HE ASIAN AGE

NEW DELHI WEDNESDAY 4 DECEMBER 2019



PEOPLE | Newsmakers

Prince Andrew's accuser speaks out in new interview

NATION | Madhya Pradesh

35 years after gas tragedy, Bhopal still waiting for the disposal of toxic waste

Vol. 26 No. 288 32 pages ₹5.00

TABLOID Ayushmann will soon work with Nitesh Tiwari

www.asianage.com

US actress Julia Roberts poses

on the red carpet upon arrival

at The Fashion Awards 2019 in

9 held in J&K for

attacking forces,

threat to traders

Srinagar: The Jammu and

Kashmir police on Tuesday

claimed arresting five per-

sons involved in hurling Molotov cocktails at securi-

downs. Separately, four per-

sons were arrested in north-

western town of Baramulla

for allegedly being respon-

'Suicide-murder' at

Ghaziabad: A man, his wife

allegedly jumped to their death from the eighth floor

teenage son and daughter

in Indirapuram on the out-skirts of Delhi, the police

ty forces vehicles and

threatening traders and

Srinagar to force shut-

sible for acts of arson.

Full report on Page 4

Ghaziabad flat?

and another woman

of their building after

the couple killed their

said on Tuesday.

ull report on Page 13

UP Raj Bhavan

Bhavan on Tuesday

threatened to blow

up the Raj Bhavan

with dynamite.

gets threat letter

Lucknow: Uttar Pradesh Raj

got a letter threatening to

blow it up if the governor

does not leave the place in 10 days time. The letter

COUNTERPOINT

At last they arranged

'Z' category security!

Min: 9°C

RH: 49%

Vikari: Dakshinayana

SUNSET TODAY 5.24 PM

SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.58 AM

MOONSET TODAY 11.37 AM

MOONRISE TOMORROW 12.57 PM

local residents of central

London on Monday.

RNI No. 57290/94, Regd No: DL-SW-05/4189/15-17

AGE CORRESPONDENT

The Rajya Sabha on Tuesday passed a bill to amend the law govern-ing the elite Special Protection Group. The bill had already been passed by the Lok Sabha last week.

Act will pave the way for only the Prime Minister and his "immediate family residing with him at his official residence", as well as any former Prime Minister and members of his immediate family "residing with him at the residence allotted to him for a period of five years, from the date he ceases to hold the office of Prime Minister," to be given SPG cover. The Congress has been claiming that SPG Act has been amended only because of political

Home minister Amit Shah, rejecting the Opposition's claim, said the government was concerned about securi-ty of all 130 crore Indians and not just the Gandhi family. Participating in the debate over the Special Protection Group (Amendment) Bill, 2019, Congress MP Vivek Tankha said everyone wants the Gandhi family to be protected and there should not be "a party

politics" on it.
"What kind of democ-



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Jharkhand chief minister Raghubar Das waves at supporters during an

nationalist Hindutva card Maharashtra did now

Jharkhand remains confident of "returning to

Despite this confidence,

ernment had decided to review the bullet train, a pet project of Prime

Minister Narendra Modi.

after chairing the meeting, Mr Thackeray said: "There is no stay on any

project, barring the car

shed, nor has any project

been scrapped. A discussion was held on how to

expedite development projects in the state. We

also discussed the imple-

mentation of other pro-

jects that we want to

Turn to Page 4

Speaking to reporters

be a bit tricky in the terrain of Jharkhand for the BJP. There are whispers within BJP circles that chief minister
Raghubar Das has

"failed to perform" Trouble is consistently gnawing at the saffron party's heels. A few days back, BJP spokesman Praveen Prabhakar quit the party. He is expected to contest the Assembly polls from Nala on a National People's Party (NPP) ticket. The BJP, however, brushed this off by claiming that "Praveen has no influence whatsoever in the

Somewhat charged up after the turn of events in Maharashtra, Congress is coming out

Turn to Page 4

2 killed in

Two civilians, including a woman, were killed and seven oth-ers injured, a few of them seriously, when pounded civilian areas and forward Indian military posts along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu Kashmir's Poonch district with mortars and small arms on Tuesday, official said. They identified the slain as 35-year-old

woman Gulnaz Akhter and 16-year-old boy Shoab Ahmed. Poonch's deputy commissioner Rahul Yadav confirmed the death of two civilians and injuries to at least seven others in Pakistani shelling and firing in Bandi and Chechian villages of Poonch. The seriously injured persons are being shifted to

Jammu. ■ More on Page 4

■ Navy Chief: China's PLAN rising threat in Indian Ocean

Funds crunch hits plans for 200-ship fleet

PAWAN BALI NEW DELHI, DEC. 3

A shortage in funds is forcing the Indian Navy to curtail its plan to be a 200-ship fleet by 2027 as per the maritime capability perspective plan. Navy Chief of Staff Adm. Karambir Singh on Tuesday flagged concerns over the decline in the Navy's share in the defence budget from 18 per cent in 2012-13 to 13 per cent in 2019-20, at a time when China is undertaking a rapid mod-

ernisation of its navy. At present, the Navy is operating around 130-odd ships and is building around 50 ships. However, many ships which are currently operating are likely to be decommissioned in the coming years. India may have 175 ships by 2027, a number which the Navy Chief has termed as "optimistic"

Putting up a brave front, Adm. Singh said that he has asked his staff to find out how the Indian Navy can maximise each ship in terms of its effec-



Service chiefs for 'empowered' CDS

New Delhi: There is a growing view among the chiefs of three services that the new Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) to be appointed by the Modi government should be empowered to take decisions and it should not just be a cosmetic change.

tiveness and not count how many ships "we have". If these ships could be made modern and more lethal, they could be

more effective. Chinese are doing what they have to do. It is moving at a pace it is capable

Turn to Page 4

Row as Jamiat 'sacks' Dhavan as its lawyer

PARMOD KUMAR NEW DELHI, DEC. 3

A row has erupted among the Muslim litigants who were parties to the title suit after the Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind "sacked" senior counsel Rajeev Dhavan as its lead counsel while filing its plea on December 2 seeking reconsideration of the November 9 verdict by which the Supreme Court gave the entire disputed land to the idol of Ram Lalla for the Ram temple.

Mr Dhavan has used the word "sacking" for his removal by the

with Rajeev Dhavan describing Dhavan as "mali-cious and

untrue" a statement attributed to Arshad Madani, heading one of the two factions of the Jamiat, saying they wanted to file the review plea on December 2 itself, and as Mr Dhavan was unwell and not available to move the petition. Mr Madani sought to justify Mr Dhavan's dropping on these

grounds. More on Page 4

UN: 2010s

Amid tussle on Gandhis, **SPG Bill gets RS** approval

NEW DELHI, DEC. 3

The passage of the amendments to the SPG vendetta.

what kind of democracy it is? You are putting the Opposition under threat," said Mr Tankha, reminding the Turn to Page 4

Slowdown, eco crisis spells trouble for BJP in J'khand

YOJNA GUSAI

ruling BJP in Jharkhand. Generally seen as one of the nation's "poorest states", the figures indicate that lack of industries and development have also contributed heavily to the rising unemployment in the state.

While unemployment continues to plague the state and the UNDP data indicate that nearly "46 per cent of the state is living in poverty", one of the key issues being raised by the BJP is the National Register of Citizens. While the While experiment of playing

AGE CORRESPONDENT

Maharashtra chief minis-

ter Uddhav Thackeray on

Tuesday clarified that the

Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train project would be carried out without any

hassles. The Shiv Sena

chief, in fact, said no stay

was ordered on any development project, barring the Metro car shed at

Aarey Colony in subur-

The CM had called a

Cabinet may clear CAB tomorrow

meeting of top state offi-



election rally in Jamshedpur on Tuesday.

work too well for the party, the BJP in

Uddhav: Bullet train still

on, only Aarey shed axed

Uddhav Thackeray

cials at Mantralaya here

on Tuesday to discuss development projects.

The meeting assumed sig-

nificance in the light of

reports that the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) gov-

power'

however the going could

■ Pawar: I knew Ajit, Fadnavis were in talks

Pak firing near LoC, 7 injured

YUSUF JAMEEL

Bill (CAB), the Centre, ministers of all northeastthreatened to stall the bill if there is no unanimity which was keen to bring ern states and other civil rights groups, which had the contentious law for on its contentious aspects, begun on Tuesday evening, and is likely to clearance at the Union sources said. Highly-Cabinet meeting schedplaced sources said the continue till the early Wednesday, may Centre may introduce the

proposed the Citizenship Amendment now hold another meeting

ANIMESH SINGH

NEW DELHI, DEC. 3

While the whole of the

Northeast is up in arms

the next day — Thursday, December 5 — to get the legislation cleared. The change in plan had

to be made after home minister Amit Shah's meeting with the chief hours Wednesday. High

drama and tense scenes were seen at the meeting, which at the time of reporting, was going on at Assam Bhavan in New Delhi. Apparently, all northeastern states have bill in the Lok Sabha on

High drama as N-E groups meet Shah; bill likely in Lok Sabha on Dec. 10 December 10. The government was earlier planning to bring the bill in the Rajya Sabha.

Sources in the know said that with Mr Shah holding discussions with political leaders, students' groups and civil society members from the Northeast over the past few days, including Tuesday's meeting, there Turn to Page 4

TN techie helped Nasa find Vikram on moon

YAMUNA R.

Shanmuga Subramanian

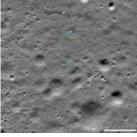
touchdown on the moon.

Chennai

helped Nasa to identify the crash site of the Max: 24°C Vikram lander of *Chandrayaan-2* on the lunar surface just when Rainfall: Nil the space science community was getting des-Forecast: Mainly clear sky perate over not being able to decipher the disappearance of the lander ASTROGUIDE on September 7 when it was supposed to do a soft

Tithi: Margasira Shudda The 33-year-old engi-Ashtami till 1.44 am neer posted on Twitter that Nasa has credited him with finding the (Thursday) Star: Shatabhisham till 5.09 Vikram debris on the lunar surface as his con-Varjyam: 12.20 am to 2.08 clusions from Nasa images helped the US space agency to spot the Durmuhurtam: 11.43 am to exact location of the lander that reportedly Rahukalam: 12 pm to 1.30 broke into several pieces

on crashlanding. The IT professional went through Nasa's Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter Camera (LROC)



In this undated photo released by Nasa on Tuesday, a mosaic of the impact site of Chandrayaan 2 Vikram lander, found by Nasa's Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter. Cennai-based techie Shanmuga Subramanian (right).

images "pixel by pixel" to identity a single bright pixel from its taken on 11, and mosaic November November 11, and emailed his conclusion to both Nasa and Isro. While the US space agency responded, though a bit late, and apologised for the delay, there was silence from

"I had gone through the LROC images pixel by pixel and found some minute variations at a

spot on the lunar surface between the image of December 2017 and the one taken on September 7, when Vikram was supposed to land. I sent my findings to Nasa and what they did was to closely search the lunar surface based on the location I gave and pick up the location of the larger debris", Mr Subramanian told this newspaper, amid stream of me media stream of Turn to Page 4

■ I will stay out of the UK election: US Prez

Trump clash with Macron oversĥadows Nato summit

London, Dec. 3: President Donald Trump launched a blistering attack on France's criticism of Nato strategy as "brain dead" on Tuesday, but French leader Emmanuel Macron doubled down and turned his fire on Turkey.

The three-way battle overshadowed the buildup to the alliance's 70th anniversary summit in London, threatening to derail efforts to show unity in the face of Russia and China. Mr Macron had tried to shake up the agenda of the meeting by demanding a review of Nato strategy, but Trump who arrived boasting that he had forced members to boost defence spending—hit back hard. "I think that's very insulting," Mr Trump said of Mr Macron's assertion in November that Nato's is experiencing "brain death" and



re-opening a strategic dialogue with Russia, branding it a "very, very nasty statement". "Nobody needs Nato more than France," he warned. Mr Trump

promised to "stay out" of Britain's election campaign, while also seeking to defuse a key attack line against British Prime Minister Boris Johnson over healthcare.



Emmanuel Macron shake hands during their meeting in London on Tuesday. Islamist terrorists and on

G7 will be held at **Camp David: Prez** London: US Prez Donald

Trump said Tuesday the G7 summit would be held at his official Camp David residence, having earlier come under fire for choosing his own Florida golf resort. "We are going to do it at Camp David," Mr Trump told reporters.

decade in history Madrid, Dec. 3: This decade is set to be the hottest in history, the

hottest

United Nations said Tuesday in an annual assessment outlining the ways in which climate change is outpacing humanity's ability to adapt to it. Meterological Organi-

sation said global temperatures so far this year were 1.1 °C above the pre-industrial average between 1850-1900. That puts 2019 on course to be in the top three warmest vears ever recorded. Emissions from burning fossil fuels, building infrastructure transporting goods mean 2019 is set to break the record for atmospheric carbon concentrations,

locking in further warming, the WMO said. -AFPMore on Page 11







should focus more on















NCP MP Supriya Sule says Prime Minister's offer to make her Cabinet minister reflects magnanimity, but couldn't happen

THE ASIAN AGE



Congress rally in Delhi on Dec. 14 will 'shatter arrogance' of Centre

> - Ashok Gehlot, Rajasthan chief minister

SHORT TAKES

No pardon given to **Rajoana: Amit Shah**

New Delhi: Union home minister Amit Shah on Tuesday told the Lok Sabha that no pardon has been given to Balwant Singh Rajoana, who was convicted for the assassination of the then Punjab chief minister Beant Singh in 1995. During the Question Hour, Congress member from Punjab Ravneet Singh Bittu sought a response from Mr Shah on why Rajoana was pardoned. Bittu is the grandson of Beant Singh. Asking the member

Vadra: SPG removal

New Delhi: Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra's husband Robert Vadra on Tuesday described as a "very big" security lapse the incident of unidentified people driving up to the porch of their home last week, and alleged that the removal of the Gandhi family's SPG cover was a "political" move. The Congress general secretary's office has taken up the issue of the November 26 security breach with the Central Reserve Police Force. Our security is not important as much as the security of the women in the country. The government should think about it at the national and state level," said Vadra.

Odisha govt cancels auction of 20 mines

Bhubaneswar: Odisha government on Tuesday announced to cancel the auction process of 20 operational mineral blocks initiated via Notice Inviting Tenders (NITs) in October this year. The government asked the director of mines to conduct a fresh auction of the leases with a few added conditions. The fresh auction of the leases will begin from December 6, 2019, the government said in notice. Odisha steel and mines department of the has issued a notice saving a decision has been taken to annul the auction process of 20 mining blocks.

BJP DEMANDS APOLOGY FROM ADHIR RANJAN

demanded an apology from Congress lawmaker Adhir comments on calling finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman 'powerless' (nirbala), and for referring to Prime Minister 'migrants from Gujarat". Poonam Mahajan called the Congress leader 'powerless' for defending only the rights family. Despite constant slogan shouting by the treasury benches, Mr Chowdhury, who had raised the issue of to cow down and later Congress MPs. The brouhaha commenced with several and shouting slogans agaiis also the leader of the Congress in the lower house. Minister of state for Parliamentary affairs Arjun Ram Meghwal sought an apology from the Congress MP for his comments. At this point, BJP MP from Mumbai North Central Poonam Mahajan

sought the Speaker's per-

mission under Rule 353 to

speak on the issue.

KTAKA BYPOLL Miffed BJP MLAs may defect to unseat BSY govt

'Suicide quad' taking shape in BJP

K.N. REDDY KALABURAGI, DEC. 3

Denial of Cabinet berths, which was one of the prime reasons for the collapse of the previous JD(S)-Congress coalition government in the state, could soon haunt the B.S. Yediyurappa government too with a section of disgruntled BJP MLAs set to rock the boat even if the CM secures a simple majority in the Assembly after the December 5

bypolls. Sources claim that a "suicide squad" is taking shape within the BJP which could make a strong bid to torpedo the Yediyurappa government and ensure the installa-tion of prominent Congress leader from the Hyderabad-Karnataka region — Mallikarjun Kharge as CM — a post which has eluded the veteran more than once.

Most BJP leaders are

BJP's Dubey

urges govt

to regulate

social media

AGE CORRESPONDENT

regard

their remarks made on

Speaking during Zero

Hour in Lok Sabha.

Nishikant Dubey said following his comment

media, especially the

social media, has criticised the statement.

Many of the comments

on social media were

During debate on Caxation Laws

Amendment Bill, 2019 on

Monday, Mr Dubey had said that the Gross

Domestic Product (GDP)

has no relevance and it

should not be treated as

'Bible, Ramayan and

Simon Kuznets, who designed GDP, in his

report in 1934 said he

himself was not satis-

The statement on the

GDP was made on basis

of evidence which was

not taken very well in

the social media, Mr Dubey said, adding, abuses were lashed out

He pointed out that the

proceedings of the House has to be properly

to him and his family.

reported.

personal, he alleged.

Taxation

Mahabharat'.

fied by the GDP.

GDP on Monday,

the floor of the House.

NEW DELHI, DEC 3

A day after

being mass i v e l y

trolled on

the social

media fol-

lowing BJP MP's

comments



Former CM and JD(S) leader H.D. Kumarswamy campaigns for Mahalaxmi Layout candidate Girish K. Nashi ahead of the Assembly bypoll in Bengaluru.

relaxing after a hectic bypoll campaign confident that the party will romp home in at least eight seats and ensure the stability of their govern-

There is however a lurking danger 'within' —with a group of BJP legislators who could be described as the 'suicide squad,' fum-

ing over being neglected by the party top brass and more so, by the undue importance accorded to disqualified legislators who have all been promised ministerial berths after the bypolls.

They are quietly waiting for the post-bypoll sce-nario after the December 9 results, when major political developments can be expected in the state. According to a promi-

nent legislator of Hyderabad-Karnataka, who is an active member of the squad, a group of ten legislators drawn from various districts have decided to strike at the opportune time as they feel they do not have a bright future in the party, especially after the entry of the disqualified legisla tors into the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)

'We have been legislators for three or four terms and most of us got elected due to our individual charisma. This being the case, we should have been rewarded with cabi-net berths but we have been treated badly. On the contrary, the role of the disqualified legislators in helping the BJP form the government is being eulogised day in and day out. which we find difficult to

Respond to Opp's attacks but with caution: Rajnath to MPs

Also asks party MPs to attend Parl discussions

NITIN MAHAJAN NEW DELHI, DEC. 3



has no relevance and should not be treated as (dignity). 'Bible, Ramayan and Mahabharat', BJP MP Nishikant Dubey on In an address to the parliamentary party meet, Mr Singh said the MPs Tuesday urged the gov-ernment to frame a law to regulate social media need to be prepared to take on the opposition when they term the Prime Minister and the home Parliament proceedings. minister intruders and call the country's finance minister as "nirbala" (powerless). He also sought protection from the Lok Sabha Speaker for lawmakers from being trolled for

A combative defence minister also asked the MPs to be prepared to defend their leaders and retaliate against the opposition lies. "The defence minister, however, asked them to be cautious in these counter measures ed representatives



Rajnath Singh

and to maintain the maryada of the House while making any statements," sources stated. The comments of the

former BJP chief came soon after the leader of Congress in LS Adhir Ra-njan Chowdhary made statements against the senior leadership of the BJP. Mr Singh also lamented the fact that several party MPs were not regular in attending the House prounderlining ceedings, Prime Minister Narendra dissatisfaction over lack of their adequate presence at many times. The defence minister asked the party's electmaintain good attendance record and ensure presence in Parliament during discussion on important bills or issues.

BJP MPs must be present in Parliament in large numbers when Mr Shah tables the bill, which is likely to be cleared by the Union Cabinet on Wednesday, Mr Singh said asking them to be present during the presentation of Citizenship Amendment Bill in Parliament by home minister Amit Shah.

He rejected the opposition's criticism of the Bill and asserted that the BJP has always worked to unite the country and its people, the Bill seeks to grant citizenship to non-Muslim refugees from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan if they faced religious persecution

there. Sources stated that Singh said the three neighbouring countries were essentially Islamic nations and so it is non-Muslims and not Muslims who are at the receiving

Kharge dials Gowda in bid to revive K'taka tieup

AGE CORRESPONDENT BENGALURU, DEC. 3

Congress Siddaramand K . Shivak

Mallikarjun u m a r breathing

down his neck hoping to take a shot at the CM's post if B.S. Yediyurappa's position becomes shaky after the bypoll results, veteran, Mallikarjun Kharge has reportedly spoken to Janata Dal(S) supremo H.D. Deve Gowda on the

possibility of reviving the defunct JD(S)-Congress coalition.

A highly placed JD(S) source quoted Mr Kharge as saying that both postions health in the composition of the composition o both parties should join hands again if the BJP failed to get the numbers required for a simple majority in the by-elections and do a repeat of happened Maharashtra where the Sena-NCP-Congress combine foiled the BJP to seize power.

It is not clear when the conversation happened but it revolved around the topic of both parties coming together to keep the BJP out.

Mr Gowda reportedly asked Mr Kharge the obvious question, why did he not intervene when some Congress leaders created problems for the previous coalition government headed by his son H.D. Kumara-swamy? "And why are you now thinking of reviving the alliance?" It is unclear what Kharge said in reply.

The Congress veteran feels it is a now or never chance for him to realise his unfulfilled dream of



BY GAUTAM LAHIRI

NEW MAHARASHTRA MINISTERS IN DELHI FOR LOBBYING



Cabinet ministers of Maharashtra have reached the capital for lobbying with the Congress high command. Officially, they say that they had come for a courtesy call with Congress presi-Gandhi. But chief minister Sonia Maharashtra Uddhav Thackeray has neither

Sonia Gandhi

expanded his cabinet nor has decided the portfolios. On Tuesday, Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Raut got a huge reception from many MPs. Informally, it was discussed that for the time being Shiv Sena will keep the home portfolio and NCP will be given finance. Now, it's almost certain that both former CM Prithviraj Chavan and Ashok Chavan will be sworn in as Cabinet ministers. But speculation is going on who will get the irrigation portfolio as NCP's Ajit Pawar, who was facing a SIT probe, was ultimately given clean chit.

OPP. IN RS FOLLOWS NEW STRATEGY TO DRAW ATTENTION OF CHAIR

oposition members of Parliament (MPs) in Rajya Sabha were not sure whether their notice for a discussion on electoral reforms would be accepted by the chair. They have now formulated a new strategy for signing the notice to draw attention of the chair. Last week, the chair allowed detailed discussion on the economic situation of the country. Leaders of main Opposition parties have now decided to sign the notice by a fresh set of MPs who have not asked for discussion on any subject. As they have convinced the leaders of Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) and Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) for the discussion on electoral reforms, it's now sure that their demand will be

NAIDU'S LUNCH HOSTING IN MID-SESSION RAISES SPECULATION



Sabha Chairman ajya Sabha Chairman Venkaiah Naidu will host a Plunch for some of the Opposition leaders on Wednesday where Union ministers will be present. Generally, the Chairman hosts the lunch for the MPs at the end of the session. But hosting a lunch in the middle of the ongoing Winter Session of the

Parliament has created lot of speculation. Now that the government is determined to bring Citizenship Act amendment bill in the current session of the Parliament, many MPs speculate whether the Rajya Sabha Chairman has created a platform to discuss about the timing of tabling the controversial bill. Some MPs believe that though the Cabinet will meet on Wednesday, the decision for taking up the bill may take another day.

Opposition seeks debate on return to ballot papers

SREEPARNA CHAKRABARTY

Opposition parties have given notice in the Rajya Sabha for a discussion on electoral reforms with the focus on returning to ballot papers in the polls.

The notice, submitted to Rajya Sabha chairperson M. Venkaiah Naidu, has been signed by 16 parties and demands a shortduration discussion under rule 176 of parliamentary procedures.

The parties that have signed the notice include the Indian National (INC), Congress, Trinamool DMK, RJD, Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), Shiv Sena, BSP, AAP, PDP, CPI, CPI (M), TDP, TRS MDMK and Samajwadi Party (SP). Although ▶ The notice, submitted to Rajya Sabha chairperson, has been signed by 16 parties. Electoral bonds is another issue which the parties want to raise

notice has been given under the broad heading of "Electoral Reforms for Free and Fair Elections" the parties have agreed amongst each other that the focus needs to be on a return to ballot papers. Electoral bonds is anoth-

er issue which the parties want to raise, sources told this newspaper.
"We do not expect the

matter to come up this week, but would certainly expect that it is taken up next week," a senior Opposition leader said,

adding that the parties are likely to meet Mr Naidu and urge him to list the matter fast. The issue of returning

to ballot papers has been raised time and again by the Opposition but any talk of fault in the electronic voting machines (EVMs) has been dismissed by the ruling government.

At an all-party meeting hosted by the Election Commission (EC) last year, the Congress-led alliance of several parties had demanded a return to ballot paper for the 2019 Lok Sabha elections.

The Bharatiya Janata Party and its allies, how-ever, had opposed it. The EC had later indicated that it would work toward "satisfactory solution" to the Opposition's sug-

Cong MLA slits palm, writes anti-govt slogan with blood

GUWAHATI, DEC. 3

Rupjyoti Kurmi who is known for different protest within and outout from the state Assembly and sat in front of the entrance of the Assembly and slit open his left palm with a

written in Assamese read

the slogan by his blood in front of television cameras that was streaming the incident live also demanded revival of two paper mills of Hindustan

Centre recently. He also alleged that the to private companies.

strong protests against the privatisation move, with most demanding the government to revive the

Today's protest should be considered as a message that Assam would witness bloody protests in the days to come if the government does not listen to the peaceful protests and relent," he

■ MP calls for public-private partnership in education Schools still run under trees in UP: Hema ANIMESH SINGH have seen in many states She said that stu-

NEW DELHI, DEC. 3

-PRITAM BANDYOPADHYAY

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MP and veteran film artiste Hema Malini on Tuesday in Lok Sabha criticised the laxity on part of several states, including the party-ruled Uttar Pradesh, towards implementing education Centre's schemes, due to which the admission rate in government-run schools is poor and the student-teacher ratio is completely lop-

Highlighting the importance of introducing the public-private partnership (PPP) model in school education across the country, Ms Malini while speaking during Zero Hour, noted that it was



only after the introduction of the Right To Education law (which was enacted by the erstwhile UPA regime) in 2009 that the number of schools had increased, teachers appointments had gone up and children's enrolment in government schools had seen

dents in villages are not getting quality education and even in modern times, schools are running under trees

an improvement after playgrounds and toilets had been set up for them. However she lamanted the fact that despite the initiatives of the Centre, the situation is such that the admission rate of children in government schools is less than 60 per cent and children are not going to school.

