HE ASIAN AGE

NEW DELHI TUESDAY 3 DECEMBER 2019



NATION | Development

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



SPORTS | Cricket

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

Woh has a **bold Bhumi** dialogue about sex life

TABLOID

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

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

Washington: Two Indian students were killed in a hitand-run accident in South Nashville, Tennessee on Thanksgiving night, authorities have said. Judy Stanley (23), and Vybhav Gopisetty (26), were graduate stu-dents 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 rainrelated 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!





Min: 8°C **RH:** 47% Rainfall: 0%

Forecast: Sunny

Hemalaba: Dakshinayana Tithi: Margasira Shudda Saptami till 11.15 pm Star: Danishta till 2.17 pm Varjyam: 10.21 pm to

Durmuhurtam: 8.47 am to 9.31 am and 10.48 pm to 11.40 pm

Rahukalam: 3 pm to 4.30

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

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

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

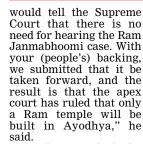
Opposition parties.
"Today, I want to tell you that before the 2024 polls the NRC will be conducted across the country and each and every infiltrator identified and expelled. Rahul Baba (Congress leader Rahul Gandhi) says don't expel them. Where will they go, what will they eat? But I assure you that before the country goes to polls in 2024 all illegal immi-grants 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. 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



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 government for "uprooting" the Naxalite menace and for bringing in development. "When Congress was in

power, it fired upon stu-Turn to Page 4

PAGE 4

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, wor-rying GDP numbers and India Inc's sense of fear at criticising the government's economic performance and policies, Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharama 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 situ-

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

brings down corporate taxes, Ms Sitharaman said her government was open to criticism, but people had not given her enough time to settle

down before judging her.
"People have called me the worst finance minister without waiting for me to finish even six months in office... We are a gov-

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

ernment that listens. 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.

She had earlier on Monday tweeted praise for home minister Amit Shah's response to industrialist Raĥul Bajaj's controversial 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 Rahul Bajaj were a d d r e s s e d . Questions/criticisms are answered/addressed. Always a better way to **Turn to Page 4**

and provide her personal security — seven people drove straight to the porch area of Ms Vadra's residence and got photos clicked with 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

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

CREAMY LAYER

Centre seeks review of SC's **SC/ST ruling**

New Delhi: 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, General K.K.Venugopal sougjht setting up a seven-judge bench for a relook at last year's judgement.

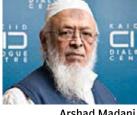
Full report on Page 3

Jamiat files review plea against Ayodhya verdict PARMOD KUMAR Pointing to "errors" in the November 9 order, the

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-



Arshad Madani

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

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

plea for reconsideration says that by directing a temple to be built at the disputed site amounted to destruction of the Babri Masjid if it had not already been demolished on December 6, 1992. The direction for a "temple to be built at the dis-

puted land, which virtually amounts to a mandamus to destroy, because had the Babri Masjid not been illegally demolished on December 6, 1992, the execution of the present order would have required the destruction of an existing mosque to Turn to Page 4

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

Fadnavis denies Anantkumar's charge AGE CORRESPONDENT

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 bomb-shell on Monday, claimthat 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,

despite lacking a majori-

BJP MP

"You all know that recently in Maharashtra for just 80 hours our person was chief minister, soon resigned. Why did we have to do this drama? Turn to Page 4

Trump won't join 'unfair'

impeachment hearing

Donald Trump's attorney said on Sunday that the White House will not participate in congressional hearings Wednesday that will consider passing impeachment articles against the President. "We cannot fairly be expected to par-ticipate in a hearing while the witnesses are yet to be

Washington: US President named and while remains unclear whether the Judiciary Committee will afford the President a fair process," House counse counsel Pat Cipollone wrote in a letter to Jerry Nadler, the Democratic chairman of the Judiciary Committee in the House of in the House Representatives. More on Page 11















the Arctic and the Amazon

to Australia, and tropical

regions hit by devastating

The conference aims to

lay the final pieces of ground work needed to

support the 2015 Paris

Agreement to tackle cli-

mate change, which enters

a crucial implementation

COP25 talks in Madrid will focus on finalising

hurricanes.





Vol. 26 No. 287 | 32 PAGES | ₹5.00 Security breached at Priyanka residence SANJAY KAW Soon after Special Protection

Group (SPG) security cover was withdrawn Priyanka from the Gandhis, a Gandh security breach occurred at general Priyanak Gandhi Vadra's Lodhi Estate Priyanak residence. In an incident that highlights lack of communication between the Delhi Police and the CRPF now responsible for guarding her house

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

then headed out. ■ More on Page 3

Lynch all rapists in public, Jaya tells House

AGE CORRESPONDENTS NEW DELHI, DEC. 2

gangrape-mur-Hyderabad veterinary doctor reverberat-

ed in both of Bachchan 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 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

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

So far the world's efforts to stop climate change have been "utterly inade-quate" 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 con-

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.

— Anotonio Guterres ference in Spain. Addressing the opening

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.

plenary of conference, he

said, that humanity must

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.

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

rules for global carbon markets and setting up a fund to help countries already reeling from climate change — enhanced droughts, heatwaves. ■ Turn to Page 4

phase next year.

Nation

The government

the guilty (in the

are punished.

— Mavawati.

BSP chief

should ensure that

SHORT TAKES

rapists in street

Nirbhaya kin: Shoot

Ballia (UP): The grandfather

victim Nirbhaya Monday said

of Delhi gang rape-murder

those guilty of such crimes

the people to do "justice".

In an apparent reaction to

the recent rape and murder

of a Hyderabad women on

suggested that such cases

will come down if those

tarians expressed similar

sentiments. In the Rajya

Sabha, Samajwadi Party's

Jaya Bachchan said rapists

should be "brought out in

RSS worker shot

shot at in Garden Reach

on Monday, police said,

behind the incident.

Kolkata: An RSS worker was

area of south-west Kolkata

adding that they were yet to identify those

The BJP alleged that the

attack was a handiwork of

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 func-tionary in the area. — PTI

BJP parliamentary

party meet today

mentary party will meet

on Tuesday as the party

for the remainder of the

on December 13, BJP MP

agya Thakur, whose praise

sin 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 law-

makers during Parliament's

sessions. The BJP had also

to the defence ministry for

consultative committee

her comments. - PTI

sacked her as a member of a

for Mahatma Gandhi's assas-

New Delhi: The BJP parlia-

deliberates on its strategy

Winter Session, which ends

Trinamul Congress men and

public and lynched."

at in Kolkata

her way home from work, he

arrested are shot dead in the street. His remarks come on

a day when some parliamen-

should be "handed over" to

Telangana rape case)

THE ASIAN AGE



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 demand ing 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 lynched,' 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

"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"

Describing the Telan-

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

'We should really think about change in legal system, in our judicial sys-tem," 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





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



Citizens protest in Ahmedabad on Monday following the rape and murder of a 27year-old veterinary doctor in Hyderabad. Hundreds of protestors took to the streets on Monday as public anger grew over the brutal gang-rape and murder of a female

ated a ruckus in the Lok

Sabha on Monday with

Bharatiya Janata Party

(BJP) members demand-

ing his apology, saying

they would not tolerate

The attack from the

treasury benches was led

such an insuit.

Cong questions PM Modi, Irani silence on issue

SREEPARNA CHAKRABARTY NEW DELHI, DEC. 2

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

The vigil would 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 ra-pist-murderers," Cong-ress general secretary incharge 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 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 Rainath 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 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 develop-ment minister Smiriti Irani were silent on the

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 Mahahharat'

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 important than GDP" Before Mr Dubey, Adhir quarter.



Nishikant Dubey

Chowdury, Ranjan 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-sixyear-low of 4.5 per cent in the July-September

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

Manabharat and GDP will be 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 govern-

ment is able to reach

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, DEC. 2 Congress MPAdhir Chowdhury's remarks calling Prime Minister Narendra Modi and home minister Amit Shah as "infiltrators" cre-

Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury

Congress Party over its president Sonia Gandhi's foreign origin by dubbing

ner an inflitrator. While speaking on the controversial National Register of Citizens issue, by parliamentary affairs minister Prahlad Joshi Mr Chowdhury is under-stood to have made the who took a swipe at the

infiltrator barb at the BJP bigwigs. In the House on Monday,

House erupts over 'infiltrator' jibe

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) inflitrators, we cannot do

However, as BJP MPs refused to accept his explanation and contin-ued with their protest, Speaker 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 wass still not able to come to terms with its defeat.

Rajasthan MP Arjun Ram Meghwal said: "You will have to apologise".

Some BJF members also accused Mr Chowdhury of running a "syndicate" in West Bengal to help Bangladeshi infiltrators become Indian citizens.

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

ing 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.

to further expand strategic

and defence ties. The talks

took place on Saturday dur-

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 September this year. The new law would replace the

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

"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



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi with tribal folk dancers during an election campaign

■ There were talks to make Supriya a minister: Pawar **Shourie hospitalised after** fall, suffers brain injury 'Rejected PM Modi's offer to work together' Pune, Dec 2: Former

Union minister Arun Shourie sustained a brain injury after he fainted and fell near his home in Lavasa and was admitted to a private hospital here in Maharashtra, a doctor-

said on Monday. Mr Shourie (78) fell near his bungalow in Lavasa, a hill city some 60 kilometres from here, while out on a walk on Sunday night, leaving him bleeding and uncon-

scious, he said. "As it was a free fall, he received an injury on the back of his head. He was initially rushed to a hospital in Hinjewadi (on Pune's outskirts) and later shifted to Ruby Hall Clinic late Sunday

night," said the hospital's neurosurgeon, Dr Sachin Gandhi, who is treating the former BJP

'Due to the fall, there is an internal injury and swelling in the brain and he is currently in the ICU. He is, however, completely stable, responding (to treatment) and taking food.

"As of now there is no abnormality due to the injury," Dr Gandhi

He said, in medical terms, Mr Shourie's condition is called 'cerebral concussion with brain hemorrhage' and it happened due to the injury caused by the free fall after he fainted.

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

Mumbai, Dec. 2: NCP chief

Sharad Pawar has said Prime Minister Narendra

Modi had proposed "work-

ing together"

rejected the offer.

