and leaders of Telangana Congress. "We demand the resignation of the Telangana chief minister and time-bound punishment for the rapist-murderers," Congress general secretary in-charge of Telangana R.C. Khuntia said.

He said that the Mahila Congress would organise a vigil and demonstration on December 4 in Hyderabad and Youth Congress members would 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.

Members of the Telangana Congress, includ-

Rajnath: Ready to discuss issue in LS

New Delhi: Defence minister Rajnath Singh on Monday said the government is ready for a discussion in 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.

ing Pradesh Congress chief Uttam Reddy and Rajya Sabha MP M.A. Khan, later assembled under the Gandhi statue in the Parliament precincts and protested holding placards and demanding justice for the victim.

Mr Reddy slammed the Telangana home minister for his purported "insensitive" remarks as well as the state police for initially delaying lodging a case.

The Congress on Monday also hit out at the Centre over the rape and murder and questioned why Prime Minister Narendra Modi and women and child development minister Smiriti Irani were silent on the issue.



The government should ensure that the guilty (in the Telangana rape case) are punished.

— Mayawati, BSP chief

SHORT TAKES

Nirbhaya kin: Shoot rapists in street

Balla (UP): The grandfather of Delhi gang rape-murder victim Nirbhaya Monday said those guilty of such crimes should be "handed over" to the people to do "justice". In an apparent reaction to the recent rape and murder of a Hyderabad woman on her way home from work, he suggested that such cases will come down if those arrested are shot dead in the street. His remarks come on a day when some parliamentarians expressed similar sentiments. In the Rajya Sabha, Samajwadi Party's Jaya Bachchan said rapists should be "brought out in public and lynched."

— PTI

RSS worker shot at in Kolkata

Kolkata: An RSS worker was shot at in Garden Reach area of south-west Kolkata on Monday, police said, adding that they were yet to identify those behind the incident.

The BJP alleged that the attack was a handiwork of Trinamul Congress men and police is trying to protect the culprits. Bir Bahadur Singh was shot at by two men who came on bike around 10 am. He was then rushed to a hospital where he is undergoing treatment, police said. "We are investigating the case," a police official said. Singh is said to be a well-known RSS functionary in the area. — PTI

BJP parliamentary party meet today

New Delhi: The BJP parliamentary party will meet on Tuesday as the party deliberates on its strategy for the remainder of the Winter Session, which ends on December 13. BJP MP Pragna Thakur, whose praise for Mahatma Gandhi's assassin Nathuram Godse had triggered a row last week, will not be able to attend the meeting as the party leadership has barred her from participating in the weekly gathering of its lawmakers during Parliament's sessions. The BJP had also sacked her as a member of a consultative committee to the defence ministry for her comments. — PTI

ARMY CHIEF TO BEGIN 4-DAY VISIT TO JAPAN

New Delhi: Army Chief Gen. Bipin Rawat will embark on a four-day visit to Japan beginning Tuesday with an aim to explore short-term and long term steps to expand bilateral military cooperation. Officials said the Army Chief, accompanied by a delegation, will hold talks with top brass of Japan Self Defence Force on further expanding defence and security ties in the wake of evolving regional security scenario. Gen Rawat will also meet defence minister Taro Kono during which key issues of mutual interests would be discussed, they said. The visit by the Army Chief comes days after India and Japan held their inaugural first foreign and defence ministerial dialogue to further expand strategic and defence ties. The talks took place on Saturday during which both sides discussed a raft of strategic issues including the latest developments in the disputed South China Sea, evolving security scenario in the Indo-Pacific region and ways to boost bilateral cooperation in co-development of military hardware. Defence minister Rajnath Singh and external affairs minister S. Jaishankar led the Indian delegation while the Japanese was headed by foreign minister Toshimitsu Motegi. — PTI

GDP has no relevance, claims BJP MP Dubey

Says it shouldn't be treated as Ramayan, Bible

New Delhi, Dec. 2: Amid attack by the opposition over the state of the country's economy, BJP MP Nishikant Dubey said in the Lok Sabha on Monday that Gross Domestic Product (GDP) has no relevance and it should not be treated as "Bible, Ramayan and Mahabharat".

Participating in the discussion on the Taxation Law Amendment Bill and a statutory resolution disapproving the ordinance on the same legislation, Mr Dubey said: "Sustainable economic development is more important than GDP".

Before Mr Dubey, Adhir



Nishikant Dubey

Ranjan Chowdhury, Leader of the Congress in Lok Sabha, attacked the government over the falling GDP numbers.

The debate in the Lower House mostly hovered around the GDP slipping to an over-six-year-low of 4.5 per cent in the July-September quarter.

Seeking to return fire, Mr Dubey claimed GDP did not exist before 1934. "Economist Simon Kuznet said it is not the ultimate truth to believe GDP as Bible, Ramayan and Mahabharat and GDP will not be of any great use in future," Mr Dubey said, inviting ridicule from the opposition benches.

"Whoever talks about the GDP is wrong. GDP has no relevance to this country," Mr Dubey said.

He said what is important is the last person standing in the queue and whether the government is able to reach him. — PTI

House erupts over 'infiltrator' jibe

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, DEC. 2

Congress MP Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury's remarks calling Prime Minister Narendra Modi and home minister Amit Shah as "infiltrators" created a ruckus in the Lok Sabha on Monday with Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) members demanding his apology, saying they would not tolerate such an insult.

The attack from the treasury benches was led by parliamentary affairs minister Prahlad Joshi who took a swipe at the



Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury

Congress Party over its president Sonia Gandhi's foreign origin by dubbing her an infiltrator.

While speaking on the controversial National Register of Citizens issue, Mr Chowdhury is understood to have made the

infiltrator barb at the BJP bigwigs. In the House on Monday, he sought to explain his remarks and said he would apologise if the BJP was not satisfied with his response.

He used the opportunity to underline his opposition to the NRC, saying his family had come from Bangladesh. "We do not have many documents so if somebody calls (us) infiltrators, we cannot do much".

However, as BJP MPs refused to accept his explanation and continued with their protest,

Speaker Om Birla

adjourned the House. Mr Joshi said Mr Chaudhary's remarks were an "outright insult" to people who had given Mr Modi a mandate in the recent Lok Sabha elections and it showed that the Congress was still not able to come to terms with its defeat.

Rajasthan MP Arjun Ram Meghwal said: "You will have to apologise". Some BJP members also accused Mr Chowdhury of running a "syndicate" in West Bengal to help Bangladeshi infiltrators become Indian citizens.



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi with tribal folk dancers during an election campaign rally in Simdega district of Jharkhand on Monday. — PTI

Pragna plaint to be sent to privilege committee?

New Delhi, Dec. 2: The Lok Sabha Speaker may send Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MP Pragna Thakur's complaint against Congress leader Rahul Gandhi for calling her a "terrorist" to the privilege committee of the House, sources indicated on Monday.

Calling a parliamentarian a terrorist without any legal conviction is a "serious" matter that should require deliberation in the committee, they said.

Thakur had moved a breach of privilege notice against Gandhi last week following the former Congress president's attack on her after she kicked up a huge row by praising Nathuram Godse in Lok Sabha.

She was forced to apologise in Parliament.

Thakur, however, moved against Gandhi, saying that there is no conviction against her and the Congress leader had breached her privilege as a member of Parliament by calling her a terrorist.

Thakur is an accused in the Malegaon blasts case. She has been discharged under some sections but remain under trial on other charges.

If the Speaker indeed sends the matter to the committee, then Gandhi may be summoned to present his side of the story before it arrives at a decision. — PTI

BILL TO BAN E-CIGARETTES PASSED

New Delhi, Dec. 2: Parliament on Monday passed a bill prohibiting the production, trade, transport, storage and advertisement of electronic cigarettes in the country.

The Prohibition of Electronic Cigarettes Bill, 2019, was passed in Rajya Sabha with a voice vote. It was passed in Lok Sabha earlier this month.

The government had

issued an ordinance to ban e-cigarettes in September this year. The new law would replace the ordinance.

Health minister Harsh Vardhan said the government has brought in the bill in order to control the problem at the onset before it becomes too big to handle.

"All my life, I have fought against tobacco lobby. You (members) should not

have any suspicion about our intentions. We want to nip this problem in the bud," Mr Vardhan said in the Rajya Sabha while replying to various queries of the opposition members.

Once the consumer base of a product becomes big, like in the case of regular tobacco products and alcohol, it is not easy to control the situation, he added. — PTI

There were talks to make Supriya a minister: Pawar 'Rejected PM Modi's offer to work together'

Mumbai, Dec. 2: NCP chief Sharad Pawar has said Prime Minister Narendra Modi had proposed "working together" but he rejected the offer.

Mr Pawar said he made it clear to Modi that it won't be possible for him to work together with the PM. "Modi had offered me to work together. I told him that our personal relations are very good and they will remain that way but it is not possible for me to work together," Mr Pawar said in an interview to a Marathi TV channel on Monday.

Mr Pawar dismissed reports that Modi government offered to make him India's President. "But there was an offer to make



Supriya (Sule) a minister in the Modi-led cabinet," he added.

Supriya Sule is Mr Pawar's daughter and a Lok Sabha member from Baramati in Pune district.

Mr Pawar had met Mr Modi in Delhi last month amid dramatic developments over government formation in the state.

Mr Modi has always praised Mr Pawar and



made it a point not to launch a vicious attack against him during the state election campaign.

Mr Modi's latest praise for Mr Pawar came last month when he was speaking on the occasion of 250th session of the Rajya Sabha. Mr Modi said other parties, including the BJP, should learn from the NCP on how to adhere to parliamentary norms.

In 2016, when Mr Modi visited the Vasantdada Sugar Institute in Pune on an invitation from Mr Pawar, he had praised the NCP chief as an example to others in public life.

"I have personal respect for Pawar. I was the Gujarat CM that time. He helped me walk by holding my finger. I feel proud to pronounce this publicly," Mr Modi had said.