'This is mainly due to the fact that several states have not implemented the Centre's policies properly and shown a lot of laxity. I

like Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha and even in Uttar Pradesh as well as in my own parliamentary constituency (Mathura) that four to five schools are running from a single building, and for 100 students only one teacher is there. While in many cases students are without teachers and vice versa," Ms Malini pointed out. She further added that

poor students in rural areas are not getting quality education and even in modern times, schools are running under trees.

"Therefore to ensure quality education, Centre should take up the PPP model just like it is done in the field of higher eduthe noted actress

not to go by media reports, the home minister said, "koi maafi ki nahi gayi (no pardon has been given)". -PTI

was political move

AGE CORRESPONDENT

Bharatiya Janata Party MPs in Lok Sabha on Tuesday Ranjan Chowdhury for his Narendra Modi and Union home minister Amit Shah as The ruling party's member of the women of Gandhi rising onion prices, refused staged a walk out from Lok Sabha along with other began just as the Zero Hour BJP MPs rising to their feet nst the Mr Chowdhury, who

MANOJ ANAND

In what has come as shocker to many, an Assam Congress legislator on Tuesday slit his palm with a shaving blade at the entrance of the Assembly to write anti-government slogan

The Congress MLA side the party forum on Tuesday staged a walk

write slogan on a huge placard that he was car-The slogan that was

that Assamese people's sentiments would not be allowed to be sold, in a direct reference to the Centre's move to amend the Citizenship Act of 1955 in order to give citizenship to non-Muslims from neighboring countries.

Mr Kurmi who wrote Paper Corporation Ltd. blade. Whose liquidation has He used the blood to been ordered by the

BJP-led government was planning to hand over the Namrup fertilizer factory and a tea garden Assam has witnessed

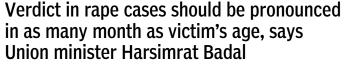
A German parliamentary delegation pose for a photograph in front of the statue of

Mahatma Gandhi at the Parliament House on Tuesday.

"I took this step as the government has neglect-ed the peaceful protest.

THE ASIAN AGE

Umasankar





Previous UP govts gave out benefits of welfare plans based on caste, religion — Yogi Adityanath,

UP chief minister

SHORT TAKES

OBC groom attacked for riding horse

Agar Malwa, MP: A 28-yearold man from an OBC community was beaten up for riding a horse during his prewedding party allegedly by members of the Rajput community in Agar Malwa district, police said on Tuesday. Eleven people have been arrested in connection with the incident which occurred in Bhadwasa village, 42 kms from Agar Malwa on the night of December 1. "The incident occurred when the pre-wedding procession of Dharmendra Luhar, who belongs to an OBC community, was being taken out," said Badod police station incharge Rajiv Uike. - PTI

Guj man dies after being hit by MLA car

Ahmedabad: A 47-year-old man was killed after his scooter was knocked down by a car belonging to Gujarat Congress MLA Shailesh Parmar in Ahmedabad city, police said on Tuesday. While family members of the deceased - Praful Patel alleged that Parmar's son was driving the car, the police and the MLA said the latter's driver Devendra Bhavsar was behind the wheels. The mishap took place in Memnagar area here on Monday night, a police official said, adding that Bhavsar was absconding since then. The car is registered in the name of Parmar.

3 directors of PMC

Mumbai: The Economic Offences Wing of Mumbai Police on Tuesday arrested three directors of Punjab & Maharashtra Cooperative Bank in connection with the alleged ₹4.355 crore fraud which is under investigation, an officia said. Jagdish Mookhey, Mukti Bavisi and Trupti Bane were arrested following extensive interrogation in connection with credit facilities provided by the bank to Housing

Development and Infrastructure Limited and its group companies. Mookhey was a director of the bank and member of its audit committeesince 2005, whereas Bavisi was director and member of its loans and advances committee, he said. - PTI

SC VERDICT ON PC BAIL PLEA IN INX CASE TODAY

New Delhi: The Supreme

Court is scheduled to pro-

nounce verdict on Wednesday over Congress leader P Chidambaram's plea seeking bail in the INX Media money laundering case. A bench headed by Justice R Banumathi had on November 28 reserved judgement on the appeal filed by Chidambaram who has challenged the November 15 verdict of the Delhi high court denying him bail in the case. During the arguments, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) had claimed in the apex court that the 74year-old former finance minister continues to wield "substantial influence" on crucial witnesses in the case even from the custody, while he said that the agency cannot "destroy" his career and reputation by making baseless allegations. Opposing his bail plea, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the ED maintained that economic offences like money laundering are grave in nature as they not only affect the nation's economy but also

shake people's faith in the

committed by people in

system, especially when it is

power. Senior advocates Kapil

Sibal and A.M. Singhvi, repre-

senting Mr Chidambaram, had

countered Mr Mehta's submis-

sions and said there was no

Chidambaram to offence

directly or indirectly. - PTI

any evidence linking

Are Indian women, under siege, ready for gun?

Post-Nirbhaya incident, a special revolver was designed for women, but it remains largely unsold

VIKRAM SHARMA

Post-Nirbhaya, the Indian Ordinance factory (IOF), Kanpur, manufactured "Nirbheek" — a .32 bore lightweight revolver designed for women. The 500 gram handgun was designed to easily fit in a woman's purse or shoulder

bag.
After the recent "Disha" episode, are women, who often join the chorus for encounters or lynching of sexual offenders, ready to shoot attack-ers with this handy weapon — provided the government grants gun

In America with its longstanding and well-entrenched gun-culture, an increasing number of women buy guns for self-protection. In India, however, strict gun licensing laws comes in the way of women buying weapons. This ends up in women relying pepper spray and mobile safety apps for their protection. Or just sheer luck. According to IOF offi-cials, only 53 women from around the country purchased Nirbheek revolvers from the factory soon after it was out in January 2014. Around 1500 have been sold in total.

'Two years ago, we opened sale for arms dealers who sold in their local markets," IOF additional general manager, Dinesh Singh, told this newspaper.

Odisha: Puri

minor girl

gangraped,

2 arrested

AGE CORRESPONDENT

In the wake of the Disha gangrape-murder last week, a minor girl's

Odisha's Puri district has

She was on Monday

evening waiting for a bus

at Nimapara Square to go

to Kakatpur. Four per-

sons, including former

constable Jitendra Sethi,

stopped their car and offered her a lift. She

turnea it aown. The iour

then forced her into the

car and locked the doors.

They then took her to a

government quarter (allotted to Jitendra) near

Jhadeswari Club in Puri,

Two of the four includ-

ing Jitendra were arrest-

Jitendra was dismissed

from the Odisha police in

February for misconduct.

"Dismissed constable
Jitendra Sethi and
Rajesh Sethi have been
arrested so far," deputy
inspector general of
police Ashish Singh said.
"Ever teams are investi

'Four teams are investi-

gating. We will also seek

trial in a fast-track court. Charge-sheet will be filed

Cases under the IPC and

POSCO were registered.

The DIG said special

lawyers would be enlisted

to ensure severe punish-

ment. Jitender Sethi was

dismissed from service in

February by the then SP

of Puri after multiple

charges of misconduct

including physical harassment were report-

within 20 days.'

and raped her.

ed on Tuesday.

left many shocked.

gang-rape in

BHUBANESWAR, DEC. 3

GUNS & GIRLS

Post-Nirbhaya, the Indian Ordinance factory (IOF), Kanpur, manufactured "Nirbheek" — a .32 bore lightweight revolver designed for

Only 53 women from around the country purchased Nirbheek revolvers after it was out in January 2014

"Besides whatever was bought individually, there could be some who may have purchased from dealers that we are not aware

About 5,000 revolvers of different makes, including Nirbheek, were purchased by arms dealers in the country in the last five years. Ěach Nirbheek has a range of up to 15 metres and is made of titanium alloy. It costs a little over ₹1.39 lakh, so not all women can afford it.

"Even the trigger has been reduced for smooth operation," says Singh. Another model, Nishank, out in the market recently, is also designed for women. Several have made enquiries regarding it, he

Strict licensing laws ensure that not all get armed. 'Law enforcement

AGE CORRESPONDENT

A 22-year-old man who

vulgarily commented on

'Disha" on social media

was arrested by the

Hyderabad cyber-crime police on Tuesday. Chavan

Sriram (22) from Fakirabad in Nizamabad

posted nasty comments

through Facebook. Police

are looking for four others

Disha's gangrape-murder

at Shamshabad, the nation largely condoled

her death and supported

her family. A few, however, used social media to

demonstrate their anti-

Sriram, an ITI graduate,

worked at a fast food outlet

in the city and returned

home two months ago. He

was jobless since. He used

social behavior.

veterinarian

for derogatory posts.

HYDERABAD, DEC 3:

agencies should consider circumstances and issue require it," said M.S. Shafiq of "Gun Affairs" in Banjara Hills. "Importantly, no license holder Hyderabad has misused the weapon. As for Nirbheek, not a single woman has purchased it yet. However, there could be about 50 to 100 women who have gun licenses in Hyderabad, which they may have

obtained long ago.' Though the police is tight-lipped over the number of licenses in Hyderabad, rough estimates suggest it could be over 5,000.

The Indian Arms Act says threat perception and a police record are the key aspects based on which gun licenses are issued. "Many people apply, but most are rejected," said Shafiq. "People living in remote areas feel unsafe, as do those in farmhouses. The police should consider this and issue licenses. If there is misuse, the agencies can always cancel the license.'

'We will examine each request for gun licenses,' said Cyberabad commissioner V.C. Sajjanar. "But I do not think issuing more licens-es will solve the problem." Hyderabad

Commissioner Kumar similarly said that license can be granted to anyone who applies but ful-

Facebook with the profile

'Stalin Sriram' and posted

vulgar thoughts about Disha. His comments

Sriram is a migrant

from Maharashtra. His

parents are vegetable ven-

dors who were at a loss as to why their son was

On coming across the posts the Hyderabad

cyber-crime police regis-

tered a suo moto case on

November 30. Technical

clues helped trace Sriram.

He was produced in court

and was remanded to judi-

Police are hunting for others like him, but they

turned off their mobile

phones and went under-

Cyber crime inspector N Mohan Rao said: "Teams are working to trace and

cial custody.

nab the others.

picked up by the police.

were objectionable.

22-year-old arrested for

'vulgar' Facebook post



Women shout slogans during a protest of Delhi Commission for Women against the Hyderabad rape-murder case and alleged rise in the number of incidents of crime against women at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi on Tuesday. - PTI

■ Victim appears to be minor, says police

Girl raped, shot dead, burnt in Bihar's Buxar

NAYEAR AZAD

The burnt dead body of a young woman was recovered on Tuesday in Kukudha village in Buxar district of Bihar.

The local police suspect that the girl, who appears to be a minor, was shot and burnt after dead being allegedly raped by the criminals.

According to the Buxar police, the killers used stubble from the nearby fields and petrol to burn the dead body.

"Burnt dead body of a young girl has been recovered and we are trying to find the motive behind the incident. Empty bullet shell has also been recovered from the spot. Anything more about the case can be said after we receive the detailed post – mortem report. We are also trying to trace all those who have been involved in the incident", Buxar Superintendent of Police Upendra Verma

Man arrested for raping Sonbhadra: A man has been arrested for alleged-"The rape accused was

ly raping a 70-year-old woman in this district of Uttar Pradesh, police said on Tuesday. The accused, 27, sexually assaulted the women when she was alone at her home, Circle Officer Gyan Prakash Rai said. The incident took place on Sunday, he added.

Sources from Buxar said that a five-member team has been constituted to

submit a report within 24 A forensic team and a dog squad have also been pressed into service to assist the police in the investigation.

Reports suggest that the

arrested on December 2 (Monday). A case under various sections of the IPC, including that of committing rape, has been registered against him," Mr Rai said. The man is a carpenter

by profession while the woman a labourer and they both are dalits, he

also asked the Buxar police to submit their findings on the case at the conduct post-mortem and earliest.

'We will make every possible effort that the criminais involved in the case get a stricter punishment. I want to assure that no one will be spared", Senior JD(U) leader and minister Neeraj Kumar told this newspaper.

Man arrested for raping minor after 'marrying' her

Mandsaur, MP, Dec. 3: A man was arrested in Mandsaur town of Madhya Pradesh on Tuesday for allegedly rap-ing a 17-year-old girl after fraudulently marrying her, the police said.

Sonu Kumawat (24), the accused, and the girl knew each other for some time, a police official said. Two days ago, he took her to a hotel room where he put a garland around her neck and applied vermilion on her forehead, telling her they were now married, and later allegedly raped her, said police sub-ir Poornima Singh. sub-inspector

He also filmed the act. and threatened to circulate the video and photos if she complained to anybody, the officer said.

After the girl told her family members about the incident, a police complaint was lodged on Monday. The girl's mother is dead and her father works as a truck driver, so she lives with her relatives here, inspector Singh said.

Physically-challenged children visit the Marina Beach during an event to mark

the International Day of Disabled Persons in Chennai on Tuesday.

Other suggestion: Time-bound punishment for culprits MPs' panel wants ban on porn for kids

CHAKRABARTY

Seeking ways to prevent heinous crimes against like women Hyderabad gangrape and murder, a group of Rajya Sabha MPs feel that there should be a total ban on children's access pornography.

The informal group of 14 MPs called the "Study Group", which has representatives from 10 political parties met for the first time at AIADMK MP Vijila Sathyanath's resi-Monday

The group briefed Rajya

Sabha chairperson M. Venkaiah Naidu Tuesday morning and said that one of the foremost suggestions was that children's access to pornography should be banned.

"Nowadays everybody has a smart phone and with it the access to internet and pornography. This issue needs addressed first and foremost," one of the MPs who briefed the chairper-

son said. Some of the other suggestions are control over the sale of alcohol and time-bound punishment for culprits.

The group has decided to hold further discus-



Vijila Sathyanath

sions with stakeholders to consulted include civil groups, parent groups, law enforcement agencies, regulators like TRAI and social media companies WhatsApp, Google like Facebook, sources

The Informal Group

Chandrashekar Roopa Ganguly of BJP, Jairam Ramesh, Rajeev Gowda and Amee Yajnik of the Congress, Derek O' Trinamul Brien Congress, Tiruchi Siva of DMK, Vijila Sathyanath of AIADMK, Jaya Bachchan of Samajwadi Party, Smt. Vandana Chavan of NCP, Amar Patnaik of BJD, Kahkashan Perween of JD(U) and Sanjay Singh

The members who met Mr Naidu this morning include Sahasrabuddhe, Ramesh, Ms Bachchan, Ms

Chavan, and Mr Siva

of AAP.

Dead rat found in midday meal in UP

Muzaffarnagar, UP, Dec 3: In yet another instance of negligence in midday meal distribution, a dead rat was found in the food served in a school here on Tuesday, following which an inquiry has been ordered by the district administration. Additional district mag-

Amit Kumar Singh said that eight students and a teacher of Janata Inter-College in Mustafabad Panchenda village were taken ill and sent to hospital after the rat was found in one of the plates though no one had eaten the food at that time.

NGO Janklyan Samiti of Hapur had supplied the mid-day meal to the school.

An inquiry has been ordered into the incident and strict action will be taken against those found guilty of negligence, Mr Singh said.

District authorities have ordered lodging of an FIR against the midday meal supplier, the official said.

The students and the teacher complained of vomiting after they saw the rat and were taken to hospital, he said.

Last week, another case of apathy had come to light when a video showed that a litre of milk was allegedly diluted with a bucket of water so that 81 children could be served.

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is hereby informed that this person Named: Sumer Singh, \$/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Age: 62 Years, Sex: Male, Height: 5'5", Complexion: Shallow, Built: Strong, Face: Round, Hair: White Small, Mustache: Yes, Wearing: Cream Shirt and Cream Colour Linedar Pant, was found dead in Kali Mata Mandir ki Side wali Gali, in the jurisdiction of

PS Sagarpur Delhi on 15.11.2019 at 09:12 AM. In this regard a DD No. 14A, dated 15.11.2019 has been lodged at

P.S.Sagarpur, New Delhi Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this person but no clue has come to light

Any person having any information or clue about this person may kindly inform to the following.

P.S. Sagarpur, New Delhi DP/7171/SW/19

Ph.: 011-28522655, 7065036228

NORTH DELHI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (M-II) KPZ

Shakti Nagar Extn., DELHI-110052

NIT No. EE/M-II/KPZ/2019-2020/64 Date of Start for Sale of Tender Document 27.11.2019 at 18.01 PM Last Date of Download to Tender Document : 19.12.2019 at 12.00 PM Last Date of Bid Submission 19.12.2019 at 12.15 PM

Opening of Financial Bid 19.12.2019 at 12.30 PM S.N. 1. Name of work: Improvement of road side berms and footpath of Singh Sabha Road and 10 Block round about Shakti Nagar in Ward No.

78N/KPZ, Kamla Nagar. Head of A/c: XL-VIII-S(d), Tender amount: 4210644/-, Earnest Money: 84250/-, Time of Completion: 03 Months, Rates hold good for: 06 Months, Tender Cost: 500. S.N. 2, Name of work: Improvement of road side berms and footpath at Guru Hanuman Marg in - Ward No. 78N/KPZ, Kamla Nagar. Head of A/c: XL-VIII-S(d), Tender amount: 4859561/-, Earnest Money: 97200/-

Time of Completion: 03 Months, Rates hold good for: 06 Months Tender Cost: 500. S.N. 3, Name of work: Improvement of road side berms and footpath of Roop Nagar from 4/5 Block to Fire Station Roop Nagar in Ward No. 78N/KPZ Kamla Nagar. **Head of A/c**: XL-VIII-S(d), **Tender amount**:

4616290/-, Earnest Money: 92350/-, Time of Comp Rates hold good for: 06 Months, Tender Cost: 500. S.N. 4, Name of work: Improvement of road side berms and footpath of Entry road Roop Nagar from GT Road to Govt. Boys School No. 2 Roop

Nagar in Ward No. 78N/KPZ Kamla Nagar. Head of A/c: XL-VIII-S(d) Tender amount: 4622115/-, Earnest Money: 92450/-, Time of Completion: 03 Months, Rates hold good for: 06 Months, Tender Cost: 500. Note: This tender are also available on the website http://mcdetenders.com for bidding by approved and eligible contractor with MCD. The validity of rates hold good for 6 months. EE.(M-II)/KPZ has the right to cancle any or all

the tenders without any reasons R.O. No. 177/North DMC/2019-20 Executive Engineer(M-II)KPZ

THE ASIAN AGE





Pan India NRC is a political rhetoric of BJP, can never be a reality

> Mamata Banerjee, **West Bengal CM**

SHORT TAKES

ED to quiz Prajapati in sand mining case

New Delhi: The Enforcement Directorate (ED), probing the illegal sand mining case in Saharanpur district in UP is set to question senior SP leader and former state mining minister Gayatri Prajapati

in connection with the case. The agency, sources said that they will issue summons to Mr Prajapati for questioning, in a day or two. The Central probe agencies -ED and CBI - have so far booked more than 24 people, including several senior IAS officers serving as secre taries in the UP government in connection with the illegal sand mining scam. There are allegations that the accused bureaucrats, in conspiracy with other suspects, allowed illegal mining of minor

UP Raj Bhavan

during 2012-17.

gets threat letter

minerals in UP's Saharanpur

Lucknow: Uttar Pradesh Raj Bhavan on Tuesday got a letter threatening to blow it up if the governor does not leave the place in 10 days time. A Raj Bhavan statement said the letter was from "TSPC Jharkhand", an apparent reference to the Maoist group Tritya Sammelan Prastuti Committee. The letter threatened to blow up the Raj Bhavan with dynamite. The matter is being taken seriously, the statement added. Hemath Rao, additional chief secretary to governor Anandiben Patel, has sent the letter to the state's home department, it said. - PTI

CBI arrests senior staff of ponzi firm

New Delhi: The CBI has arrested a CMD and a direcinvestors of a ponzi scheme to the tune of ₹78 crore in West Bengal, officials said Tuesday. Ajay Chakraborty is the chairman-cum-managing director of Jugantor Realty and Jugantor Gold and Jewellery and Sanjit Chakraborty is its director, they said. The company had allegedly collected ₹78 crore illegally from investors fraudulently, CBI spokesperson Nitin Wakankar said. He said the accused closed the company and misappropriated

the money invested. - PTI

Ayodhya case: Row after Jamiat 'sacks' its lawyer

Dhavan says statement on him being unwell 'malicious and untrue'

PARMOD KUMAR NEW DELHI, DEC. 03

row has erupted amongst the Muslim litigants who were parties to title suit after Jamiat Ulama-e-Hind "sacked" senior counsel Rajeev Dhavan as its lead lawyer while filing its plea on December 2 seeking the reconsideration November 9 judgment by which Supreme Court

gave the disputed site to idol of Ram Lalla for the construction of Lord Ram's temple at Ayodhya. Lord Mr Dhavan has used the word "sacking" for his removal by the Jamiat.

The day started with Rajeev Dhavan describing as "malicious and untrue" a statement attributed to Arshad Madani — heading one of the two factions

Tajik envoy

seeks to

SRIDHAR KUMARASWAMI

NEW DELHI, DEC. 3

boost ties

with India

Tajikistan is consider-

ing making the system

of issuing of visas easi-

er, Tajik ambassador

Sulton Rahimzoda said

on Tuesday, while seek-

ing to further boost ties

with India. In an interac-

tion with this newspa-

per, the Tajik envoy said

there was a lot of "untapped potential" in trade ties between the

two countries. "We are

looking to increase annual trade with India

much beyond the current \$100 million. This is

just not sufficient," the Tajik envoy said. "There

is cooperation between

the two countries in the

energy sector, industry, tourism, mining and medical tourism. For

trade ties to be further

strengthened, direct airconnectivity between

the two countries is extremely important,"

Mr Kanımzoda said. He

added that his country

was "considering mak-

ing the issue of visas

more easy" for a "simpli-

The Tajik ambassador

was speaking at an event

on Tuesday to mark the

launch of direct flights

on December 1 by Tajik private airline Somon

Air between New Delhi

and Dushanbe. In addi-

tion to New Delhi, the

private carrier is also planning to launch flights from Dushanbe to

fied visa system".

I have been informed that Mr Madani (heading one of the two factions of Jamiat Ulama-e-Hind) has indicated that I was removed from the case because I was unwell. This is total nonsense...

Rajeev Dhavan, Senior counsel

of Jamiat Ulama-e-Hind — saying that they wanted to file the review petition on December 2 itself but Mr Dhavan was unwell and not available to settle the petition.

Mr Madani sought to jus-tify the dropping of Mr Dhavan as the lead lawyer, saying that they wanted to file the plea for the reconsideration of November 9 verdict on December 2 and Mr Dhavan was not avail-

RAJIB CHOWDHURI

The Chinese Navy has

been found to have

increased its presence in

the Indian Ocean for

snooping on India. The

revelation comes close on

the heels of reports of a

PLA research vessel forced by the Indian Navy

to return from the exclu-

Andaman & Nicobar Islands recently.

over the Indian Ocean. Right now the Chinese

Navy and Pakistan Navy

are doing an exercise. It is

the international water

after 12 nautical miles. Everybody can come. You

cannot stop it. But as long

as we know they are pres-

ent there, we track them,

naval officer in charge

(West Bengal) Commodore

'The Chinese Navy is all

sive economic zone off

However, sources within the Muslim litigants said that it was decided that all the petitions seeking the reconsideration

November 9 verdict that

were being drafted under the supervision of Rajeev Dhavan would be filed simultaneously on the A source, who is watch-

ing the developments from close quarters, said that Jamiat's action amounted

The revelation

comes close on the

heels of reports of a

PLA research vessel

forced by the Indian

Navy to return from

Andaman & Nicobar

Suprobho K. De said at

INS Netaji Subhas on Tuesday on the eve of the

"To enter the Indian Ocean, the ships have to

choke points like Strait of

Malacca. As long as we

can monitor those choke

points, nobody can enter

without being detected.

Once you pick up, our air-

craft can monitor the ship

which moves slowly," he

through certain

the exclusive eco-

nomic zone off

Islands recently

Navy Day celebration.

other, who too were ready with their petitions seek-ing the review of Ayodhya judgment.

Mr Dhawan in a social media post said, "I have been informed that Mr Madani has indicated that I was removed from the case because I was unwell This is total nonsense. He has a right to instruct his lawyer AOR Ejaz Magbool to sack me, which he did on instructions. But, the reasons being floated are malicious and untrue."

In a letter to Jamiat Ulama-e-Hind lawyer Ejaz Maqbool, a copy of which was sent to Mr Madni, Mr Dhavan has recounted all that transpired betw-een the lawyers of different litigants, including senior lawver Zafarvab Jilani for ironing out the differences

Chinese Navy presence grows in Indian Ocean

Cmde De pointed out,

"Say if we find a ship

somewhere, it will be

found by the aircraft in

the same area after 10 hours for its slow speed.

That is how we keep track.

We can ensure full sur-

veillance of the Indian

Ocean with the P8i aircraft, a force multiplier." He noted, "Snooping by

the Chinese ships, includ-

ing submarines' move-

ments in the Indian Ocean

has increased. Their boats

are focussed. In next two years, they will have one

more carrier. By 2050,

they will have 10 aircraft

Cmde De also said that a

plan has been made for showcasing a decommis-

sioned Sea Harrier fighter

aircraft at the proposed

142 museum

around two acres of land

at New Town in Kolkata

CDS should have power to take a call: Service chiefs

PAWAN BALI NEW DELHI, DEC. 3

There is a growing view among the chiefs of three services that the new Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) to be appointed by the Modi government should be empowered to take decisions and it should not just be a cosmetic change. While Navy Chief Admiral Karambir Singh on Tuesday said that he wants CDS to be "empowered one", another chief of the service in an interaction with this newspaper echoed the same sentiment.