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



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 launcha 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 exampleto 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 Fadnavis, who became CM only to quit three day later.

Pragya plaint to be sent to privilege committee?

New Delhi, Dec. 2: The Lok Sabha Speaker may send Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MP Pragya 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 parliamentar-

ian 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, how

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.

Nation



each police station of Haryana for immediate assistance

Haryana minister

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

ough mental depression." **Summit on vedas**

to be held in Kerala

personnel reached the spot

and doused the flame, they

Anasuva's husband Surendra

failed to save the woman

said, "She was going thr-

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. Ratheesan 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, Ratheesan told

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 Sanakumuli village in Nabarangpur district. According to reports, the female bear got stuck in a biogas tank of a resident namely 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.

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 secre-Priyanak 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

At about 2 pm on November 26, a black Scorpio SUV carrying three men, three women and a child

SC/ST creamy

layer: Centre

seeks review

of SC verdict

AGE CORRESPONDENT

The Centre on Monday

urged the Supreme Court to constitute a

seven-judge bench to

revisit its 2018 verdict

providing for the exclu-

sion of creamy layer within the SC/ST from

reservation benefits in

Seeking the reconsid-

eration of 2018 judgment

providing for the exclusion of the creamy layer

within the SC/ST from

attorney-general K.K. Venugopal sought set-

ting up a seven-judge bench for a relook at last

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

benefits,

reservation

year's judgment.

NEW DELHI, DEC. 2

of Ms Vadra's residence

and got photos clicked

This was one of the worst breaches as the guards not only let the car come in but also did not check the identity of the passengers When Ms Vadra's office filed a

complaint with the CRPF, they were told that access to her house is controlled by the Delhi Police, triggering a blame game

drove towards Ms Vadra's residence. As a meeting was going on in her office, her aide came out and enquired what they want-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 appoint-ment to meet her, it is relilearnt 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

home affairs G. Kishan Reddy said, "I don't know the details yet... I will go and discuss the matter

THE ASIAN AGE

in on the visitors and the

entire compound was put

This was one of the

worst security breaches as

the guards not only let the

car come in but also did not check the identity of

the passengers. Later, when Ms Vadra's office

filed a complaint with the

CRPF to ascertain how the car breached the security

cover, they were told that

access to her house is con-

and a blame game began.

trolled by the Delhi Police

Though the incident is

reported to have occurred

on November 26. MoS for

on alert.

with my officers. It was learnt later that police has ordered a probe.



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

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

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 assurfrom 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 an estimate

crores as an account for the extent of damage was submitted by

her govern-ment 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

supremo, 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

₹23,811.60 which was caught in the crores as an 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 However, we have not received a single paise till date. Lets hope for the best." Ms Baneriee told the House.

Rlys operating ratio worst in 10 yrs: CAG

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, DEC. 2

There has been a lukewarm 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 latreport 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

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 ₹5,676.29 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 resources in the capital

NOTICE District: South 24 Parganas

Before The Learned Commercial Court at Alipore

Ref: Money Suit 10/2019 Bengal Industrial Infrastructure Pvt Ltd.

Pradeep Kumar Kasliwal and others.

Twenty Four Crores Seventy Two

Lacs Only).

...Defendants Suit for recovery of money valued at Rs. 24,72,00,000/- (Rupees

. 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 Saifabad, 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.

Atis Kumar Bhattacharjee Sherestade Court of Ld. Commercial Judge at Alipore, South 24

Parganas, West Bengal

(By Order, Sd, Bench Clerck, Commercial Court, Alipore, 24 Parganas, West Bengal)

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 Badhaman district in the early hours on Monday following an altercation over paying autorickshaw fare, the police said. The incident happened

bench or not will be dealt with after two at Asansol Station Road under the jurisdiction of Mr Venugopal said that Asansol South police staquestions tion at 4.30am, the police addressed by the larger said, adding, both of them have been hospibench have already been

The accused used pepper spray on the cops and fired at them and fled. One of the cops, however, managed to snatch the firearm

driver had approached sub-inspector (SI) Sandip Pal, constable Arijit Samanta and civic volunteer Durgakhetro Pal who were on duty at 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 Asansol-Durgapur comofficer said, adding, one time and told them that 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 missionerate, Sayak Das,

tries and future chal-

lenges. He said focus of

the talks was to chalk

out a blueprint for link-

ing innovation with aspi-

NOTICE

that we have terminated our Agreement with OYO (OYO Hotels and Homes Private Limited or Oravel 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.



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

Barkat Ali

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.

Phone: 011-24368638, 24368641 Fax No. 011-24368639 DP/9560/NW/19

P.S. Mahendra Park, Delhi North-West Distt., Delhi Ph. No. 011-27632501, 27632502

CAN FIN HOMES LTD. Can Fin Homes Ltd S L TOWER, SHOP NO-4, 4TH FLOOR, ALPHA-1, GREATER NOIDA (UP) Ph.: 0120-44569974/7625079164, Email-greaternoida@canfinhomes.co 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 of2002)*

1. Mrs. Omwati W/o Daya Ram, C-1/78, Ground floor, DLF Dilshad Extn-II, Bhopura

Mr. Sagar S/o Daya Ram, C-1/78, Ground floor, DLF Dilshad Extn-II, Bhopura

3. Mr. Harish S/o Daya Ram, C-1/78, Ground floor, DLF Dilshad Extn-II, Bhopura

4. Mr. Chattarpal S/o Daya Ram, C-1/78, Ground floor, DLF Dilshad Extn-II, Bhopura

(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- Brahmpura 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- Brahmpura 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 unserved. The undersigned has, therefore, caused these notices to be pasted on the premises of the last known addresses of the said Borrower/s 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

Date: 02.12.2019

Authorized Officer

Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Sweden's King Carl XVI Gustaf and Oueen Silvia before their meeting at Hyderabad House in New Delhi on Monday. $-\tilde{G.N.}$ JHA

India, Sweden to work together in maritime the role of collaborative technological innovation between the two coun-

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 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-High-Level Policy Dialogue on Innovation Policy during which both sides discussed ways to expand engagement in research

▶ 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.

spokesperson Raveesh Kumar said the two leaders emphasised

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

rations.

ter 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.

Activist moves SC for women's safety at Sabari ment by which women of including the state and its Ms Ammini and

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 judgall age groups were permitted to enter the tem-The top court while

referring the issue of the entry of women in the Sabarimala temple to a larger bench had clubbed 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

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 women going to the Sabarimala temple without any hindrance from any source,

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

agencies.

individuals

obstructing them from entering the temple" Ms Ammini and Kanaka Durga had entered the Sabarimala temple on the top court verdict in September 2018 allowing women of all ages to enter the shrine. The top court had on

seven-judge Constitution Bench the question of the entry of menstruating women in the age group 10 to 50 years in Lord relating to discriminatory religious practices relating to women in Muslim, Parsi and Dawoodi Bohra community.

January 2 this year after

November 14 referred to a Ayyappa's Sabarimalsa temple and the issues





Centre will provide all possible help for the Patna Metro Project

> - Hardeep Singh Puri, **Union minister**

SHORT TAKES

Traffic suspended

on J&K highway Banihal/Jammu: Civilian traf-

fic on the 270-km Jammu-Srinagar national highway was suspended on Monday to allow smooth passage of security convoys and to facilitate maintenance of the road damaged by recent landslides, traffic depart-ment officials said. "No civilian vehicle was allowed to ply on the highway from either from Srinagar or Jammu this morning to allow smooth passage of security convoys and to carry out some repair work on the road damaged by recent landslides in the Ramban sector," a traffic department official said.

Pet dog tortured & killed, 13 booked

Agra: Police have booked 13 people for allegedly torturing and killing a pet dog after picking it up from outside its owner's home here. Jagdishpura police station house officer Rajesh Kumar Sharma told PTI that they gathering evidence in the matter and "appropriate action will be taken against those involved". The police said the dog, named Twinkle, was allegedly picked up on Sunday from outside its owner's home in the locality by some persons. According to the complainant, the dog owner made a complaint to the People for Animals after the pet was found dead. — PTI

Rape survivor kills

self, cop suspended Baripada: A police personnel was suspended on Monday for negligence in duty, which allegedly led to a rape survivor committing suicide in

Odisha's Mayurbhani district,

officials said. Inspector in-Mahalik, posted at Jharpokharia police station, was suspended following allegations of inaction on the complaint filed by the rape survivor, they said. The 23-year-old woman, a teacher of Physics at a college in the district, had filed a complaint alleging rape on October 30, but the police

allegedly did not take any action.

JAMIAT FILES REVIEW PLEA

■ Continued from Page 1

make space for a proposed temple", says the petition. Though the Supreme Court in its verdict had noted three of the several illegalities committed by the Hindu parties, the review petition says yet it proceeded to "not only condone the said illegal acts but to award the same by allotting the disputed site to the Hindu

parties' Monday was the 24th day since the judgment was pro-nounced on November 9. The plea for reconsideration of verdict can be filed within 30 days of the pronouncement of

the judgment. The three illegalities pointed out by the petitioner seeking the recall of the November 9 order includes damaging the domes of the Babri Masjid in 1934, desecrating the Babri Masjid by placing the idols of Ram Lalla under the central dome in 1949 and the demolition of the Babri Masjid in 1992. The petition contended that instead of awarding the disputed site to the Muslim parties, it was given to the Hindu parties, knowing well that their claim over the disputed site was based on three acts of illegalities in 1934, 1949 and 1992. Saying the Babri Masjid was demolished on December 6, 1992 in brazen violation of multiple orders of the Supreme Court, the review petition has noted that even the court had in its November 9 order said the events of December 6, 1992 were an "egregious violation" of the rule of law.

Wall collapses in TN village after heavy rains, 17 killed

ANANTH MATHIVANAN

a heart-wrenching rain-related tragedy, as many as 17 people, including 13 women and children, were killed after a huge compound wall collapsed over three houses at Mettuplayam near here in the early hours of

Accentuated by heavy rains at the foothills of Nilgiris in Mettupalayam late on Sunday night, a huge 25-ft high, 80-ft wide wall at Nadur AT Colony there suddenly collapsed over three tiled-roof houses around 3.30 am on Monday, hopelessly trapping its occupants.