Mr Pawar also said not swearing in Ajit Pawar when Uddhav Thackeray took oath as chief minister on November 28 was a "conscious decision", prompted by the NCP leader's sudden support to Devendra Fadnis, who became CM only to quit three days later. — PTI



Hitting out

BJP government has failed to ensure safety of women, says former UP CM Akhilesh Yadav

After SPG removal, breach at Priyanka house in Delhi

Incident highlights lack of communication between police and CRPF

SANJAY KAW
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 lack of communication between the Delhi Police and the CRPF — now responsible for guarding her house and provide 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 all the way from a town in UP to have a photo clicked with the Congress leader.

Though Ms Vadra was surprised, as no visitor had taken any appointment to meet her, it is reliably learnt that the

Congress leader chatted nicely with the visitors who took pictures with her and then headed out. She reportedly asked CRPF personnel how the visitors came inside without her knowledge, that too in a car. As soon as the CRPF personnel, who also did not have any information about visitors scheduled to meet her, realised what had just happened, the 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 Delhi Police, triggering a blame game



Two PCR vans in each police station of Haryana for immediate assistance

— Anil Vij, Haryana minister

SHORT TAKES

Odisha woman's burnt body found

Kendrapara: Charred body of a woman was found under mysterious circumstances in her house at Khadianga village in Odisha's Kendrapara district on Monday morning. The deceased was identified as Anasuya Singh. She is survived by her husband and a son. As per reports, the fire engulfed the house at around 9 am on Monday when the woman's son and husband were away. After noticing smokes emanating from the house, some neighbours called the fire services. Though the fire services personnel reached the spot and doused the flame, they failed to save the woman. Anasuya's husband Surendra said, "She was going through mental depression."

Summit on vedas to be held in Kerala

Thiruvananthapuram: The Sree Padmanabha Temple is set to host a national vedic conference as part of the ongoing ritual "Murajapam", a ritual of chanting of mantras, conducted once in six years. Temple executive officer V. Rathesha said the conference would take place from January 2-5. "Vedic experts from the state and outside will present seminars, and discussions will be held on the four vedas," he said. The conference would also see participation of students and teachers from various vedic schools, Sanskrit and Veda Universities, Rathesha told mediapersons. — PTI

Female bear, cubs rescued from tank

Koraput, (Odisha): Forest officials on Monday rescued a female bear and her two cubs from a biogas tank at Sanakumul village in Nabarangpur district. According to reports, the female bear got stuck in a biogas tank of a resident named Motilal Majhi after she delivered two cubs on Sunday night. An operation was launched to rescue the bear and her cubs from the tank. After the rescue, the wild bear was put in a cage. The trio underwent health check-up at Papadahandi Deer Park.

ODISHA CONG SELLS ONION AT ₹40 PER KG

AKSHAYA KUMAR SAHOO
BHUBANESWAR, DEC. 2

Opposing the skyrocketing price of onion in Odisha, state Congress unit members on Monday resorted to a unique form of protest by selling the vegetable at ₹40 per kg in Bhubaneswar city. Several Congress leaders and workers were seen selling onion to people at the cheaper price at Master Canteen Square. The price of onion is currently hovering close to ₹100 per kg across the state. "The poor are suffering due to the onion price hike as they are unable to afford it. The BJP government at the Centre and the BJD Government in Odisha are responsible for this. In order to provide onion to the common man at affordable price, we decided to sell two quintals of onion at ₹40 per kg," Congress leader Suresh Kumar Routray said. A few days ago, the Congress workers and leaders had resorted to a similar novel protest with regard to alleged mismanagement in procurement of rice from the farmers in western Odisha. They unloaded truckloads of paddy in front of the BJD leaders' houses and demanded procurement of the produce at government rates.

SC/ST creamy layer: Centre seeks review of SC verdict

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, DEC. 2

The Centre on Monday urged the Supreme Court to constitute a seven-judge bench to revisit its 2018 verdict providing for the exclusion of creamy layer within the SC/ST from reservation benefits in jobs.

Seeking the reconsideration of 2018 judgment providing for the exclusion of the creamy layer within the SC/ST from reservation benefits, attorney-general K.K. Venugopal sought setting up a seven-judge bench for a relook at last year's judgment.

A three-judge bench, headed by Chief Justice S.A. Bobde, told the attorney-general that the question whether the exclusion of creamy layer among SC/ST can be referred to a larger bench or not will be dealt with after two weeks.

Mr Venugopal said that the questions to be addressed by the larger bench have already been framed.



Arunachal chief minister Pema Khandu felicitates his Sikkim counterpart Prem Singh Tamang during a meeting in Itanagar on Monday.

2 cops shot at after tiff over auto fare

Bardhaman (West Bengal), Dec. 2: Two policemen were injured after some miscreants fired at them in West Bengal's Paschim Bardhaman district in the early hours on Monday following an altercation over paying autorickshaw fare, the police said.

The incident happened at Asansol Station Road under the jurisdiction of Asansol South police station at 4.30am, the police said, adding, both of them have been hospitalised. An autorickshaw

driver had approached sub-inspector (SI) Sandip Pal, constable Arijit Samanta and civic volunteer Durgakhetra Pal who were on duty at that time and told them that

three passengers were creating trouble while paying the fare, a police officer said.

The police personnel then intervened and asked a couple of questions to the passengers. Not satisfied with their answers, the policemen tried to take them to the police station.

The passengers then used pepper spray on the policemen and fired at them and fled, the police officer said, adding, one of the police personnel,

however, managed to snatch the firearm from the miscreants.

The SI received a bullet injury in his back while a bullet grazed through the shoulder of the constable, the officer said.

The constable is being treated at the district hospital, he added. An investigation has been initiated, the additional deputy commissioner of police of central division of Asansol-Durgapur commissionerate, Sayak Das, said. — PTI

India, Sweden to work together in maritime

New Delhi, Dec. 2: Swedish King Carl XVI Gustaf on Monday held extensive talks with President Ram Nath Kovind and Prime Minister Narendra Modi to expand overall bilateral cooperation in diverse areas including in trade and investment, innovation and culture.

After talks between the King and President Kovind, the two sides inked three pacts providing for cooperation in polar science, innovation and research and in maritime spheres.

Separately, Mr Modi and King Gustaf chaired a meeting of the India-Sweden High-Level Policy Dialogue on Innovation Policy during which both sides discussed ways to expand engagement in research and development.

The two sides inked three pacts providing for cooperation in polar science, innovation and research and in maritime spheres

The King, accompanied by Queen Silvia and a high-level delegation, arrived here this morning on a five-day visit.

"Delighted to meet Their Majesties King Carl XVI Gustaf and Queen Silvia. We had extensive discussions on boosting cooperation between India and Sweden. Closer economic and cultural ties between our nations will greatly benefit our citizens," Mr Modi said in a tweet.

MEA spokesperson Raveesh Kumar said the two leaders emphasised

the role of collaborative technological innovation between the two countries and future challenges. He said focus of the talks was to chalk out a blueprint for linking innovation with aspirations.

Officials said the talks were aimed at boosting overall bilateral cooperation in diverse areas including in trade and investment, innovation and culture.

External affairs minister S. Jaishankar also called on the King and Queen after their arrival and held talks on ways to deepen bilateral ties.

Mr Jaishankar also held a separate meeting with his Swedish counterpart Ann Linde during which both sides resolved to step up cooperation to combat challenge of terror. — PTI

Activist moves SC for women's safety at Sabari

PARMOD KUMAR
NEW DELHI, DEC. 2

Activist Bindu Ammini on Monday moved the Supreme Court seeking safe passage and protection for women of all age groups going to the Sabarimala temple.

Ms Ammini in her petition has contended that the top court while referring the issue of the entry of women in the Sabarimala temple to a larger seven-judge bench had not put on hold the operation of 2018 judg-

ment by which women of all age groups were permitted to enter the temple.

The top court while referring the issue of the entry of women in the Sabarimala temple to a larger bench had clubbed it with the issue of Muslim women's entry to mosques, cases of female genital mutilation in the Dawoodi Bohra community and Parsi women being barred from participating in religious activities of the community if she marries outside the

Ms Ammini and Kanaka Durga had entered the temple on Jan. 2 this year after the SC verdict in Sept. 2018 allowing women of all ages to enter the hilltop shrine

community. Ms Ammini has sought direction to Kerala to ensure safe passage for every woman going to the Sabarimala temple without any hindrance from any source,

including the state and its agencies.

She has sought further direction to the Kerala government to "respect, fulfil and protect the rights of all women regardless of age to enter the Sabarimala temple without hindrance in any manner whatsoever and in particular by preventing the unruly mobs or individuals from obstructing them from entering the temple".

Ms Ammini and Kanaka Durga had entered the Sabarimala temple on

January 2 this year after the top court verdict in September 2018 allowing women of all ages to enter the shrine.

The top court had on November 14 referred to a seven-judge Constitution Bench the question of the entry of menstruating women in the age group 10 to 50 years in Lord Ayyappa's Sabarimala temple and the issues relating to discriminatory religious practices relating to women in Muslim, Parsi and Dawoodi Bohra community.

Yet to get Central aid for cyclone-hit areas: Mamata

RAJIB CHOWDHURI
KOLKATA, DEC. 2

West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday accused the Centre of not providing any aid to her government for the devastation caused due to cyclone "Bulbul" last month despite assurances from Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union home minister Amit Shah, who dialled her a day after the natural calamity hit the state.

Speaking during the Question Hour in the state Assembly, she underlined that an estimate of



₹23,811.60 crores as an account for the extent of damage was submitted by her government to a Central team which undertook an aerial survey of the affected areas in three districts of the state to take stock of the loss.

The Trinamul Congress supreme, however, asserted that she has not lost hope of getting Central assistance. She informed that the cyclone claimed 16 lives, including nine fishermen in a trawler

which was caught in the cyclone during its landfall and went missing at Mousani Island in South 24 Parganas.

"Cyclone Bulbul caused massive devastation in our state. We informed the Centre in detail. A central team also visited. They were taken on an aerial survey. The PM and Union home minister had tweeted about helping the state a day after the cyclone made its landfall. However, we have not received a single paise till date. Lets hope for the best," Ms Banerjee told the House.