"My expectation is that it should be an empowered CDS. It should be able to make a difference. It is a historical decision by the Prime Minister. I hope CDS is suitably empowered for carrying out all the responsibilities which are given,' said the Navy Chief.

He said that the views of the three services are being taken care of by the chairman of Chiefs of Staff Committee (COSC). Army chief General Bipin Rawat is currently chairman of COSC. "We had meeting and

Navy Chief Admiral Karambir Singh said that he wants the CDS to be

conveyed all our requirement to the chairman COSC. COSC then became part of the implementation committee," said the

Another serving chief of

an 'empowered one'

the services said that the CDS should be able to give direction which are followed. "The main point is that CDS should have powers to give direction, otherwise CDS will not mean much. It should not be a cosmetic change," he said. He said that it doesn't matter whether CDS is four star or five star officer. "Power to direct is what will define the CDS and not the stars," he said.

The defence ministry on Monday in a written reply had informed the Rajya Sabha that a report had been received from the implementation commitdetermine the exact responsibilities of CDS and all other issues involved to ensure smooth opera-

9 arrested for arson, threatening **J&K traders**

AGE CORRESPONDENT SRINAGAR, DEC. 3

Jammu Kashmir police on Tuesday claimed to have arrested five persons involved in Molotov (petrol bombs) at security forces vehicles and threatening traders and local residents of central Srinagar to force shutdowns

Separately, four persons were arrested in Baramulla for allegedly being responsible for acts of arson and issuing threats to shopkeepers for same purpose, the police claimed.

The police said that "miscreants" arrested in Srinagar had targeted vehicles of the local police and various Central security forces with petrol bombs in the areas of Saraf Kadal, Bohuri Kadal, Rajwari Kadal, Khanyar and Nowhatta of central Srinagar.

'They were involved also in intimidating and threatening shopkeepers and other businessmen based in the old city," a statement issued

Woman, boy killed, 7 hurt in Pak Army firing along border

YUSUF JAMEEL SRINAGAR, DEC. 3

Two civilians, including a woman, were killed and seven other persons injur-ed when the Pakistani troops pounded civilian areas and forward Indian military posts along the LoC in J&K's Poonch district with mortars and small arms on Tuesday,

official said.
They identified the slain as 35-year-old woman Gulnaz Akhter and 16boy year-old Sho'ab Ahmed. The doctors said that the woman was

brought to Poonch's district hospital dead, where-as the critically injured boy died soon after being admitted there.

Poonch's deputy commissioner Rahul Yadav confirmed the death of two civilians and injuries to at least, seven others in Pakistani shelling and firing in Bandi and Chechian villages of Poonch.

He said that the seriously injured persons are capital Jammu for specialised treatment.

He said, "Firing and shelling from the

being shifted to winter

in the Pakistani shelling and firing at nine. The Army said that the Pakistani troops resorted

put the number of injured

Pakistani side continues.

We're shifting some of the

injured persons to Jammu

after they were stabilised

by doctors locally." A report from Poonch

to ceasefire violation in Shahpur and Kirni sectors of the LoC in Poonch at around 2.30 by firing small arms and mortars. "The Indian Army is retaliating befittingly," a brief statement issued by

Bhopal still awaits toxic junk disposal 35 yrs after tragedy

CHOUDHURY

BHOPAL, DEC. 3

Three-an-a-half decades have passed since the disaster, caused by leakage of deadly methyl isocyanate (MIC) in the pesticide plant of Union Carbide here, struck Bhopal in Madhya Pradesh in the night of December 2-3, 1984, leaving over 15,000 people dead and impacting even the third generation of survivors, but the toxic waste of the killer factory was yet to be disposed of.

Thanks to the tussie between the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and Madhya Pradesh Pollution Control Board (MPPCB). an estimated 10 metric tons of highly toxic waste, buried inside the premises of the now-closed factory, were vet to be disposed of. leading to contamination of ground water in the region.

"A tussle has been going on between CPCB and MPPCB over taking responsibility of disposing of the toxic waste on the factory

An estimated 10 metric tons of highly toxic waste, buried inside the premises of the now-closed factory, is yet to be disposed of, leading to contamination of groundwater

premises. This has halted the process of clearing the site of the toxic waste, leading to contamination of water from 18 colonies to 48 colonies over three and a half

satinath Sarangi Group Bhopal Information and Action, an organisation fighting for the cause of the victims of Bhopal gas tragedy, told this newspaper on Tuesday.

According to official sources, test incineration of one metric ton of toxic waste from the plant site conducted

Pithampur area in Indore district in 2015. However, the process was called off following protests by local people in the area.

"We have been demand-

ng the Centre to move the Environment Programme (UNEP) for technology to incinerate the toxic waste buried in the factory site.

tragedy, said.

But, our pleas were yet to be heeded to," Rachna Dhingra, another activist struggling to provide succour to the victims of the The only measure under-

taken by the MP government to mitigate the environmental problems was the compilation of around 337 metric tons of chemical waste of the factory

and their godown at the disaster

A report released by the MP government recently said plans were afoot to dispose of 1.1 metric tons of contaminated soil, one metric ton of mercury spillage, the corroded factory weighing around 1,500 metric tons and 150 metric tons of chemical dumps from the site.

However, experts feared that around 11 lakh metric tons of soil in and around the factory may have been

Trouble for BJP

■ Continued from Page 1 with all guns blazing. correspondent up with campaign Congress' committee chief Subodh Kant Sahay. The party is hitting the ruling party where it thinks will hurt the most — over the economy. "Not even a single puncture repair shop has opened in the state under the BJP' double engine ki sarkar (BJP's Central and state governments)," he told this newspaper. Mr Sahay "The CM only signed MoUs... 90 per cent industries have shut down." Incidentally, the Congress in the state is in alliance with the JMM and the Rashtriya Janata

The second arrow in the Congress' quill is used to target the BJP tribal-related issues. In the land of Munda, where nearly 26 per cent of people are tribal, the

Congress is trying to pin down the OBC chief minister. Mr Sahay said: "The chief minister is not a son of the soil... (He) no knowlege about tribal customs or cul-

The Congress is also trying to take advantage the ongoing

ment", which considers a gram sabha as an autonomous unit. It seeks to challenge the right of the Indian state to govern tribal areas without violating the Protests, known as the

Pathalgarhi Movement, are now spreading rapidhas cracked down on the agitationists. Mr Sahay spoke of sedition cases on 15,000 tribals being filed by the BJP government during the crackdown. The chief minister, however, claimed that only 36 tribals were arrested.

"The BJP finds the Pathalgarhi anti-national. The state government has amended the rules to benifit business houses. plundered forests and mines, which belong to the tribals," Mr Sahay alleged, and added: "BJP zameen bhi legi aur trib-

als ki jaan bhi". Regardless of Oppositon attacks, BJP spin doctors are seeking "perfect blend of local and national issues". For this, the party is vet again relying on master strategist Amit Shah and its main vote-catching machine Narendra Modi.

SPG Bill gets RS approval

■ Continued from Page 1 House about the fateful incidents in which Indira Ganhi and Rajiv Gandhi were killed. BJP MP Neeraj Shekhar, who himself was a SPG protectee for 11 years, being the son for former Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar, said there was no need for such a cover for the family of ex-Prime Ministers.

"We are spending money on this, which is not needed," he said, adding that all previous amendments extending SPG security to former PMs' family, were gested former PMs and their families should be protected by raising another force. Addressing the alleged

security breach that happened at Priyanka Gandhi's official residence in November, the home minister said that the breach at Priyanka Gandhi's residence was coincidental. He said that the security was informed that Rahul Gandhi was due to arrive at his sister's house in a black SUV. At the exact time that Rahul black SUV owned by Congress worker Sharda Tyagi arrived there.

He further added, "If they were seriously concerned about Priyanka Gandhi's security, they could have written a confidential letter to me or to D-G CRPF or the security in charge, instead of raising the issue here or going to the press'

Mr Shah added that three officials have been suspended and an inquiry will be conducted by an I-G

Plans for 200-ship fleet hit

■ Continued from Page 1 of. We will move at a pace we are capable of. Our (Indian Navy) aim will be to get the maximum bang for the buck," he said.

The Indian Navy, which is circumspect of the Chinese presence in the Indian Ocean, is not inviting the People's Liberation Army Navy to its largest multilateral maritime exercise Milan 20, for which invitations have been sent to 41 countries. "We have called people who we think are likeminded," said Adm. minded," said Adm. Karambir Singh. Sources said India has not invited China for Milan as the Navy does not want the presence of Chinese ships in the Indian Ocean as they could in future try to misuse it to build legitimacy to be in the area. Tomorrow they will start saving that we have been coming here for years. So we want to avoid such a situation," a naval source

He said seven to eight Chinese ships are usually present in region at any point, and deployment by the neighbouring country in the region had started

in 2008. The Indian Navy in fact, forced a PLAN ship to return after it entered India's exclusive economic zone in the Andaman Sea in September. "Our stand is that if you have to do anything in our exclusive economic zone (EEZ), you have to notify us and take permission,' said the Navy Chief. The Indian Navy is

avoiding any joint exercises with the Chinese Navy. while the Army will hold a joint exercise with the Chinese PLA at Umroi, Meghalaya, December 7 to 20.

Only Aarey shed axed' ■ Continued from Page 1

carry out ourselves," he said. Mr Thackeray's assertion has put to rest speculation that the government would shelve mega-projects due to a staggering ₹6.71 lakh crore debt burden. "We are now reviewing what projects are critical for the development of the state and whether others such as the bullet train project can be postponed to a later stage," senior minister Jayant Patil had said. The new government made it clear that its priority was to offer a total loan waiver to farmers hit by recent unseasonal rainfall and flooding in various parts

of the state. **PTI adds:** NCP supremo Sharad Pawar, in his second big disclosure in two days, said on Tues-day that he was aware that party leader Ajit Pawar was in touch with Devendra Fadnavis even as he distanced himself from his nephew's sudden political move to join hands with the BJP on November 23. Mr Pawar had on Monday said Prime Minister Narendra Modi had proposed "working together" but he rejected the

CAB may be cleared tomorrow

■ Continued from Page 1 is a strong likelihood that the

bill (against which people are up in arms in several northeastern states and to which even the West Bengal government has clearly affirmed its opposition) could now be cleared at the second Union Cabinet meeting on December 5

The BJP-led NDA government had introduced the bill in its previous tenure and got the Lok Sabha's nod, but could not pass muster the numbers in the Rajya Sabha, owing to vehement protests in the Northeast

The bill had lapsed after the dissolution of the 16th Lok Sabha. Under the previous bill, those who came to India on or before December 31, 2014 will

benefit from the proposed legislation after it is notified. The fresh bill seeks to amend the Citizenship Act 1955 in order to grant Indian nationality to Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians who come to India due to religious persecution in Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan even if they don't have proper papers

At Tuesday's meeting, that was attended among others by Assam CM Sarbananda Sonowal, Mr Shah was apprised by the groups, including the influential All Assam Students Union, of their concerns on the bill and how the proposed legislation could affect the indigenous people of the Northeast,

TN techie helped Nasa find lander

■ Continued from Page 1 interviews at his Besant Nagar apartment.

From the two LROC images, Mr Subramanian could point out to Nasa that the 2017 image had no white dot whereas the September 2019 image had it at that spot, that could only mean it was the Vikram lander, which could only be visible as a dot "I saw the Internet landing location. From the Vikram lander's last known location, I knew it must be somewhere around that. I searched the 2x2 km sq area pixel by pixel — one pixel is around 1.25m or something like that. Since the lander was so

small, I had to search each and every pixel. I was able to find something out of ordinary over there and I sent out a mail to Nasa", the proud "space scientist" added.

While the nation plunged into sadness after the much-anticipated moon mission failed. Isro explained that contact with the Vikram lander could have been lost due to "hard-braking" in the final phase of its descent.

The American space agency, which had been closely following the mission, as well as several international agencies, collaborated in the Isro search for clues on the lander's where-

YEARS AGO IN

Chronicle

Noisy scenes in Lok Sabha over Bengal affairs

New Delhi: The Lok Sabha today witnessed noisy scenes with the CPI and CPI(M) members engaged in sharp exchanges with Jana Sangh, PSP and Swatantra Party members

over the law and order sit-uation in West Bengal.

As the House took up a call-attention motion on the fast undertaken by Chief Minister Ajoy Mukherjee "in protest against the widespread violence and lawlessness" in the State, the CPI and CPI(M) members unsuccessfully tried to stall consideration of the issue by raising a series of points of order, contending that the House had no jurisdiction to discuss the matter in the form it had been

brought up. Home Minister Y.B. Chavan making a statement in response to the motion, said "it is not the intention of the Central Government to take any precipitate action" in West Bengal. At this stage, he said, "we can only wish him (Mr. Ajoy Mukherjee)

well."
Mr. Chavan said the fast undertaken by Mr. Mukherjee "is indicative of his deep concern over the deteriorating law and order situation in the

He referred to a leaflet circulated by the Bangla Congress which said that "their movement is not directed against any particular party" but against disorder and lawlessness, political violence and inter-party clashes.

He said strong police arrangements continued to be made at the pandal in the Curzon Park where Mr. Mukherjee was fasting.

Students turn dog poo into bricks

Manila: A group of secondary school students in the Philippines has found a way to convert poo from stray dogs into a mixture for bricks, aiming to rid city streets of excrement and potentially even lower construction costs. As part of a research project, eighth graders in the Payatas district north of the capital Manila gathered and air-dried dog faeces, which were then mixed with cement powder and moulded into rectangular "bio bricks"."Our streets will really be cleaned up," Mark Acebuche, the students' science class adviser, told Reuters. He hoped local government or corporations would sponsor the students' research to help upgrade production. Dog ownership in the Philippines is unregulated and rules on taking care of pets are only loosely implemented, leading to a large number of stray dogs. Reuters

Operation Talwar: How the Navy silently contributed to Kargil win



Cmde Srikant Kesnur & Cdr Digvijaysinh Sodha

By keeping Pakistan in a continued state of anxiety and alarm about our intentions. by forcing it to spread its assets thin and by conjoining with the other two services where required, the Navy played a relatively unsung but important role in determining the outcome of the conflict

n July 26 this year, we celebrated the 20th anniversary of our glorious victory in the Kargil War. As is well known, this conflict, the most televised war in our history, was fought in the icy heights of Kargil in Kashmir from May to July 1999. This war included three independent yet joint operations by the Armed Forces — Operation Vijay by Army, Operation Safed Sagar by the Air Force and Operation by the Air Force and Operation Talwar by the Navy. While the contributions of the Army and the Air Force have been well documented and the extraordinary courage of many of their personnel justly celebrated, the actions by the Navy remain largely unknown, characteristic of the Navy's reputation as a silent service. The Navy Day this year offers the opportunity to reflect on the situation at sea as it obtained during this

Enough has been written about the misadventure by Pakistan but it is in the nature of human affairs that fool-hardy endeavours often result in an escalating spiral of violence with recklessness replacing restraint. Restraint in war is wrought by an active combination of political, diplomatic and military means. While our Political, Diplomatic and Bureaucratic apex played their part admirably in coercive diplomacy, the Indian Armed Forces, in a well-planned joint operation, were able to ensure that Pakistan would remain pinned down and not be able to expand the conflict. The Indian Navy essayed a crucial role in this regard.

The tri-service joint plan by the Indian military leadership at the time included the use of all the elements of military power. It planned to use the Air Force to target the entrenched positions of the infiltrators on the high ridges in the region and the Army artillery to not allow the intruders any rest. Meanwhile the Navy — unencumbered by the constraint of not crossing the Line of Control—deployed proactively in full strength to signal that any expansion of conflict would result in the full might of our military being brought to our military being brought to bear upon Pakistan. The plan was a departure from the strategic restraint that India has generally shown against the sub-conventional provocations by Pakistan. In a recently published memoir called APrime Minister to Remember – Memories of a Military Chief, Admiral Sushil Kumar, the Navy chief at that time, recollects that "by early June 1999 the task forces of the Indian Navy's Western fleet had swiftly deployed and seized the initiative in the North

Arabian Sea". The Naval plan, christened Operation Talwar, was a demonstration of intent and capability. All elements of the naval force were pressed into action to, first, ascertain the positions of the Pakistan Navy assets and, second, to ensure that own high value assets in the sea, Bombay High, as well **TODAY, DECEMBER 4, IS NAVY**

as in the coastal areas, especially in Gujarat, were well protected. The idea was to provide no opportunity to Pakistan to claim success and to ensure that if Pakistan dared to think of expanding the battle from the limited Kargil sector, the Navy would open another front in the South. The operation involved the largest ever deployment of combatant ships in the Arabian Sea. The Western Fleet, which by itself was enough to tackle the Pakistan Navy, was additionally augmented by assets from the Eastern Fleet. As India progressively involved its naval aviation, submarine, amphibious and Coast Guard assets and conducted high tempo operations including Electronic Warfare exercises, the signal was clear. Further, when the Pakistani authorities started bandying about the 'N word', India responded by moving

Indian Navy personnel display their skills during a rehearsal for Navy Day celebrations in Mumbai. (Inset) Adm. Sushil Kumar ships closer to Pakistan coast, a clear indication that we would not yield to the nuclear

This large scale deployment in the Northern Arabian Sea — at one point about 30 ships were reported in the Pakistan media as being at the doorstep of Karachi — was close enough for Pakistan to notice and feel the presence, with the possibility of their supplies being choked. This forced her Navy to shift her assets from Karachi, fearing an Indian Naval strike on the harbour. The late Vice-Admiral G.M.

Hiranandani, a naval historian, writing about the war in his book Transition Guardianship states that Pakistan naval headquarters airected their snips to "keep well clear of the Indian Navy Pakistan's weakness was further demonstrated when it started escorting its oil tankers from the Persian Gulf along the Makaran coast Elsewhere in his book, Sushil Kumar brings out that Pakistan Navy Headquarters "signalled their warships to

escort operations revealed that blockade of Karachi and interruption of oil supply from the Persian Gulf serious vulnerabilities for Pakistan requiring an operational and strategic pause. This, in turn, gave the Army and Air Force the time and leeway to press home their advantage and turn the initial set-

remain in harbour"

back into a memorable victory. It has been chronicled that Pakistani PM Nawaz Sharif indicated after the conflict that had the Indian Navy blockaded Karachi, Pakistan had fuel supplies only for six days of conventional combat. Rear Admiral S.Y. Shrikhande, a retired Navy officer and eminent strategic analyst, who was part of the Operation as the commander of *INS Delhi* in a recent article on the subject opines that "when seen in an aggregated sense, bold deployment and demonstrated readi-

ness with adequate signalling of resolve had considerable effect on the Kargil conflict". This war also involved very astute use of information warfare by the Indian Armed Forces. This was the first time that daily joint media briefings were undertaken by senior officers from all the three services in New Delhi. The aim was to undertake messaging, for

Indian citizens, for neutral observers and most of all for the antagonist, about the intent and the preparedness of the Armed Newspaper articles, photographs and television became important tools of information war. For example, photographs of fully armed and ready Eastern Fleet ships in Kochi on their way to the western theatre were reproduced in international media and taken note

of in the concerned circles. There were other places too where the Navy chipped in. The Navy's squadron of aircraft operated along the Line of

Control in support of land forces; specialist hydrography teams were conjoined with the Army's artillery batteries to pinpoint locations and Navy's special forces operated in tan-dem with their counterparts of other services. The Navy also intercepted and arrested a North Korean ship that was carrying missile components to Pakistan and aiding their war effort. By keeping Pakistan in a con-

tinued state of anxiety and alarm about our intentions, by forcing it to spread its assets thin and by conjoining with the other two services where required, one may affirm that the Navy's role in the Kargil war was silent, understated but significant. As Sushil Kumar states, "the overwhelm-ing superiority of our navy had a sobering effect on Pakistan". Both national and international media took note of these developments. While Jane's International Weekly headlined that "Indian Navy muscle hastened end to border fight" the Hindustan Times reported that "Alert navy helped pin down Pakistan to Kargil". Admiral Sushil Kumar's book also brings out the visionary role played by Prime Minster A.B. Vajpayee and others in the political apex which percolated down to all echelons whereby all the three services and other agencies operated in a cohesive and coordinated manner during the crisis. The admiral highlights that the instinctive understanding of the Maritime issues displayed by

the then Prime Minister, defence minister George Fernandes and external affairs minister Jaswant Singh resulted in clear and unambiguous rules of engagement (ROE) for the Forces at Sea from the precautionary stage onwards.

Over the last 20 years this war has been studied for various reasons — on managing localised conflict, on information operations, on the many dimensions of conventional conflict between two nuclear power states. Perhaps, it is also worth studying for the role that maritime forces can play in contributing to air-land campaigns and managing continental conflicts and whether strategic advantages at sea can be used to offset any disadvantages or constraints on land. As security analyst Iskandar Rehman in his essay in the The Rise of Indian Navy (Ed Harsh Pant) perspicaciously says, "The idea that the Indian Navy can be highly effective as a game changing flanking force is one which has gained credence since the Navy's 'silent' Kargil victory.''

Admiral Sushil Kumar passed away in the early hours of November 27, 2019. This article is as much a tribute to his leadership as it is a chronicle of the Navy in the Kargil war.

Cmde Srikant Kesnur and Cdr Digvijaysinh Sodha are serving Navy officers with an interest in maritime and naval history. The views expressed here are personal.

Modi 2.0: Paving the path for a New India



Pratap Chandra Sarangi

meanwhile

Though the economy is showing signs of a slowdown due to cyclical effects, it has the capacity to rebound. Today, India continues to be one of the fastest growing economies in the world...

nder the able and visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the government continuing to script glorious success stories to build a new India, which is inclusive and progressive, bold and confident and above all determined and focused to lead the countrymen on the path of resurgence. After years of inertia and sluggishness during Congress rule, the country has been experiencing a great new momentum in rediscovering its own destiny. Youth are upbeat with new vigour and enthusiasm; women and other poor and vulnerable sections are leading a life of dignity and honour; minorities are feeling reassured of their rights and privileges; the professionals and entrepreneurs are reaping the benefits an expanding economy and above all the common man is living with pride and optimism. "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas and Sabka Vishwas" philosophy of the government has been at the core of this astounding success story.

The strong edifice for building this new India could be possible only with a resurgent economy. Though the economy is showing signs of a temporary slowdown due to cyclical effects, it has the innate capacity to recover and rebound. Today, India continues to be one of the fastest growing economies in the world — well on its path to become a US \$5trillion economy by 2024 as envisioned by the Prime Minister.

The government is committed to build a beautiful architecture of a new resurgent economy with congenial enabling ecosystem in place. The World Bank Ease of Doing Business Report now places India at 63 among 190 countries which is almost a

quantum leap of 67 ranks in

the last three years. This is the highest jump in the ranks by any country since 2011. It has also acknowledged the steady progress of India by placing it in the top ten improvers for third time in a row. The government has been focussing to ensure that the high trajectory is maintained in tax revenue through and through. Export orientation and import substitution with focus on employment growth is at the core of the government's focus. The government has launched a new Export Credit Insurance Scheme called "NIRVIK" for exporters. All these bear testimony to the fact that the economy is on a firm path to ensure the prosperity and well-being of the people.

The government is well aware that new entrepreneurs are the main harbinger of economic prosperity in any country. The initiatives taken by the government to boost the start-ups has shown 21,778 being recognised start-ups under the Start-up India initiative scheme. The efforts of the government to protect the interest of domestic produc-

Our special focus has always been on the farmer's welfare and growth. Doubling farmers' income has been the renewed focus of the government, for which higher minimum support price has been fixed besides other measures being taken in the fisheries, animal husbandry and dairying sector.

ers and encourage manufacturing at home have been unparalleled. So much so that the government led by the Prime Minister successfully laid out India's stand in Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) as the country's key concerns remained unaddressed.

The government has also been focussing on the MSME sector which is the backbone of any economy. A number of handholding support given to the MSMEs through provisioning of access to credit and

market has got salutary impact on the growth of MSME sector. Ensuring sanctioning of bank credit within 59 minutes to MSMEs and GST refunds within 60 days from the date of application has been truly revolutionary.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi believes in a holistic growth. Our special focus has always been on the farmer's welfare and growth. Doubling farmers' income has been the renewed focus of the government, for which higher minimum support price has been fixed besides other comprehensive measures being taken in the fisheries, animal husbandry and dairying sector.

In the social sector, the abolition of "triple talaq" practice was a major step towards the welfare and empowerment of Muslim women. Rising above the vote-bank politics, the government has decided to take this progressive measure.

The government has never shied away from taking any step for maintaining the unity and integrity of the country. By doing away with the special provisions under Articles 370 and 35A in respect of

Jammu and Kashmir, the government sought to address the protracted issue of terrorism and violence in the Jammu and Kashmir, while ensuring the long-term development. Guided by the Prime

Minister, the government has created a new Jal Shakti ministry that has been formed to comprehensively address the water issues. River interlinking and cleaning has also been given added priority and

The growth story of India has been duly acknowledged and recognised by the global community. The world looks up to Narendra Modi as a global leader of great standing. Such is the aura and mesmerising grace of the Prime Minister that the people are fortunate enough to bask in his reflected glory and the country is in the best of hands, fully assured of reaching the zenith of prosperity in the coming years.

The writer is minister of state for micro, small and medium enterprises and animal husbandry, dairying and fisheries

WEDNESDAY | 4 DECEMBER 2019 | NEW DELHI

THE ASIAN AGE

4 DECEMBER 2019

Homilies, impotent rage hide the sickness within

arliament was rightly exercised over the gruesome crime against Hyderabadi vet "Disha" (police officially adopted this pseudonym long after millions had already chanted her real name in street protests, social media posts and newspaper debates). She was the victim of a spontaneous crime by four men who then, perhaps fearing the consequences of their actions given the existing stringent punishment enacted by Parliament with the Nirbhaya law of 2013, burned her with diesel purchased "loose" at a nearby petrol pump. The nation is shocked,

and that was reflected as members across parties rose to speak their anguish of a young and promising life snuffed out.