The police said while monsoon lashing Nilgiris and Coimbatore districts, amid frequent, even if moderate rainfall for the past two months, resulting in minor landslide in the hills, many

16-yr-old girl

gangraped in

Chhattisgarh;

Bilaspur, Dec. 2: A 16-

year-old girl, who had taken her cattle for graz-

ing in a forest, was

allegedly raped by two men in Chhattisgarhs

Bilaspur district, police

said on Monday.
The incident took place

on Sunday afternoon

and the two accused,

identified as Rai Singh Markam (28) and Manoj Kumar Wakre (20), were arrested on Monday,

The survivor had taken

her cattle for grazing to

a forest near her house

in the Gaurela police sta-tion area when the duo,

riding a motorcycle, crossed the area, addi-

tional superintendent of

police (Pendra area)

On realising that the

girl was alone in the for-

est, the two returned to

the spot and allegedly

took her along with

them after threatening

her, Tiwari said, quoting

lodged by the victim's

They also hit the girl

with a stick before rap-

ing her, the police officer

said, adding the accused

fled the scene after com-

The girl reached home

and narrated the ordeal

to her mother who then

contacted the police on

Monday, said the vic-

mitting the crime.

tim's mother.

complaint

irom

Pratibha Tiwari said.

they said.

2 arrested



Rescue workers at the site of the wall collapse in Nadur village of Mettupalayam taluk, near Coimbatore, on Monday. Seventeen people were killed in the incident on Sunday night after the compound wall of three tile roofed houses collapsed on them, reportedly due to rains.

parts of the foothills at Mettupalayam, have been taking the brunt of the heavy rains in the last two days. Today's tragedy was fallout of acute wet-

As the landscape was inclined, the compound wall fell over the houses

MANOJ ANAND

GUWAHATI, DEC. 2

If anti-CAB movement

has started subsiding in

three states ruled by Inner

Line Permit (ILP), the stu-

dent bodies of Assam and

other northeastern states

have intensified their agi-

tation to block Citizenship

(Amendment) Bill (CAB)

expected to be tabled in Parliament in its new for-

mat next week.
The All Assam Student

Union (Aasu) workers,

who took out a motorcycle

rally throughout the state

on Monday, also demon-

strated in front of regional Asom Gana Parishad

(AGP) offices, accusing

the party of betraying the

people who gave them

mandate against CAB.

beneath while the residents were sleeping; before they could get up hearing the huge sound, they were buried under the debris of both the collapsing wall and the side walls of their houses that crumbled along with it.

On information from

Assam's student bodies

step up stir against CAB

All Assam Student

Union (Aasu) leaders

Asom Gana Parishad

Expressing surprise over the silence of AGP leaders who had left rul-ing alliance while oppos-ing the CAB, the Aasu

leaders said that party has

surrendered before the

saffron leadership.
The Aasu leaders said that their protest against

CAB will continue until

the bill. The Aasu which

has also banned the entry

government scraps

take part in motor-

cycle rally, demon-

strate in front of

(AGP) offices for

of Assam

'betraying' people

local residents, fire fitting commandos and police rushed to the spot and undertook rescue operations amid pouring rain. The bodies were recovered by 10.30 am on Monday and sent to Mettupalayam GH for post-mortem. The deceased were iden-

THE ASIAN AGE

tified as Gurusamy, 45, Ramanathan, Anandha Kumar 40, Hari Sundha, 16, Sivakami, 45, Oviyammal, 50, Nathiya, 30, Vaithegi, 20, 30, Vaithegi, 20, Thilagavathi, 50, Arukani, 55, Rukmani,

Nivetha, Chinnammal, Mangalammal,

Akshya 7, LoguRam 7, and Mahalaxmi 10 years. Expressing deep shock and pain at the tragedy, chief minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami

announced ₹4 lakh as compensation to the next

of Assam chief minister

Sarbananda Sonowal into Dibrugarh University on Monday, demonstrated

outside the parental house

The Aasu leadership,

which has been invited for a talk with the ministry of home affairs, said that

they are not going to

Claiming that proposed

drama",

(KMSS)

discussion with Union home minister was a

Krishak Mukti Sangram

Monday said that foreign-

ers may not be able to buy land in the sixth schedule

or the area administered

by IL,P but they will be

able to work and cast their

vote besides taking land

budge from their stand.

'sheer

of the chief minister.



INDIAN NAVY'S FIRST WOMAN PILOT

Southern Naval Command Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief Vice-Admiral A.K. Chawla awards the coveted wings to first woman pilot of Indian Navy, Sub-Lieutenant Shivangi, at a ceremony in Kochi on Monday. Sub Lieutenant Shivangi has created history as the first woman pilot of the Indian Navy on successful graduation from the course. Sub

Lieutenant Shivangi, a native of Muzaffarpur, Bihar, was inducted into the Indian Navy under the Short Service Commission (SSC)-Pilot entry scheme, and was part of the 27th Naval orientation course (NOC) Course at the Indian Naval Academy, Ezhimala. She was commissioned into the Navy in June last

Maha govt

will review

bullet train

project: CM

Maharashtra chief min-

ister Uddhav Thackeray

has ordered a review of

all on-going develop-ment projects in the state, including the

Mumbai-Ahmedabad

The bullet train project has faced stiff opposi-tion from farmers and

tribals whose lands are

the common man. Like

you asked now, yes, we will review the bullet

train (project). Have I

"This government is of

Dec.

Mumbai,

bullet train.

to be acquired.

VVIP COPTER SCAM

Delhi court grants bail to Ratul Puri

New Delhi, Dec. 2: A Delhi court Monday granted bail to businessman Ratul Puri, nephew of Madhya Pradesh chief minister Kamal Nath, in AgustaWestland money

laundering case. Special Judge Kumar granted bail to Puri on a personal bond of ₹5 lakh and two sureties of like amount.
Puri will, however, remain in jail as he was

also arrested in another case — the one related to bank fraud.

In his bail plea, Puri had said that he was not required for further investigation and no purpose will be served by keeping him in custody. The Enforcement

Directorate had recently filed a supplementary Prosecution Complaint against Puri and Jaspreet



Ahuja in the ₹3,600-crore AgustaWestland chopper deal case.

In January 2014, India had scrapped a contract with Finmeccanica's subsidiary, AgustaWestland, for supplying 12 VVIP choppers to the Indian Air Force, over alleged breach of contractual obligations and charges of kickbacks paid to secure the deal.

— PTI

stayed the bullet train project like Aarey car shed? No, I haven't," Mr Thackeray told reporters here late Sunday night. The state government will also come out with a white paper on the financial condition of the state, Thackeray

He said the state government, which has a debt of nearly ₹5 lakh

crore, is firm on giving unconditional loan waivers to farmers. The announcements

came a day after the Thackeray-led Maharashtra Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government forged by the Shiv Sena, NCP and Congress more than a month after the election results won the confidence vote in the state Assembly with the support of 169 legislators in the 288-member

India's tiger population up by 750 in 4 yrs to 2,976 New Delhi, Dec. 2: our whole ecological sys-

Environment, forest and climate change minister Prakash Javadekar on Monday said in the Rajya Sabha that tiger popula-tion in the country has increased by 750 in the last four years to 2,976.

Earlier, the country's

"Now the tiger count is 2,976. We must be proud of

tem. Tigers increased by 750 in last four years," Mr Javadekar said in reply to a supplementary question. He said lions, tigers, ele-

phants and rhinos are India's assets and reports of any deaths said during the Question
Hour in the Upper House.
"Now the tight count."

"Now the tight count." facts.

In reply to another sup-



plementary question, the minister said the country's Northeast has a peculiar problem of

Jhum cultivation but has forest officials of the forest cover of over 75 per cent in all states. Jhum cultivation is the process of growing crops

by first clearing the land of trees and vegetation and burning them thereafter. About the decline of the forest cover in certain areas there, he said there will be a new survey of 2019-20 by the end of this month. The minister said that while a meeting of

Northeast was convened, Himachal Pradesh has also framed an ambitious plan to protect its forests. Mr Javadekar said the country's geographical area of forest cover has increased by 17,374 sq km. The top three states which have increased the forest include West undivided cover Bengal, Andhra Pradesh and

■ Continued from Page 1 seek an answer than

spreading one's own impressions which, on gaining traction, can hurt the national interest," she

The Opposition parties on Monday used the debate on the Taxation Bill to highlight the gloomy economic situation and pin the government down for neither consulting people nor listening to criticism. The latest GDP figures show growth has slumped to a six-year low of 4.5 per

The finance minister said that a slew of measures taken by her government, including corporate tax, would help small and big businesses and bring in "maximum" foreign direct investment into the country. Reducing the corporate tax rate, she added, was aimed at attracting investment and creating

BJP MP Nishikant Dubey, however, came up with a bizarre argument. He said that GDP figures were not gospel truth, like the Bhagvad Gita or the Bible, adding that these figures would not be of any use in

Responding to the "Suit-Boot Ki Sarkar" barb, Ms Sitharaman said: "We're told that lowering corporate tax helps only the rich. I want to tell them that the corporate tax cut helps all small and big businesses

registered according to the Companies Act.'

Nirmala hits back at critics

Taxation Laws (Amendment) Bill seeks to replace the ordinance that was promulgated by the President in September. The government had, through the ordinance, reduced the corporate tax rate from 30 to 22 per cent, and for new manufacturing companies to 15 per cent. Companies opting for lower tax rates, however, are not entitled to claim

any rebate or deductions. The economic slowdown is not accepted by the ruling party," said DMK MP A. Raja, who added that world-renowned Indian economists like Raghuram Rajan, Urjit Patel, Arvind Subramaniam and former Prime

Minister Manmohan Singh were not happy with the present economic scenario, nor were they backing the government's policies. The Opposition blamed poor implementation of GST and demonetisation as the key reasons for the present economic slump.

Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury blamed the lack of a long-term vision by the Modi government for the slowdown in the country's growth, and even wondered whether it would be apt to call Nirmala Sitharaman as "Nirbala" (weak) to reiterate how helpless the FM is as she cannot take her own decisions despite being the finance minister. Responding Chowdhury,

Sitharaman said she is "Nirmala (pure), and will remain Nirmala, not Nirbala (weak)... In our party women are Sabla (strong) and together we can be Bala (problem) for others." She added she had met Dr Singh and former President Pranab Mukherjee (also a former finance minister) for consultations.