Rlys operating ratio worst in 10 yrs: CAG

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, DEC. 2

There has been a luke-warm response to the "Give it Up" (of concessions) scheme of the Railways from the senior citizens and several instances of misuse of passes and irregular grant of concessions on medical certificates were noticed, said the Comptroller and Audit General (CAG) in its latest report that was tabled in Parliament on Monday.

The CAG audit report focuses on the financial health of the Railways based on various parameters, and contains audit observations on the impact of concessions allowed to passengers on the Railways earnings and effectiveness of the existing internal control mechanism to check

misuse of concessions.

CAG has found that the operating ratio of the Railways was 98.44 per cent — worst in the last 10 years. The report added that Railways would have ended up with a negative balance of ₹5,676.29 crore instead of surplus of ₹1,665.61 but for the advance received from NTPC and IRCON. An operating ratio of 98.44 per cent means that the Railways spent ₹98.44 to earn ₹100.

"Exclusion of this advance would otherwise have increased the operating ratio to 102.66 per cent," CAG said, adding that audit analysis of the finance accounts of the Railways revealed declining trend of revenue surplus and the share of internal resources in the capital expenditure.

NOTICE

District : South 24 Parganas
Before The Learned Commercial Court at Allipore.
Ref : Money Suit 10/2019
Bengal Industrial Infrastructure Pvt Ltd.
...Plaintiff
Vs.
Pradeep Kumar Kasliwal and others.
...Defendants

Suit for recovery of money valued at Rs. 24,72,00,000/- (Rupees Twenty Four Crores Seventy Two Lacs Only).

- Savitri Devi Sharma and Maya Sharma residing at C/o. Sh. Yad Ramji Sharma, Dariba Mohalla, Deeg, District Bharatpur, Police Station - Bharatpur, Rajasthan-321001.
- Charismatic Medicare Limited, a Company Registered under the Companies Act, 1956, having its office at CUGF/1 Jumbo house Okhla Phase III, Police Station-Okhla Industrial Area, New Delhi-110 020.
- Pradeep Lhoade, residing at Auto Pradeep shapurwadi, Secretaries Road, Police station-Safabad, Hyderabad- 500 004.

Please take notice that above named plaintiff has instituted the above mentioned case against you being respondent no.23, 26 and 27 and you are hereby directed to appear either in person or through an advocate within 30 days from the date from the date of publication of this notice and file Written Objection, failing which the above case will be heard ex-parte against you.

By order
Atis Kumar Bhattacharjee
Sherestadar
Court of Ld. Commercial Judge at Allipore, South 24 Parganas, West Bengal
(By Order, Sd, Bench Clerck, Commercial Court, Allipore, 24 Parganas, West Bengal)

NOTICE

This is to inform you the public that we have terminated our Agreement with OYO (OYO Hotels and Homes Private Limited or Ovel Stays Pvt. Ltd.) No room bookings through OYO will be entertained w.e.f 10.12.2019 thereafter.

WOODS COUNTY
Thalappallil Hospitalities, Kumily Govt. Hospital Road, Thekkady, Kumily, Kerala - 685509.

SEARCH FOR MISSING



Barkat Ali

General public is hereby informed that a boy (depicted in the photo), Namely : Barkat Ali S/o Md. Safik R/o Prayash Children Home for Boys, EE-Block, Jahangir Puri Delhi is missing since 13.10.2019. In this regard a case vide FIR No. 452/19 u/s 363 IPC dated 21.11.2019 has been registered at P.S. Mahendra Park, Delhi. His physical description is as under :-

Age : 14 year, Height: 5'5", Complexion : Shallow, Built : Normal, Face : Round, Hair: Black, Wearing : White colour shirt and Grey colour pant.

Any person having any information/clue about this missing boy, may inform SHO, Mahendra Park, Delhi at E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in or Website : <http://cbi.nic.in>.

SHO P.S. Mahendra Park, Delhi
Phone: 011-24368638, 24368641
Fax No. 011-24368639
DP/9560/NW/19
North-West Distt., Delhi
Ph. No. 011-27632501, 27632502

CAN FIN HOMES LTD.

CanFin Homes Ltd. S L TOWER, SHOP NO-4, 4TH FLOOR, ALPHA-1, GREATER NOIDA (UP).
Ph: 0120-4456997/47625079164, Email: greaternoida@canfinhomes.com,
CIN : L85110KA1987PLC008699

DEMAND NOTICE

Under Section 13 (2) of "The Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (No. 54 of 2002)"

- To, 1. Mr. Omwati W/o Daya Ram, C-1/78, Ground floor, DLF Dilshad Extn-II, Bhopura, Ghaziabad-201005.
2. Mr. Sagar S/o Daya Ram, C-1/78, Ground floor, DLF Dilshad Extn-II, Bhopura, Ghaziabad-201005.
3. Mr. Harish S/o Daya Ram, C-1/78, Ground floor, DLF Dilshad Extn-II, Bhopura, Ghaziabad-201005.
4. Mr. Chattarpal S/o Daya Ram, C-1/78, Ground floor, DLF Dilshad Extn-II, Bhopura, Ghaziabad-201005.

(All are legal heirs of late. Daya Ram S/o Gangawasi)
Nos. 1 to 4 amongst you availed housing loan from our branch against the security of mortgage of the following asset belonging to No. Flat No-C-1/78, Ground Floor, DLF Dilshad Extn-II, Village- Brahmura Alias Bhopura, Pargana Loni, Tehsil and District Ghaziabad-201005 of you. An amount of Rs.25,80,498/- (Twenty Five Lakh Eighty Thousand Four Hundred Ninety Eight Only) is due from you to Can Fin Homes Ltd. as on 01.11.2019 together with future interest at the contracted rate.

Details of the mortgaged asset
Flat No-C-1/78, Ground Floor, DLF Dilshad Extn-II, Village- Brahmura Alias Bhopura, Pargana Loni, Tehsil and District Ghaziabad-201005.

Bounded on the: East: Plot No-C-1/79, West: Plot No-C-1/77, North: Park, South: 30ft Wide Road Registered demand notice were sent to Nos. 1 to 4 amongst you under Section 13 (2) of the SARFAESI Act, 2002. But the same was returned unrecorded. The undersigned has, therefore, caused these notices to be pasted on the premises of the last known addresses of the said Borrowers/ as per the said act. Hence this paper publication. As you have failed to adhere to the terms of the sanction, the account is classified as a Non Performing Asset on 31.10.2019 as per the NHB Guidelines. You are hereby called upon to pay the above said amount with contracted rate of interest thereon from 01.11.2019 within 60 days from the date of this notice, failing which the under signed will be constrained to initiate action under SARFAESI Act to enforce the aforesaid security. Further, the attention of borrowers / guarantors is invited to the provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to them to redeem the secured assets.

Date : 02.12.2019
Place : Greater Noida
Sd/-
Authorized Officer
Can Fin Homes Ltd.

Defying New Delhi's pollution, Kutiyattam in open air holds audience spellbound



Leela Venkataraman
focus

■ Though youngsters from other communities have started performing, Kutiyattam's highly culture-specific identity, with the long years of rigorous and meditative concentration, calls for practitioners, making it a difficult art form not attracting too any serious aspirants — and hardly any from outside Kerala

Kutiyattam — Kerala's unbroken legacy of a living tradition of Sanskrit theatre from the 10th century onwards, with its spectacular theatrical language, despite its convention-ridden, slowly evolving mode of enactment, so completely antithetical to today's fast moving world, has miraculously survived. Unesco's declaration of Kutiyattam as an "Oral and Intangible heritage of Humanity" gave the art form a shot in the arm. Traditionally, the exclusive preserve of the Chakyar community and performed only in the temple Kootambalam, Kutiyattam in the 1950s first came out of the temple environs to be presented in secular spaces, and in time its doors have been opened to students from outside the traditional inheritors. Though youngsters from other communities have started performing, Kutiyattam's highly culture-specific identity, with the long years of rigorous and meditative concentration, calls for practitioners, making it a difficult art form not attracting too any serious aspirants — and hardly any from outside Kerala.

The open air performance space at Sundar Nursery, with an extremely murky Delhi sky, had the half-dozen-odd people who had arrived early wondering if Aga Khan Trust for Culture and Unesco, jointly planning this

evening, had made a wise choice of venue and if people would venture out on such an evening. But one need not have bothered, for those (admittedly small numbers) who have been treated to the grandeur of Kutiyattam would not miss seeing the Nepathya Moozhikulam group led by Margi Madhu performing *Bali Vadham*.

In how many theatre forms can one experience an actor having the courage to enact dying, almost breath by breath, on stage — prolonged over half-an-hour or more — as in *Bali Vadham* of Kutiyattam? The execution calls for breath control of a phenomenal nature and Margi Madhu Chakyar, as Bali, certainly had the audience glued to their places while portraying

the final moments of Bali — through stages of broken breathing (*chinnan*), difficult breathing (*mahan*) and the last breath (*oordhvan*) — a process said to have been developed by the great Madhava Chakyar, who underwent scientific training in this crucial discipline of controlling one's breathing at Kodungaloor.

To have edited what is the First Act of Bhasha's *Abhisheka Natakam* (which in the old days would be enacted over days) into a two-hour slot to fit the needs of today's performance requirements, without making it appear needlessly abridged, was indeed an accomplishment in itself — and very skillfully done by any standards by Margi Madhu. The first scene had Nepathya Rahul Chakyar as Sreeram showing his prowess with the bow and arrow to convince Sugreev (enacted by Nepathya Yadukrishnan) of his ability as a warrior. Only after seeing how one lethal arrow of Ram could pierce seven tree tops so accurately, did Sugreev realise what a powerful ally he had found in Ram. In his vainglorious fashion, he imagines himself sitting

even on Indra's throne, with Ram by his side of course, vanquishing all other powers. It is most heartening to watch how young Nepathya Srihari Chakyar (son of Madhu and Dr Indu) is fast evolving. In the role of Lakshman looking for the Kishkinda region in the forest and recognising it at once by its thick vegetation of tall trees, this actor's ability, even in a small appearance, to make his presence felt, shows a fine artiste in the making.