However, Parliament expressed its impotence by wrongly resorting to bloodlust. "Lynch them," said Rajya Sabha member Jaya Bachchan — in English. Vice-President Venkaiah Naidu spoke of showing no mercy to the rapist-murderers, just in case anyone was contemplating being merciful. Both he and Leader of Opposition Ghulam Nabi Azad spoke of bringing in stringent laws and nipping these crimes in the bud. Others used the occasion to settle political scores. A bunch of homilies which generated a lot of heat but shed no light.

It is a fundamental was manifest in Hyderabad lately by people searching porn sites for videos of Disha's rape, or by the sight of families stopping at the site where she was raped and killed — for a selfie

The laws are stringent enough. Indeed, the law includes capital punishment which is of dubious value when it change we have to bring to our collective thinking the pathology of which the pathology of four accused would have thought that they might end up on the gallows when they suddenly hatched their plot, reportedly in a haze of alcohol. But as is increasingly the case, once they embarked on the crime and realised it could turn out badly for them, they burned Disha's body. It was not enough for them to get away with it, but it highlighted the trend of rapists killing their victims so as to wipe out any evidence

of their crime.

And still, in Parliament, they talked not just about capital punishment as a panacea for rape, but also of lynching. As it is, state-sanctioned murder is something civilised societies ought to steer clear of, and here some parliamentarians were talking of society-sanctioned mob violence. The test of our civility is our adherence to law in the face of the most heinous and ghastly crimes that occur.

As for nipping it in the bud: the only way to do so is for our glorious civilisation to overhaul itself. It is not just the patriarchy, or the objectification of women, or the putting on a pedestal the son by Mommy dearest, or our political leaders telling women what clothes to wear; it is a fundamental change we have to bring to our collective thinking, the pathology of which was manifest in Hyderabad lately by people searching porn sites for videos of Disha's rape, or by the sight of families stopping at the site where she was raped and killed — for a selfie. Truly, we are a sick society, and no amount of breast-beating and lynching is going to change that.

What's happening in Iran?

Since Iran's media isn't free and the state is authoritarian, and Western reporting must be viewed with caution due to the curbs in place, it isn't easy to ascertain the political impact of the protests that rocked the country in November, and the strong governmental repression

The protests after the November 14 rationing of already very cheap petrol, and raising of its price by 50 per cent, spread rapidly across Iran, suggesting public receptivity. At some places it turned violent. Initial reports of deaths after police firing were modest, but later Amnesty International spoke of 208 deaths, which Tehran denied.

This figure is unsubstantiated. But the official Iranian media too have spoken of many deaths in police action, though no figure was provided. What is undeniable is the frequency of large-scale public protests that spread quickly. In December 2017-January 2018, nationwide protests were a hike in food prices. Two years later, petrol is the trigger

Officially, Tehran accepts that 75 per cent of the population is vulnerable. The US sanctions under President Donald Trump's "maximum pressure" policy, after Washington resiled from the 2015 nuclear agreement with Iran last year, have evidently taken their toll. The economy contracted nine per cent, inflation is at 40 per cent, and unemployment is high. It's probably to address this situation that President Hassan Rouhani's government decided last month to cut petrol subsidies to meet other pressing needs of the bulk of the 82 million population.

But the timing of implementing the IMF-mandated move seems odd as parliamentary elections are due in two months. If that suggests a quiet move within the higher levels of the ecclesiastical regime to embarrass the moderate President, more information is needed for a confirmation.

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If trust breaks down, a society cannot survive



Patralekha Chatterjee

Dev 360

magine going to a restaurant, ordering a meal, paying for it, expecting to be served and then discovering that neither the dishes you ordered, nor anything else that you fancy, are available. Imagine if the person managing the place also tells that you can't have your money back since he does not have change, and that you can come back the next day for your meal. Or imagine the reverse that you are a restau-

rant owner and a customer refuses to pay after having had a meal. Luckily, this does not happen often because there is tacit trust between a consumer and a service provider and both parties respect the deal that something that has been consumed has to be paid for, and

As we know from our day-to-day experience, economic trust, no transaction is possible.

Trust lies at the heart of today's complex global economy.

Prosperous countries often tend to be those where business relations between people can be conducted on the basis of trust, such as Germany, Japan and (perhaps sur-prisingly) the United States, as political scientist Francis Fukuyama famously argued in his 1996 bestseller Trust: The Social Virtues And The Creation Of Prosperity: Human Nature and the Reconstitution

of Social Order. One should not have to reaffirm such first principles. But recent statements by several public figures, including a former Prime Minister, zeroing in on how mistrust is corroding not only the social fabric but also the health of the economy, tells you how critical it is to address

the issue. In a widely talked

about commentary in The Hindu, former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, a globally-renowned economist, linked the deeply worrying trends in the economist, with a deeply worrying trends in the economist. my with a deeper underlying malaise. As nominal GDP growth falls to a 15-year low, joblessness rises to a 45-year high, household consumption sinks to a four-decade low, bad loans in banks breaking all records, and growth in electricity generation standing at a 15-year low, Dr Singh argued that the functioning of any economy is the result of the com-bined set of exchanges and social interactions among its people and institutions and that "mutual trust and selfconfidence are the bedrock of such social transactions among people that foster economic growth. Our social fabric of trust and confidence is now torn and

Lack of trust in the fairness of the system plays out at several levels. If you fear that your action or word may be misconstrued, you could retreat into a shell of silence and inactivity. Dr Singh said that many industrialists have told him that they live in fear of harassment by the government authorities, that bankers were reluctant to give new loans for fear of retribution and that entrepreneurs were hesitant to put up fresh projects for fear of failure attributed

to ulterior motives. In a commentary in the New York Times, titled "India and the Mistrust Economy", Kaushik Basu, a former chief economic adviser to the Government of India and now a Cornell University professor, also pointed out: "A drop in investment is usually connected to a lack of trust in the present and the near future. When businesses worry about

a country's policy environment, they hesitate to sink money into it."

Is it only economists who are critical of the Narendra Modi government and are flagging the urgent need to restore trust in the social and economic fab-ric of the country?

What should an ordinary Indian make of two eminent Indian entre-preneurs publicly talk-ing about the debilitat-ing nature of fear and

the lack of trust in the past week?

Biocon chairperson and managing director Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw has been quoted in the media saying that the government did not want to hear any criticism of the economy, while expressing hope that it reaches out to India Inc to work out solutions to revive growth. Her observations come soon after veteran industrialist Rahul Bajaj told home minister Amit Shah at a public event in Mumbai that there was an "atmosphere of fear" and that people were afraid to criticise the government because they do not have the government confidence that the government will appreciate

Ravi Last year, Venkatesan, a wellknown business leader and former chairman of Microsoft India, publicly pointed out that the strident and polarised debate around Aadhaar was actually a reflection of the fact that India is a low-trust society and this has profound consequences for our future.

'Why are so many peoanxious about Aadhaar despite the assurances of the government and Nandan the well-Nilekani, respected father

It is the elected government's iob to create institutions that make sure that the rules are fairly applied to everyone. Without this, transactions, investment and risk-taking can't proceed with minimal costs and smoothly.

Hollywood conspiracy thriller, *Enemy of the* State, rogue elements of the American NSA use technology to falsely implicate the character played by actor Will Smith, gets him fired from his job, and shuts down his phone, credit accounts. All these technologies are being deployed today so it's hard to dismiss them as mere fantasy. In a country where corruption is rampant, where trust in the government — any government — is low, where predatory rogue officials abound, where institutions are routinely subverted to settle scores and where the judiciary cannot be counted on to reliably

uphold the rule of law

and protect citizens' rights, it is no surprise that there is so much angst around the exten-

sion of Aadhaar to sce-

Aadhaar? It's the fear of

descent into an Orwellian state. In the

narios well beyond its original scope," Venkatesan observed. Much of what these eminent persons say is well known. They are articulating that the economy doesn't exist in a vacuum, that to do game, and it is the elected government's job to create institutions that make sure that the rules are fairly and equally applied to everyone. Without this, economic transactions, invest-ment and risk-taking can't proceed with minimal costs and smoothly. That is currently not

happening in India. Arguably, the absence of trust between citizens and the state is not entirely a new phenomenon. But with the Indian economy in dire straits, articulation of hese thoughts by public figures is something that can't be ignored. Shooting the messenger, or dismissing them as people with ulterior motives, would unfortunate.

> The writer focuses on development issues in India and emerging economies. She can be reached at patralekha.chatterjee@gmail.com

TERMS OF MERCY

The Delhi government has recommended rejection of the mercy petition of Vinav Sharma, one of the convicts facing the gallows in the gangrape and murder case of Jyoti Singh Pandey. It is praiseworthy step. In recommending death for the convict, it is only reinforcing the verdict and a view of the Supreme Court. This is not to be conflated with Samajwadi Party MP Jaya Bachchan's baying for the blood of the Hyderabad vet's rapists because though that incident too involved murder. Just like Sushma Swaraj, Ms Bachchan seems likely driven by the notion that a rape victim is "zinda laash" (as good as dead). Also, our law must continue to leave avenues of reform open to the guilty.

> M. Qasmi Nadwi Ganeshpur, UP

MALICIOUS REMOVAL

SENIOR ADVOCATE Dhavan, who appeared for Muslim parties in the Ayodhya title dispute case, has said he has been sacked from the matter on the "malicious" and "nonsensical" ground of his ill-health. Mr Dhavan, who posted the information on Facebook, said he is no longer involved in the review of the case. The Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind on Monday filed a review petition in the case on Monday. We want Mr Dhavan back in the case soon.

A.A. Abuzar Bajpatti Bengaluru

BAITING THE BJP

MAHARASHTRA chief minister Uddhav Thackeray's decision to review the Mumbai-Ahmedabad high-speed rail link projects has put the Centre in an awkward position ahead of the India-Japan summit in New Delhi. India's first high-speed rail project was to be built with Shinkansen bullet train technology of Japan, with 81 per cent of the estimated expenditure to be funded by Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) as a soft loan. With the Indian economy tottering and the GDP touching a sixyear low, the bullet train is something that the country can ill afford. N.J. Ravi Chander

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Bengaluru



Here's why the Chinese model is unsuitable for Pakistan's govt

very few months or so, the demand for a 'presidential system' of government in Pakistan makes an appearance on various social media sites. This happens most prominently on Twitter, where a number of users share similarly worded tweets, all using the same hashtag.

On its own, there's nothing wrong with the demand for a constitutional redesign. Political systems are, theoretically, not set in stone, and neither are constitutions. Parties in a number of countries have contested for power on platforms that seek to change electoral systems, voting formulae, power-sharing arrangements between different social groups, and relations between the executive, legislature, and the judiciary. If anything, initiating a public conversation on institutional redesign is certainly more practical and preferable than cheerleading for ad hoc interventions by a particular organ of the

The most recent chorus of presi-

dential fetishism is also slightly different from previous iterations on at least two counts. One is its frequency, which seems to be picking up pace since this government took office in July 2018. It appears an everincreasing number of people from one side of the partisan divide believe that the lack of executive authority with the Prime Minister's Office, the reliance on largely incompetent ministers, and the cumbersome legislative procedures required to push through 'change', are holding the country back.

The second change is the citation of two countries as case studies worthy of emulation — China and Turkey. While the infatuation with Erdogan has been around for a while, the systemic embrace of Turkey is relatively new. What's also interesting is that believers in the 'China model' seem to be increasing in proportion to the country's enhanced footprint on Pakistan's economic and strategic decision-making. The drawing room logic is some variant of 'if their sys-

tem allows them to build a motorway at lightning speed, it's surely worth importing'. Less facetiously, high growth rates, 'strict rule of law', zerotolerance for corruption, and the overall welfare success of this developmental model are usually cited as reasons for systemic emulation.

This is curious because China's actually existing political system (what drives its well-publicised growth story) is considerably underdiscussed in mainstream political conversations across Pakistan. The print and electronic media doesn't report on China's domestic politics, and it rarely reveals any insight into what drives economic growth. There's a recurring caricature of strong leadership, mythical levels of anti-corruption, and decisiveness, in drawing rooms, WhatsApp groups, and TV studios alike, but that's where the depth of it ends.

Leaving aside the moral and functional desirability of parliamentary democracy in ethnically fractured societies, and China's own authoritarian behaviour with minority groups, it is worth clarifying some important features of China's political economy before embracing it as

In an excellent new book on the past, present, and future of economic systems, titled Capitalism, Alone, Branko Milanovic draws a sharp contrast between two ideal types of capitalism that have shown relative durability. Liberal meritocratic capitalism, exemplified by the US, and increasingly characterised by plutocratic levels of inequality and disparity. And political capitalism, exemplified by China, which stands as the only present-day alternative to organising politics and economics in a particular configuration, since the implosion of communism (or state socialism).

political capitalism, according to Milanovic, rests ironically on certain pillars some of which seem to be at odds with its popular caricature in the Pakistani imagination. Tracing the current system

back to Deng's reform period, Milanovic argues that political capitalism exhibits two main features: The first is a highly skilled, technocratically efficient, and meritocratically recruited bureaucracy. This bureaucracy (which is clearly the primary beneficiary of the system) has as its main duty to realise high economic growth and implement policies that allow this goal to be achieved. Growth is ultimately needed for the legitimisation of continued bureaucratic and party rule.

The second feature is the absence of rule of law, rather than its unequivocal application. This, Milanovic argues, is necessary to ensure that the interests of businessmen (and the private sector in general) are never in a position to become primary drivers of government behaviour. Instead, the state retains authority and autonomy precisely because it can choose to apply the law to whomever and wherever it wishes.

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WEDNESDAY | 4 DECEMBER 2019 | NEW DELHI

Will Hyd get 5 acres to build a new Charminar?



Mohan Guruswamy

Charwhat the Eiffel Tower is to Paris or the Mahal is to Jaipur. It is its signature monument. The former Hyderabad state had the Charminar on all its coinage. It is as old as Hyderabad itself.

Muhammed Quli Qutb Shah (1580-1611 CE), the fifth sultan of the Qutb Shahi dynasty of Golconda. laid the foundation of the iconic Charminar to symbolise the founding of Hyderabad. He was a contemporary of both Akbar and Jehangir. Hyderabad was intended as a citadel of Muslim power in the Deccan. Qutb Shah was an accomplished poet and wrote his poetry in Persian, Telugu and Urdu. His famous ghazal "piya baaj pyaala piya jaye na, piya baaj ek din jiya jaye na" is still a favourite at soirees today. While laying foundation Charminar, Qutb Shah

recited a couplet in Dakhni: "Mere shahr logon se mamoor kar, Rakhiyo joto darya mein machhli jaise (Fill this city of mine with people as You filled the river with fishes, O Lord)." Clearly the Lord listened to his prayers, for now Hyderabad is India's fastest growing metropolis, and was listed by National Geographic magazine in 2015 as the second best place in the world to visit.

be called that is a now a legendary love story that begins with the young prince falling in love with a beautiful Hindu woman he espied at the exact spot the Charminar stands today. More contemporary versions have another Salim-Anarkali tale in the Deccan. Only this time beauty was rewarded with a city. In 1589, Muhammed Quli Qutb Shah married the Hindu woman, Bhagmati, reputed to be a courtesan, who remained with him as his queen till

his death in 1611. The sul-

tan bestowed the title of

Hyder Mahal on Bhagmati,

How Hyderabad came to



Charminar earlier; Charminar now

and hence the name of the new city came to be Hyderabad. Bhagmati's lowly origins evoked some harsh opinions. Shaikh Abu al-Faiz ibn Mubarak, popularly known by his pen name, Faizi, who was Malik-ush-Shu'ara (poet laureate) of Akbar's court, after a visit to Hyderabad wrote to Akbar that the place commemorates "a hardened whore". According to Jean de Thévenot, a French traveller of the 17th century whose narration was complemented with the avail-

able Persian texts, the

Charminar was constructed in the year 1591, to com-

memorate the beginning of

the second Islamic millennium year (1000 AH). The event was celebrated far and wide in the Islamic world, thus Qutb Shah founded the city of Hyderabad to celebrate the event and commemorate it with the construction of this building. Due to its architecture, it is also called the Arc de Triomphe of the East. There is now a sectarian

conflict brewing out of a plan to expand the Bhagyalaxmi Temple growing out of the southeastern corner Hyderabad's iconic Charminar. One must relate the name of this temple to the demand in certain rabid RSS quarters to rename the city as Bhagyanagar. A BJP MLA, Raja Singh, from the nearby Hindu-dominated constituency of Maharajganj, has been quite shrill about this. Given Bhagmati's questionable antecedents, the likes of Raja Singh need a better genealogy for Bhagyanagar, hence the concocted story of a temple of Bhagyalaxmi. The existence of this shrine and its expansion now threatens the syncretic culture of

Contrary to a widely held misconception, the monument has no religious overtones. It has never been used as a mosque. To me it

There is now a sectarian conflict brewing out of a plan to expand the Bhagyalaxmi **Temple growing** out of the southeastern corner of Hyderabad's iconic Charminar

is a rare instance of secular Islamic architecture in India. The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), the current caretaker of the structure, mentions in its records: "There are various theories regarding the purpose for which the Charminar was constructed. However, it is widely accepted that the Charminar was built at the centre of the city to commemorate the eradication of cholera", a deadly disease which was widespread at that time.

True, there is a mosque on the top deck. But that was par for the course in all Muslim structures. Even the Taj Mahal, a maqbara, has a mosque. This reflected the socio-political reality of the era.

About the temple named Bhagyalaxmi Temple, that is now located at the southwest base of the Charminar, the ASI, which manages the Charminar, has in no uncertain terms declared the structure as

an unauthorized construction. The Hyderabad high court has stopped any further expansion of the temple. While the origin of the temple is now disputed, the current structure that houses the idol was erected in the 1990s.

Several magazines and newspapers have published old photos that show the temple never existed. A temple became visible in the Charminar photos only after 1990.

I have been visiting the Charminar since I was a child and have also seen the small stone with vermillion applied, which grew from a passerby's whim to a small shrine, and now a full-blown temple. It is also said that a stone was placed in that corner as a RTC bus doing a turn around the Charminar brushed it, and the stone was placed to protect it from future errant drivers. In time the stone gathered vermillion on it. The present governor, a RSS appointee, even visited the temple to offer prayers, further sanctify ing its illegality. It has grown like a giant carbuncle and right under the nose of the Charminar police station.

Over the years I have been asking various people in authority to demolish it. Neither the police, nor any chief minister or even the Majlis (MIM) leadership

care about it or dare to do anything about it. Now the temple's builders are claiming it was the Charminar that came up around it. This is a travesty, and an outright lie. This temple must be removed the Charminar restored to its original conception. The two "then" and "now" photos tell the

Over the years we have a tacit understanding that religious encroachments on public spaces and even removed, even if it causes the people much disloca-tion and distorts the original pristinity. Thus, we have mandirs and mazars rampantly encroaching on public space and our sensibilities. We need a serious conversation on this. Secularism does not mean indifference to lawlessness. It actually means greater respect for the law. Now that is something for the courts to once again define.

I wonder how the courts will view the Charminar's desecration. Maybe they will give the people of Hyderabad five acres of land elsewhere to build a new Charminar?

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

Ordinary Muslims ready to accept Babri ruling, but who's listening?



Javed Anand

he high priests of Indian Islam have decided to file a review petition challenging the recent decision of the apex court in the Ayodhya land dispute. In his recent column on Seek compromise, don't stoke fires', Nov. 22) Saeed Naqvi indicated that a pollster is planning an opinion poll among Indian Muslims on where they stand on the mandirmasjid row. That, I think, a splendid idea. Leaders don't think they ever need to consult the led: the shepherd must herd his flock and that's that. So the outcome of the opinion poll may leave the self-proclaimed custodians of faith unmoved. But it could be an eve-opener for the rest of us. While we await the results of such a poll, for a foretaste of what the opinion seekers might find, here read the responses of three Muslims from three different districts of Maharashtra.

Meet Akbar Shaikh, a small farmer, author, poet and social activist from Ujni village in Madha taluka, Solapur. Asked what he thought of the proposed review petition, pat came the response: "Woh kahte hain masjid bachao, mai kehta hoon Musalman bachao" (They

say save the mosque, I say save the Muslims). He proceeded to "Hamare jaise naujawan Musalman apne paas ki masjid to jaate nahin; phir hajaar meel door Ayodhya ki masjid ko bachane ki kisko padi sawaalon par koyee kyon nahin jor deta? (Young Muslims like me do not even frequent our neighbourhood mosque; why on earth should we be worrying about a mosque a thousand miles away? Why doesn't anyone focus on what our real issues

Meet political activist Khalil Deshmukh, a native of Lasgaon village, Pachora taluka, Jalgaon. About 25 per cent of the population in this Hindumajority village is Muslim. When the first gram panchayat was set up in Lasgaon in the 1950s, Khalil's father, Dada Miyan Deshmukh was elected the sarpanch and he stayed in that post for 12 uninterrupted years. Years later, Khalil was sarpanch for 10 long years. Even today, the Lasgaon village credit society is run by a team that looks up to Khalil for inspiration and direction.

Does Lasgaon not have a Hindu-Muslim, mandir-masjid problem? "It's not just my village, inter-community relations continue to be cordial in our part of the world", says Khalil, "It's all a question of how we deal with issues as

By way of illustration, he cites an example from the time when he was sarpanch. In Lasangaon the gram panchayat office, an Urdu medium school and a small Maruti temple had stood cheek by jowl. In the late 1980s, Hindus demanded more space for a grander temple. "As sarpanch, I fully supported the demand. The gram panchayat Irdii medium school were relocated and the whole issue was resolved,'

Khalil recalls. What does he think of the proposed review petition? Khalil: "Muslims must gracefully accept the verdict of the Supreme Court. Whether we agree with the judgment or not, we should desist from doing anything to vitiate the atmosphere. We should treat this issue as a closed chapter and concentrate on issues of peace and progress, for the community and the country."

Meet Halim Siddiqui, social activist and editor of *Bedari*, a monthly Urdu magazine published from Malegaon, a Muslim-majority textile town in north Maharashtra. A soft-spoken person, he normally measures his words. But ask him what he thinks about the review petition and he erupts.

"Review se kya nikle ga? Bus itna hi na ki hamare ulema aur digar Muslim leadron ki dukaan kuch aur saal chamkegi? Yeh sab hawayee jahaz se mein udenge.

quent our neighbourhood mosque; why on earth should we be worrying about a mosque a thousand miles away? Why doesn't anyone focus on what our real issues are?'

taqreer jhadenge. Inke liye shahar shahar mein dawatein sajengee. Babri Masjid to wapas banne se rahi, kya mile ga aam Musalman ko is review se? (What will the review achieve? Except that it will keep our ulema and other leaders in the limelight for some more years? They will fly around from city to city, deliver stirring speeches, feast on lavish spreads arranged in their honour. Forget the Babri mosque ever being rebuilt, what will the common Muslim gain from this review?)

While the Babri mosque in Ayodhya remains among the top priorities of the ulema and leaders Asaduddin Owaisi, what continues to agonise Halim is the status of the Muslims of that temple town. Since the mosque's demolition in 1992, he has made three trips there, the last being two years ago. The purpose of his visit each time was the same: to talk to as many as he can, to understand their situation and to enquire if the national leadership which is so concerned with the

mosque also ever thinks of the Muslims of Ayodhya. "Except for Zafaryab Jilani who has been there once or twice, no religious or political leader has ever thought it fit to visit Ayodhya and meet those they claim to lead," laments Halim.

Here is how he began an article he wrote in Bedari, following his last trip to Ayodhya in 2017: "In Ayodhya there is no Muslim doctor, no lawyer, no engineer, no teacher. Muslims there do not have a single school or college of their own even a madarsa, no Muslim organisation, no businessman, no organisation for the welfare of the community worth mention... Such is the fate of Ayo-dhya's Muslims 25 years

after the demolition. The article notes that survival for a large number of Muslim families depends on the flower garlands the women make daily, for the Hindu pilgrims to offer to the gods at the over one thousand temples in Ayodhya. It also talks of the many mosques in the town which are routinely short of namaazis. And several others where no namaaz is offered post sunset as the local Muslims cannot afford to pay electricity

For the Muslim leadership, the demolished Babri Masjid remains a national concern. As for the Muslims of Ayodhya,

> The writer in convener, Indian Muslims for Secular Democracy, and co-editor, Sabrang India Online

The right measure of life: Abide by Buddha's three great truths



Moin Qazi

"Life isn't about finding yourself.

- George Bernard Shaw

pictetus was born into slav-ery in the eastern outreaches of the Roman empire. Sold as a child and crippled from the beatings of his master, Epictetus was eventually freed. He rose from his bitter beginning to establish an influential school of Stoic philosophy. Epictetus dedicated his life to outlining the simple way to happiness, fulfilment, and tranquillity. Epictetus' teachings rank among the greatest wisdom texts of human civilisation. His greatness lies in simple yet sagely suggestions on how one can lead an ideal life.

At the heart of Buddha's teachings are the three great truths known as the Seal of the Tree Laws: first, "All things are impermanent," that is, all things and phenomena constantly change; second, "Nothing has an ego," which is to say, all things in the universe exist in interrelationship with one another; and third, "Nirvana is quiescence," that is, the ultimate freedom lies in getting rid of greed, aggression and self-delusion. The law, or truth, "All things are impermanent," refers to the unceasing changes occurring in our minds, in all phenomena as also in solid, physical manifestation of matter as trees and stones.

Buddha believed that knowing things are impermanent subdues the proud and

gives hope to the wretched, encouraging them both to make spiritual progress. By his own action he showed the wisdom of moderation.

He was born into a life of great luxury, and he soon got tired of it. Then he tried a life of excessive mortification, and before long he grew weary of that too. At last he chose a middle course and found true happiness in the doctrine of "nothing too much". He taught self-control as against selfindulgence. He was equally opposed to the intoxication of lust, the intoxication of power and the intoxication of conquest. An obsession with physical pleasure, Buddha believed, is the sign of the diseased and its craving for mastery over the weak.