While replying to members, the FM, instead of giving a concrete roadmap to improve the economic situation or giving sufficient reasons for the slump, tried to deflect the Opposition's questions and criticism by making political statements. In the process, without naming Robert Vadra, she also took a dig at the Gandhi family, saying her government has done a lot to benefit the poor and common people and not to benefit "Jija" (brother-in-law).

Mr Vadra is commonly addressed derisively as "Jijaji" by BJP leaders. "8 cr people got gas connections under Ujjwala. Who are the 68 lakhs beneficiaries of Ayushman Bharat? Who are those 11 crore people who got toilets in their houses? Are they someone's 'damaad' (son-in-law) or Jija? We don't have Jijas in our party. We only have karyakartas (workers),' Ms Sitharaman said.

'All infiltrators will be expelled'

■ Continued from Page 1

Jharkhand state and attacked them with batons. Now Hemant Soren (JMM leader) is sitting in the laps of the same Congress so he can become the chief minister," he

Referring to the "vikas ki Ganga" flowing in Jharkhand because of the "double engine" growth the Centre and the state governments had ushered in together, Mr Shah said the Modi government built AIIMS in Deoghar, and it will now construct an airport there and also Bokaro, Dumka

Jamshedpur. About 20 lakh farmers have benefited from the crop insurance

scheme, he said. Within five years, the Narendra Modi government and Raghubar dispensation uprooted Naxalism and paved the way for the state's development, he said.

He said Raghubar Das provided a "zero corruption" government and gave the state political stability. The Das government is the first in Jharkhand's history that will complete its full term in office.

"Rahul Gandhi is in Jharkhand today. I challenge him to give an account of what Congress governments have done for Jharkhand during 55 years of their rule. We will also give an account of what we have done in five years," he

Targeting the opposition alliance the BJP chief said, "Parties that sell poll tickets, exploit Adivasis, opposed creation of Jharkhand and indulged in corruption involving millions and billions of rupees cannot take the state forward." -PTI

Fadnavis drama for ₹40Kcr

■ Continued from Page 1

Didn't we know, despite knowing we don't have majority, why did he become CM? This is the question commonly everyone ask (sic)," Mr Hegde said while speaking in Uttara Kannada district Saturday.
"More than about ₹40,000 crore

was under CM's control. If NCP, Congress and Shiv Sena come to power, certainly that ₹40,000 crore would not have gone for development work and would have gone for different things," he said.
"It was entirely planned earlier

itself. Once we got to know about three parties forming government, it was decided that a drama has to be played out. So, adjustments were made and oath was taken by Fadnavis as CM. After oath within 15 hours, Fadnavis systematically ensured that the money reaches where it had to and protected it,' the BJP leader said. Mr Fadnavis, obviously embarrassed by the claims, promptly issued a denial, stating that no major decision was

taken during his second stint as chief minister.

The former chief minister said in Nagpur, "The Maharashtra government has no role in the bullet train project other than land acquisition. Not a single rupee of the Maharashtra government has been returned to the Centre from any other project." However, the claims provided fresh ammunition to the Shiv Sena, which lashed out against its former ally and Mr Fadnavis. Sena MP Sanjay Raut said Mr Fadnavis' purported actions were "treachery against Maharashtra". Terming Mr Fadnavis and the BJP criminals, he said the state chief secretary should clarify on the issue. The NCP said Prime Minister Narendra Modi must resign if Mr Hegde's claims were truthful. "It is impossible for the state government to return ₹40,000 crore to the Centre. If at all the claims are true, then Prime Minister Modi will have to step down from his post," NCP chief spokesperson Nawab Malik

UN chief on climate change

■ Continued from Page 1

floods and storms made worse by

Mr Guterres noted the world has the scientific knowledge and the technical means to limit global warming, but "what is lacking is political will".

"The point of no return is no longer over the horizon," Mr Guterres told reporters in the Spanish capital. "It is in sight and

hurtling toward us." He cited mounting scientific evidence for the impact that manmade emissions of greenhouse

gases are already having on the planet, including record temperatures and melting polar ice, but insisted his message was "one of hope, not of despair".

"Our war against nature must stop and we know that is possible,"

Countries agreed in Paris four years ago to limit global warming to well below two degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit), ideally 1.5C (2.7F) by the end of the century compared with pre-industrial

— Agencies

THE ASIAN AGE

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



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

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

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

difficult art form not attracting

too any serious aspirants - and

hardly any from outside Kerala.



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 Act of Bhasha's Abhisheka the courage to enact dying, almost breath by breath, on stage — prolonged over halfan-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

> Natakam (which in the old days would be enacted over days) into a twohour slot to fit the needs of today's performance requirements, without making it appear need-lessly abridged, was indeed an accomplishment in itself — and very skilfully done by any standards by

Margi Madhu. The first scene Nepathya Rahul Chakyar as Sreeram showing his prowess with the bow and arrow to convince Sugreev (enacted Nepathya

Yadukrishnan)

a warrior. Oniy seeing how one lethal arrow of Ram could pierce seven tree tops accurately, 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 powers 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 Narasimna, naii-man and naiilion, 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 wordless ly, 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 *mukhabhi-naya*, except for the end when she mentions in a tone of warning that Sugreev this time is coming with strong allie — she was so powerfully communicative. Bali's confident aggression counter-pointed 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 divin-

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 expertise by Kalamandalam Ratheesh 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

TUESDAY | 3 DECEMBER 2019 | NEW DELHI

THE ASIAN AGE

3 DECEMBER 2019

New labour bill is a missed opportunity

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 14day 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 manage-

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

uncertainty in this new bill. Like the minimum wages code, which stopped short of defining a central floor wage even as MNREGA wages post-

if an individual goes to court, or an indus-There is much trial 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.

With much unorganised labour already performed traditionally and technology hike came out as less changing the structure of other jobs, we have entered what is known as the "gig than the minimum economy", where the worker isn't necessarily attached to a workplace and expects narment on the basic of tasks northward 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

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

ri 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 great him with the results to great him. 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 reac-

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

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.

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US-China wrangling on HK just sound & fury?



Sunanda K. Datta-Ray

Reflections

Chinese tion August 30 march in New Delhi by exiled Tibetans in support of the Hong Kong protesters as to US President Donald President 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 earli-er 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 discome 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. pro-democracy camp is now demanding direct popular elections for the city's leadership and legislature, and a probe into alleged police brutality against demon-

strators. Although comments by foreigners are resented interference 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

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 (Barack President 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 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 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

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 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 Argentina's soybean exports went to China. Expecting bumper crop in 2020, Argentinian farmers are keeping their fingers crossed efforts to clinch a China-

US deal will continue to be frustrated. Sanctions are a two-way street. The Institute

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 par-

ticular 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

Bengal (which eventual-

for East

Indian support

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.

> ly 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". Khachik Astwachatoor, 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 1924hoping that 25 saved the institution from closure.

> > The writer is a senior journalist, columnist

and author

SELECTIVE OUTRAGE

Is it is 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 minstatement 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.

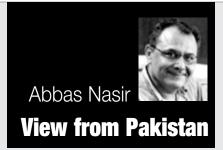
Bal Govind

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

Every Monday the best letter of the week wins ₹500. Email: letters@asianage.com Else, send to Jawaharlal Nehru National Youth Centre, 219 Deen Dayal Upadhyay Marg, New Delhi 110002



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

he 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 courtmandated 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

This (miniscule) minority opinion would have you believe that Gen. Bajwa, if his former senior and a "defence analyst" Lt. Gen. (Retd.) Amjad Shoaib is right, should have stuck to his guns and

said no to the offered extension. The retired general, who claims first-hand knowledge of develop-ments, 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 what dynamics unleashed by an incoming chief. This ensured mutual longevity.

As for the court-mandated lawmaking 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

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

remain active physically and mentally grammar characteristic of online communication

Kowtowing to US, India at losing end in Afghan



Anand K. Sahay

Far & Near

hile rebuild ships 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 dis-pensation 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

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 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 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.

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-

THE ASIAN AGE

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

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 shortterm 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 their 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 connec-

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

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

Pradeep S. Mehta & Prashant Sharma

ith 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 (USIS-TEF) 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 cuttingedge technology that is highly relevant to what India requires for its economic growth and development", said Mr

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 ventions. 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 gov-ernment 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 sup-

port 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 healthcare 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

boy accidentally fell into a small, 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 selfglory. 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 recom-

pense nor recognition. But when we think ourselves, human beings, there's normalhook attached to our

giving — even though externally our giving might appear merito-The Bhagwad Gita sees

temple treasury because, while others donated out of their abun-dance, "she put

in everything she had". Pure self-gift! Elsewhere, Jesus exhorts his disciples: "Give and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together,

running over will be

poured into your lap. For

giving as a deeply spiritu-

al act. Accordingly, a gift

may be pure (sattvika) if

unconditionally given; or

coloured by selfish motives (*rajasika*); or

dark (tamàsika) with evil

intentions. Let's ask: Why

do I give what I give? For

Jesus praises the mite of

two copper coins that a

poor widow put into the

recognition? Or reward?

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.

the measure you give will be the measure you get.'

"Zakat" or almsgiving is

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

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









FB UNVEILS DATA TRANSFER FEATURE

Washington: 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

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



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 recov-

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

Google spokesperson Alex Krasov said eenforcement 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 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

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

Utilities in California have been blamed for several of the deadliest and most destructive

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

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 consumers against making a blind

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 televi-sion can also be a gateway for hackers to come into



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 chromestack streaming

stick and braodcast videos could be easily hacked. More than anything else, what viewers watch is always of interest to advertisers and it was reported that even popu-lar 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

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

NOKIA SMART TV LAUNCH ON **DECEMBER 5**

THE ASIAN AGE

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

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 televiglobally.

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

The smart TVs will also be a part of the Make in India initiative. Flipkart has a similar arrangement 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

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 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 targeted observed 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

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

As part of their

internet scanning

efforts, security

Noam Rotem and

Ran Locar found

the database.