Forgetting his past inability to defeat the brother, a better and more ruthless warrior, Sugreev now buoyed by Ram by his side, sends out a clarion call to Bali, challenging him to war.

The second scene with Bali and Tara was very moving. Madhu Chakyar as Bali, with supreme confidence in his own pacity to defeat the brother, a better and more ruthless warrior, Sugreev now buoyed by Ram by his side, sends out a clarion call to Bali, challenging him to war. The second scene with Bali and Tara was very moving. Madhu Chakyar as Bali, with supreme confidence in his own pacity to crush Sugreev, is seen pacifying a concerned Tara — that no matter whose help Sugreev seeks, he will be no match for Bali, his brother. "I will defeat him even if he is helped by the Lotus-eyed Lord Vishnu himself," and here in a throwback (*Nirvahanam*) Bali enacts in brief but with telling force, the *Prahlada/Hiranyakashipu* episode and how when challenged, if the omnipresent Vishnu could be found even inside the pillar, Hiranyakashipu's insolent kick splits the pillar, to reveal Narasimha, half-man and half-lion, who, emerging from its centre, attacks and kills Hiranyakashipu by disemboweling him — acts portrayed with gusto in art forms like Kutiyattam and even Kathakali (which gets it from older styles like Kutiyattam). "Not even if he is helped by Shiva with his white axe, will I fear". At this point of mentioning Shiva, even while referring to his own ability to get the better of the God, he utters the Lord's name with a

prayerful salutation — being a great Shiva *bhakt* himself.

The subtle power of *abhinaya* was best seen in Dr Indu's performance as Tara. Holding on to a piece of Bali's top coat, she sits through most of the act wordlessly, her expression fully conveying the whole truth of her feelings — full of trepidation, for what is about to happen. With no other movement barring the *mukhabhinaya*, except for the end when she mentions in a tone of warning that Sugreev this time is coming with strong allies — she was so powerfully communicative. Bali's confident aggression counterpointed by Tara's mobile expressions of impending tragedy, her hands, continually (in a symbolical action) engaged in playing with the mangalsutra round her neck, make a strong impression.

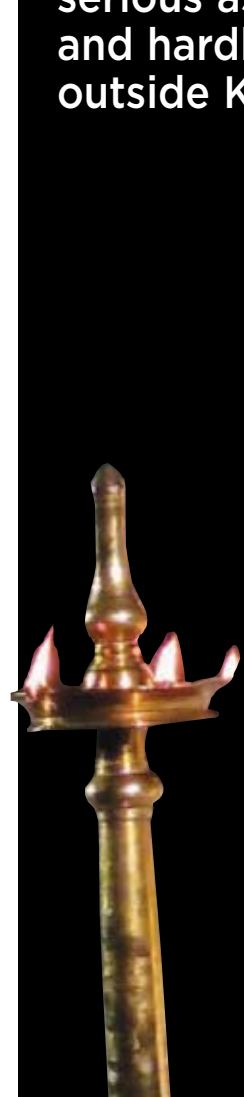
The actual Bali-Sugreev encounter is largely communicated through the reactions of Ram and Lakshman, with Lakshman informing Ram that Sugreev, like the monkey that he is, has discarded all subtleties and is rushing headlong, screaming, approaching his brother without any plan. While he is describing the bout, a hefty blow from Bali fells Sugreev. Soon a rattled Hanuman agitatedly tells Ram that his helpless master Sugreev is in dire need of his promised help, and Ram's arrow, shot from an undetected hideout behind a tree, travelling speedily through the air, strikes Bali, who falls mortally wounded.

A grieving penitent Sugreev who blames "an enemy's arrow" is in this theatre version, not aware that the fatal wound has come from Ram's arrow. Bali, realising his end is near, passes Sugreev the royal insignia he has to wear as the heir to his throne. And lying on his deathbed, Bali asks Ram as to how he could forsake the king's dharma and attack him in deceit without revealing his presence. Ram has no real answer and Sugreev's weak statement that one has to suffer for one's sins, is neither here nor there.

The plays of Kutiyattam, while dealing with themes from the epics, give complete freedom to the actor while interpreting a character, and what one has in the end is a philosophical exchange — where various acts are questioned — with no character having unquestioning license enshrined in divinity.

The impact and mood build up during rendition owe a great deal to the accompaniment seated on a raised stool at the back of the performing actors — the leading accompaniment comes from the Mizhavu drum, played with expertise by Kalamandalam Rathi Bhas, Nepathya Jinesh and Nepathya Aswin, with *edakka* played by Kalanilayam Rajan and thalam by Adithi Gopalakrishnan. Of equal importance was the make up by Kalamandalam Satheesan.

The writer is an eminent dance critic



No man is good enough to govern another man without the other's consent

There is not a woman born who desires to eat the bread of dependence

THE ASIAN AGE

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. Strikes will now be seen as mass casual leaves if engaged in without a 14-day notice. The law also chips away at their collective negotiating power: a trade union will be recognised only if it has the support of 75 per cent or more workers, compared to the earlier 60 per cent. Termination of service on completion of tenure in a fixed-term employment will no longer be termed retrenchment. This bill is part of a four-bill package merging 44 labour laws. Industry has welcomed the bill, saying it will improve the ease of doing business and streamline the relationship between managements and workers.

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. This is where support from co-workers comes in handy, and not only as witnesses. It becomes more pertinent as the bill doesn't care to expand the definition of employee, while contractualising jobs.

There is much uncertainty in this new bill. Like the minimum wages code, which stopped short of defining a central floor wage even as MNREGA wages post-hike came out as less than the minimum wage set by states.

With much unorganised labour already performed traditionally and technology changing the structure of other jobs, we have entered what is known as the “gig economy”, where the worker isn't necessarily attached to a workplace and expects payment on the basis of tasks performed rather than hours worked. Will such a

worker, say in the garments or bidi industry, then be sacked without notice or denied the minimum wage? What if they are working for two rival taxi apps, for instance? Will they be considered an employee of both companies?

These employees are being told that they are entrepreneurs without capital, when in reality they're only poorly paid workers. There is much uncertainty and confusion in this new bill. Like the minimum wages code passed a few months ago, which stopped short of defining a central floor wage even as MNREGA wages post-hike came out as less than the minimum wage set by states (and last month, the government released the Code on Wages Central Rules draft, under which the floor wage would be less than half of ₹375 per day as suggested by its own ministry and far less than the 7th Pay Commission's recommendation), the industrial relations code too left critical areas unaddressed. Perhaps it's fair to say that the bill, in this form, is not, by far, labour's most important legislative need.

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 to greet him, with the visit offering the first opportunity in a long time to smoothen ties.

The President is a former Army officer who was his nation's defence minister when his brother Mahinda was President, and played a key role in bringing the LTTE militancy to a decisive closure in 2010, not shying away from using questionable means that drew an adverse global reaction.

He was elected with a massive mandate based on the country's Sinhala majority. This can conceivably turn the Sri Lanka leader in a majoritarian direction.

New Delhi must be deft and practical if it is to play a moderating influence without appearing to meddle in Sri Lankan politics. Mr Rajapaksa told India that he would be receptive to its security concerns over China (and Pakistan). He suggested in a newspaper interview that his country's interest in China was “purely commercial”. Thus, the return of Chinese submarines to Sri Lankan waters is not an immediate possibility.

This is a good start. However, the President was careful to urge India and others (Japan, Australia, Singapore) to invest in a big way in Sri Lanka, otherwise (he implied) China's importance in the island nation cannot be wished away.

While Mr Rajapaksa promised to pump in economic aid to Tamil areas, he was clear he can't effect devolution of power to the country's north and east, as this won't be acceptable to the majority community. India had mounted pressure on this question, principally due to sensitivities in Tamil Nadu. New Delhi will have to manage Chennai very carefully if it is to help Jaffna have a secure political space within a united Sri Lanka.

THE ASIAN AGE

T. VENKATRAM REDDY
Editor in Chief

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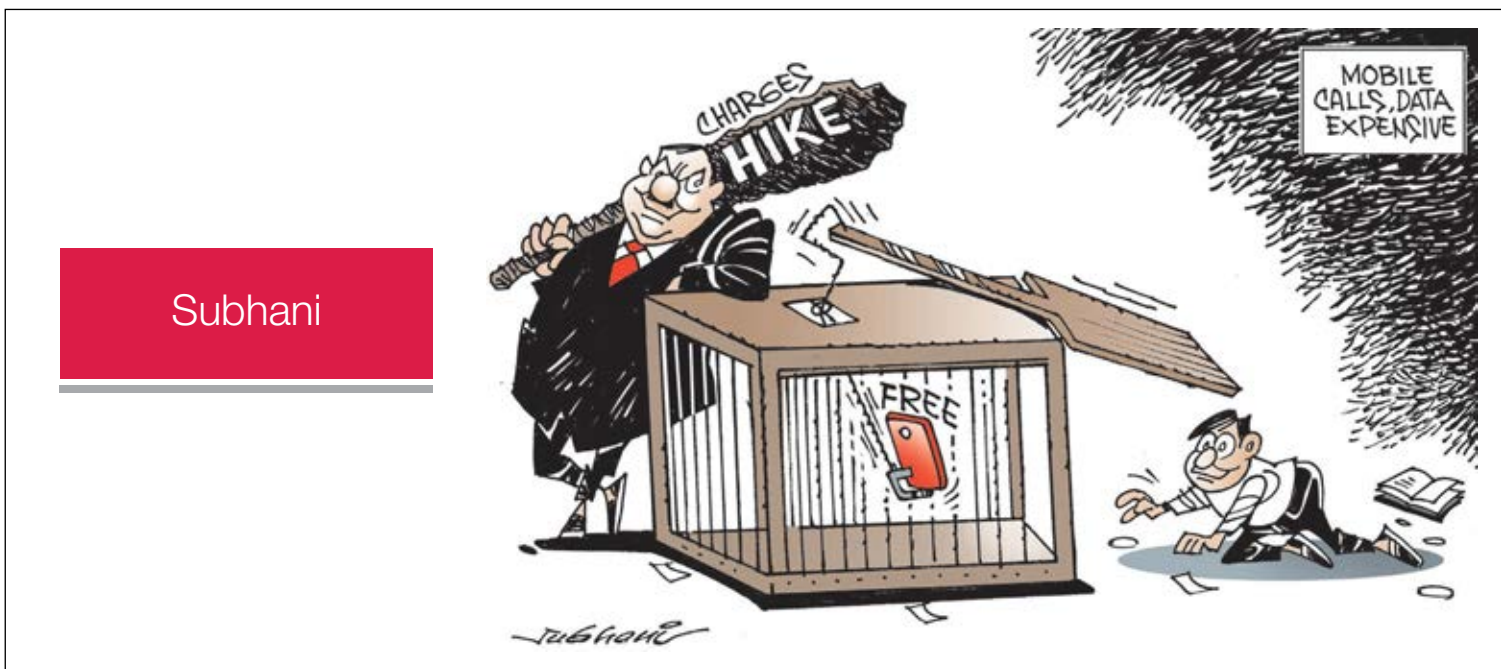
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Subhani