Like Buddha, the true teachers have always emphasised the need for retaining the equilibrium between the material and spiritual scales of life. In an analogy, the Sufi master Rumi likens the world to a river and the individual to a boat. In order to float the boat needs the support of water, but when the boat develops a hole the same water fills the boat and drowns it. Similarly, an individual needs certain basic necessities for his daily sustenance. But once these material things pre-occupy his mind, they ruin him spir-

Sufis consider the spirit and body to be one whole. They believe in integration, not dichotomies. What we do in our physical lives affects us spiritually and vice versa. We cannot look at our lives in a vacuum. Spinoza says, "Nature abhors vacuum". He might as well have said that life abhors a vacuum. "Life," says Pavlov "loses its attraction when it no longer has any purpose. Those

who commit suicides make away with themselves because they feel life has lost its meaning"

Thus, the achievement of an ideal and perfect life is not restricted to any particular class of people, nor is it related with the degree of learning, wealth or power. It is a mindset that grows out of a pure heart. The Greek ideal of "the golden mean' and "nothing in excess" contains the true wisdom of life. Overindulgence in worldly plea-sures leads to a state of ennui as the

demands of the soul. Moin Qazi is a well-known banker, author and Islamic researcher. He can be reached at

moinqazi123@gmail.com

body needs to be tempered with the



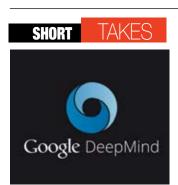






THE ASIAN AGE

WEDNESDAY | 4 DECEMBER 2019 | NEW DELHI



GOOGLE TRIES TO GAMIFY ACTIONS

Washington, Dec. 3: Google's DeepMind unit is working on a project to recreate how a sense of consequence develops over a period of time. They tried to create a software that acts similar to what people do when they figure out the long-term

consequences of their choices. DeepMind's project is a deep learning program called "Temporal Value Transport." It is a way to send back lessons from the future, to the

past, to inform actions. They say that in a way, it is 'gamifying' actions and consequences, showing that there can be a way to make actions in one moment obey the probability of later developments to score points. They offer an account of behaviours that may inspire models in neuroscience, psychology, and behavioural economics. The point of departure for the game is called 'long-term cred-it assignment,' which is the ability of people to figure out the utility of a current action



based on what may be the con-

CLOUDWALKER LAUNCHES 4K SMART SCREENS

Hyderabad, CloudWalker Technologies, the revolution-

ary tech company creating digital products for smart entertainment on the big screen, has announced the launch of its ground-breaking 4K LED Smart Screens that will be available on Amazon.

It is a one-of-its-kind, multiasking screen that offers the latest innovation and smart upgrade for home entertain-

The CloudWalker 4K LED Smart Screens come with an entertainment mode for multimedia playback, personal computer mode, child safe mode, mobile connectivity, content discovery engine and content partners.

It also comes with a wireless keyboard, mouse and remote

for operation. If you want to get enter-tained on a brilliant display by watching your favourite digital content or discover Android Apps or use the Smart Screen as a personal computer to work on documents or presentations, browse the web, catch up with emails, make video calls or online, you will

GLOBAL MEET ON E-MOBILITY IN BENGALURU

Bengaluru, Dec. 3: The third edition of an international transportation electrification conference-India 2019 on emobility solutions will be held here from December 17, organisers said on Tuesday.

"This meet is one of its kind because we are not only targeting the technology companies across the world but also tak-ing into consideration the community," chairman of the organising committee, Girish Ramaswamy, said at a press conference.

The conference will see 13 international speakers from across the globe - Europe, US and China - and 19 from India, he said. There would be a panel discussion by experts from the field and policy-mak-

ers during the event, he said. 'Not only will exhibitions and presentations will be part of the event, but also an organised ride-and-drag event where people can drive the vehicles at the venue so that you can feel the technology that will soon be running on Indian roads will be on offer, said Ramaswamy.

Microsoft fixes flaw in **Azure login system**

If not averted, vulnerability would have affected thousands

Washington, Dec. 3: In a rity researchers said Microsoft fixed a vulnerability in its login system that could have put thousands of users at risk of having their accounts hijacked.

Researchers at Israeli cybersecurity company, CyberArk, said the vulnerability, associated with Microsoft Azure accounts and Microsoft's OAuth 2.0 applications, could have been used to trick users into giving attackers access to their online accounts.

The researchers said there was no scope for users to fix the vulnerability or prevent it from accessing the accounts. The impact could have been 'very powerful,' due to Microsoft's bug, they added.

The bug, which is believed to have been

■ The bug, addressed by Microsoft weeks after it was alerted. would have given hackers access to steal account tokens, which allow users to access their accounts without having to constantly reenter passwords.

Apps like Azure could have been approved within any account.

addressed by Microsoft weeks after it was alerted,

would have allowed hack-

ers to tokens. steal account Account tokens, used by websites and applications, allow users to access their accounts without having to constantly re-enter their passwords. The vulnerability allowed for the creation of tokens, with the victim's permissions, which could let the hacker access and control the account, researchers

■ This kind of

vulnerability's

impact can be

very powerful,

attack surface is

very wide and its

researchers said.

CyberArk researchers said they have already found applications published by Microsoft that

said.

were vulnerable to this type of attack. The apps automatically approved within any Microsoft account, meaning attackers don't require any user consent to exploit them, researchers

In some cases, this could have been done in what researchers call a 'zeroclick' way — an attack which doesn't require user interaction.

"This vulnerability's attack surface is very wide and its impact can be very powerful. By doing nothing more than clicking or visiting a website, the victim can experience the theft of sensitive data, compromised production servers, lost data, manipulation of data, encryption of all the organisation's data with ransomware and more," researchers

— Agencies

Twitter to tweak privacy policy amid concerns

San Fransisco, Dec. 3: Twitter Inc. is updating its global privacy policy to give users more information about what data advertisers might receive and is launching a site to provide clarity on its data protection efforts, the company said.

The changes, which will take effect on Jan. 1, 2020, will comply with the California Consumer Privacy Act (CCPA). The California law

requires large businesses to give consumers more transparency and control over their personal information, such as allowing them to request that their data be deleted and to opt out of having their data sold to third parties.

Social media companies including Facebook Inc. and Alphabet Inc.'s Google have come under scrutiny on data privacy issues, fuelled by Facebook's Cambridge Analytica scandal in which personal data were harvested from millions of users without their con-

Twitter also announced privacy preferences, that

We want to be able to experiment without immediately running afoul of the GDPR provisions. The goal is to learn from those experiments and then provide those same experiences to people all around the world

> **DAMIEN KIERAN** data protection officer, Twitter

that it is moving the accounts of users outside US and the European Union, previously contracted by Twitter International Company in Dublin, Ireland, to the San ously Twitter Francisco-based Twitter

Inc.
The company said this move would allow it the flexibility to test different settings and controls with these users, such as additional opt-in or opt-out

would likely be restricted by the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), Europe's landmark digital privacy law.

"We want to be able to experiment without immediately running afoul of the GDPR provisions," Twitter's data protection officer Damien Kieran said in a phone interview.

"The goal is to learn from those experiments and then provide those same experiences to people all around the world, he said.

The company, which said it has upped its communications about data and security-related disclosures over the last two years, emphasized in a blog post that it was working to upgrade systems and build privacy into new products.

In October, Twitter announced it had found that phone numbers and email addresses used for two-factor authentication may inadvertently been used for advertising purposes.

— Reuters

RUSSIA BRINGS IN 'ANTI-APPLE' **LEGISLATION**

Moscow, Dec. 3: Russian President, Vladimir President, Vladimir Putin, has signed a law requiring all smart-phones and computers sold in the country to come pre-installed with Russian software.

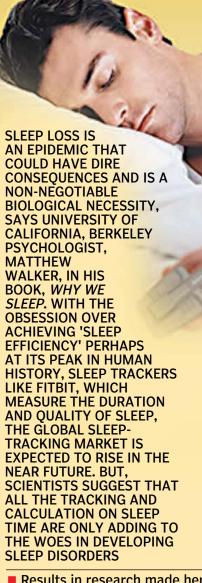
The legislation, which will take effect in July 2020, is aimed at promoting Russian-made soft-

But it has been dubbed the 'anti-Apple' law because it would force the US tech giant to preinstall non-Apple software on its products.

The Russian government will now draw up a list of products affected by the law, published and signed by Putin, as well as a list of applications that would need to

be pre-installed. It comes amid a slew of measures taken by Russian officials to control the tech sector, including a law that took effect on November 1. requiring local internet providers to install aevices provided authorities to enable centralised control of

SLEEP TRACKING LEADING TO NEW DISORDER



tracking market topped \$1 billion in 2016 and it is expected to increase by another 18 percent by

■ Maiken Nedergaard, a neuroscientist leading a research showing the biological value of sleep, documented how during sleep, fluid washes over our brains, clearing out toxins like beta amyloid, which is linked to neuro-degenerative diseases.

Results in research made her anxious about her own bedtime priorities, to the point that she now says she takes sleep very seriously.

There exists a range of gadgets offering the illusion of science, with reports full of numbers and charts purporting to show just how well we're performing while sleeping.

Fitbit kicked off this trend when it released the first tracker in 2009, which couldn't monitor heart rate but included a sleep tracker

that measured the duration of sleep, producing sleep efficiency

China aspires to make it big with e-vehicles

score.

■ Sleep is now considered as the pinnacle of well-being as a lifestyle trend. Ironically, scientists say, with much by agony over sleep, it is also turning into a source of anxiety, which is in turn keeping people up at night.

Fitbits and Apple Watches around wrists, Beddits and Emfits beneath sheets and mattresses and sensors

that promise to monitor heart rates and sleep cycles are all leading to what scientists call orthosomnia - a condition where anxiety over proper sleep metrics actually induces insomnia.

All this measuring, rating, tracking, and comparing now amounts to a new sleep disorder.

ANDROID IS VULNERABLE TO 'STRANDHOGG' FLAW

researchers Promon, from Promon, a Norwegian firm said they identified a bug in the Android OS that malicious apps hijack legitimate app, and perform malicious operations on their behalf.

In a report, Promon's research team said the vulnerability can be used to trick users into granting intrusive permissions to malicious apps when they tap and interact with legitimate The vulnerability

which Promon named StrandHogg — can also

Washington, Dec. 3: be used to show fake login (phishing) pages when tapping on a legitimate application.

The firm said the flaw has already been exploit-

ed in the wild by malware The company said it

"identified StrandHogg vulnerabili-ty after it was informed by an Eastern European security company for the financial sector (to which Promon supplies app security support) that banks in the several Republic had Czech reported money disappearing from customer accounts

- Agencies

Beijing, Dec. 3: China should adopt a plan that will see electric vehicles make up a quarter of all autos sold in the country in six years' time, the country's industry ministry said on Tuesday, as the sector struggles with

falling sales.
A draft blueprint for the development of the 'new energy vehicle' sector which includes hybrids and fully-electric vehicles – comes after the government withdrew subsidies for car-makers earlier this China is the world's

largest new energy vehicle market, but sales of electric motors plummeted 34 on-year in



the China Association of Automobile Manufacturers (CAAM).

The ministry of industry and information technology's draft proposal said China should seek to ensure one in four of all vehicles sold in 2025 were

either hybrids or fullyelectric vehicles.

The measures are partly to ensure the country meets its air pollution targets, and to reduce Beijing's dependence on imported oil.

China would also continue to develop electric vehicle battery technologies, improve infrastructure for hydrogen fuel cell vehicles and driverless cars, it said. The draft proposal,

which includes guidelines for the development of the new energy vehicle sector, from 2021 to 2035, is open for public feedback until December 9. A previous state target

set in 2017 had called for 20 per cent of cars sold to be electric vehicles by 2020, but the draft released on Tuesday gave no indication whether China was on track to meet that goal. by rising incomes and government

sales incentives, China is

the golden goose upon which the global automo-

channels. Passenger vehicles sales in China have now fallen for 15 consecutive months, according to the CAAM.

tive industry has staked

But, after years of strong

growth, car sales fell last

year for the first time since the 1990s, hit by a

slowing economy, US trade

tensions and a Chinese

crackdown on shady cred-

it practices that has

car-financing

crimped

The government had earlier said it was planning to impose quotas requiring car-makers to maintain a certain percentage of new energy vehicles in their Chinese production.

Tesla boss, facing a defamation trial, is to testify over his intentions behind the comment

Jusk faces defamation trial for 'pedo guy' tweet

Los Angeles, Dec. 3: Elon Musk will be tried for his troublesome tweets in a defamation case pitting the billionaire against a British diver he allegedly branded a paedophile.
The Tesla CEO will be

called to testify early in the case in the Los Angeles federal court to explain what he meant when he called Vernon Unsworth, who helped rescue youth soccer players trapped underwater in a Thailand cave, 'pedo guy' in a Twitter spat more than

year ago. Musk later apologised for lashing out at Unsworth on Twitter after the diver belittled Musk's efforts to build a tiny submarine to save the trapped boys as a

'PR stunt.' The tweet. widely interpreted as a reference to a pedophile, was removed by Musk, who disputed that's what he "Pedo guy' was a com-

Africa when I was growing up," Musk said in a court declaration. "It is synonymous with 'creepy old man' and is used to insult a person's

appearance

mon insult used in South

demeanor. Unsworth's lawyers have laughed off that explanation and said his claim was undercut by a subsequent tweet when he said, Bet ya a signed dollar it's in response to a question about whether he had accused Unsworth of

After calling Vernon Unsworth, who helped rescue 12 boys trapped in a Thailand cave, a 'pedo guy,' Musk explained that it was a common insult which means 'creepy old man.'

being a paedophile. The lawyers also said he hired private investigators to dig up evidence Unsworth was a child molester, which they never found. according Unsworth's lawyers.

The lawsuit is not the first time Musk's tweets have landed him in hot

Musk and Tesla reached a \$40 million settlement with the Securities and Exchange Commission last year on allegations he misled investors with a tweet declaring he had secured financing to buy out the electric car-maker. He agreed in the settlement to have future tweets company screened.

He was forced back into court on accusations that he violated that agreement by tweeting a misleading figure about how many cars Tesla would manufacture this year. The SEC sought to hold him in contempt of court, which led to a new agreement imposing tighter controls on

Musk's tweets about the

company. The cave drama played out for more than two weeks in the summer of 2018, when the 12 boys — aged 11-16 — and their soccer coach were trapped in a flooded cave in northern Thailand.

Musk and engineers from his SpaceX rocket company custom built a mini-submarine to help with the rescue. The device was heavily publicised but never used. Unsworth, a diver and

caving expert, whose advice was considered crucial in the rescue operation, said the sub would never have fit in the cave's tight spaces. He told CNN that Musk could "stick his submarine where

VIDEO GAME MAKER TO PAY

maker of popular video game League of Legends has agreed to pay \$10 million to its female employees to settle a broad gender discrimination case. Los Angeles-based Riot Games will pay about 1,000 current and former female employees who have worked with the company over the last five years. The case against Riot Games claimed the company paid women less than

men, passed them over

for promotions and fos-

Los Angeles, Dec. 3: The tered a 'bro culture' that excluded them. The lawsuit claims that culture led to sexual harassment and miscon-

> Allegations of misconduct against women have plagued the video game industry for years. The plaintiff's lawyer, Ryan Saba, said the large settlement amount shows that Riot was serious about changing its culture. A spokesman said the company was pleased to have the settlement.

FINANC

Chronicle

WEDNESDAY | 4 DECEMBER 2019 | NEW DELHI

Thomas Cook gets brand right for India, Lanka

Trump sees no deadline for a China trade deal







INDICATORS 40,675.45 -0.31 Nifty 50 11,994.20 -0.45 S&P 500 3,079.49 -1.10 Dollar (₹) 71.83 +0.01 Pound Sterling (₹) 93.32 79.62 +0.54 Euro (₹) Gold (10gm)* (₹) 38,768▲816 Brent crude (\$/bbl)* \$61.06 IN 10-Yr bond yield +6.462 -0.022 +1.759 -0.077 US 10-Yr T-bill yield * As of 9:30 pm IST

₹2.79 L cr raised via selloff in last five years

The government raised Rs 2,79,622 crore from the disinvesment of PSUs during 2014-19 compared to Rs 1,07,833 crore during the 10-year UPA rule from 2004-14, Union minister Anurag Singh Thakur said in the Rajya Sabha. "In five years, we raised double the amount. This was done in an average 21 transactions each year, while it was four between 2004-2014," he said.

19 lakh director identification numbers spiked



The Corporate Affairs Ministry has deactivated over 19 lakh director identification numbers (DIN) for non-compliance with KYC norms. Individuals are required to have a DIN issued by the ministry to serve as a board member of a company. As on Nov. 28, 19,40,313 DINs have been de-activated, Minister of State for Corporate Affairs Anurag Singh Thakur said.

MPC starts deliberations on monetary policy

RBI Governor Shaktikanta Dasheaded Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) started its three-day deliberations on the policy review amid high expectations of another round of reduction in the key policy rate to revive the sagging economy. If the RBI cuts the repo rate on Thursday, it would be the sixth reduction in the short-term lending rate in 2019.

Nearly 3% of Mudra loans turn bad: Govt

The government on Tuesday said 2.86 per cent, Rs 17,251.52 crore, of Rs 6.04 lakh crore worth of loans sanctioned under the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY) has turned into bad loans as of March 2019. The scheme was launched on April 8, 2015 for providing collateral-free loans of up to Rs 10 lakh to non-cor porate, non-farm small/micro enterprises.

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■ Interim stay follows appeal by Bajaj Finance & private banks

Transfer of stocks to Karvy clients halted on SAT order

ASHWIN J PUNNEN

The Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT) has direct-ed the National Securities Depository (NSDL) to stop transfer of the remaining investor securities that Karvy Stock Broking had

pledged with lenders.
The decision came after Bajaj Finance challenged Sebi's decision to return to Karvy's clients the securities that the broking house had illegally pledged to raise money for itself.

Issuing an interim stay, a two-member SAT bench comprising MT Joshi and C.K.G. Nair said the final order will be issued Wednesday afternoon.

The tribunal also asked the Securities and Exchange Board of India to hear out the lender's concerns by December 4 and pass an order by December 10.

NSDL has transferred securities worth Rs 2,013.77 crore to the accounts of 83,806 clients who have paid full amount for these securities.

Lenders fear that they would be unable to recover



money from the brokerage once the pledged shares are shifted to clients' accounts.

Karvy has taken loans to the tune of Rs 600 crore by pledging securities worth more than Rs 2,300 crore of 95,000 clients with various lenders, including Bajaj Finance.

Of these, 95,000 clients, nearly 83,000 have got back their securities, which were were illegally trans-ferred by KSBL to its own account.

Bajaj Finance, which appealed against the Sebi-NSDL decision, has given loans to the tune of Rs 345 crore to Karvy against

pledged securities.

Most of the remaining accounts are in dispute with Karvy Stock Broking, so they may get their money/securities only after clearing dues with

Karvy.
The latest SAT ruling puts a question mark on the receipt of securities for

these investors. Bajaj Finance had lent Rs 100 crore after Sebi's June circular that mandated segregating client and proprietary accounts. This could indicate that Bajaj Finance does not have a strong

Separately, HDFC Bank. ICICI Bank and IndusInd Bank have also approached the SAT contesting the Sebi decision.

Since most shares were kept as securities for loans made by banks, any "uni-lateral" transfer of shares will have a chilling effect on this stream of lending, tehy argued.

HDFC Bank has lent Rs 400 crore to Karvy based on the pledged shares.

The counsel for the banks sought immediate freezing of all securities that have been transferred to client accounts. "Pledged shares cannot be transferred without the consent of the banks," the counsel said.

counsel further argued that going forward banks will be forced to seek additional collateral from all brokers due to Sebi's December 2 action.

The SAT also asked the National Stock Exchange to take a decision on Karvy's trading licence by December 6. Both NSE BSEsuspended Karvy's trading licence on

The regulator, through an order passed on November 22, had barred KSBL from taking new clients in respect of its stock broking activity and also prevented it from using the power of attorney (PoA) given by clients after the broker was found to have allegedly

misused clients' securities. The order was a result of a preliminary report forwarded by the NSE on the non-compliances observed with respect to pledging/misuse of client securities

by Karvy. The SAT has asked the regulator to hear "the appellant (Bajaj Finance) on the basis of their representation dated November 23, and or any other addirepresentation which they may like to make.

If the appellant is desirous to make any additional representation it shall be made latest by

December 4.' It further directed Sebi "to consider the representation(s) of the appellant and, after giving an opportunity for personal hearing, pass an order as per law latest by December 10.

Foreign control of airlines mulled to push Air India sale

SHRUTI SRIVASTAVA

The government is considering amending a rule to allow overseas control of local airlines, according to a person familiar with the matter, which may help its indebted national carrier lure a foreign suitor after multiple failed attempts for a sale.

At a meeting in early November, the Depart-ment for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) asked the aviation ministry if it would be feasible to change the so-called "substantial ownership and effective control" clause, the person said, asking not to be identified as the details aren't public yet.

The rule mandates that control of an airline always remain in Indian hands, one of several rea-sons global firms have been wary of bidding for Air India Ltd.

Doing away with the "substantial ownership" clause will enable an overseas stakeholder weigh in on major decisions of local airlines. That may lure foreign investors to the Air India sale without forcing

the government to go down the politically contentious route of lifting the cap on

overseas equity invest-

Currently, foreign air-lines are barred from buying more than 49 per cent in a local carrier, and foreign investors, other than airlines, need government approval to buy a stake bigger than 49 per cent.

An email to the DPIIT was unanswered. A representative for the aviation ministry didn't immediately respond to a request for comment.

Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in her budget speech in July had said Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government will look into suggestions of opening up sectors, including aviation, to more foreign investment. It has already eased rules in a number of areas such as retail, manufacturing and coal mining.

-Bloomberg

Sugar production halves in Oct-Nov

FC BUREAU NEW DELHI, DEC. 3

Sugar production fell 54 per cent during October-November owing to a steep fall in outout at several Maharashtra sugar mills. which were hit by drought and floods, the Indian Sugar Mills Association (Isma) said on Tuesday.

"Sugar production till November 30, 2019 in the current 2019-20 sugar season is 18.85 lakh tonne. which was 40.69 lakh tonne last year on November 30, 2018," Isma said.

India is the world's largest sugar producer and lower output here could push up sugar prices glob-Production in Maharash-

tra fell to 67,000 tonnes during the two-month period compared with 1.9 million tonnes a year ago. Last month, the trade

body had said that sugar output was estimated to fall 21.5 per cent to 26 million tonne in the 2019-20 marketing year. The sugar season or marketing year runs from October to September.

Õnly 279 sugar mills were operating as on November 30 this year compared with 418 units crushing sugarcane a year ago, Isma said in its latest statement.

According to the data, sugar production in Uttar Pradesh increased to 10.81 lakh tonne during October-November from 9.14 lakh tonne in the year-ago period. In Karnataka, the output dropped to 5.21 lakh tonne from 8.40 lakh tonne.

sources said about 15 lakh tonne of sugar has been contracted for exports, which includes contracts with port-based

Stock limits tightened as onion heads to ₹150 a kg

Kolkata/New Delhi, Dec 3: Onion prices could soon touch a new high of Rs 150 per kg in the Kolkata mandis, traders and analysts said, even as the central government stock limits on onion trade on Tuesday.

In most markets of the eastern metropolis, the vegetable is being sold at Rs 110-130 per kg, which is expected to rise to Rs 150 a kg if wholesale prices are any indication, they said. "At Nasik, the highest

wholesale rate was Rs 5,400/40 kg, which translates to Rs 135 a kg," agri analyst Sibu Malakar said. Onions will be dear at least till January, when the new crop hits markets in Nasik and Bengaluru, a

trader said. In order to curb the rising prices, the Centre on Tuesday reduced the stock holding limit for retailers



and wholesalers to tonnes and 25 tonnes, respectively.

Earlier, retailers were allowed to hold onion stock up to 10 tonnes and wholesalers up to 50 tonnes. Now, they can hold half of it, as per an order issued by the Consumer

Affairs Ministry.
The revised stock holding limit would not be applicable for imported onions.

Onion prices have been ruling high for the past few weeks even as various measures have been initiated to increase supply of the key kitchen stapie. The Centre has already banned onion exports and

tonnes. Sources had on Sunday said that state-owned trading firm MMTC, which is importing onion on behalf of the Centre, has placed an order of 11,000 tonnes of the edible bulb from

decided to import 1.2 lakh

Many traders in Kolkata claimed that the vegetable is being illegally exported to neighbouring Bangladesh from the border areas of West Bengal.

– Agencies

Govt committed to more reforms: FM

FC BUREAU NEW DELHI, DEC 3

Minister Finance Nirmala Sitharaman, on Tuesday, said the government is committed to further reforms for making India a more attractive investment destination.

"I only can invite and Government of India is committed to further reforms in various sectors whether it is banking, mining or insurance and so on," Sitharaman said, addressing the India-Sweden Business Summit here.

Though the minister did not reveal more, she has indicated that the government is addressing challenges faced by industry, not just Indian-owned but all operational industries present

She invited Swedish firms to invest in infrastructure development projects. "Our step of corporate tax reduction shows how much our government believes in reforms. There are many more steps that we have to take," she said, adding that the government has formed a task force, which will come out with a list 10 major infrastructure projects

December 15. The finance ministry, meanwhile, said public sector banks have disbursed a record Rs 4.91 lakh crore of loans during October-November, as part of the govern-

Tax dept issues 2.1 cr tax refunds

New Delhi, Dec. 3: The Income Tax Department processed many as 2.10 crore tax refund cases, returning back over Rs 1.46 lakh crore in first eight months of 2019-20, up 20 per cent over the last year, officials said. The Centralised Processing Centre processed 4.70 crore tax returns between April 2019 and November 28.

ment-mandated outreach programme

Banks disbursed Rs 2.52 lakh crore in October and Rs 2.39 lakh crore in November, taking the total disbursement to Rs 4.91 lakh crore. To boost consumption

and revive the economy, Sitharaman had in September asked banks to reach out to customers and signal their willingness to lend, particularly MSMEs, shadow banks, corporates, retail and agriculture sector borrowers.

During the two months, banks have given Rs 72,985 crore to the MSME sector while loans to corporates stood at Rs 2.2 lakh crore. For NBFCs, the banks disbursed Rs

Gold imports surge 78% in November

SANGEETHA G CHENNAI, DEC. 3

Post-festive season, gold imports surged 78 per cent month-onmonth in November, touching a five-month high. However, it was still down from the imports in November 2018.