The data also

contains sensi-

tive text mes-

sages, such as

two-factor

codes and

ty mes-

may have

other securi-

sages, which

allowed anv-

one viewing

researchers

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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)

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 recenlty 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 measures in place, some platforms tolerate malver-

Confiant said it found that nearly 60 per cent of all the malicious ads it recorded came from just three advertising plat-

"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 plat-forms, 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.

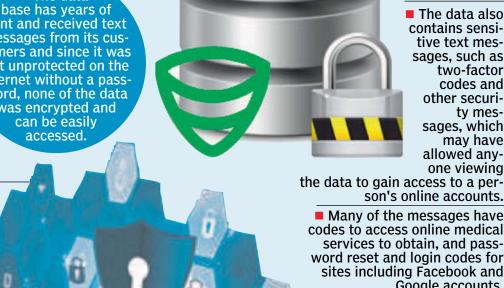
SMS UNSAFE FOR BUSINESS COMMUNICATION

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 from businesses with discount codes, and job alerts, among other things.

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



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 user-

names 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.

Electropreneurship park in every state Bengaluru, Dec. 2: Association Satya Gupta

Buoyed by the 1,500 Internet of Things (IoT) startups in the country, the IoT think-tank has decided to set up 'Electropreneurship Park' in every state, said an IoT Forum on Monday. "Basically, this is an

intelligent electronics centre incubation facility, which we are trying to set up along with STPI (Software Technology Parks of India) and the Ministry of Information and Technology in all the states. So either it is an electro-park or a centre of excellence, vice-chairman of India Electronics Semiconductor

said. The first such incubation centre was started in Delhi and in a couple of months, it would be set up in Bhubaneshwar.

The next plan is to have medical electronics centre in Lucknow and then an agritech centre in Ranchi and one is planned in Punjab, Gupta said. So slowly, as the bandwidth becomes available, along with the government we are trying to cover the whole country through this, he said.

Another such incubation centre has been planned in Bengaluru, , Gupta said.

AI cameras to check cellphone driving

driving remains a problem in many parts of the world, Australian police appear to be making a stride towards checking the problem.

The country's New South Wales has started using cameras that can automatically detect drivers using their phones.

The camera system uses AI to review photos with signs of phone use, with review of the flagged images is done manually to prevent any false positives. There will be two kinds of cameras - fixed and trailer-mounted -to

The initiative, in its first three months, will let firsttime guilty drivers get

Parramatta, Dec. 2:As away with a warning. After that, huge penalties driving remains a prob-

Distracted drivers will receive a fine and five demerit points in typical cases, with higher penalties for violations in school zone and 10 demer-it points during double demerit periods.

tion in incidents.

An officer said studies showed that the initiative could prevent 100 fatal and five years.

trace distracted motorists.

Authorities feel the initiative will lead to reduc-

serious injury crashes in If not for the results, the system could serve as a deterrent. However. privacy issues are not sig-

nificant as the cameras don't look for faces.

MESSAGING | MATTERS | Creative tools like Bitmoji, Memoji make conversations interesting and innovative

Emojis compensate for emotional flavour in texts

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 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 lan-

guage 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

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

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 your-

Responding to claims that emoji usage is ruining launguages, 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













that it adds emotional col-

TUESDAY | 3 DECEMBER 2019 | NEW DELHI

Kiran Mazumdar Shaw: **India Inc not** anti-national Govt finds way to limit palm oil flow

Overleaf

quick

INDICATORS		%
Sensex	40,802.17	+0.02
Nifty 50	12,048.20	-0.07
S&P 500	3,114.31	-0.85
Dollar (₹)	71.65	-0.13
Pound Sterling (₹)	92.58	-0.10
Euro (₹)	78.88	-0.14
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	38,718 ▼ 161	-0.41
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	61.27	+1.29
IN 10-Yr bond yield	+6.485	+0.387
US 10-Yr T-bill yield	+1.847	+3.998
* As of 9:30 pm IST		

Crisil slashes FY20 growth forecast to 5.1%

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

NCLAT bench to be set up in Chennai



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

NCLT admits RBI plea for DHFL bankruptcy

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

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

World Bank Group arm IFC said it has anchored an investment round of \$200 million (about Rs 1,433 crore) in Mahindra Financial Services to create a dedicated pool of financing for MSMEs in low-income states. At least \$100 million will be earmarked for women-owned MSMEs. "IFC has invested \$75 million from its own account and is mobilising another \$125 million as parallel loans," it said.

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■ Exchanges cite non-compliance with market rules

Karvy's trading licence suspended

ASHWIN J. PUNNEN

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

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

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

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

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



broking firm.

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

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

"Investors will be protected and they can square off at a later stage too" he said.

The mess at Karvy Stock Broking seems to be much bigger than first believed. The markets regulator now estimates the misuse of client securities by the broker at Rs 2,800 crore, 40 per cent more than the Rs 2,000

crore it estimated earlier. The misutilisation is much larger according to the initial estimates of a forensic audit, Rafique Dada, the senior counsel appearing on behalf of Sebi at the Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT), said on Friday.

Meanwhile, a big relief came for investors of Karvy on Monday when depository NSDL said in a statement that it has transferred securities into the accounts of the clients.

NSDL has transferred worth securities 2,013.77 crore into the accounts of 83,806 clients who have paid full amount

for these securities. Karvy Stock Broking has misused clients securities' worth Rs 2,800 crore, according to reports. It is also likely that the amount would increase further but that would emerge only after the forensic analysis

is completed.
All the clients' securities were pledged with banks and non-banking financial companies (NBFCs), a source added.

Banks have fund-based exposure of Rs 1,415 crore to Karvy and some more in non-fund-based guarantees. Lenders are seeking ownership of the pledged shares, but Sebi is unlikely to consider the request, the reports said.

Clients would be at a disadvantage if the banks receive ownership of the shares and invoke the pledges, a source told the paper.

According to a report 83,000 clients out of 90,000 clients of Karvy Stock Broking have received securities worth Rs 2,013.77 crore.

The securities have been transferred from Karvy's demat account to those of the 83,806 clients who have paid in full against these securities. The National Securities Depository Ltd has started the process of transferring securities in client demat account.

insurance JVs' future

FALAKNAAZ SYED MUMBAI, DEC. 2

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Irdai) has written to public sector banks that are merger candidates to provide a road map on what they propose to do with their stakes in insurance companies after the merger comes into effect. Public sector banks have responded to the regulator seeking time sources said. Banking officials said that a couple of banks will shed their promoter tag in their insurance companies by divesting their stake to below 10 per cent to be categorised as an

investor. A top industry official told FC, "The Irdai had written to these banks asking them to submit a road map on what they propose to do with their stake in their insurance companies. One is being a promoter and the other is being an investor. Banks will have to take a call and then come to the regulator with a road map on what

they want to do. "The Irdai wrote to the banks last month, the banks have written back saying that they need some time as they are firming up their plan and will respond. They said that they are fully aware of their responsibilities and have assured the Irdai that they would be taking a decision keeping the policyholders interest in

UNBUNDLING

PSBs told to outline

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

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

Remaining an investor will help banks to earn a fee

mind," added the official. A senior official of Andhra Bank told FC that the bank has already started the process of divesting its stake in IndiaFirst Life Insurance Company to below 10 per cent to be an investor after the bank is merged with Union Bank of India and Corporation Bank. Headquartered in Mumbai, IndiaFirst Life Insurance is promoted by two large public-sector banks—Bank of Baroda and Andhra Bank, which hold 43.30 per cent and 29.53 per cent stake each in the company while the remaining 27.17 per cent is

held by Warburg Pincus. "The regulations would be complied with in this connection," said a senior

official of Andhra Bank. A senior official of Union Bank of India said the bank would continue to be the promoter of Star Daiichi Insurance and an investor in IndiaFirst. Union Bank.

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

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

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

PNB holds around 30 per cent stake in PNB MetLife India Insurance as a promoter and OBC holds 23 per cent stake in insurance joint venture— Canara HSBC Oriental Bank of Commerce Life Company. Insurance Following the merger, which will come into effect from April 1, 2020, PNB will take over OBC and United Bank.

On August 30, Finance Sitharaman announced the merger of 10 PSBs into four entities.

Salary growth to crawl in 2020

SANGEETHA G CHENNAI, DEC. 2

There is nothing much in store for employees even in 2020. The salary growth in the coming vear is expected to be slower than this year. Moreover, the increments will be largely uneven—average per-formers witnessing a slower growth compared to high performers, finds Ferry Salary Forecast.

The salary growth in India is expected to be 9.2 per cent in 2020. At the fag end of last year, Korn Ferry had predicted 10 per cent salary growth for 2019. However, the inflation-adjusted real wage rise for India will remain at 5 per cent this year as well.

'With current economic scenario and progressive reforms by the government, there is a sense of cautious optimism across sectors in India that continues to show high salary increments, said Navnit Singh, Chairman and Regional Managing Director of Korn Ferry India.

Among the high growth countries, Egypt's salaries are expected to increase by 13.5 per cent and a 6.6 per cent realwage increase. In Asia, India's salary growth is the highest. Indonesia is forecast to have a salary growth of 8.1 per cent, whereas, Malaysia, China and Korea is expected to have a salary growth of 5 per cent, 6 per cent and 4.1 per cent respectively India will continue to

see salaries growing unevenly bet-ween high performers and average performers. "In line with slower and lower increments across the board, companies will continue to differentiate their top performers, high potentials and critical talent sharply," said Roopank Chaudh-ary, Associate Client Partner–Korn Ferry India.

Tax collection rises by 5% till Nov: Sitharaman

FC BUREAU NEW DELHI, DEC. 2

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

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

In all, the tax breaks amounted to a whopping Rs 1.45 lakh crore.

Earlier, replying to a debate on the in the Lok Sabha, Finance Minister Sitharaman Nirmala allayed fears that the steep corporate tax cut would impact revenue collection. Asserting that there is no decrease in tax collections,





FM TUNES Many domestic and foreign companies have shown interest to

invest post-corporate tax reduction PSBs disbursed Rs 2.52 lakh crore loans during outreach programme

About Rs 1.1 lakh cr oredisbursed into farmers' accounts

Sitharaman said in fact, there is an increase of 5 per cent in the gross direct collection November in this fiscal.

Historically, maximum collection of direct taxes happens in the last quarter of the fiscal, she added.