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. India would have exploded in fury at any such gesture of sympathy for Kashmiris who are regarded as “terrorists”. Or in earlier years for the Naga, Mizo and Khalistani secessionists.

So it's understandable that Beijing should be stunned by the ferocity of the protests and even more by the recent election when candidates seeking to loosen China's control seized an overwhelming majority of the 452 elected seats in the city's 18 district councils. The outcome indicated the Hong Kong public's loss of confidence in the “one country, two systems” formula which Beijing put in place when British rule ended in 1997 and the former colony was merged with China. It is interpreted as a rebuke to Beijing and to 62-year-old Carrie Lam Cheng Yuet-ngor, whom Beijing appointed in 2017 as Hong Kong's fourth chief executive. Ms Lam, who earlier dismissed calls for political reform while insisting that a silent majority supported her, has been forced to eat humble pie. The pro-democracy camp is now demanding direct popular elections for the city's leadership and legislature, and a probe into alleged police brutality against demonstrators.

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. Despite fulminations about human rights in Tibet, the United States has done precious little to compel Beijing to introduce reforms, or make it possible for exiled Tibetans to return, or to restore the Dalai Lama's authority. Every so often an American President stages an “accidental” meeting with the Dalai Lama to remind China that he still has an ace of spades up his sleeve. But does he play it? Never! Doing so would close his ultimate option.

Washington plays these games when it has problems with China that have nothing to do with Tibet. The last meeting between the Dalai Lama and a US President (Barack Obama) was in 2016, and coincided with Japanese and American accusations that China was extending its influence into the Western Pacific with submarines and surface vessels and pushing territorial claims in the South China Sea. In one incident of brinkmanship, a Chinese observation ship shadowed a US aircraft carrier as it joined warships from Japan and India for drills (the famous Quad) close to waters which Beijing considers its backyard. China's official news agency accused Washington of breaking its promise not to support Tibet's independence — the US had

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.

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 the fury are expected to stop short of action. Vowing retaliation, China has denounced Mr Trump's new law as illegal interference and twice summoned the American ambassador in one week for a dressing down. But just as the Chinese are not expected to break the trade talks with the US, the Americans are not expected to impose sanctions on China which the new law permits. Trade matters more than human rights. Soybean is more precious to Washington than students.

Hefty Chinese tariffs have already seen US soybean sales to China fall by 90 per cent since 2017, largely replaced by imports from Brazil, which is expected to harvest a crop 27 per cent bigger than the US, according to the agricultural data provider Gro Intelligence. If the China-US trade talks drag on for another two months, American farmers will miss the best sales chance to China in the new marketing year and unsold soybeans will add further to US stockpiles. China bought more than 13 billion pounds of Argentinian beans this year, out of its total demand of roughly 187 billion pounds. In October, almost 100 per cent of Argentinian soybean exports went to China. Expecting a bumper crop in 2020, Argentinian farmers are keeping their fingers crossed hoping that efforts to clinch a China-US deal will continue to be frustrated.

Sanctions are a two-way street. The Institute

for International Economics in Washington calculated as long ago as 1995 that sanctions cost the US economy a staggering \$20 billion in lost exports, and some 200,000 Americans their jobs. America's own interest was another reason for seeking a way out of the sanctions which the US imposed on India and Pakistan after the 1998 nuclear tests. America's wheat-growing Pacific north-west states feared another glut and a slump in world prices that would severely affect US incomes if they could not sell to South Asia. Pakistan, which had bought 37 per cent of the wheat grown in this particular region of the US the previous year, faced another food shortage but sanctions prevented a similar deal. So, despite his gesture of support for democracy in Hong Kong, there's little likelihood of Mr Trump cutting his nose to spite his face by using sanctions against China. Democracy in Hong Kong can expect more than lip service only if the cause also serves someone else's interest. That factor ensured Indian support for East Bengal (which eventually became independent Bangladesh) in 1971. The coalescence is unlikely to be repeated.

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 (1896-1926), whom the school prayer eulogises as “our benefactor”. Born Khachik Pogose Astwachatour, one of the 13 offspring of Armenian parents, Chater was orphaned at the age of seven, and admitted to La Martiniere on a scholarship. As a banker and broker, he made good in Hong Kong. His ₹11-lakh bequest in 1924-25 saved the institution from closure.

The writer is a senior journalist, columnist and author

LETTERS
SELECTIVE OUTRAGE

Is it only when a middle/upper class educated girl of New Delhi or Hyderabad gets sexually assaulted and murdered by “lower class” drivers and cleaners, the “conscience” of the nation gets “awakened” overnight? However, when the poor or a rural tribal meets the same fate all across the country every day, why doesn't the “conscientious” brigade come out on the streets with a “solemn” face and candle in hand? When the decision to protest or not to protest against a gangrape happens after taking into account the class and social status of the rapists and the victims, all norms of that “selective protest” turn into a farce!

Kajal Chatterjee
Kolkata

CAN WE CRITICISE?

RAHUL BAJAJ spoke about fear and whether the present regime is open to criticism or not. It was heartening to see home minister Amit Shah acknowledging it and saying that he will try to improve, if that is true. But the finance minister has come up with a baffling statement that Mr Bajaj's comments could hurt the national interest. Reforms cannot be brushed under the carpet anymore. The government must see to it that demand in the economy can be given a much-needed push.

Bal Govind
Noida, UP

SCRAP BJP PROJECTS

I WAS glad to read that Maharashtra chief minister Uddhav Thackeray has ordered a review of all ongoing development projects in the state, including the Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train. The expensive and unproductive bullet train project had faced stiff opposition from farmers and tribals whose lands are to be acquired. It is high time many unproductive projects introduced by the BJP government be scrapped.

Bhagwan Thadani
Mumbai

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Abbas Nasir

View from Pakistan

Who's behind Bajwa petition? Imran wanted him to stay on

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.

Nine out of 10 people will tell you this when you ask them. But is it indeed a cakewalk for the incumbent? If you look hard enough you will also find the contrarian view, audaciously arguing that this is not the case and a cakewalk it is not.

This (minuscule) minority opinion would have you believe that Gen. Bajwa, if his former senior and a “defence analyst” Lt. Gen. (Retd.) Amjad Shoab is right, should have stuck to his guns and said no to the offered extension.

The retired general, who claims first-hand knowledge of developments, says the Army Chief never wanted or asked for an extension,

in fact, offering to step down again as recently as last Wednesday (November 27) in a meeting with Prime Minister Imran Khan.

There is no way a fringe journalist like this columnist can confirm this as access to the real centre of power in Rawalpindi is restricted to ISPR-approved retired generals or a few so-called analysts, who are given to near-hysterical histrionics on TV programmes. We have to take their word for it.

To get a sense of the big picture one really needs to take a step back. Only then does the larger canvas become somewhat clearer. Those who think that Gen. Bajwa will now remain in office for at least three more years, argue that the Prime Minister's rationale for this is a significant factor.

Imran Khan, they say, feels quite smug that the man in such a powerful office does not shy away from being identified closely with the PTI government and supports it in vital ways. After all, is the security

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.

Against this backdrop, it was perfectly logical for the Prime Minister to want the incumbent to continue in office for another three years at least, as, with such extraordinary powerful positions, who knows what dynamics are unleashed by an incoming chief. This ensured mutual longevity.

As for the court-mandated law-making that Parliament has to do in order to retain or reject the incumbent beyond six months, it does not take an Einstein to look back at the political developments of the past 20-odd months.

In the current political environ-

ment, the only defiant political party may not be an obstacle. The grave illness of its top leader, and as a possible consequence the silencing of his outspoken daughter, has left the party in the hands of its defiance-averse, deal-inclined “pragmatic” leaders.

Therefore, the Senate nod should also be a mere formality.

Despite having been ragged witless over its incompetence in notifying the Army Chief's extension of tenure or fresh appointment, whichever may be the case, the PTI was not too wrong in saying that the legal challenge that was mounted to Gen. Bajwa's extension was unprecedented.

Although generals Zia ul Haq and Pervez Musharraf may have given themselves extensions during periods of their own unchallenged rules and powers, the second tenure of Gen. Ashfaq Kayani was gifted by an elected government via a similar notification and faced no such challenge.

Keen Islamabad observers also make another important point. They say the petition challenging Gen. Bajwa's notification was submitted by a lawyer who is known for his “patriotic” credentials, track record and is not a rebel of any sort. Even as the Prime Minister took to Twitter to blame his political opponents, the “looters and plunderers” and the hostile foreign powers for trying to sow the seeds of chaos in the country via the legal challenge, nobody may have told him that the petition was coming from a patriot, possibly even an insider.