The country imported 71 tonnes of gold in November, compared with 40 tonnes in October, reports quoting government officials said. Even five months ahead of the festive season in October, the monthly imports were lower than that in November. In value

November imports totalled \$2.94 billion, slightly higher than last year's \$2.76 billion.

According to P. R. Somasundaram, Managing Director, India, World Gold Council, the trade had enough stocks in the run up to the festive season. Hence the imports were lower during the previous

Post-festive season, the bullion dealers and jewellers found an opportunity to replenish their stocks when the prices fell by around Rs 200 per gm from record

months as well as in October.

high levels in the domestic mar-ket. Further, the last quarter of the calendar year usually sees a higher consumption. "Higher import in November makes sense as the prices have stabilised and the market expects the demand to return in the fourth quarter," an industry expert said.

Unrefined dore imports too have bounced back after the discounts went off and gold started becoming available in the bullion market for a premium over the landed rate. This also is an indicator of a potential demand in the retail market. The share of dore in India's gold

imports in November was 33 tonnes, compared with imports of 8.5 tonnes in October, as per reports. According to industry experts, the government calculates dore in absolute terms and not the gold derived out of the dore. If one has to consider the refined gold, the imports will be slightly lower

than 71 tonnes. However, imports were still down 16 per cent from November 2018 levels, indicating that the market

Gandhi-giri comes full circle with bots and artificial intelligence

RITWIK MUKHERJEE KOLKATA, DEC 3

Now, bots and artificial intelligence too will join efforts to preserve the Gandhian legacy. IIT KGP has teamed up with the National Council Science Museums and IIT Gandhinagar to develop Gandhipedia, a one-stop portal for browsing Gandhian literature, lifebrowsing events and his social network. Phase-I of the proj-

ect will involve digitisa-

tion and indexing of over

40 books of M. K. Gandhi

which will be released and searchable on the portal. The books will be further used to reconstruct the social network of the Mahatma, including his influencers and people whom he inspired.

"We will initially use his My Experiments with Truth for reconstructing the social network. This work would require AI enabled tools to read the indexed and digitized version. The results will be visualised by the modern powerful network visualisation tools and a dashboard of network statistics," said Prof Animesh Mukherjee from IIT Kharagpur's department of computer science and engineering who is

leading the project. The first phase will also involve launching of social bots on Twitter that can regularly post text excerpts from Gandhiji's works and observe how these posts spread over the social media.

"There will be two types of bots—(a) event-agnostic and (b) event-specific bots. In the event-specific case, as a first pilot we shall consider a crisis event and try to check whether the social bots are able to reduce the spread of hatred, fear and trauma among the public by injecting positive and motivating thoughts from the writings of the said Prof. Mahatma," Mukherjee.

"Gandhipedia will reinforce learning from an unbiased and un-opinionated real time insights easily about Gandhian values which are uplifting, motirevolutionising

and tailored to the needs of the browser. An interactive conversation assistance will certainly add value and enable youth and people to rethink and take action on Mahatma Gandhi's philosophy, life and thoughts," said Dr .Shobhana Radhakrishna, Chief Functionary at Gandhian Forum for Ethical Corporate Govern-

The phase-I is expected to be completed by March 2020. It will be followed by four more phases continuing year wise till March

2024. These phases would involve increasing the number of digitized publications by processing 100 volumes Mahatma Gandhi, each volume containing several letters, speeches, chapters, etc. and further scaling up the social network construct for all of these hundred books.
"We hope to include

research work on Gandhiji which are otherwise not referred to in popular Gandhian literature. The aim is to create a system

that can be used by any age-group for understanding the life-events of Mahatma. It might present some very interesting serendipitous relations among different personalities, which are otherwise not yet explored/studied," said Prof Mayank Singh of IIT Gandhinagar.

In the later phases of the project the researchers have plans to include similar digitised works (books, writings, thesis, etc.) of other freedom fighters to mark the 75th year of Independence.







'No word on higher deposit cover'

New Delhi, Dec 3: There is "no information" on raising the Rs 1 lakh insurance limit on bank deposits, according to the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC), a wholly owned subsidiary of the Reserve Bank of India.

Minister Sitharaman Finance Nirmala last month said the government plans to bring in legislation on raising the insurance cover on bank deposits from the current Rs 1 lakh during the winter session of Parliament.

Her assertion came after Sahakar days Bharati, a non-profit with many of its office bearers close to the RSS, pitched for an increase in deposit insurance limits to Rs 5 lakh for indi-

'The corporation does not have the requisite information," DICGC said in response to an RTI query on whether there is any proposal under consideration to raise the limit of Rs 1 lakh insured in the bank. The DICGC insures all bank deposits.

Syndicate Bank allows MSMEs to recast loans

Bengaluru, Dec. 3: Syndicate Bank said on Tuesday it is providing a breather to all of its Small Micro, Medium Enterprises (MSME) customers by extending the facility for restructuring of

This will provide them a flexible repayment option and prevent their accounts from being classified as non-per-forming assets (NPAs), it said in a statement.

Restructuring of loan is a facility given to customers to reschedule the repayment structure of their loan accounts, it was noted.

The provision is given those customers whose units are under stress due to various internal or external reatnereby neiping them to stabilise their business over time.

The Bank's MD & CEO, Mrutyunjay Mahapatra, said MSMEs contribute significantly to the country's economic growth.

Any MSME with aggregate debt of Rs 25 crore or below as on January 1, 2019 are eligible to apply for this facility, the bank said.

White-collar crimes on the rise: Survey

FC BUREAU NEW DELHI, DEC 3

With massive irregularities in financial transaccrimes are on the rise. It has been observed that a total of 3,766 incidents of fraud were detected in the last fiscal (FY19), rising by 15 per cent from a year ago, while losses incurred due to frauds have also risen by 80 per cent, according to a survey.

Understanding the risk posed by white-collar crimes. Netrika Consulting, a professional risk and integrity management company, conducted a survey covering respondents from law firms, media houses and corporate house.

White-collar crimes are committed for financial gains and usually by people in higher positions. Statistics has, however, showed that there is a trading value of Rs 4,000 crore using fake or duplicate PAN cards. "An approximate 3.2 million people have lost card details at banks ATMs pointing to increasing adoption of technology by white-collar criminals," the survey said.

■US President prefers to wait for 2020 election next Nov.

Trump sees no deadline for a China trade deal

DEREK WALLBANK & JORDAN FABIAN

President Donald Trump signalled he would be willing to wait for another year before striking a trade agreement with China, casting doubt on the likelihood of a phase-one accord within weeks between Washington and Beijing.
"I have no deadline," he

told reporters Tuesday on London when asked if he wanted an agreement by year end.

Stocks dropped in Europe and US equity futures sold off as Trump's comments indicated no urgency to reach a deal by Dec. 15, which US Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross on Monday called a "logical deadline." The Trump administration has threatened to impose tariffs on more Chinese imports starting that day. Those levies would hit American consumer products such as smartphones, toys and childrens' clothing just before the Christmas holiday.

"If nothing happens between now and then, the president has made quite clear he'll put the tariffs in —the increased tariffs," Ross said on Fox Business

A flurry of US trade moves in the past 24 hours has eroded investor opti-mism that Trump would ease up on tariffs that have slowed the global economy. Rather than ratcheting trade tensions, Trump is indicating confidence that his import taxes are good for America.

"US markets are up as much as 21 per cent since the announcement of

France vows retaliation

LAURA DAVISON

France's government said the European Union would retaliate through on a threat to hit about \$2.4 billion of French products with tariffs over a dispute concerning how large tech companies taxed.

The decision by the office of the US Trade Representative marks a setback for efforts to stop a conflict over a digital services tax. The levy, which the USTR says "discriminates against US

companies," would hit the revenues of large tech companies, including Google, Apple Inc. Facebook Inc. and Inc. Amazon.com Inc. The American tariffs in response could target

sparkling wine, cheeses,

handbags and makeup.

"It's not worthy of an ally, and it's not the behavior we expect from the US toward one of its main allies, France, and more generally, Europe," French Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire said on Radio Classique on Tuesday."If there Chateau de Fleur were new US sanctions, the EU would be ready to

—Bloomberg

Tariffs on 3/1/2018—and the US is taking in massive amounts of money (and giving some to our farmers, who have been targeted by China)!" Trump tweeted on

Speaking to reporters on a trip to attend a summit for the 70th anniversary of NATO, Trump suggested that in some ways, it might be better to wait until after the US presidential election next November.
"I like the idea of waiting

until after the election for the China deal. But they want to make a deal now and we'll see whether or not the deal is going to be right. It's got to be right," he said. "The China trade deal is dependent on one thing: Do I want to make it? Because we're doing very well with China right now and we could do even better with the flick of a pen.

The dollar reversed early gains versus the yen, and Treasuries advanced.

The U.S. and China have been trying to conclude phase one of a trade deal that White House economic adviser Larry Kudlow said more than two weeks ago was "coming down to the short strokes." Stocks have

EU to respond 'as one' to US

Brussles, Dec 3: The European Union will answer tariff threats by the United States against France "as one" and urged Washington to engage in dialogue, an EU spokesman said on

Tuesday.
"As in all other traderelated matters the EU will act and react as one and it will remain united," said EU Commission spokesman Daniel Rosario after the US threatened tariffs on French goods on Monday.

The threat was in response to a French digital services tax that Washington says is discriminatory, claiming that it singles out US tech giants such as Google and Facebook.

jumped to records on optimism for a truce in an 20month tariff war between the world's two largest economies that has led to tariffs on some \$500 billion in bilateral trade.

Earlier on Tuesday, Chinese state media said the government would soon publish a list of "unreliable entities" that could lead to sanctions against US companies, signaling trade talks between the two nations are increasingly under threat from disputes over human rights in Hong

– Bloomberg

Thomas Cook gets brand right for India, Lanka

SANGEETHA G

Travel service provider Thomas Cook India (TCIL) will be acquiring rights to use the iconic brand in India as well as Sri Lanka and Mauritius for a onetime payment of Rs 13.9

TCIL has signed an agreement with AlixPartners, Thomas Cook UK's appointed Special Managers in this regard. TCIL has been in talks with the liquidator of its UK namesake as it has the right to use the brand in India only till 2024. Now on, TCIL can use rights in perpetuity on a royalty-free basis. TCIL was previously paying an annual brand licence fee of Rs 2 crore to TCUK, the company informed the exchanges.

"In 2012 when TCIL were by Fairfax Holdings of acquired Financial Canada, we had entered into a Brand Licence Agreement with the erstwhile Thomas Cook Group of the UK to give us exclusive use of the brand until 2024 across Sri Lanka and Mauritius for an annual licence fee of Rs 2 crore. So when this very attractive investment opportunity of complete ownership of the brand name across these markets, for a onetime payment of Rs 13.9 crore came up, it truly was an opportunity we had to grab!", Madhavan Menon, Chairman & Managing Director,

Thomas Cook (India) said. This move by TCIL also prevents possible new entrants into these markets, using the brand name after 2024. "We had two options. We could either get the brand forever from the liq-



uidator or go for a new brand after the tenure to use the current one ceases, said Rajeev Kale, President and Country Head – Holidays, MICE, Visa, Thomas Cook India. Building a new brand would have been an arduous and expensive task for the com-

In addition to Thomas Cook, the Thomas Cook India Group operates leading B2C and B2B travel brands including SOTC, TCI, SITA, Asian Trails, Allied T Pro (ATP), Austra-lian Tours Management (ATM), Desert Adventures, Luxe Asia, Kuoni Hong Kong, TC Travel, Private Safaris East & South Africa, Sterling Holidays and Digiphoto Entertainment Imaging (DEI), with strategic investments in Ithaka by

Travel Junkie Solutions. Unlike it UK namesake, which has gone into liquidation, TCIL is financially strong. It has operations in 29 countries and five continents, a team of over 9,700 and had combined revenue in excess of Rs 6718.7 crore for 2018-19.

It has cash and bank deposits balances of Rs. 1088 crore as of September 30, 2019. On a standalone basis Thomas Cook India is debt-free and the group generates an average annual free cash flow of around Rs 200 crore.

PROJECTION FOR TODAY

Market cautious ahead of **MPC** meet

The market fell in line with weakness in Asian markets as the US slapped tariffs imports from Brazil and Argentina opening a new front in global trade war. The Sensex closed at 40,675.45, down 0.31 per cent or 126.72 points, while the Nifty settled at 11,994.20, down 0.45 per

cent or 54 points.

Banking stocks saw selling pressure as investors took a cautious stance ahead of the RBI monetary policy meet outcome this Friday. Of the 19 sec-toral indices, 15 closed in the red and 4 ended in

Technical View

"The market recovered from the lows of 11960 and closed around the levels of 12000. Real estate and consumer durable stocks showed signs of fresh buying from experts. Technically, it seems that the market is going to consolidate ahead of the announcement of credit policy which is due on 5th December. Nifty should remain between the range of 11900 and 12150 and our strategy should be to byhuy on dips," said Šhrikant Chouhan, Senior Vice-President, Equity Research, Technical

Kotak Securities. "Technically, Nifty made a lower highs for Nifty third consecutive session and formed a red body candle on daily chart. On hourly chart, we witnessed Head & Shoulder pattern break-down; however, it is hovering around lower end of a Rising Channel The momentum oscillator RSI indicates a negative divergence on daily chart and till the time, Nifty sustains below - 12025 zone, we may see a profit booking move towards 11850 -11800 levels. On the flip-side, 12158 levels remains major nurdie Siddhartha Khemka Head - Retail Research, Motilal Oswal Financial Services Private Ltd.

Market View

Foreign institutional investors sold shares worth Rs 1.731.33 crore in the capital market in the previous session. "Domestic markets

remained muted on account of downbeat global sentiments after US reinstated tariffs on Argentina and Brazil and threatened even harsher penalties on dozens of popular French products" said Paras Bothra, President of Equity Research, Ashika Stock Broking.

— Ashwin J Punnen

NBCC, Suraksha place Jaypee bids

New Delhi, Dec. 3: Stateowned NBCC Ltd and Mumbai-based Suraksha Realty on Tuesday submitted their final bids and offered more land parcels to lenders to acquire bankrupt realtor Jaypee Infratech through insolvency process, sources said.

Lenders had asked both the suitors to sweeten their resolution plans and submit their bids by December 3. Accoraing sources,

NBCC in its final bid has offered 1,526 acres of land to lenders as against its earlier proposal of 1,426 acres. For homebuyers, it has

reduced the timeline to

The ultra rich will no

longer have to rely on their

portfolio managers to know

their investment detail.

They now can scan their

investments and gains/losses by themselves,

thanks to a new mobile

application being intro-

duced by the wealth man-

Financial Services has

Emkay Global

FC BUREAU

MUMBAI, DEC. 3



three-and-a-half years from the earlier four years for the completion of over 20,000

For lenders, the public sector firm has also proposed to increase concession agreement by 10 years on Yamuna Expressway, which

Emkay app for wealth management

introduced a wealth man-

agement app for the ultra

rich that offers fund analyt-

ics wherein user can com-

pare funds, see portfolio

overlaps and manage risks.

Wealth Management App

include search for a securi-

ty and the weightage of the

same in their portfolio,

especially given the credit

defaults in the fixed income

space, one knows whether

the fund manager is hold-

Key features of Emkay

connects Noida to Agra in Uttar Pradesh. the other hand,

Suraksha Realty has also improved its resolution plan and is now offering 2.220 acres of land worth Rs 9,800 crore under the landdebt swap deal. Earlier, it had offered 1,934 acres of land worth Rs 7,857 crore.

It has also increased upfront cash payment to lenders to Rs 175 crore from Rs 25 crore earlier.

For homebuyers, Suraksha has set aside Rs 250 crore worth land against land parcels worth Rs 100 crore earmarked earlier.

ing that security or not and

how much of it is in their

Emkay Wealth Manage-

ment, said, "We continue to

leverage technology to pro-

vide world-class experience

to our esteemed clients.

Users can analyse their

portfolio on real-time basis,

available funds and ledger

balances at an ease of fin-

current balance,

Bhavesh Sanghvi, CEO,

product portfolio.

Motilal starts ETFs on Nifty-50, Next 50 FC BUREAU "In the recent past, mid-

benchmark returns

MUMBAL DEC.3

Motilal Oswal Asset Management Company owned by Motilal Oswal Group has come out with two large-cap index fund -Motilal Oswal Nifty 50 Index Fund and Mothal Oswai

Nifty Next 50 based on the two popular indices-Niftv 50 and Nifty Next 50.

The new fund offer for both the funds opens on December 3 and closes on December 17.

Aashish Somaiyaa, MD & CEO, Motilal Oswal AMC, said, "These launches are in continuation of our recent efforts to make passive investing popular

among the retail investors. The large-cap index funds are expected to mirror benchmark index returns more closely contrary to the active large-cap funds that include some percentage of mid-cap & small-cap companies in their portfo-

cap and small-cap companies have underperformed significantly and in any case for investors desirous of managing a pure allocation, mixing of market caps to beat indices is not ideal because it increases their risk," Motilal

Mutuai Fund said. cap index Large-cap funds are expecfunds index ted to mirror

have a purity of

allocation

more closely large caps and than active provide stability as they are large in size, dominant in their sectors and generally have good customer reputation. It provides additional income in the form

of dividends as many largecaps generally pay steady dividends," the fund said. "Large-cap index companies are more transparent in terms of statements and workings leads to ease in decision making for long term investors. The accuracy in evaluation is more

due to established knowl-

edge of company history,

and wider coverage of cur-

rent activities and finan-

cial statements," it said.

8 stocks for surveillance New Delhi, Dec. 3: Leading stock exchange NSE has shortlisted

NSE identifies

eight companies, including Future Enterprises and GMR Infrastructure, that have higher levels of pledged shares by promoters, for surveillance action. The exchange would

levy minimum margin 35 per cent on the shares, including on stocks in derivatives segment. Jindal Steel & Power,

Dish TV India, Gayatri Projects, Max India, Sadbhay Infrastructure Project and Sequent Scientific are the other six companies identified for surveillance action, according to a circular. "The applicable rate of

margin in equity and equity derivatives segment shall be 35 per cent or existing margin, whichever is higher with effect from December 5 on all open positions December 4 and new positions created from December 5," the bourse

What'll happen to markets on Dec. 15

ERIC LAM & GREGOR STUART HUNTER

latest missives on trade are a wake-up call to markets close to record highs that a major deadline is looming with China. The Dec. 15 flashpoint on

tariffs was thrown into sharp relief on Tuesday when Trump said he sees no urgency to complete a deal. "If tariffs scheduled for Dec. 15 are implemented it would be a huge shock to the market consensus, said Sue Trinh, MD for global macro strategy at Manulife Investment Management in Hong Kong. "Trump would be the that Grinch stole Christmas," she said.

The following are the views of a number of market participants on what happens if the tariffs on China kick in Dec. 15. It will be "definitely risk-

off across the screen," said Tongli Han, Chief

Investment Officer at Global Deepblue Investment."What pened recently makes this trade deal more costly for Chinese leaders -- so I'm seeing a gloomy future for the short term, one-to-two months.'

With the clock running down on 2019 and a prospects of a trade deal looking more remote it's time for investors to take a little bit of risk off the table, said Steve Brice, Chief Investment Standard Strategist at Chartered bank.

"It looks like it's going to be pushed to the beginning of next year at the best case," Brice said. The message to investors is "maybe trim a little bit of equity exposure, or certainly not chase the market at this stage. But look to do so in the next few weeks if we see a 5-to-7 per cent pull-

term, Longer remains optimistic U.S. and China will still strike a deal of some sort. That will reduce uncertainty and help the global economy do well.

For Kerry Craig, global market strategist at JPMorgan Asset Management, a key concern is markets have already priced in the prospect of a trade deal

that has yet to be signed. "There had been a lot of optimism built in around a trade deal and it's still the thing that will weigh on markets over the coming months," Craig said on Bloomberg TV. "In the meantime we need to see more of a pick-up in the global economy to really offset some of those uncer-

tainties. For some, the retreat in equities at the start of the week already presents a

buying opportunity. "I'd fade the correction today," Eli Lee, head of investment strategy at Bank of Singapore, told Bloomberg TV

The renewed tariff pressures on South America

and Europe are likely an effort to bolster Trump's "tariff man" image ahead of a trade deal with China, he said.

"With the economy in a very delicate situation, if this came on, it would seriously ratchet up the risk of a recession—and the White House wouldn't want this situation going into the 2020 presidential election

next year," Lee said. There may be some massive initial market swings in store, said Chris Weston, head of research at Pepperstone Group Ltd. in

a note to clients. "We could face a wild day," he said. The S&P 500 is likely to fall about 2 per cent, with currencies including the yuan, Australian dollar and Korean won also likely to move, he said. A relief rally may be in the offing afterward, particularly if there's agreement to revisit talks in 2020, he said.

Bloomberg

GKN Aerospace to open new facility in Pune

MICHAEL GONSALVES PUNE, DEC. 03

GKN Aerospace, the UKbased and London-stock exchange listed 3.5 billion pound multi-technology tier 1 aerospace supplier, is opening a new factory in Pune on Wednesday to manufacture electrical interconnection wiring systems (EWIS).

The company is investing Rs 154 crore for now. The new facility, aimed at both the local and global markets. would directly employ 800 skilled operators and engineers.

"We are investing Rs 72 crore in the new factory," Michiel Barenose, VP and MD. Aerostructures and Systems Europe and Asia at GKN Aerospace told FC. He said an additional Rs 72 crore would be invested over 10 years.

Mercedes-Benz GLC facelift for ₹52.75 L

MICHAEL GONSALVES PUNE, DEC. 3

Mercedes-Benz, largest German luxury car maker, which showcased Mercedes GLC SUV facelift earlier this year at the 2019 Geneva Motor Show, has now launched it in India.

Priced at Rs 52.75 lakh to Rs 57.75 at pan-India showroom, the Mercedes GLC SUV comes in two options -GLC 200 and GLC 220d 4Matic. It will rival the Land Rover Discovery Sport, the Audi Q5, the BMW X3 and the Volvo XC60 in the country.

At present, the Puneheadquartered Mercedes-Benz offers the largest $SUV\,$ portfolio in the luxury car segment in the country at The new SUV receives a

mid-life cycle update and it

now gets subtle styling

tweaks, BS-6 compliant petrol and diesel engines and the new MBUX interface system, which debuts in India for the first time on the Mercedes-Benz GLC The new MBUX gets 'Hey



Mercedes' voice command interface and a large central touchpad that is seen for the first time on the GLC range. Additionally, the GLC facelift also gets updated textures to name another change in the

World

US President Donald Trump said he did not want to interfere in Britain's election, and that he thinks PM Boris Johnson is capable of doing a good job



They (predeccesors) were unable to prevent the spread of Islamic extremism

> —Gotabaya Rajapaksa Sri Lankan President

IN BRIEF

Dutch police

arrest rape gang

The Hague: Police have arrested eight men suspected of being part of a sex ring who drugged underaged girls before gang raping them at a car workshop in southern Netherlands. The arrests were made in Den Bosch and comes after separate rape charges were filed by three girls aged 15-16.

"The girls, who were believed to have been drugged, were then abused in their helpless condition by several men in the group. Sometimes violence was used. The girls met the men via social media," a cop said. An investigation started early this year and forensic detectives combed the workshop for clues in April.

Nijab corruption trial opens

Kuala Lumpur: Former Malaysian prime minister Naiib Razak sought to show he was the victim of a cunning fugitive financier as he opened his defense on Tuesday in his first corruption trial linked to the multi-billion-dollar looting of the 1MDB state investment fund. Najib is defending himself against seven charges of abuse of power, breach of trust and money laundering relating to 42 million ringgit that allegedly went into his

bank accounts from SRC International, a former unit of the 1MDB fund. The high court judge said it was clear Najib, who was also finance minister at the time, wielded "overarching authority and power" in SRC and had acted for personal gains.

Typhoon Kammuri

hammers Manila Manila: Typhoon Kammuri lashed the Philippines with fierce winds and heavy rain on Tuesday as hundreds of thousands took refuge in shelters and the capital Manila shut down its international airport over safety concerns. The powerful storm, which blew in windows and sheared off roofs, roared ashore late Monday and was due to pass south of Manila — home to some 13 million people - and thousands of athletes at the regional Southeast Asian Games. Forecasters said Kammuri had weakened but remained strong, with sus-tained winds of up to 150 kilometres per hour, and maximum gusts of 205 kph as it tracked northwest. "A lot of trees fell. There were a lot of roofs flying during the typhoon too," said Junie Castillo, a disaster officer in one of the areas first hit. "We have yet to quantify the

LAM: U.S. LAW **WILL HURT HONG KONG**

extent of the damage.

Hong Kong: Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam said US legislation supporting protesters may damage business confidence in the financial hub, as she announced a fourth round of relief measures to boost the city's battered economy. Lam said the Hong Kong Human Rights and Democracy Act signed into US law last week was 'wholly unnecessary', as the former British colony grapples with its first recession in a decade. The act requires the US state department to certify at least annually that Hong Kong retains enough autonomy to justify favourable US trading terms. and threatens sanctions for human rights violations. "The impact currently is on confidence because corporates will be worried about the actions the US may take in the future after they review this legisla-tion," Lam said, but did not specify what additional measures would be taken to boost

economic activity. - AFP

2019 in top three hottest years on record, UN says

Climate change outpaces humanity's ability to adapt to it

Madrid, Dec. 3: This decade is set to be the hottest in history, the United Nations said on Tuesday in an annual assessment outlining the ways in which climate change is outpacing humanity's ability to

adapt to it. The World Meterological Organisation said global temperatures so far this year were 1.1 degrees Celsius above the preindustrial average, putting 2019 on course to be in the top three warmest years ever recorded.