The government's decision to reduce corporate tax rate, she said, was aimed at attracting investment and creating jobs. "The government's decision was also necessary to attract investment from multi-national companies, which are wanting to shift operations from China in view of ongoing Sino-US

trade war," she said.

"We think we will attract investment by reducing tax rate", she said while stressing that several neighbouring countries and emerging nations have reduced tax rates to attract investment. She said several domestic and global firms have expressed interest in investment post- announcement of the corporate tax cut. She said the effective rate has come down to 25.17 per cent from 34.94 per cent

On the liquidity issue in the system, the finance minister said banks have disbursed about Rs 2.5 lakh outreach programme.

crore during their recent

London, Dec 2: European and US stock markets swooned into the red Monday on downbeat US economic data and news of fresh US tariffs against Argentina and Brazil. Asian markets had been

cheered earlier in the day

by a surprise jump in Chinese factory activity, but the party ended with a tweet by US President Donald Trump.

Markets sour on US data, Trump's new tariffs

Trump tweeted that owing to unfair policies by Brazil and Argentina, he would reinstate tariffs on steel and aluminium from those countries Trade-related concern

was also stoked by China's Global Times, which said Beijing wanted all US tariffs rolled back as part of a mini deal, which observers said is unlikely.—AFP

Marginal rise in mfg activity

New Delhi, Dec. 2: The ing sector activity saw a marginal rise November as growth rates for new orders as well as production were modest amid competipressures and unstable market conditions, a monthly survey said on Monday.

Subdued sales amid challenging economic scenario prevented hiring in November, with payroll numbers declining for the first time in 20 months.

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

The IHS Markit India Manufacturing PMI rose to 51.2 in November when it had fallen to a two-year low, indicating only a slight improve-ment in the health of the sector.

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

Centre launches databank of Ind. directors

New Delhi, Dec 2: In a significant move, the government on Monday launched a databank of independent directors which will be a "comprehensive repository" of existing as well as those eligible to be independent directors.

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

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

The ministry noted that the databank is expected to become a comprehensive repository of both existing independent directors as well as individuals eligible and willing to be appointed as independent direc-The Indian Institute of

Corporate Affairs (IICA), under the ministry, would be maintaining the databank portal. Independent directors

are also required to pass a basic online proficiency self-assessment test, which

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

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

Independent directors have a substantial role in ensuring good governance practices at corporates. In recent times, many individuals have come under the regulatory lens in connection with irregularities at companies where they were serving as independent directors.

The databank portal has various e-learning capsules and videos for users. The databank can be accessed at 'www.mca.gov.in' and 'www.independentdirectorsdata-

About \$14 bn of realty loans under severe stress

FC BUREAU CHENNAI/KOLKATA, DEC. 2

Around \$35 billion, or 38 per cent, of the total loan advances to the real estate sector is under stress, of which \$14 billion is reeling under 'severe stress" and facing difficulties in debt servicing.

However, over 62 per cent, or nearly \$58 bn, of the total loan advances of \$93 bn to the real estate sector by banks and NBFCs/HFCs

is currently completely stress-free. Another 22 per cent, or nearly \$21 bn, is under some pressure but can potentially be resolved. Those under 'severe stress have either limited or extremely poor visibility of debt servicing due to a combination of factors, says an Anarock Capital report. The entire 'severe stressed' loan value in real estate is spread across more than 50 developers.

"The 'stress' loan amount

in real estate is not as bad as seen in other major sectors like telecom and steel. For instance. Out the entire 'severe of the total stressed' loan \$93 bon realty value in real loans, Grade A estate is spread

across than 50 developers. In the telecom or steel industries. default by a single company alone equals a sizable portion of the overall stress in the real estate sec-

tor. Also, every real estate loan is backed by hard security, which is anywhere between 1.5 times to 2 times. Even if the loan

is NPA, there is enough security builders account for the lenders to for over get a significant \$65 bn portion of their money back. Even if defaulting developers decide to sell their real

estate at a discount, there is

enough margin for them to

pay back," said Shobhit Agarwal, MD & CEO, MD & CEO, Anarock Capital. Among the lenders, hosu-

ing finance companies, or HFCs, account for the largest share or 38 per cent of total realty loans. Banks have nearly 34 per cent share and non-banking finance companies (NBFCs) account for 28 per cent. The majority of the

loans, or nearly 58 per cent, of the total NBFC lending

is on a watchlist. Compared

comfortable position. In absolute terms, \$12.35

bank.in.

billion stressed assets of HFCs is slightly lower than \$15.1 billion of NBFCs. Banks have stressed assets of \$9.49 billion. Out of the total \$93 billion

to NBFCs, banks and HFCs

are better placed with 70

per cent and 65 per cent of

their lending book in a

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

FAME provides ₹359 cr support to 2.8 L vehicles

FC BUREAU CHENNAI, DEC. 2

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

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

India Scheme which commenced from April

2019 is for a period of three years. It has a total budgetary support of Rs 10,000

Axis unveils new services for ultra rich

FC BUREAU MUMBAI, DEC. 2

Axis Bank announced it's private banking platto ultra-high net-worth segment of customers and is called "Burgundy Private'

Third largest private pank's "Burgundy Private" platform offering tailor made wealth management advisory and solutions for high net-worth individuals (HNIs)/ ultra-HNIs has team of 70 private banking specialists stationed across 20 locations.

Amitabh Chaudhry, MD and CEO, Axis Bank also launched India's first and an exclusive 3in-1 metallic card, that works as a debit, credit and forex card. This allin-one card will help Burgundy Private clients to perform their financial transactions seamlessly, both while in India and overseas.

In 2014, Axis Bank launched "Burgundy"its wealth management business, which has now more than 1 lakh families as its client.

Suraksha to offer cash & land to **Jaypee lenders**

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

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

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

According to sources, Suraksha is likely to increase the upfront payment to lenders from its current offer of Rs 25 crore. Under the land-debt swap deal, the company is considering to increase the offer of land parcels in value terms. Currently, it has offered 1,934 acres of land worth Rs 7,800 crore.

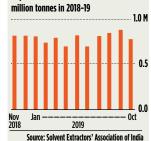
■ Plan to insist on 5-litre containers for import

Govt finds way to limit palm oil flow

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

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

The south Asian country, which imports about twothirds of its cooking oil **Hungry for palm** Imports climbed 8.7% to 9.4



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

Discussions on the refined palm oil proposal between various govern-

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

The new rule is likely to come into force from January, when import duties on some edible oils will automatically change due to India's existing agreements with some regional associations and countries, the person said.

India's vegetable oil imports climbed 3.5 per cent from a year earlier to 15.55 million tonnes in the year ended in October, according to data compiled by the Solvent Extractors' Association of India. Palm oil purchases at 9.4 million tonnes accounted for 60 per cent of total vegetable oil imports last year.

Bloomberg

LIC waives credit card transaction fees

FC BANKING BUREAU

Corporation has waived off the convenience fee on credit-card originated payments towards renewal premium, new premium, or repayment of loan and interest on loans against the policies will not attract any additional charges or convenience fee its parlance, from December 1.
"This facility of free

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

customers can download the Mylic App to for online transactions, it added.

Shaw: India Inc not anti-national

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

the Modi government. Shaw, who had earlier said government treated India Inc as "pariahs" and doesn't want to hear any criticism of the economy, was responding to Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharman remarks that spreading one's own impression "can hurt national interest" in relation to the statement made by Bajaj on Saturday. "Madam we are neither

anti national nor anti government. We want you to succeed big time as fastest growing economy & rise to the top of the global league of economies. I am a proud political National & only want the Govt to promote good policies including at State level," Shaw tweeted.

She was replying to a tweet by Sitharaman who shared a video of The Econ-



omic Times' ET Awards event in Mumbai on Saturday where Bajaj, Chairman of Bajaj Group, had told Sitharaman, Home Minister Amit Shah and Railway Minister Piyush Goyal on dais that people were afraid of criticising the BJP government's policies and added that no one in the business community would speak about this issue.

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

PROJECTION FOR TODAY Market momentum signalling

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

weakness

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

The Sensex rose 8 points to 40802 while the Nifty closed 7 points lower at 12048.

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

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

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

Technical View

Jay Thakkar, CMT Head

Derivatives Research — AVP Equity Research, Anand Rathi Shares and Stock Broker, said, "Nifty has closed in the negative territory in the last trading session for the second consecutive day; however it has managed to close above 12000 levels. On the lower side, 12000 and 11950 are two crucial support levels and till those are held the probability of an upside is quite high till 12150-12300 levels. The daily momentum indicator MACD is in sell mode with a hinge and a negative divergence which is a worry in the short term. The momentum is signalling weakness whereas the price has not confirmed, so either avoid before either one confirms or buy with a stop loss of 11950 giving price a benefit of doubt.

For the index one can trade the range by buying near the lower end and selling at higher end of the range or look to wait for breakout on either side to get into the momentum and short-term direction.

Market View

Intel plans a new incubation centre in Hyderabad by March

FC BUREAU HYDERABAD, DEC. 2

While painting a gloomy picture of the Indian startup scenario, Intel India Country Head Nivruti Rai. on Monday, announced Intel's plan to launch a new incubation centre in

Hyderabad March 2020. Speaking at the inauguration of the Intel India design Centre in Hydera-

bad, Rai said, "Most Indian start-ups tend to die after five years.... Start-ups need to grow to the point that it will be able to sustain

itself.' Later on, while speaking to *Deccan Chronicle*, she added, "Most Indian startups tend to focus on e-tail or

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

However, only innovation can help change the the gloomy scenario. Rai said, "We have already

committed to set up an incubation centre here. We will now gh the logistics.... However, Incubation in Bengaluru or

Nivruti Rai Hyderabad doesn't

Meanwhile, Intel, hot on the heels of Amazon and OnePlus, stepped up its presence in the city with the formal inauguration of its Design Centre on Monday.

Ajit Mishra, VP — Research, Religare Broking Ltd, said, "The

need to work throu-

mean that we will solicit only Bengaluru or Hyderabad start-ups. Show us the innovation.

weak Q2GDP data and subdued auto sales numbers is likely to impact the investor sentiments in the short term. All eyes will now be on RBI monetary policy for economic revival measures going forward. On the global front, investors are eagerly awaiting a positive outcome of the US-China trade negotia-tions which could strengthen the rally in the global markets. In addition, currency and crude price movement will continue to impact

— Ashwin J Punnen

investor sentiments.