No matter how small the minority that is expressing this view, it is making a point to ponder without doubt. And ponder we shall. Things may be resolved quickly or go to the wire and we'd be sitting on the edge of our seats well into the summer. There is never a dull moment in our beloved land.

By arrangement with Dawn

An aging process in which people remain active physically and mentally

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

THE ASIAN AGE

TUESDAY | 3 DECEMBER 2019 | NEW DELHI

Kowtowing to US, India at losing end in Afghan



Anand K. Sahay

Far & Near

While India is attempting to rebuild sagging relationships 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 strategic calculus unless repair work is undertaken at the earliest, and in earnest.

It is unclear if the present dispensation in New Delhi has the national vision, political resources, or the ideological make up to undertake this delicate task since from the start it has chosen to tie itself to the apron strings of Washington in

picking its way in Kabul.

This has been seen to be especially the case in the context of the play by Afghanistan's other, influential neighbours who appear focused on the contours of their future role in a post-US Afghanistan, and have not seriously bothered themselves with the sensitivities of the major powers.

In the context of the concerted activities of the world's major powers in the Afghan theatre, and of Kabul's neighbours, India has shown a perplexing readiness to surrender its functional autonomy — in essence its sense of agency — in operating in a complex environment in which Afghanistan's key neighbours — Pakistan, Iran, Russia and China — have sought to underline their single-minded purpose and sturdy independence of spirit in pre-positioning themselves for the day when US military engagement has thinned in the landlocked country.

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 Afghanistan through a deeply 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.

India's recent action suggests that it has been unmindful of its own strategic well-being in the region to pursue an autonomous path in Afghanistan — and be seen by all concerned, especially the Afghan people, to be doing so.

In a time of being wrapped up in processes relating to a historic transition that an American departure necessarily spells, the people of Afghanistan are unlikely to continue reposing their trust in India if they come to believe

India appears to have suffered an erosion of its stock in Afghanistan through a deeply questionable recent act which is being openly discussed in political and diplomatic circles in Kabul, and also more widely in the public domain

that New Delhi prefers to do the bidding of others. In the last 40 years, the story of Afghanistan has been a saga of making all possible efforts, first, to get rid of Pakistani dominance, and then untrammelled US hegemony.

President Donald Trump, after his secret visit last Thursday to Bagram, America's military base just north of Kabul, for a Thanksgiving dinner with US troops there, has publicly called for renewing discontinued negotiations with the Taliban aimed at facilitating American troop withdrawal. The Taliban have signalled their responsiveness.

After nearly a year of contact, and nine rounds of negotiations in Doha, the US-Taliban tango had come close to fruition in early September, when it was abruptly called off.

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 his 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 produced the lowest turnout since the first presidential poll in 2004, with reliable recent estimates suggesting that only around 1.2 million votes were cast (total electorate: close to 10 million). The ground had just not been prepared for it since the US was busy working on a deal with the Taliban.

In the low-polling September 28 election in which 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.

Even if the allegations of Indian malfeasance have the smallest basis, then New Delhi's action has not only been stunningly stupid but is also one that severely compromises this country's short-term and long-term prospects in Afghanistan. It is also likely to sow doubts amongst India's other Saarc neighbours about its trustworthiness.

Since the Taliban were dislodged from power in Kabul in 2001, no country has matched the goodwill India has enjoyed at the level of the government and among ordinary people of war-devastated, landlocked Afghanistan. New Delhi's considerable economic assistance has been seen by Afghans as being selfless.

India has built massive infrastructure in its country, helped with development activity in the rural hinterland, strongly aided the education sector, hosted tens of thousands of Afghan students in India, and provided military training and equipment, besides doing much for that country's trade. As a signifier of democracy, India has also built Afghanistan's landmark

Parliament building.

After the vote-padding fiasco, much of this goodwill built up with sagacity over the years is at risk of being eroded. India's best friends among the Afghan political elite are now likely to be wary of their Indian connection.

They are likely to see New Delhi as readily taking the American view in relation to the place of the Taliban in Afghanistan's power structure at the expense of those within the country who have been at odds with the Taliban but are now trying to reach a *modus vivendi* in hopes of the return of peace to the country. For their part, the Taliban are hardly likely to see India as having extended them a favour. The two have had no contact worth the name.

If India finds its status relegated in Afghanistan, the other major players in the theatre — Russia, Iran, China and Pakistan — too will not accord it first rank status any more. Pakistan will naturally be delighted at the turn of events. Since the end of Taliban rule, a key objective of Islamabad has been to limit Indian influence in Kabul. For India, a friendly and receptive Kabul has meant easy land access to Central Asia and a countervailing weight against Pakistan.

US, India need to work together on innovation for mutual prosperity

Pradeep S. Mehta & Prashant Sharma

With the legacy of supporting the Green Revolution that transformed scarcities into abundance, the innovation potential of the United States can help address socio-economic disparities in India. The Green Revolution was fostered and funded by the US through the Ford Foundation in 1961. Nobel laureate Norman Borlaug was the American scientist behind a new wheat seed. This led to increase in foodgrains production, easing the challenges of feeding increasing populations and combating famine in India then. This happened in spite of an unfriendly relationship between the two countries at that time. Today, the relationship is extremely friendly, thus expanding the scope for stronger cooperation across the spectrum, including innovation.

Building innovation cooperation has been a prime focus of the bilateral partnership in some way or another. However, the full potential is yet to be realised. Bilateral initiatives that encourage innovation to play a greater role in steering socio-economic development in the two countries do exist. Government-to-government initiatives such as the Indo-US Science and Technology Forum (IUSSTF), the United States-India Science & Technology Endowment Fund (USISTEF) and Defence Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI), among others, are testimonies to this fact. In addition, the deepening of the Indo-US partnership on bilateral as well as Indo-Pacific fronts is poised to transform all aspects of bilateral relations.

At the recent US-India Innovation Roundtable organised by CUTS International on October 30 in Washington, Harsh Vardhan Shringla, Indian ambassador to the US, underlined the significance of bilateral innovation cooperation to pursue win-win outcomes. "India — a young country brimming with talent and future entrepreneurs — is the ideal destination for US expertise and capital. The US is also the repository of cutting-edge technology that is highly relevant to what India requires for its economic growth and development", said Mr Shringla.

Furthermore, developing an alliance between India and the US on digital and cyberspace issues is the need of the hour. The core objectives, among others, should aim at fostering innovation, development and defensive mechanisms, which includes a roadmap for artificial intelligence.

The announcement by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) introducing the Indian regional navigation satellite system, NavIC, provides an opportunity to leapfrog in the technology sector. This original navigation system really has the potential for improvements in geolocation capabilities of mobile, automotive, Internet of Things, and all of that requires 5G.

In addition to retaining its position as the world's third largest startup hub and with a growing number of tech startups, India is strategically poised to drive the next wave in technological advancement. Supporting the increasing number of tech startups, in cognisance of their role in pro-

viding direct and indirect jobs, including attracting foreign investments, is crucial in that sense. Recent policy interventions have ensured that progress is made in this direction. However, there is still work to be done in terms of sending a strong signal that investors are welcome, and to ensure that fiscal incentives are made more lucrative and in favour of startups while ensuring consistent supply of electricity and a relatively skilled workforce.

Also, for innovation-based transformation, the foremost requirement is not to underplay the role of institutional and policy innovations. The role of government is in fact central in that sense. The need for such kind of innovation makes more sense in the context of the Defence Offset Policy, 2016 of India. Due to complexity of regulations, the foreign suppliers and vendors fail to meet their offset obligations. This actually affects the intent and spirit envisaged in the first place.

In some instances, the regulatory environment was reported to have given rise to unbridled mobilisation of capital for non-productive purposes. To arrest such gaps, it is imperative for policymakers to keep creating space for multi-pronged, multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder engagement. It will require the whole of government support both at the political and policy levels. Not only will this help decentralise the use and supply of government and private capital but also bolster the requisite technical and mentorship support to both defence and non-defence startups in India.

Last but not the least, issues involving intellectual property rights (IPR) between the US and India should be worked through carefully, without sacrificing our development interests. Some IPR may be perceived as public good but others may not. It will also require India to build awareness on IPR and innovation issues in the industry, particularly start-ups. From a standpoint that patents are crucial in bridging innovation gaps, the patenting process in India needs to be expedited from the existing period of 64 months to at least 30 months as against 24 months in the US.

Seemingly, the US may provide great help in addressing socio-economic issues facing India. The US government and private sector hold tremendous potential in mobilising capital, technical, skilling and knowledge support for the country.

On the part of India, it will remain vital to increase expenditure on research and development from the existing level of 0.7 per cent to at least 2 per cent of the GDP. The same in China is 2.1 per cent while in US it is 2.8 per cent.

It is therefore the time to explore deeper linkages and build on bilateral innovation cooperation in defence and aerospace, energy and environment, information and communication technology, emerging technologies and digital infrastructure, entrepreneurship and inclusive growth, infrastructure and manufacturing and health-care among others. We must build on the momentum, collaborate more in favourable geo-economic circumstances, groundwork done and initiatives taken and come together to advance bilateral relations with a focus on innovation.

The writers work for CUTS International, a global public policy research and advocacy group

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



Francis Gonsalves

A boy accidentally fell into a small, shallow pond. Panicking, he began to shout: "Help! Bacchao!" Seeing his predicament, a passer by bent over, held out his hand and said, "Give! Give me your hand!" The boy did not do so, but kept struggling. Then, the passer by shouted, "Take! Take my hand!" The boy immediately grabbed his hand and was pulled out. The man asked him: "When I said 'give me

your hand', you did nothing. But, when I said 'take my hand', you grabbed it immediately — how come?" The boy replied, "Daddy and mummy said when people say 'give', never give! But when they say 'take', grab, take fast!" Strange as this story sounds, it somehow captures the disposition of most of us today — quick to receive from others but never willing to give of "who" we are and "what" we have. Indeed, from a very young age, we are

schooled to be aggressive go-getters, trained to grab for ourselves, for self-glory. But, isn't there a joy in giving to others since we've received so much from others? From God?