Man-made emissions from burning fossil fuels, building infrastructure, growing crops and transporting goods mean 2019 is set to break the record for atmospheric carbon concentrations, locking in further warming, the

Oceans, which absorb 90 per cent of the excess heat tems upon which billions produced by greenhouse of people rely for food and

Extreme weather unhealthy

Geneva, Dec. 3: Climate change is harming human health as more people suffer from heat stress, extreme weather and mosquito-borne diseases including malaria, the World Health Organisa-

tion (Who) said. The UN agency, in a report issued a day after a climate summit began in Madrid, urged governments to meet ambitious targets to reduce heattrapping carbon emissions saying it could save a million lives a year

gases, are now at their

highest recorded tempera-

tures. The world's seas are

now a quarter more acidic

than 150 years ago, threat-

ening vital marine ecosys-

"Health is paying the

price of the climate crisis. Why? Because our lungs, our brains, our cardiovascular system is very much suffering from the causes of climate change which are overlapping very much with the causes of air pollution," Maria Neira, director of Who's department of environment, climate change and

health, said. Yet less than 1% of international financing for cli-

jobs. In October, the global

mean sea level reached its

highest on record, fuelled

by the 329 billion tonnes of

Greenland ice sheet in 12

months. Each of the last

four decades has been hot-

health sector, she said, calling it 'absolutely out-Global temperatures co-

uld rise sharply this century with "wide-ranging and destructive" consequences after greenhouse gas emissions hit record levels last year, internaclimate experts tional warned last week.

"Who considers that climate change is potentially the greatest health threat of the 21st Century," said a
Who expert. — Reuters

ter than the last. The report said more than 10 million people were internally displaced in the first half of 2019, due to extreme weather events such as storms, flooding and drought.

Sikh woman enters Pak sans visa to meet FB pal

in Pakistan's Kartarpur tried to go to Faisalabad city of Punjab province without a visa to meet a Pakistani man she befriended on Facebook, officials said on Tuesday.

Manjit Kaur, in her early 20s, visited the Gurdwara Darbar Sahib via the Kartarpur corridor, some 125kms from Lahore, in last week of November, sources said.

Kaur, who was in touch with the man through Facebook, met him at the gurdwara and attempted to go along with him to Faisalabad by showing a Pakistani woman's per-

Indian pilgrims can visit Gurdwara Darbar Sahib through the recently-opened Kartarpur corridor without visa but cannot go to the other parts of Pakistan.

"This is the first incident in which an Indian Sikh woman attempted to leave the restricted area of the Kartarpur corridor since its opening on November 9, official of the Evacuee Trust Property Board said. He said the woman wanted to go along with the Pakistani man but the security officials did not let her cross the restricted

While Pakistani officials said she hailed from Amritsar, media reports in India claimed that she is from Rohtak, Haryana. "The security officials

AGE CORRESPONDENT

Pakistan's National Acco-

untability Bureau (NAB)

has tightened the noose around Pakistan Muslim

Sharif, and further froze

Shehbaz Sharif will not

family's assets which are

family assets on

(Nawaz)

Shehbaz

ISLAMABAD, DEC. 3

League

President

Tuesday.

Lahore, Dec. 3: In a filmy-style act, an Indian Sikh woman visiting the Gurdwara Darbar Sahib Pak court to hear Zardari bail plea

SHAFQAT ALI | DC ISLAMABAD, DEC. 3

Pakistan's Islamabad High Court on Tuesday fixed for hearing former president Asif Ali Zardari and his sister Faryal Talpur's bail petitions for today (Wednesday) in the money laundering through fake bank accounts and Park Lane corruption

A two-member bench of the court is scheduled to preside over the hearing of the bail applications filed by Farooq H Naek on behalf of both Pakistan People's Party leaders. The National Acco-untability Bureau (NAB) and Accountability Court No. nave been made respondents in the petitions.

Earlier, Zardari filed a bail plea on medical grounds whereas Talpur sought bail from the same court while pleading with the court that she was a mother of a differentlyabled child, and therefore she needed to take care of that child. Zardari has maintained

that he is suffering from a heart ailment and has had three stents placed in his

NAB freezes Sharif assets

allegedly based on TT

The anti-graft body has

ordered to freeze 96-H,

Model Town - Shehbaz

Sharif's residence in Lahore. The PML-N leader's 9-kanal home in

Abbottabad has been frozen as well.

Furthermore, it has also

been ordered to freeze the assets of Tehmina

wives of Shehbaz Sharif.

assets

be able benefit from his Durrani - one of the

(telegraphic transfer).



Asif Ali Zardari

body. He said that he also suffers from diabetes which means that he has to constantly monitor his blood sugar levels.

The PPP co-chairper medical reports submitted along with the application to the IHC. Zardari, who has been detained on charges money laundering fake through accounts and is presently undergoing treatment at the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences, agreed to file a bail plea on medical grounds at the insistence of his family mem-

On November 12, an accountability court in Islamabad had rejected Zardari's application for transferring him to Karachi for treatment.

Meanwhile, senior PML

N leader Ahsan Iqbal chaired a meeting of joint

opposition to deliberate on the appointment of Election Commission of

Pakistan (ECP) members.

Consultation on the

names for hiring of two

ECP members and Chief

Election Commissioner

(CEC) was carried out

with participants belong-

ing to other political par-

sent the Indian woman security officials detained back and also informed the man along with his two friends, including a their counterpart about it," he said. The Pakistani

FACE SCANS FOR TRAVELLERS

Trump administration intends to propose a regulation next year that ellers, including US citizens, to be photogra-phed when entering or leaving the United States, according to the administration's regula-

he said.
The Trump administration contends in its



U.S. PROPOSES

Washington, Dec. 3: The would require all travtory agenda.

tory agenda.

The proposed regulation, slated to be issued in July by the homeland security department, would be part of a broader system to track travellers as they enter travellers as they enter and exit the US. The plan has already

drawn opposition from some privacy advocates. Jay Stanley, a senior policy analyst with the American Civil Liberties Union, blasted the idea in a written statement on Monday.

"Travellers, including US citizens, should not have to submit to invasive biometric scans simply as a condition of exercising their constitutional right to travel,"

regulatory agenda that the face scan requirement will combat the fraudulent use of US travel documents and aid the identification of criminals and suspected terrorists. The public typically

has 30 to 60 days to comment on a proposed US regulation. The federal agency then needs to review and respond to comments, a process that can be time-consuming for major regu-

-- Reuters

CHRISTMAS FEAST



A diver dressed as Santa Claus feeds a ray at the aquarium of the Multimar Wattforum national park centre in Toenning, northern Germany, during a rehearsal for a visitor event on St. Nicholas Day.

Amnesty: 208 killed in Iran protests, violence

Dubai, Dec. 3: At least 208 people in Iran have been killed amid protests over sharply rising gasoline prices and a subsequent crackdown by security Amnesty International has said, as one government official acknowledged police to shoot demonstra-

Iran has yet to release any nationwide statistics over the unrest that gripped the Islamic Repu blic beginning November 15 with minimum prices government-subsidised gasoline rising by 50 per cent. Iran's mission to the United Nations dis-

puted Amnesty's findings

early Tuesday, though it

offered no evidence to support its claim. Iran shut down internet access amid the unrest, blocking those inside the country from sharing their videos and information, as well as limiting the outside world from knowing the scale of the protests and violence. The restoration of the

internet in recent days across much of the country has seen other videos surface.

"We've seen over 200 people killed in a very swift time, in under a week," said Mansoureh Mills, an Iran researcher at Amnesty. "It's something pretty unprecedented event in the history of the human rights violations in the Islamic Republic." While not drawing as

many Iranians into the streets as those protesting the disputed 2009 presi-

■ IRAN'S mission to the United Nations disputed Amnesty's findings, though it offered no evidence to support its

Iran shut down internet access amid the unrest, blocking those inside the country from sharing their videos and information with the

dential election, the gasoline price demonstrations rapidly turned violent faster than any previous That shows the wide-

spread economic discontent gripping the country since May 2018, when President Donald Trump imposed crushing sanctions after unilaterally withdrawing from Tehran's nuclear deal with world powers.

Since the summer, tensions across the Mideast have spiked with attacks the US blames on Tehran. Iran, meanwhile, began to break the deal's centrifuges, enrichment and stockpile limitations with hopes of pressuring Europe to offer it a way to sell crude oil abroad despite Washington's sanctions.

In a statement on Monday, Amnesty said there had been dozens of deaths in the Tehran suburb of Shahriar, likely one of the areas with the highest toll of those killed in the unrest. Shahriar had seen heavy protests.

'RIOTERS' SHOT AND KILLED, **ADMITS IRAN**

Dubai, Dec. 3: Iranian state television on Tuesday acknowledged forces shot and killed what it described as "rioters" in multiple citi-es amid recent protests over the spike in government-set prices — the first time that authorities have offered any sort of accounting for the violence they used to put down the demonstrations.

acknowledgment came in a television package that criticised international Farsi-language channels for their reporting on the crisis, which began on Nov. 15.

The state TV report sought to describe killings in four categories, alleging some of those kil-led were "rioters who have attacked sensitive or military centres with firearms or knives, or have taken hostages in some areas." The described others killed as passers-by, security forces and peaceful protesters, without assigning blame for their deaths.

In one case, the report said security forces confronted a separatist group in the city of Mahshahr armed with "semi-heavy weapons."
"For hours, armed rioters had waged an armed struggle," the report alle-ged. "In such circumstan-ces, security forces took action to save the lives of Mahshahr's people.'

Dated: 28.11.2019

Japanese activists urge changes to anti-harassment code

Tokyo, Dec. 3: Yumi Ishikawa's feet bled after a day in the high heels required by her job, a memory that led her and other Japanese activists to demand on Tuesday that forcing women to wear certain items be treated as workplace harassment.

Japanese women took to social media in November to insist on the right to wear spectacles at work after reports employers were imposing bans, the latest outcry against strict office dress codes included forcing women to wear high



makeup, and even stipulating what colour hair they can have.
The labour ministry

October against work-

harassment

■ THE #KUTOO movement whose name plays on the Japanese words for 'shoe' and 'pain', swelled into a viral outcry. More than 31,000 people have signed an online petition against wearing high heels

stockings and known as 'power harassment' or 'power hara', but

failed to address the issue of employers dictating how female employees "You might think this is nothing, but the fact is

that some peoples' lives have been changed because of these rules," Ishikawa, an actress and activist, told a Tuesday news conference. 'People have hurt them-

selves wearing high heels and all of these people are women. If we're working the same jobs, we have the right to work under the same conditions.' Just hours before,

Ishikawa and other activists submitted papers to the labour ministry calling for such dress codes to be seen as power harassment under new guidelines,

expected to be finalised this month.

Ishikawa earlier this year began the #KuToo protest movement, spar-ked by her own memories of being forced to wear 7-cm (2.8inch) heels at a job at a funeral parlour as well as numerous similar stories from other women. The movement, whose name plays on the Japanese words for 'shoe' and 'pain' swelled into a viral outcry on social media about women being forced to wear high heels. More than 31,000 people have to date signed an online petition against it. Reuters

NORTH DELHI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (M-II) KPZ Shakti Nagar Extn., DELHI-110052

NIT No. EE/M-II/KPZ/2019-2020/66 Date of Start for Sale of Tender Document : 28,11,2019 at 18,01 PM Last Date of Download to Tender Document : 19.12.2019 at 12.00 PM Last Date of Bid Submission

19.12.2019 at 12.15 PM Opening of Financial Bid S.N. 1, Name of work: Imp. and Stg. of road by providing and laying bituminous concrete pavement at Guru Hanuman Marg in Ward No. C.

78/KPZ. Head of Alc: XL-VIII-S(d), Tender amount: 4331424/-, Earnest Money: 86650/-, Time of Completion: 03 Months, Rates hold good for: 06 Months, Tender Cost: 500. S.N. 2, Name of work: Imp. and Stg. of road by providing and laying bituminous concrete pavement at Singh Sabha Road (DJB office to Amba Cinema), Dronacharya Guru Hanuman Marg (Guru Haunuman Akhara to TT Park Shakti Nagar in C-78/KPZ. Head of A/c: XL-VIII-S(d), Tender amount: 4856036/-, Earnest Money: 97150/-, Time of Completion: 03 Months, Rates hold good for: 06 Months, Tender Cost: 500.

S.N. 3, Name of work: Imp. and Stg. of road by providing and laying bituminous concrete pavement at Padamshree & Dronacharya Guru Hanuman Marg (33/19 Block Shakti Nagar to Guru Hanuman Akhara) and H.No. 777/4 to 10 Block Round about Shakti Nagar in C-78/KPZ. Head of A/c: XL-VIII-S(d), Tender amount: 4610165/-, Earnest Money: 92250/-, Time of Completion: 03 Months, Rates hold good for: 06 Months, Tandacatt 500.

Tender Cost: 500. Note: This tender are also available on the website http://mcdetenders.com for bidding by approved and eligible contractor with MCD. The validity of rates hold good for 6 months. EE. (M-II)/KPZ has the right to cancle any or all

the tenders without any reason Executive Engineer(M-II) KPZ R.O. No. 176/North DMC/2019-20





guidelines in











there is space for all kind of movies to exist

WEDNESDAY | 4 DECEMBER 2019 | NEW DELHI





What you do after the mistake is what really defines a person

> — Brad Pitt, **American actor**

Pitt opens up on his struggle with alcohol

Los Angeles: Brad Pitt sat down to interview his Meet Joe Black co-star Anthony Hopkins, he ended up talking about his struggle with alcohol, learning to own up his mistakes and finding meaning in creativity. The philosophical chat for the Interview magazine began with Pitt asking Hopkins whether the great actor believed that "things are fated." During interview Pitt said he saw his drinking habit "as a disservice to myself." Hopkins, currently promoting

Joaquin is Peta's

Two Popes, said he is not

"evangelist about" overcom-

Person of the Year

Los Angeles: Joker star Joaquin Phoenix has been named 2019 Person of the Year by People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (Peta). According to the Hollywood Reporter, Phoenix is vegan since the age of three and has been a longtime supporter of the animal rights organisation. He recently appeared in Peta's 'We Are All Animals" billboards in Times Square and on Sunset Billboard as he promoted legislation to ban travelling wild-animal circuses. Previous Peta Person of the Year winners include Pope Francis and Oprah Winfrey. - PTI



Drake is Spotify's

most-streamed artiste New York: Drake is the king been named Spotify's moststreamed artiste of the decade. Spotify on announced Tuesday that Drake has been streamed 28 billion times in the last 10 years. Ed Sheeran came in second, while Post Malone, Ariana Grande and Eminem round out the Top 5. Sheeran's Shape of You was the most-streamed song of the decade. For 2019, Post Malone is the top-streamed artist globally. Billie Eilish,

H'WOOD NEEDS TO BE REFORMED: HARVEY KEITEL

Grande, Sheeran and Bad

Bunny round out Top 5. — AP

Marrakesh, Morocco: Movie tough guy Harvey Keitel, who plays a mobster in Martin Scorsese's Netflix gangster epic The Irishman, has some advice for Hollywood: get back in touch with your creative side. In the era of glob-

al blockbusters, he argued, studios should refocus on making movies that are less commercialised and more authentic. Keitel who has just turned 80, recalled that Scorsese had said

Harvey he "could not have gotten The

Irishman made but for the good graces of Netflix - no studio wanted to do it, nobody wanted to do it" "This is a very good example of what is happening with Netflix," he said. "The fact that we're losing cinemas we are all a bit sad about. But for me personally, I always think, well, that's what changes as we ... Evolve." After lengthy hold-ups, the mafia hitman saga starring Robert de Niro, Al Pacino is showing on streaming service Netflix, accompanied by a limited theatrical. Scorsese recently told viewers: "please don't look at it on a phone .. A big iPad, maybe." - AFP

Andrew sex scandal: Accuser asks UK to stand beside her

Virginia Giuffre slams 'ridiculous excuses' from royals' side

London: An American woman who claims she was trafficked by Jeffrey Epstein to have sex with Prince Andrew criticised the "ridiculous excuses" from the royal's side in an interview aired Monday.

The interview was recorded before Andrew's own BBC interview, which prompted him to stand down from public duties because of a backlash at his defence of his friendship with Epstein.

But Virginia Giuffre called on the British public to support her as she dismissed claims initially made by the prince's backers that a photograph apparently showing him with his arm around her might not be genuine.

The people on the inside are going to keep coming up with these ridiculous excuses like his arm was elongated or the photo was doctored," she told the BBC's Panorama

She dismissed claims initially made by the prince's backers that a photograph apparently showing him with his arm around her might not be genuine. She has given the picture

to FBI for their

investigation.

Virginia Giuffre

programme."
"I'm calling BS (bullshit) on this. He knows what happened, I know what happened. And there's only one of us telling the

truth," she said.
"It's a real photo. I've given it to the FBI for their investigation. Andrew himself doubted

the authenticity of the photograph during his badly received interview, saying "nobody can prove whether or not that photograph has been doctored." Giuffre has alleged she was trafficked to have sex

with friends of Epstein when she was 17. Epstein was found dead in a New York prison in August awaiting trial on sex trafficking charges. She described how Epstein preyed on her

once he knew she came from a vulnerable background, having already suffered sexual abuse. The financier initially lured her with an offer of a job as a masseuse, but

soon began abusing her, according to Giuffre. She accused Epstein of bringing her to London in made me sick."

Jennifer Lopez (from left), Julia Fox, and Natasha Lyonne

Street in New York on Monday.

and Chloe Sevigny at the Gotham Awards at Cipriani Wall

2001, where she was introduced to Andrew and Epstein's socialite girlfriend Ghislaine Maxwell. The prince asked her for a dance at a nightclub, she recalled, telling Panorama he was "the most hideous dancer I've ever seen in my life". "His sweat was like it was raining basical-

everywhere,"

ådded.

THE ASIAN AGE

"I was just like grossed out from it but I knew I had to keep him happy because that's what Jeffrey and Ghislaine would have expected from me." The prince told the BBC he was unable to sweat at the time due to a medical condition he developed after serving as helicopter pilot in the

Falklands War in 1982. After the nightclub, Giuffre — then known as said that Roberts — said that Maxwell told her: "I have Roberts to do for Andrew what I do for Jeffrey and that just

AWARDS 1018

Author Kundera gets his Czech citizenship back after 40 years

Prague: Novelist Milan Kundera has regained Czech citizenship which he had lost after leaving Communist-ruled Czechoslovakia for France in the 1970s, Czech media said on Tuesday.

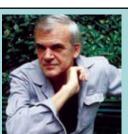
The Czech daily Pravo said on its website that Kundera and his wife Vera had received the documents from the Czech ambassador to Paris on November 28.

"They were genuinely pleased. They are aware it's not a life-changing moment, but they definitely felt the symbolism which was very impor-tant for them," ambassa-dor Petr Drulak told

Kundera, who is 90, left his home country for France in 1975 and lost Czechoslovak citizenship four years later before becoming a Frenchman in 1981.

Czechoslovakia split into the Czech Republic and Slovakia in 1993, four years after shedding the Communist totality of four decades.

The idea of restoring Kundera's citizenship has been floated for years by authorities in the Czech Republic. In November 2018, Prime Minister Andrej Babiš announced that he had offered to restore the author and his wife Vera's citizenship after a three-hour meet-



Kundera, who is 90, left his home country for France in 1975 and lost Czechoslovak citizenship four years later before becoming a Frenchman in

ing with them in their favourite Paris restauthe rant, Guardian reported.

Kundera visits the Czech Republic rarely, and his perhaps greatest recent involvement with his homeland occurred in 2008 when a local magazine accused him of being a police informer during Communism, which he denied as "pure lies"

His novels include The Joke (1967), The Book of Laughter and Forgetting (1979), The Unbearable Lightness of Being (1984) Insignificance (2013).

said Monday. David, an heir to a Coca-Cola bottling for-tune who has also bat-tled recent lawsuits over Milan Kundera his 3D hologram and online streaming businesses, was accused of routinely groping Mahim Khan. The verdict was "a reminder to predators

everywhere to not think they can get away with hurting others," Khan said. Attorney Gloria Allred described it as one of the largest sexual harassment punitive damage awards in US

#MeToo: Greek

H'wood aide

lionaire

billionaire told to pay \$58m to his

Los Angeles: Greek bil-

"Alki" David was ordered to pay \$58 mil-

lion damages to a Hollywood assistant in

one of the largest sexual

harassment awards in

US history, her attorney

legal history.
"In this 'Me Too' movement, women like Ms Khan are no longer willing to suffer in silence,' she said. Khan's lawyers presented evidence that, two to three times per week, David would grab her by the neck and simulate oral sex.

They also told jurors that David repeatedly groped Khan's private parts and on one occasion exposed her breasts. David, who denies sexually harassing Khan, was not in court Monday. — AFP

NEWS NUGGETS

BIGGEST ANIMAL SLAUGHTER

BEGINS IN NEPAL Bariyarpur, Nepal: The

stench of raw meat hung in the air and pools of blood dotted the muddy ground on Tuesday as what is thought to be the world's biggest animal sacrifice swung into action in a remote area of Nepal. Efforts from activists and officials were expected to cut the death toll from the 2,00,000 butchered at the last Gadhimai Festival five years ago, but thousands of creatures were still set to be killed over the two days.

The event in honour of a goddess kicked off in the early hours amid tight security, with the ceremonial slaughter of a goat, rat, chicken and a pigeon. A local priest then offered blood from five points of his body. Some 200 butchers with sharpened swords and knives then walked into a walled arena bigger than a football field that held several thousand buffalo as excited pilgrims climbed trees and walls to catch a glimpse.

JAPANESE MAN, 71, ARRESTED FOR 'MAKING 24.000 COMPLAINT CALLS' Tokyo: A Japanese pen- media outlets reporting

sioner has been arrested after ringing a phone company 24,000 times to complain they had violated his contract, police and local media report-

Tokyo police said they took 71-year-old Akitoshi Okamoto into custody last week after he made hundreds of toll-free calls over eight days to the customer service section of major telephone operator KDDI. But this could be the

tip of the iceberg, with

sands more calls from public pay phones to voice his displeasure with the company and insult customer service staff. "He demanded that

that he made thou-

KDDI staff come to him to apologise for violating his contract. He also repeatedly

hung up his calls immediately after placing them". He has been arrested on suspicion of "fraudulent obstruction

RARE GAUGUIN FROM TAHITI PERIOD

The

TO GO UNDER HAMMER IN PARIS

Paris: A rare canvas by French post-impression- Bourao II", is one of the Gauguin from his period on the Polynesian island of Tahiti is set to go on auction in Paris

mate of \$5.5-7.7 million. There is keen interest in the sale at the Artcurial auction house amid growing controver-

sy over Gauguin's rela-

tionships with young girls in Tahiti and his

depictions of them.

his Tahiti period still in private hands. It dates 1897 on Tuesday, with an esti- shows an evocative Tahiti landscape.

painting,

Gauguin from

Its name comes from the word for "tree" in the local language.

According to Artcurial, the last sale in France of a Gauguin from this period was 22 years ago.

GRETA IN LISBON AFTER 3-WEEK SAIL FROM U.S. FOR CLIMATE TALKS

Lisbon: Climate activist Greta Thunberg arrived Tuesday by catamaran in the port of Lisbon after a three-week vovage across the Atlantic Ocean from the United States.

The Swedish teen sailed to the Portuguese capital before heading to neighboring Spain to attend the UN Climate Change Conference taking place in Madrid.

Trump campaign bars Bloomberg News, alleges 'bias'

Her arrival coincided with a new scientific report saying there is mounting evidence that the world is getting ever

Thunberg hitched a renewable-energy ride from the United States, joining an Australian family on their 48-foot (15-meter) yacht.

The white catamaran carrying Thunberg ing out about t sailed slowly up the climate change.



River Tagus under blue skies and a stiff breeze Thunberg's Svante, was also on the boat as it approached the Lisbon quayside. Chile's environment minister Carolina Schmidt saluted Greta's role for speaking out about threat of

Tourists lost in Oz outback found alive after 2 weeks

Ariel Winter at the VIP opening night for the Dumpling

& Associates pop-up art exhibition in Los Angeles,

Sydney: A man and woman have been rescued after surviving two weeks in Australia's arid outback on little more than vodka, groundwater and biscuits, but a third person is still missing, police

said Tuesday. The three friends set out to explore the country's vast sun-baked interior near Alice Springs on November 19 when their car became bogged down in a river bed. After three days the group feared supplies were dwindling and two of them decided

to walk along a property

fence line in the hope of finding help.

The police said Tuesday that a local rancher had found the man, 40-year-old Phu Tran, "slightly disorientated" but in a "good condition" a twoday walk from the vehicle. His discovery came after Tamra McBeath-Riley, 52, was found on Sunday less than two km from the same vehicle suffering from dehydration. McBeath-Riley said the trio survived by drinking

pre-mixed vodka drinks

and water from a hole dug

Washington: President Donald Trump's campaign said Monday it was banjournalists from Bloomberg News from its electoral events, claiming "bias" by the media group owned by presidential rival Michael Bloomberg. Brad Parscale,

Trump 2020 campaign manager, said the decision was made after Bloomberg News announced it would not investigate the company boss or his Democrat competitors.

campaign, we are accus-

tomed to unfair reporting

practices, but most news

a statement. "As President Trump's will no longer credential

Model Jourdan Dunn (from left) and

Fashion Awards in central London

Singer Rita Ora at the British

on Monday.

organisations announce their biases so publicly," Parscale said in The Trump campaign

Brad Parscale, the

Trump 2020 campaign

sion was made after

manager, said the deci-

Bloomberg News announced it would not

boss or his Democrat

competitors

investigate the company

case-by-case representatives Parscale Bloomberg News for ral-

don't events, and will decide 'whether to engage with individual reporters or answer inquiries from Bloomberg News on a basis. added. Bloomberg News editor-in-

accusation of bias couldn't be further from the truth. We have covered Donald Trump fairly and in an unbiased way since he became a candidate in 2015 and will continue to do so despite the restrictions imposed by the Trump campaign." Trump took to Twitter to blast "Mini Mike" Bloomberg for the news organisation's coverage decision.

"Mini Mike Bloomberg has instructed his third rate news organisation not to investigate him or any Democrat, but to go after lies or other campaign chief John Micklethwait President Trump, only,

"The Failing New York Times thinks that is OK, because their hatred & bias is so great they can't even see straight. It's not OK!" he added in a swipe at the newspaper after its executive editor con-demned the Trump campaign's decision.

Michael Bloomberg's decision to seek the Democratic presidential nomination prompted the news agency, one of the world's biggest, to spell out guidelines last week on how it would handle any conflicts of interest.