Online B2B investments grow multi-fold in last two years

SANGEETHA G

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

The online B2B space had received just \$26 million and \$28 million funding in 2016 and 2017 respectively. However, in 2018 it surged to \$338 million and it more than doubled in 2019 to \$730 million. In the past two years, the segment has raised more than \$1 billion, as per the data from RedSeer Consulting.

Ninjacart had raised \$100 million from investors led by Tiger Global. Jumbotail raised Rs 90 crore in its series B round. Shopx, which had raised \$50 million in multiple rounds, raised another \$35 million this year. Online B2B marketplace, Udaan secured



Series B funding of \$50 million last year.

The increased interest indicates growth potential in online B2B companies. RedSeer expects online B2B to attain a market size of \$60 billion by 2025, growing at a CAGR of 80 per cent.

According to RedSeer, the regulatory landscape has remained rather smooth for online B2B compared to online B2C, which has tighter FDI norms. The government also had clarified that 100 per cent FDI permitted in online B2B.

The segment is also more capital efficient. Online B2B generated around \$3.5 GMV for every dollar invested, almost 1.7 times higher when compared to online B2C. RedSeer finds that margins in the business have a potential to double due to direct procurement from brands, providing value added services such as tech solutions and credit. Going further, it can have a strong play in tier-II and beyond cities as it addresses the problems of fragmented supplies and inefficiencies in the tradi-

tional retail supply chain.

"The online platform connected through a mobile app helps the kirana store do away with the long trail of middle-men, including wholesaler and distributor and order products directly from the manufacturer. The benefits are not limited to easy and better access to products. Analytical data about store-level demand can improve efficiencies of both the retailer as well as the manufacturer," said Ashish Jhina, co-founder of Jumbotail.

Global mfg shows some green shoots as 2019 winds down

Eastern promises

FERGAL O'BRIEN & **ENDA CURRAN**

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

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

The news lifted equities, with the Stoxx Europe 600 up 0.4 per cent following earlier gains across Asia. Bonds fell, with German 10year yields rising to the highest in three weeks.

The latest numbers continue a narrative seen across continents in recent weeks that the global economy has reached the bottom of the downturn and is stabilizing.

The next data point for investors is the US ISM Also fueling the optimism is hope that the US and China despite mixed messages manufacturing report later

Asia manufacturing PMIs may have bottomed out after a rough 2019

and ongoing political tensions — are close to signing the first part of a trade deal.

"The market is positioned for a phase-one deal either by the end of this year or if not, then that the tariff hike for December will be delayed," said Christoph Rieger, Head of Fixed Rate Strategy at Commerzbank. "The green-shoots spirit regarding the economy probably

has room to extend.

on Monday. Also coming this week are readings from German industry plus US monthly payrolls.

Much of the better mood

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

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

SANGEETHA G CHENNAI, DEC. 2

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

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

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

The reduction in cards also reflected



in the growth in the transactions using debit cards. In Q3 2019, while the total number of credit card transactions went up 25.6 per cent to 540 million. debit card transactions grew only 6.4 per cent to 3.7 billion. Value-wise also, credit card transactions grew 25.8 per cent, while debit card transactions grew only 6.2 per cent.

for POS transactions. Of the total transaction value through credit cards, 99.3 per cent was used for POS transactions and only 0.66 per cent came through ATM transactions. On the other hand, 83 per cent of debit card transactions were ATM withdrawals and only 17 per cent were POS transac-

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

"While the number of card transactions done at merchant locations is on the up, ATM withdrawals data suggests that cards are being used for withdrawing cash in a big way and this is likely because there are little to no avenues for them to use their cards or other digital instruments," said

Sunil Rongala, Vice President, Strategy, Innovation and Analytics, Another important trend noticed was that debit cards are largely used for ATM withdrawals while credit cards Worldline India.

Economy needs Modi to reinvent himself once again

MIHIR SHARMA

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

announced 4.5 per cent. When the Narendra Modiled government presented its first budget after being re-elected, it expected growth in 2019-20 to be around 7 per cent. A few months later, the Reserve Bank of India slashed that to 6.1 per cent. It is hard, now, to see how even that – relatively slow by India's past standards —

will be achieved.

Hidden in the disaggregated numbers is the story of what has gone wrong. Investment has collapsed. It contracted 3 per cent in real terms last quarter, after growing almost 12 per cent in the same quarter last year. What has grown faster is government spending. It may have been responsible for as much as 40 per cent of whatever growth India did have.

spending would Since early in his first term, Modi has largely abandoned his campaign promise to get government out of business. Instead, he's relied on the public sector to build a welfare state and prop up growth. In the heady leavings. years, as falling oil prices flattered Indian growth and nobody else to blame. The

fattened the treasury, it economy has slowed in the looked like his strategy was But the money

is rapidly run-

ning out. Inclu-Colu ding spending by provincial administrations, the deficit is approaching 8 per cent of Claims that public investment more attractive

for the private sector have not been borne out. There simply isn't enough money to go around - with the government taking the lion's share of financial savings, private investment has to be content with the meager India's government has past - most recently, during the commodity boom and "taper tantrum" but on each

such occasion there was some sort of exogenous calamity it had to deal with. There hasn't been a bad monsoon, or sudden commodity price inflation, or a balance-of-payments crisis. The world economy isn't exactly booming, yet export-oriented economies like Vietnam and Bangladesh seem to be doing fine. Vietnam grew at 7.3 per cent in the last quarter, and Bangladesh may see

Mismanagement at home

per cent growth

two successive years of 8

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

that developing countries shouldn't be dependent only upon domestic demand. labour-surplus nations must go out and tap world markets, not limit themselves to whatever can be drummed up at home. No stronger lesson can be drawn from recent economic history

Instead, India has gotten into a series of entirely avoidable trade spats with countries like the US, gone cold on a possible free-trade deal with the European Union and most recently refused to sign the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership with countries from the Pacific Rim and Southeast Asia.

The government wants to coddle Indian industry instead of giving it the means to compete. It need not raise tariffs and run away from

free trade; it should instead allow entrepreneurs and companies greater flexibility in whom they hire, make it easier to find land for industry, and end a selfdefeating crusade against tax evasion that has scared investors into hiding.

It's still possible to hope that something may change in New Delhi. Modi has already reinvented himself once, from a business-friendly chief minister to a welfarist prime minister. He could be capable of a third act, in which he re-invigorates Indian industry and manufacturing through drastic structural reform. But don't hold your breath

Bloomberg









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



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 15member 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, Divyansh Joshi, Shubhang Hegde, Ravi Bishnoi, Akash Singh, Kartik Tyagi, Atharva Ankolekar, 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 immedi-

ate 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 Yaday has been found quilty of age fudging," a senior DDCA 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 his date of birth was shown to be December 12, 2001. - PTI



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

Pak drown under

Lyon takes five as Australia thrash Pakistan with day to spare

Adelaide, Dec. 2: Spin 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

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

Needing another 248 to 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

> SCORE**CARD**

Australia (1st innings): 589-3 dec Pakistan (1st innings): 302

Pakistan (2nd innings): S. Masood c Starc b Lyon 68, Imam-ul-Haq Ibw Hazlewood O, 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 Ibw 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)

FoW: 1-2, 2-11, 3-20, 4-123, 5-154, 6-201, 7-221, 8-229,

Bowling: Starc 16-3-47-1, Hazlewood 23-4-63-3, Cummins 15-4-45-0, Lyon 25-7-69-5, Labuschagne 3-

(Labuschagne) have been unbelievably good. We all witnessed a special knock from David Warner. It is among the top one or two to connings ever by an rate. Australian."

Australia's Lyon 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 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

"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

At least they offered some resistance on Monday, Masood, who models himself on England's Alastair Cook, glorious strokes as he assumed a leadership after Babar Azam and cap continued tain Azhar Ali fell cheaply on Sunday

evening. His sixth Test 50, in his 17th Test, arrived with a boundary Lyon, his sixth four, before he

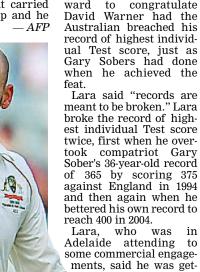
chipped the

spinner to mid-off on 68 where Mitchell Starc collected an easy catch.

THE ASIAN AGE

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.



twice, first when he overtook compatriot Gary Sober's 36-year-old record of 365 by scoring 375 against England in 1994 and then again when he hettered his own record to reach 400 in 2004. Lara, who was in Adelaide attending to some commercial engagements, said he was get-

RECORDS MEANT

TO BE BROKEN:

RECKONS LARA

Adelaide, Dec. 2: West

Indies cricket legend

Brian Lara has revealed

that he was looking for-

to congratulate

ting ready to meet Warner. "I was hoping they might catch me and get (out) there and that was one of the reasons I was hopmight have

let him go for d. — *PTI* it," Lara said.

IPL-2020 AUCTION

971 players to go under hammer

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 Internationals, capped uncapped Internationals and two are from Associate

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 Australia Bangladesh England Netherlands New Zealand South Africa 54 Sri Lanka 39 USA West Indies Zimbabwe

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 West Indies (34) and Zimbabwe (3) go under the hammer.

19 Capped Indians

Uncapped Indians who have IPL experience

196 Capped International

60

Uncapped International

634 Uncapped

Associate: 2 players

Nepal girl claims 6 for 0, creates Twenty20 record

Kathmandu, 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-vear-old Chand surpassed the efforts of Malaysian Mas Elysa who claimed six wickets for ures for men three runs from her four



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 fig-SIX IOI seven against China's Bangladesh.

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

scorers 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 nonmatch days to bear the costs of travelling and all also reconsider its deci-sion to forcefully retire 17 other arrangements," a member said. — PTI

Joe Root celebrates his double ton.

Root's epic 226 gives England 101-run lead

Hamilton, Dec. 2: Joe Root's masterful 226 to highlight a return to form gave England a much-needed boost in the second Test against New Zealand on Monday as they ended day four believing they can square the series.