Mother Earth and her progeny are prolific givers. Trees give fruits, hens hatch eggs, animals give milk and the fields birth rich harvests. Unaware and unasked, these natural givers seek neither recompense nor recognition. But when we think of ourselves, human beings, there's normally a hook attached to our giving — even though externally our giving might appear meritorious. The Bhagwad Gita sees

giving as a deeply spiritual act. Accordingly, a gift may be pure (*sattvika*) if unconditionally given; or coloured by selfish motives (*rajasika*); or dark (*tamasika*) with evil intentions. Let's ask: Why do I give what I give? For recognition? Or reward?

Jesus praises the mite of two copper coins that a poor widow put into the temple treasury because, while others donated out of their abundance, "she put in everything she had". Pure self-gift! Elsewhere, Jesus exhorts his disciples: "Give and it will be given to you. The measure you give will be the measure you get." "Zakat" or almsgiving is one of the pillars of Islam, next in importance only to prayer and worship. Muslims are exhorted to donate about 2.5 per cent of their wealth towards the welfare of the poor and the destitute, which many willingly do. Saint Paul writes, "It is more blessed to give than to receive". Do we savour the blessings of giving? Though one's worth is often valued not really by who one "is" but by what one "has", let us strive to be go-givers, not just go-getters. That will make our world a happier place for all.

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





Crypto charge

US cryptocurrency expert Virgil Griffith faces charges of helping North Korea evade sanctions

SHORT TAKES



FB UNVEILS DATA TRANSFER FEATURE

Washington: 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 user 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 privacy 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 customers.

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 in the backdoor through 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 TruSurround 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 surprising 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 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).

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 1 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 60 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 via its platforms, 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

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 recently 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 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.



GOOGLE TO KEEP AN EYE ON STEM CELL ADS

Washington: 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 façade of reputable science in order to peddle questionable stem cell treatments.

— Agencies

SOFTWARE TO KEEP POWER OUTAGES AT BAY

Los Angeles: 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 disasters.

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

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 communications 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 specialty 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 emo-

jis are at the vanguard of rapid changes in 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 type of technology, in a way that speech isn't. Speech is something that we all naturally do as we grow 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 a part of that history as it relates to digital communication devices. Emoji is very much suited to what we do on social media now. The main advantage is that it adds emotional col-

oring, 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 in 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 natural tendency for people to have mini moral panics. It's not just emoji, before it was texting, before that it was probably something else, even back to people sending telegrams. So it's very much generational, like teen slang. But language always changes; patterns of language shift constantly. It's incredibly complex. We all have a repertoire.

— Agencies



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

These are the best batting conditions in the world. If you can get used to the bounce and pace you can make runs.

— Azhar Ali, Pakistan captain on playing in Australia

SHORT TAKES



Priyam Garg

Garg to lead India in U-19 World Cup

Mumbai: 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, which met here on Sunday, 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 Deodhar Trophy. He hit a 74 in the final against India B last month. The 13th edition of the U-19 World Cup will be played among 16 teams, split into four groups. India are placed in Group A with first-time qualifier Japan, New Zealand and Sri Lanka. — PTI

Squad: Priyam Garg (captain), Yashasvi Jaiswal, Tilak Varma, Divyaansh Saxena, Dhruv Chand Jurel (vice-captain & wk), Shashwat Rawat, Divyaansh Joshi, Shubhang Hegde, Ravi Bishnoi, Akash Singh, Kartik Tyagi, Atharva Ankoolekar, Kumar Kushagra (wk), Sushant Mishra, Vidyadhar Patil.

Delhi player banned for age fudging

New Delhi: Delhi cricketer Prince Ram Niwas 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 intimation from BCCI that Prince Yadav has been found guilty of age fudging," a senior DCCA 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 found to be June 10, 1996. But the cricketer submitted a birth certificate to the BCCI in which his date of birth was shown to be December 12, 2001. — PTI



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

— AFP

Pak down under

Lyon takes five as Australia thrash Pakistan with day to spare

Adelaide, Dec. 2: Spin king Nathan Lyon snared five wickets, including dangerous half-century makers Shan Masood and Asad Shafiq, as Australia wore 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 after 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 Marnus

SCORECARD

Australia (1st innings): 589-3 dec
Pakistan (1st innings): 302
Pakistan (2nd innings): S. Masood c Starc b Lyon 68, Imam-ul-Haq lbw Hazlewood 0, A. Ali c Smith b Starc 9, B. Azam c Paine b Hazlewood 8, A. Shafiq c Warner b Lyon 57, I. Ahmed c Labuschagne b Lyon 27, M. Rizwan b Hazlewood 45, Y. Shah lbw Lyon 13, S. Afridi c Hazlewood b Lyon 1, M. Abbas run out (Cummins) 1, M. Musa (not out) 4. **Extras (lb6) 6. Total (in 82 overs) 239.**
FoW: 1-2, 2-11, 3-20, 4-123, 5-154, 6-201, 7-221, 8-229, 9-235.
Bowling: Starc 16-3-47-1, Hazlewood 23-4-63-3, Cummins 15-4-45-0, Lyon 25-7-69-5, Labuschagne 3-0-9-0.

(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 16th five-wicket haul and his first against Pakistan, who have lost all four Tests 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 Azhar Ali fell cheaply on Sunday evening.

His sixth Test 50, in his 17th Test, arrived with a boundary off Lyon, his sixth 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

RECORDS MEANT TO BE BROKEN: RECKONS LARA

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 him go for it," Lara said. — PTI



Nathan Lyon

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, 196 cricketers are capped Internationals, 60 uncapped Internationals and two are from Associate Nations.

Hugh Edmeades will once again set the balls rolling on the dais 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 nought 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 10.1 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 a member 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.

— AFP

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 for two and needing to bat late into the final day although rain may yet have

the last word with further showers forecast for Tuesday. Jeet Raval (duck) and Tom Latham (18) went early in second innings, and for Raval it continued a poor run in which he has failed to reach double figures in six of his last 10 innings. — AFP

Brief scores: New Zealand 375 & 96/2 in 34 overs (K. Williamson 37 (batting), R. Taylor 31 (batting)) vs England 476 in 162.5 overs (R. Burns 101, J. Root 226, O. Pope 75, Wagner 5/124)

Scales are tilted in favour of home teams



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 teams in the WCT must have realised, by now, is that they need to take full advantage of the games



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

— AFP

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

Williamson. With the kind of form that the home team batsmen have displayed so far, Williamson has yet to fire, Broad should probably have advised his lot rather than address the English batsmen.

Take the case of David Warner who became the second highest individual scorer for Australia in Test

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 the tussle for the WCT pennant is between India, Australia, New Zealand and England. The teams that win most matches in 'away' series will be the ones to contest the WCT final at Lord's, England in June 2021. 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

John, Shino win marathon in Kochi

Kochi: Kerala's John Paul C staved off a stiff challenge from a strong field of runners to clinch the gold medal in the IDBI Federal Life Insurance Spice Coast Marathon 2019 here. John proved to be untouchable on the day and despite a humid condition and relentless challenge from the others in fray including the defending champion Mahesh P. S., he finished the full marathon (42.2 k) in just 03:07:05 hours, almost seven minutes ahead of the second placed Ayub A. In the women's category, it was Shino Mol, who cornered the top prize after she clocked a time of 05:11:18 hours to complete the full marathon. Over 7000 runners lined up for the start in three different categories including the Full Marathon, Half Marathon and the Fun run, despite heavy downpour for much of the previous night. Brand ambassador Sachin Tendulkar flagged-off the event from the Willingdon Island and honoured the winners too later in the day.

Officials 'ready' to tackle Typhoon

Clark, Philippines: Southeast Asian Games venues and officials in the Manila region are "ready", competition organisers said Monday, as powerful Typhoon Kammuri churned toward the Philippines. There was no talk of cancelling the Games as the storm headed for a swathe of the nation's north that includes key competition hubs as well as thousands of athletes, and had already impacted scheduling. Forecasters predict the typhoon will make landfall late Monday or early Tuesday hundreds of kilometres southeast of the capital, with intense rains and potent wind gusts of up to 185 kilometres (115 miles) per hour. "Everything is set," Ramon Suzara, COO of organising committee PHISGOC, told journalists on Monday. "For contingency, all venues, all competition managers, technical delegates are ready." Kammuri caused problems for the competition's plans before landfall. Windsurfing was halted as a precaution and triathlon events were held earlier than scheduled, an official said at the weekend. — AFP

KUMAGAI AND AFIF NAMED TOP ASIANS

Hong Kong: Qatar forward Akram Afif and Japanese World Cup heroine Saki Kumagai were named Asia's men's and women's players of the year at an awards ceremony in Hong Kong on Monday. Afif, who made a record 10 assists in Qatar's shock run to the Asian Cup title, beat Iran goalkeeper Alireza Beiranvand and Tomoaki Makino of Japan to the Asian Football Confederation honour. "Very happy to be selected as the Asian Player of the Year. This is a great honour for me," tweeted Afif, 23, who was not in Hong Kong for the prize-giving. Kumagai, 29, who scored the winning penalty in Japan's 2011 Women's World Cup victory, also helped the Nadeshiko finish runners-up at the 2012 Olympics and 2015 World Cup, and led her country to the Asian Cup title last year. She has also enjoyed a glittering club career, winning six French league titles and four Champions League trophies with Lyon. The awards ceremony took place in Hong Kong despite widespread pro-democracy protests that have engulfed the Chinese territory this year. China's award for grassroots football was collected by an AFC official. Japan's Asako Takakura was women's coach of the year for a record seventh time. — AFP

Doncic dominates Mavericks end Lakers' winning streak

Los Angeles, Dec. 2: Luka Doncic finished just shy of a triple double as the Dallas Mavericks gave the Los Angeles Lakers a reality 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.



Luka Doncic (top) of the Dallas Mavericks shoots over Alex Caruso of Los Angeles Lakers while trying to beat the buzzer in their NBA game. — AP

"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.

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 Los Angeles. James also had six of the Lakers' 17 turnovers.

The Lakers' next two games are against Denver and Utah, who are one and two atop the Northwest Division standings.

Kyle Kuzma shot just one of 13 from the floor while Dwight Howard and Rajon Rondo each scored just four points as the Mavericks' bench outscored the Lakers' reserve 43-29. Dallas used a brilliant

third quarter to seize command of the game.

Doncic, who was bloodied and muscled off the ball several times in the November loss to the Lakers, held his ground

on Sunday, scoring 16 of his points in the third quarter.

"He hit a couple of hellacious shots," Dallas coach Rick Carlisle said. "There's just a small

handful of guys in the whole world that can hit them. LeBron James is one of them. He's one of them.

"Those step-back 30-footers, it's hard to describe

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 loss to Lakers.

how difficult the shot is, and how easy he makes it look."

The Mavericks had 35 points to just 17 in the third for the Lakers, who equaled their worst total in a quarter this season.

In the fourth, Dallas increased the lead to 20 and led by double digits the rest of the way.

Davis blamed the loss on the Lakers poor rebounding.

"We beat ourselves with the rebounding, so we know what we've got to do better," he said.

In Toronto, Pascal Siakam scored 35 points and the Toronto Raptors turned a 40 point halftime lead into a 130-110 win over the Utah Jazz.

Fred VanVleet added 21 points and 11 assists for the Raptors, who are a club record 9-0 at home to open the season.

They also are on a season-best seven-game winning streak overall.

Mike Conley had 20 points for the Jazz, who have lost three of their past four games on a five-game road trip.

Elsewhere, Chris Paul scored seven of his 16 points late in the fourth quarter of the Oklahoma City Thunder's 107-104 victory over the New Orleans Pelicans.

Also, Jimmy Butler scored 20 points, Bam Adebayo had 17 points and 16 rebounds and the Miami Heat scored the final 10 points for a 109-106 victory over the Brooklyn Nets. — AFP

Hamilton has to pick his loyalty

Abu Dhabi, Dec. 2: 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 dominance 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.

Hamilton, owner of two high-performance Ferrari road cars, made clear that he is simply looking around to weigh up his options beyond next year when he may equal Michael Schumacher's record of seven drivers' championship titles.

He also made clear that he is in no rush to make any decisions, a position applauded by his current team chief Toto Wolff who may also be considering his future when the sport shifts into a new era.

Wolff said he felt there was a 75 percent likelihood that Hamilton would stay and sign a new contract, likely to be his last as an F1 driver, with Mercedes - but he said also that there was a clear 25 percent chance that he may move.

"Naturally, everything that happens behind closed doors is always private with whoever you end up sitting with," explained Hamilton after winning his 11th race this year, his fifth at the Yas Marina circuit and the 88th of his career.

"For many years, I have never sat down to consider other options because we have been driving straight ahead on the path we have been on. We are still on that path and there is very little that is going to shift that."

"I love where I am so it is definitely not a quick decision to do something else, but it is only smart and wise for me to sit and think of what I want if it is the last stage of my career."

"I want to keep winning. I cannot tell you what is going to happen moving forward. I love where I am so it is definitely not a quick decision to do something else," he said.

Italian news media reported last weekend that Hamilton had held two meetings with Elkann this year - discussions that Wolff appeared to know of when he was asked about his and the Englishman's futures. — AFP



British driver Lewis Hamilton of Mercedes celebrates his victory at the Yas Marina Circuit in Abu Dhabi, after the final race of the Formula One season, on Sunday. — AFP

Martinez carries Inter to table top

Milan, Dec. 2: 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 his 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 has guided 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 their city rivals, after a 3-1 win at

midtable Verona, ahead of Cagliari, who host Sampdoria on Monday.

Justin Kluivert score after 17 minutes in Verona with Diego Perotti converting a penalty just before the break, and Henrikh Mkhitaryan adding a third in injury time.

But Napoli's winless run stretched to eight games in all competitions with a 2-1 defeat at home by Bologna, leaving last season's runners-up in seventh.

Bologna got their first win since October 27 with coach Sinisa Mihajlovic back on the bench following a bone marrow transplant as he fights leukaemia.

Despite taking a point in their Champions League game at Liverpool in midweek Carlo Ancelotti's Napoli are five points off the top four.

Fernando Llorente put Napoli ahead four minutes before half-time, but Dane Andreas Skov Olsen volleyed in an equaliser just before the hour with Nicola Sansone scoring the winner 10 minutes from time. — AFP



Lautaro Martinez of Inter Milan celebrates after scoring his side's second goal during the Italian league match against Spal at the Giuseppe Meazza stadium in Milan, Italy, on Sunday. — AP

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 next year's Tokyo 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 already has two gold and two silver medals in the Olympics.

"I have got plenty of medals in the past, but this will be the icing on the cake for me," he said here.

Blake considers himself favourite to clinch the yellow metal in the 100m sprint at Tokyo. "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."

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

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.

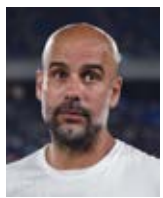
Former India captain and Hyderabad Cricket Association (HCA) president Mohammad Azharuddin was also present on the occasion.

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 in his criticism of Coe.

The 29-year-old also said that he would start a programme in India to dig out talent. "I tell my West Indies cricketers they have to emulate India - Virat Kohli and all those sort of cricketers. Nothing wrong if they emulate us in sprinting," he said.

"After the Olympics, I am going to start a programme in India to harness the talent here because I met some of them in Doha. There is a lot of talent in India. If we as an outsider come and show them what it takes to go to different level, that is going to be easy," he said. — PTI





Pepped up

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 flightback after their 2-1 EPL win over Everton

SHORT TAKES

JFC, NorthEast split points in ISL

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 JRD 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 (11) 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 Farukh 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 Minakshi (48kg) displaying superb control and movement to beat Meghalaya's Eva Marbaniang 5-0. Rituz defeated Ladakh's 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 on the first four days followed by the knockout stage starting from December 6. The final matches will be played on December 8. — PTI

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 Strandja Memorial Tournament in Bulgaria and a gold at a tournament in Russia this year. She was also a gold-medallist at this year's India Open in Guwahati. Her sample was collected on September 24 and was tested at Qatar's Ani-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 LGD-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 13/11/2019," it added. Neeraj has accepted the findings and has declined a 'B' sample test. — PTI



Foxes come to party

Leicester City's Kelechi Iheanacho (right) scores against Everton in their English Premier League match in Leicester on Sunday. The hosts won 2-1. — AFP

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 teed 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

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

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 bulleted 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 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 3-3 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 eying revenge against the club that sacked him 11 months ago. "I wouldn't be sat here talking about us sitting 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 and results after each other. "What I can say is so far we have had the lead in so many games and haven't been able to win those games. Six or seven times we have been up and we should be better at seeing these games into wins." First, United themselves had to come from behind after a superb 11th-minute opener from Grealish, who has scored three league goals and made four assists this season. — AFP

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. Adarsha M.N. Sinimol gave India the first gold by winning the men's individual triathlon event while compatriot Bishworjit Srikhom 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. India first thrashed hosts Nepal by an innings and 12 points with scores of 17-5 and later in the evening, went on to beat Bangladesh by an innings and two points with scores of 12-10. After finishing top of the points table, India will now take on bottom-placed Sri Lanka in the semi-final on Tuesday. In the other semi-final, Nepal will play against Bangladesh. Meanwhile, Indian women's team also secured semifinal berth as they posted their second successive win in the competition when they beat Nepal on Monday. Nasreen-led side, who beat Sri Lanka in their opening game on Sunday, notched up an innings and eight-point win with scores of 11-3 on Monday. — PTI

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 Metropolitan, 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 86th-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 rejoin the race. "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

SPANISH LEAGUE

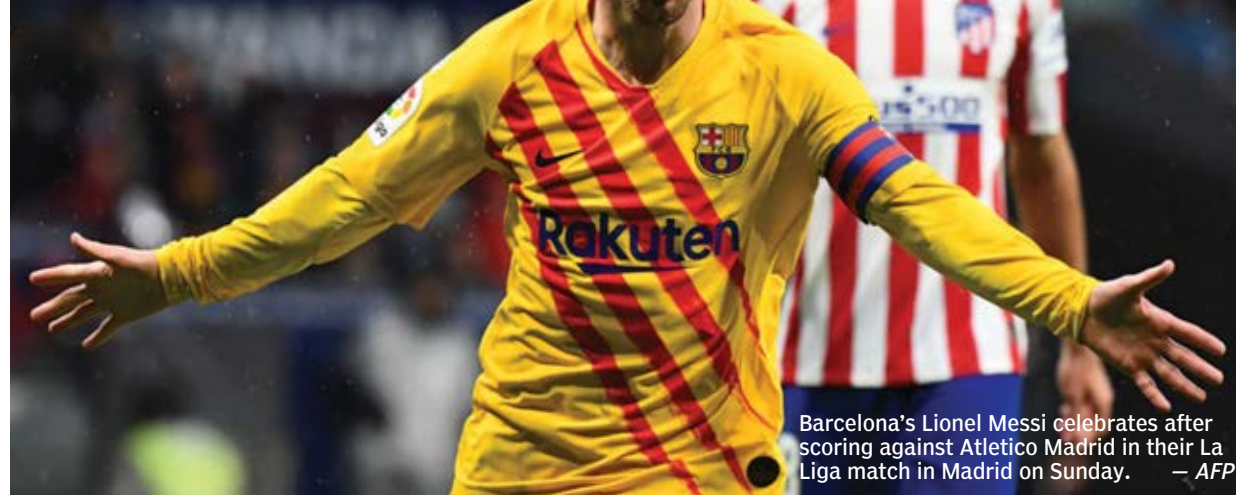
THE RESULTS

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

But Messi scored his 12th goal of the season 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 Metropolitan.

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 top 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 carries me through now but in the longevity for what's the best for the team I shouldn't be playing past another year," Paes told reporters. The Olympic bronze medalist 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. — PTI



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