It took a five-wicket haul for the tireless Neil Wagner to bring England's first innings to an end at 476, a lead of 101. At stumps, New Zealand were 96 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 fig-ures in six of his last 10 — 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

he general response from critics and fans alike on the recent series' in the World Championship of Test cricket (WCT) has been elu-cidated in one word — 'mismatch.' And rightly so, as we saw in two completed ties against South Āfrica 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 capitu-

lation 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.

tions 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 bat-

played in their home condi-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 ted big,' as described by vetwill have to get at least 500 eran Englishman Stuart plus runs to put a drop of Broad after two days of play in the second Test at 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.

Games

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

THE ASIAN AGE







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

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

Officials 'ready' to tackle Typhoon

the event from the Willingdon

Island and honoured the win-

ners too later in the day.

Clark, Philippines: Southeast Asian Games venues and offi-cials 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

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. - AFF

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.

Doncic dominates Hamilton has to pick his loyalty

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.
"It shows that we can play against big teams, too. We just need to keep it rolling.

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 bench outscored the Lakers'

Dallas used a brilliant



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.

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 "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

"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

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 rebound-

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

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 Ĉity Thunder's 107-104 victory over the New Orleans

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

Hamilton has to

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 con-tract 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

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

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 some-

thing 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



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

Blake trains his eyes on gold in Tokyo Olympics

Jamaican sprinter Yohan Blake speaks at the launch of Road safety World Series,

an annual T20 cricket tournament, in Mumbai on Monday.

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 extravagan-

"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

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. Everyone has to look up to me. Definitely there are some good guys coming and I'll be looking forward to the challenge," he said.

"I think it is going to be epic, this is the greatest show on earth and everyone is looking for that 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 1

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 run-

ning 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

The 29-year-old also said that he would start a programme in India

to dig out talent. "I tell my West Indies crick-eters they have to emulate India — Virat Kohli and all those sort of 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.

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 in Antonio Candreva's cross to score his eighth league goal this

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 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, 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 transas he plant 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.



his side's second goal during the Italian league match against Spal at the Giuseppe Meazza stadium in Milan,

Max wants more the next season

Abu Dhabi, Dec. 2: Max Verstappen said he was pleased to seal third place in the world championship after finishing second in Sunday's Abu Dhabi Grand Prix — but wanted more next season.
It was the Dutchman's

best season in the title race

and while he was satisfied,

he said he would be aiming higher for himself and Red Bull next year. "There wasn't much more we could do in this race. Lewis was too fast for us. As a team we want to move forward so, next year, we

want to fight for the title, of

course," he said. Six-time world champion Lewis Hamilton won convincingly for Mercedes ahead of Verstappen and third-placed Charles Leclerc of Ferrari, who faced a post-race investiga-tion into fuel irregularities. Verstappen said his best memory was the win at the Austrian GP. "It was also the first win for Honda

in the V6 era," he said.
"And it was very emotional with so many Dutch fans there as well. As a team we have to go forward so next year we are hoping to fight for the title, of course. To be in front of Ferrari in the championship was for me a good achievement. Now we have to step it up," he said.

LECLERC KEEPS THIRD PLACE, **FERRARI FINED**

Abu Dhabi, Dec. 2: Charles Leclerc retained his podium finish in Sunday's Abu Dhabi Grand Prix after a post-race stewards investigation into a fuel infringement, but his Ferrari team were fined 50,000 euros.

After the third placed finish, his Ferrari car was checked in the pit lane before the race and found to have infringed the strict fuel regulations. It was reported to race stewards who investigated afterwards.

In a pre-race statement, the sport's ruling body, the International Motoring Federation (FIA) said there was a "significant difference" between the amount of fuel in the car and that declared by

Ferrari. A later statement said: "The stewards determined that the team should be fined 50,000 euros for its inaccurate declaration.'

The outcome of the probe was seen as a lenient sanction for the Italian team.

made at Leicester since Brendan Rodgers was appointed manager earlier this year

Games



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 fightback 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 NorthFast 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 28thminute seemed to have given all three points for Antonio Iriondo's men. But a 90thminute 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 categor\ 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.

BOXER NEERAJ FAILS DOPE TEST, BANNED

New Delhi: International medalwinning Indian woman boxer Neeraj (57kg), who was among the probables for 2020 Tokyo Olympics, has been provisionally suspended after failing a

The Haryana-boxer tested positive for performance-enhancing drug Ligandrol and "other anabolic steroids".

A former national medallist, 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

Her sample was collected on September 24 and was tested at Qatar's Ani-Doping lab, which gave its findings earlier

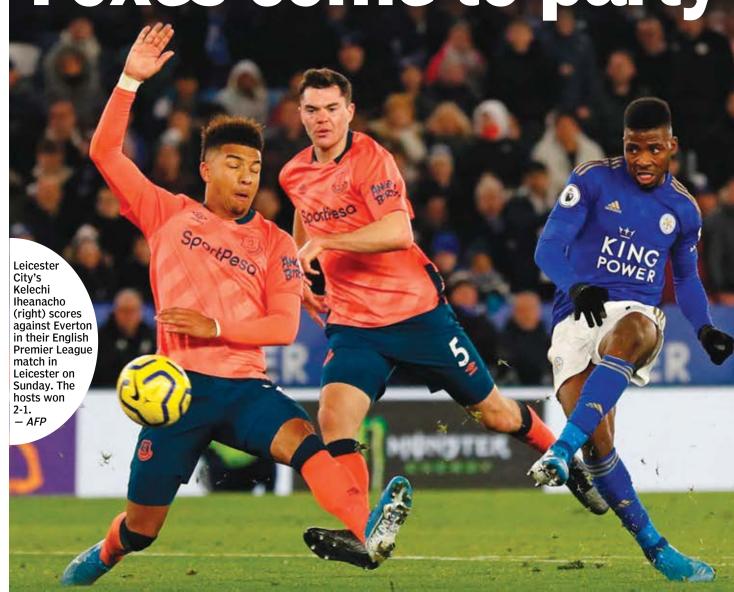
Guwahati.

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

"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



Iheanacho scores as Leicester close gap on Liverpool

Dec. 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 win-ner deep into stoppage

"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.

Richarlison 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 2defeat to

Norwich. Another defeat leaves the Toffees hovering

PREMIER LEAGUE THE RESULTS

Leicester (Vardy 68, Iheanacho 90+5) Everton (Richarlison 23)

Man Utd (Heaton 42-og, Lindelof 64) Aston Villa (Grealish 11, Mings

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, atti-

tude 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 wingback and his cross was bulleted home by Richarlison 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

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 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.



Manchester United's Daniel James (left) vies for the ball with Tyrone Mings of Aston Villa in their EPL

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 United 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

fifth if we had got that extra," goal 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.

SOUTH ASIAN | GAMES

Sinimol bags 1st gold for India

Pokhara (Nepal), Dec. 2: India opened its medal account in the South Games (SAG) with one gold, two silver and a bronze in the triathlon event on the opening day of competitions here on Monday.

M.N. Adarsha 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

individual triathlon event consists of continuous three legs of 750m swim, 20km bike race and a 5km run. The first athlete to complete the course is declared the

Sinimol clocked 01:02.51 secs to win the gold in men's event while Bishworjit was second with a time of 01:02:59. Basanta Tharu of Nepal took the bronze in 01:03:06.

In the women's individual event, Sorojini clocked 01:14:00 to finish second behind Sony Gurung of Nepal who took the gold in 01:13:45. Another Another Pragnya Indian, clocked 01:14:57 to win

the bronze. India is being represented by 487 athletes

Thoudam Sorojini **Devi and Mohan** Pragnya added a silver and a bronze in the women's individual triathlon event

in more than 15 disci-

INDIAN KHO KHO TEAMS ENTER SEMIS

Continuing unbeaten run, Indian men's Kho Kho team entered the semi-finals after clinching two wins in a day on

Monday. 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 semifinal, 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.

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

Messi is the favourite to win a record-breaking sixth Ballon d'Or in Paris on Monday and he came up trumps again for Barca at the Wanda Metropolitano, where an even contest looked destined to finish

"In matches that are close and intense, having Leo is always a big advantage," said Barcelona coach

Ernesto Valverde. The Argentinian's 86thminute 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 con-Atletico now sit six points

adrift of both Real and Barca, with those two also having a game in hand which will be played out in the season's first Clasico at the Camp Nou on December

It means Atleti could conceivably head into the Christmas break nine points off the lead, a significant gap, particularly considering they will have to play away against both Barca and Real Madrid in the second half of the sea-

"We need points," said Atletico coach Diego Simeone. "We are not far from them but we are worried. I am happy with the way we are playing but I will not smile at that because that does not bring us points.

Antoine Griezmann was whistled on his return to his former club, whom he left for 120 million euros (\$132.3 million) to join Barcelona in the close season, while toy rats were dropped on the plaque that still bears his name outside the stadium.

SPANISH LEAGUE

THE RESULTS **Atletico Madrid**

Barcelona (Messi 86) Sevilla (Carlos 63)

Leganes **Athletic Bilbao** (Raul Garcia 41-pen, Berchiche 83)

Granada **Espanyol** (Roca 20-pen, Calleri 90+3) Osasuna (Santos 46, Avila 49,

90+2-pen) Getafe (Cabrera 54, Jorge Molina 60-pen,

Moncayola 84, Torres

Levante

But Messi scored his 12th

Rodriguez Diaz 67, Timor 78)

goal of the sea-

games. He has now 25 in 27 in the league against Atletico although this was his first at the Wanda Metropolitano.

son and sixth in his last five

PIQUE REPRIEVED

Barcelona were fortunate not to be reduced to 10 men in the second half when Gerard Pique escaped a second yellow card for a late challenge on Morata.

They rode their luck in the opening 20 minutes too, marooned in their own half and able only to survive thanks in large part to their

goalkeeper.
Marc-Andre ter Stegen
made two excellent point-blank saves although was given the chance to as Mario Hermoso found himself free at the back post but shot straight at him before Morata met Kieran Trippier's corner but failed to head into the corner.

Earlier on Sunday, thirdplaced Sevilla stayed just one point behind Real and Barca with a 1-0 victory over Leganes.



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 should not be playing past another year," Paes told reporters

The Olympic bronze medallist 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.











Barcelona's Lionel Messi ce

Liga match in Madrid on Sunday.

scoring against Atletico Madrid in their La