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DELHI SPECIAL

NEW DELHI WEDNESDAY 4 DECEMBER 2019



SPORT | Cricket

Pollard sets tone with big knocks during practice



Team India clinch 27 medals on 2nd day at South Asian Games



Matinee

GUIDE TO FORTUNE

Tick the answer and check

The original name of this tech company was PC's Limited.

- Hewlett-Packard
- Dell ■ Microsoft
- 2 The first European chocolate shop opened in what city in 1657?
- London
- France Zurich
- What was the first antiparticle to be discovered?
- X-RayPositron
- Antineutrino

SHORT TAKES

6 arrested for robbing cabby

New Delhi: The Delhi police has arrested six people for allegedly robbing a taxi driver and the passenger travelling in his car in the highsecurity Chanakyapuri area, officials said. The incident occurred around 2:30 am on the intervening night of Sunday and Monday, they said. The taxi driver, Durgesh Sharma, 38, said that the six accused robbed him and the passenger, Mohit, of ₹4,500 and an iphone when they stopped at a CNG refuelling station near the Taj Palace on San Martin Marg. The robbers also beat up the driver and the passenger when they resisted. Based on the statement of the driver, police filed an FIR and scanned the CCTV footage from the area, which led to the arrest of the six persons, the officials said.

2-day summit on healthcare held

New Delhi: A two-day annual summit on "Reimagining Collaboration to Strengthen India's Healthcare Growth Trajectory", organised by the Healthcare Federation of India - NATHEALTH emphasized on how the corporate social responsibility (CSR) funds could be used to push the critical segments like preventive health, skilling and digital technologies. NATHEALTH chairman Sudarshan Ballal said that the government and the industry need to work together to realise the Prime Minister's vision of "Health for All." NATHEALTH vicechairperson Preetha Reddy said: "The healthcare sector needs more investments and we can set up a healthcare investment promotion

New in-charge of Youth Cong, NSUI

New Delhi: Delhi Congress president Subhash Chopra on Tuesday appointed Amit Malik as in-charge of party's frontal organisations, Youth Congress and NSUI, its student organisation. Delhi Congress's chief spokesperson Mukesh Sharma made the announcement that Mr Malik has been appointed with immediate effect to intensify the activities of the party ahead of forthcoming state Assembly polls. Mr Malik was also a former president of the Delhi Youth Congress and NSUI, He was also a former president and vice-president of the Delhi University Students Union (DUSU). In 2017, Mr Malik and former Delhi congress president Arvinder Singh Lovely joined BJP. In 2018, both return to their parent organi-

THE ANSWER TO TODAY'S GUIDE TO FORTUNE

■ Positron пориод Πell

BJP not to name CM before polls

Will decide after winning election, says party's city unit in-charge Shyam Jaju

SHASHI BHUSHAN NEW DELHI, DEC. 3

The BJP is not going to announce its chief minis-terial candidate for the coming Delhi Assembly elections. Confirming this, Bharatiya Janata Party vice-president Shyam Jaju told this newspaper that Prime Minister Narendra Modi would be the face of the party and it would nominate the chief minister after winning the elec-

Mr Jaju, who is also the in-charge of the party's city unit, said that Mr Modi is Bharatiya Janata Party's biggest leader and the party would seek votes in his name in the coming Assembly polls.



Shyam Jaju, who is also the in-charge of the Bharatiya Janata Party's city unit, said that PM Modi is party's biggest leader and it would seek votes in his name in the coming Assembly elections

"We are confident of winning the Delhi Assembly polls and the party central leadership will decide the best and capable leader for the post of the chief minister's office only after the polls," he added

Mr Jaju said that the failure of the Arvind Kejriwal government and

SHRI ANIL BA

ASIAN AGE

Prahladpur. Saleem iden-

tified the deceased only

as 'Master', a resident of

Dakshin Puri, police said. Saleem does not know

exact name and address

of the deceased as he met

him three months before.

The deceased used to

work with him as Munsi.

a senior police officer

A case under sections 336 (act endangering life

or personal safety of oth-

ers), 285 (negligent con-

duct with respect to fire

or combustible mat-ter)

and 304A (causing death

by negligence) of the Indian Penal Code has

been registered, the offi-

A fire officer, Dayaram,

was injured while trying

to control the blaze. He is

stable now, the officials

said.

cer said.

L-G Anil Baijal and CM Arvind Kejriwal at the convoca-

tion of Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University in

Charred body recovered from

Tughlagabad scrap godown

New Delhi, Dec. 3: The resident

Delhi's

village

New Delhi on Tuesday.

charred body of a 55-year-

old man was recovered

from a scrap godown in

where a fire took place

shortly after midnight,

Delhi Fire Service offi-

Fire department offi-

cials received a call

around 12.40 am on

Tuesday about a fire on

the first and second floor

of a thread and raw mate-

rials' godown in Churiya

Mohalla, Tughlaqabad

The fire then spread to a

scrap godown adjacent to

the three-storey building.

The charred body was

recovered after 39 fire

tenders brought the blaze

under control around 1

pm, a senior fire official

The scrap godown is owned by one Saleem, a

village, they said.

cials said on Tuesday.

Tughlagabad

work done by the BJP-led Central government for the national capital would definitely work in favour of the saffron party in the state polls.

"People want a performing government and they will elect BJP to dislodge a government which has done nothing to improve the lives of common citi-

structure and provide ownership rights of prop-erties to the people living in unauthorised in unauthorised colonies," he said.

Mr Jaju's statement came as a shocker for many Bharatiya Janata Party leaders in the national capital who were aspiring to be chief ministerial candidates.

The party's decision not to announce its chief ministerial candidate before the polls has surprised many within the

In the last three state polls, BJP had announced its chief ministerial can-

zens. On the other hand, the Modi government has done tremendous work to improve the city's infra-thank Vardhan, and former cop Kiran Bedi as its chief ministerial candidate in the 2008, 2013, and 2015 Delhi Assembly polls respectively.

A local veteran leader said that there was an impression among the party workers that BJP could name one of its leaders as its chief ministerial candidate.

The front runners for the post are BJP state unit head Manoj Tiwari, former local unit president Vijay Goel, Leader of Opposition in Delhi Assembly Vijender Assembly Vijender Gupta, and Union health minister Dr Harsh

didates. The saffron party

Security breach in Assembly 'hooliganism' by BJP: Goel

SUNIL THAPLIYAL NEW DELHI, DEC. 3

A group of protestors breached the security cordon and entered the Delhi Assembly premises on Tuesday, raising slogans against the AAP govern-ment on the issue of dirty water allegedly being supplied in city.

The protestors carrying placards managed to slip through the security cordon but were later forced out of the Assembly premises. Terming the incident as "hooliganism" by the BJP, Speaker Ram Niwas Goel alleged that Leader of Opposition Vijender Gupta was behind it.

As the House proceedings began on the second day of Winter Session, Mr Gupta asked for a discussion on the price rise of onions while trying to call-attention motion, which was turned down by the Speaker.

After rejecting motion moved by the Opposition leader, Goel told the House that an unfortunate incident took place when a group

House passes bill for new skill, entrepreneurship university

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, DEC. 3 In a bid to provide better

employment opportunities to the youth, the Delhi Assembly on Tuesday passed a bill to set up a skill and entrepreneurship university. However, the Opposition raised questions over the timing of the proposed bill as the city is headed for the polls in February 2020. On Monday, the House passed another bill to set up a sports university in the capital.

of 10-15 women staged a protest at the Assembly premises. The "hooliganism" was done by bringing women protestors inside the Assembly Assembly premises premises and the Opposition leader did it,

Mr Goel alleged in the

House. Following the accusaResponding to the opposition's accusations, chief minister Arvind Kejriwal said: "We are confident of coming back to power and we are only concerned about completing these works." The chief minister said that the Bill has received the clearance from Lieutenant-governor Anil Baijal as well.

Mr Kejriwal said the proposed university will

explore new possibilities of employment for the youth to meet the demands of markets.

tions, Mr Gupta reached near Speaker's chair and demanded discussion on the issue of dirty water allegedly being supplied in the city. Mr Goel asked Mr Gupta to go back to his seat. As Mr Gupta did not relent, Mr Goel ordered him to be marshalled out

of the House.

Couple kills 2 kids, jumps from 8th floor

Manager also jumps to death, rabbit found dead

AGE CORRESPONDENT GHAZIABAD, DEC. 3

A man, his wife and another woman allegedly jumped to their death from the eighth floor of their building after the couple killed their teenage son and daughter in Indirapuram on the outskirts of Delhi, police said on Tuesday. Businessman Gulshan

Vasudeva (45), his wife Praveen and manager Sanjana jumped to their death in the early hours of Tuesday from the eighth floor of their apartment block in Krishna Apra society in Indirapuram, police said. Before committing suicide, Gulshan killed his son Hritik (14) and daughter Hritika (18). He also killed his pet rabbit, city superintendent of police Maneesh Mishra said.
The police are probing

whether the children were strangled to death or some poisonous substance was injected into them. The police also found blood on the bed, which they suspect was that of the rabbit.

The cause of the children's death would be ascertained after the autopsy report, senior superintendent police Sudhir Kumar Singh said. The police suspect that a monetary dispute could be the reason behind the incident.

society guard heard a loud thud and spotted the three people lying on the ground. He immediately informed the police who found the bodies of the children

after entering the house. Gulshan, a jeans trader, Praveen and Sanjana

The police also found a message scrawled on a wall of the apartment, blaming his broth-er-in-law Rakesh Verma for putting him and his family under financial distress, which com-pelled him to com-mit suicide

were rushed to a nearby hospital where the doctors declared them brought dead. The police said that Sanjana had been living with the couple for the last six years.

The police also found a message scrawled on a wall of the apartment, blaming his brother-inlaw Rakesh Verma for putting him and his family under financial distress, which com-pelled him to commit

suicide, police said.

In the message,
Gulshan has stated that
all five of them must be
cremated at one place. It
also mentioned the whone numbers of Gulshan's father and phone brother. Some currency notes were also found pasted on the wall possibly to cover the expenditure of the cremation, police said. According to the police, Gulshan faced financial problems as Rakesh, a resident of Shalimar Sahibabad, Garden in had taken ₹2 crore from him to invest in real estate but failed to hand

over the property.
The police said whenever Gulshan asked him for the money, he would give cheques to him which would bounce.

Protest over high cost of learning spreads to IIMC for Urdu Journalism. we have tested other

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, DEC. 3

The protest against high cost of education has spread from Jawaharlal Nehru University to the neighbouring Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC), on Tuesday, where stu-dents agitated against the "unaffordable" fee structure, claiming that the IIMC administration has turned a "blind eye" to their issues. The students said that

their protest was against

the high tuition fee and "unruly" hostel and mess charges, considering IIMC is a publicly funded insti-

Astha Savyasachi, a student English Journalism at IIMC, said that ₹1,68,500 for a 10month course in addition to hostel and mess charges is unaffordable for poor and middle-class students. She added that students have to leave the course after the first semester owing to this.

The fee for a course in Radio and TV Journalism

▶ The students said that their protest was against the high tuition fee and 'unruly' hostel and mess charges, considering IIMC is a publicly funded institute

₹1,68,500; Advertising and PR it is ₹1,31,500; Hindi Journalism it is ₹95,500; ₹95,500 for English Journalism; and ₹55,500 Hostel and mess charges cost around Rs 6,500 for women and Rs 4,800 for men every month, the students said.

They also complained that not every student gets accommodation at the hos-

"For the past one week, we have been trying to seek redressal of our issues through dialogue. However, the administration has turned a blind eye to our issues saying it is beyond their ambit to alter the fee structure. Now that

resorts, protest is the only option," said Hrishikesh, a student of Radio and TV Journalism at IIMC. He said that affordable

education is a right of every student. "We cannot allow media institutes to be accessible

only to people who can afford to pay in lakhs. Education, after all, is a right and not a privilege,'

Meanwhile, JNU has been seeing a strike by students for over four weeks against hostel fee hike.

Cops ask DCW chief to vacate Jantar Mantar

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, DEC. 3

The Police on Tuesday requested Commission for Women chief Swati Maliwal to vacate the Jantar Mantar premises, citing a standing order that prohibits protests at the venue after

Ms Maliwal sat on a hunger strike at the venue to protest against the recent rape incidents in the country. She refused to listen to the police's request. The police said they are considering on providing Ms Maliwal an alternate venue for the

protest.
"We are telling them that there are certain guidelines for the protest at Jantar Mantar. The agitators are allowed to protest till 5 pm and we are urging



them to follow these guidesaid Mandeep Singh Randhawa, Delhi Police PRO and DCP (Central).

"If they need any alternative site for the protest, Ramleela including Ground, we are also considering that. We are urging them to cooperate with Delhi Police," he said.

Despite several requests from the police on public address system to end her protest for the day, Ms Maliwal and her support-

Ms Maliwal sat on a hunger strike at the venue to protest against the recent rape incidents in the country. She refused to listen to the police's request.

ers refused to budge. The DCW chief said: "Delhi Police is citing guidelines saying that one cannot organise a programme after 5 pm. Last year, on the 10th day of my fast unto death, a law was made that rapists of children be given death penalty within six months. That law is not being implemented. What guidelines are they talking about?"

Ms Maliwal said she will continue her strike till the time her demands are not

fulfilled. The DCW chief has also written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi demanding that rapists be hanged within six months of their conviction. "Delhi Police wants me stay in cold and there are no arrangements for even a microphone or tent. They are trying to trouble me and view me as a criminal. Whatever they want to do, they can. I do not want to fight with anyone. My hunger strike will continue at Jantar Mantar," she

added. Later, Mr Randhawa had a word with the DCW chief and she agreed to continue with her hunger strike at Rajghat, where arrangements were being made. According to the stand-

ing order, protests at Jantar Mantar can be organised between 10 am

Man lies in front of Rajanth's convoy for change in Aadhaar AGE CORRESPONDENT name in the Aadhaar card later taken to Parliament

NEW DELHI, DEC. 3

A 35-year-old man, suspected to be mentally unstable, lay down on the road near Parliament on Tuesday when defence minister Rajnath Singh's convoy was approaching, The man, a resident of

Kushinagar in Uttar Pradesh, claims to be a Bhojpuri singer, they said. When the convoy exiting Parliament complex, the man rushed towards the main road and lay down on the road at around 1.25 pm demanding that he be allowed to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi

as he wanted to get his

changed, police said.
"When defence minister

Rajnath Singh's convoy was exiting Parliament, the man, who was loitering at a lawn in Vijay Chowk, rushed towards the main road and lay down. Seeing the man from a distance, the driver applied the brakes," a

senior police officer said. The man was lying at least 50-60 metres away from the convoy when the vehicles stopped, he said. Meanwhile, the quick response team stationed Parliament outside swung into action and removed the man from

the road, he added. The man was detained for security breach and Street police station where he was jointly interrogated by police and intelligence officials and nothing incriminating was found. He was later let off, the officer said. The police said the man

had been staying in a hotel near the New Delhi railway station for the last four days and he often comes to Delhi and tries to meet political leaders. In another security breach on Monday, seven persons in a car allegedly

drove up to the porch of Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra's Lodhi Estate home, got off and walked up to her to ask for photographs.





We lacked a lot in the bowling department, we couldn't build any pressure & dismiss Australian batsmen.

— Misbah-ul-Haq, Pakistan head coach-cum-chief selector

SHORT



Jofra Archer **Kiwi police to**

probe racial abuse

Hamilton: New Zealand police were on Tuesday asked to investigate racial abuse directed at England cricketer Jofra Archer during last week's first Test, following information supplied by New Zealand Cricket officials. NZC chief executive David White said they lodged a complaint with police after studying CCTV footage, listening to audio, interviewing spectators and obtaining material on social media. Archer complained of being racially abused during the first Test against New Zealand in Mount Maunganui last week. In a message on social media he said it was "disturbing hearing racial insults today whilst battling to help save my team, the crowd was been amazing this week

except for that one guy." White said the information gathered by NZC did not conclusively identify the person responsible but there was enough evidence to bring the police into the investigation. — AFP

Young Pak bowlers

will improve: Wagar

Karachi: Pakistan's young pace attack might have failed to deliver in Australia but bowling coach Waqar Younis has backed the under-fire bowlers, saying with experience they will only

get better. Pakistan had picked three

young pacers for the Australia tour but the decision backfired as they allowed the hosts to amass huge runs in both the Test matches. With the young seamers failing to take wickets or stem the flow of runs, Pakistan suffered innings defeats in the two Tests at Brisbane and Adelaide Their poor show prompted former Australia skipper Ricky Ponting to lebel the bowling unit as the "worst attack" he has seen in a long time playing on their soil. Waqar admitted it was a disappointing performance.

"Yes I admit that we didn't get the sort of performances or results we wanted from them. But for teenagers you tend to be unable to maintain the line and length you need to bowl in test matches," Waqar said in podcast from the Pakistan

Cricket Board. The former Pakistan captain, however, insisted that the teenaged pacers like Naseem Shah, Musa Khan, Muhammad Hasnain and Shaheen Shah Afridi were all the future assets of Pakistan cricket. "I think once they play few matches more over a period of a year they will get better and Shaheen is a example of this."

GHAVRI NAMED SAURASHTRA RANJI COACH

Rajkot: Former India pacer Karsan Ghavri has been appointed as the coach for the Saurashtra Ranii team. Saurashtra Cricket Association secretary Himanshu Shah confirmed Ghavri's appointment. Yes, he (Ghavri) has joined (the team) as the head coach, Shah said. The 68-year-old Ghavri, a former left-arm speedster, has played 39 Tests and 19 ODIs, picking up 109 and 15 wickets respectively in the two formats. He was earlier a part of the Cricket Improvement Committee of the Mumbai Cricket Association. Saurashtra finished runners-up in the last Ranji season after

losing to Vidarbha in the final. "I take it as a challenge and I

am doing it after 10-11 years. It is a new beginning (for me),"

Ghavri, who is currently with

the team, said. - PTI

Bumrah's back

Pacer works with trainer rejected by CoA panel

New Delhi, Dec. 3: The much-talked about legacy that former India trainer Shankar Basu had supposedly created over the years around the Indian team and the National Cricket Academy (NCA) seems to have fallen flat once again.

Contrary to the general rule of injured Indian players undergoing rehab at the NCA, pace spear-head Jasprit Bumrah has been working on his strength and fitness under Delhi Capitals trainer Rajnikanth Sivagnanam.

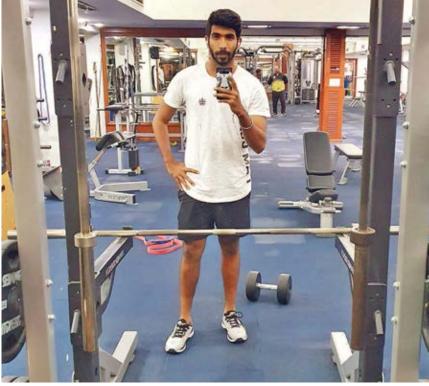
Interestingly, Rajnikanth is the same person who had been rejected for the position of Strength Conditioning Coach back in August and the job was handed to Nick Webb under Committee

Administrators (CoA). The panel for conducting practical exams consisted of the national selectors and Ranadeep Moitra owner of the Endorphins Gym in Kolkata. And they placed Webb and Luke Woodhouse Rajnikanth.

Speaking to IANS, a BCCI official not only questioned the turn of events, but also asked if the process followed in the appointment during the CoA regime needs a

"This is not a judgment on Nick in any way, but the process was hardfor Rajni than anyone had

from a member on the panel who surprised at the apparent hos-tility towards



Jasprit Bumrah during a gym session.

Rajni. He was asked to do things by the gym trainer on the panel that no one else was. What was curious was that the person on the panel had not worked at the level that Rajni had worked at. It would be interesting to know who placed him on the panel," he said.

Bumrah's importance in

well known and sources in the know of developments said that even the Indian team management didn't wish to take any chance with his recovery post the stress fracture on his back and that is

UK for consultation.

why he was sent to the

"Can't take a chance

the Indian set-up is pretty

with one of your best bowlers even though his body was on auto heal mode. So, he was sent to the UK for consultation. We have an important tour of New Zealand coming up in the new year and he will be an integral part of the planning there. So, the team management was very clear that they are happy to wait and have him back at his best in time for the New Zealand tour," the

source said. This isn't the first case of India players refusing to head to the NCA for rehab and trainer across the country believe that it is the result of having trainers who are picked on reasons other than

Twitter

THE ASIAN AGE

pure merit.
"You tell me something, who decided that NCA trainers have to be below 35? The last employment advertisement given by the BCCI for Strength & Conditioning Coach at the academy required the person to be below 35. So, who exactly are we trying to push and who are we trying to keep away? When national interest is at stake, why such a bizarre rule? We have been training domestic teams over the years and when we have reached a level of experience, we are told that the age is an issue," one of the trainers associated with a state

— Agencies

Ponting feels Australia's bowling attack better than India

Adelaide, Dec. Cricketing great Ricky Ponting Australias reckons bowling attack is better than the current Indian

Australians are better suited in different conditions and

them over the Indian bowling line-up.

"I am taking ours every day of the week," Ponting was quoted as saying by Cricket.com.au.

"India"s is fantastic; (Jasprit) Bumrah and (Mohd.) Shami have been

that is why he has to pick amazing for the last couple of years and then you put Umesh Yadav into the equation with Ishant Sharma, they've got some very good fast bowlers. And when you put R. Ashwin and Jadeja in there, their attack is very good.'

Dada wants India to play more D/N Tests

Kolkata, Dec. 3: With support from skipper Virat Kohli, BCCI president Sourav Ganguly wants the Indian cricket team to play a pink ball Test in every series.

India took to pink ball Tests after initial resistance on Ganguly"s insistence as Kohli and boys took on Bangladesh at the Eden Gardens last month. It was a gala affair as Eden witnessed sellout crowd although the match was as lopsided as it can get with the home team winning by a massive

"I am pretty upbeat about it," Ganguly told *The Week*.

"I feel this is the way forward. Not every Test, but at least one Test in a series.

Ganguly said he will share his experiences of hosting a pink ball Test at Eden with other associa-

"I will share my experiences with the board and we will try and implement it in other places. After this, everyone is ready. Nobody wants to play Test cricket in front of 5,000 people," the for-mer India captain said. — Agencies



experiences with the board and we will try and implement it in other places. After this, everyone is ready. Nobody wants to play Test cricket in front of 5,000 people.

GANGULY



Kieron Pollard during a training session in Hyderabad on

Pollard sets the tone in training

GANDHARV KAMALA

West Indies skipper Kieron Pollard set the tone with some powerful shots during their first practice session ahead of their first T20 against India at the Rajiv Gandhi Stadium

muscular and flaunting gold chains, the Windies cricketers were a chirpy bunch. Pollard led from the front. After every ball he faced — during his 40-odd minute stint in the nets — the allrounder had an opinion. He even had friendly banters with the bowlers and his batting partners. Unlike their previous

tour to India, West Indies have been in the country for over a month and are better equipped to tackle the sub-continent condi-

tions this time around. Earlier last month, Windies whitewashed Afghanistan in the ODI series (3-0), won the one-off Test, but lost the T20 series

The reigning World T20 champions are without their attacking opener Chris Gayle and leading allrounders Andre Russell and Dwayne Bravo. Gayle decided to take a break from all forms of cricket, while Russell, despite being fit, did not find a place in the team. Bravo, who had earlier hinted at an international comeback was not considered either.

The three-match series kicks off in Hyderabad on December 6, while the sec-T20 Thiruvananthapuram on December 8. The third T20 will be played in Mumbai on December 11.

Father's sacrifices helped Priyam fulfill his dreams

Lucknow, Dec. 3: Priyam from a small child with out means to buy cricket gear to becoming Indian team captain for Under-19 World Cup would not have been possible without the sacrifice of his father, who resorted to driving a school van to

fulfil his son's ambitions. The 19-year-old Priyam was on Monday named captain of the Indian under-19 team for the World Cup to be played in South Africa from January 17 to February 9. Hailing from village Quila Parikshitgarh, about 25km from Meerut, Priyam picked up the bat and ball at the tender age

father Naresh Garg drives a school van. I have one elder brother and three sisters. I am the youngest in the family. My father didn't have enough money to take care of such a big family and support my cricket career," Priyam said.

"But seeing my love and dedication for the sport, he borrowed some money from his friend and bought me a cricket kit and arranged for my coaching. I started playing cricket and due to my father's hard work today I'm captain of the under-19 team," he added.

Priyam suffered a personal setback when he lost his mother at the age of 11. His only regret now is that his mother can't see him play for the Indian team, which was her dream.

"My mother died in 2011 and it was her dream that I play cricket



Priyam Garg with Rahul Dravid.

for India and now that I'm the captain of the under-19 team she is not here to see it. I regret that the most." India is the most successful team in the tournament, having won four titles till date, including the last edition in 2018.

Priyam will now carry the same responsibility which was once on the shoulders of Mohammad Kaif (2000), the current India senior team skipper Virat Kohli (2008) and batsman Prithvi Shaw (2018).

Priyam 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. "I used to practice cricket for 7-8 hours a day while continuing my studies. Sanjay Rastogi, my coach in Meerut used to help me and because of that and my father's efforts I was selected in the Ranji team in 2018,' Priyam said.

A right handed toporder batsman, he scored 800-plus runs in his debut Ranji Trophy 2018-19 season for Uttar Pradesh, scored a century in his debut game against Goa. Like every other Indian cricketer, Privam too aspires to meet Sachin Tendulkar to take tips from the

Centuries from Kane Williamson and Ross **Kiwis win Spirit of Cricket award**

Ross New Taylor ensured Zealand drew the rain-hit England in Hamilton on Tuesday, sealing a 1-0 series win. New Zealand batted the

final day needing a sub-stantial innings to avoid defeat and were helped by sloppy England fielding. Williamson, who had three lives including a howler of a dropped

catch by Joe Denly, described it as a "good effort" to end up with a "A lot of hard work had to go into saving the

match when time didn't

allow us an opportunity to win it," he said. However, England captain Joe Root felt the Test was always heading for a draw, saying even if the weather and fielding had gone England's way "we still couldn't have forced a result.'

Heavy rain arrived soon after lunch to end play on the fifth day when New Zealand were 241 for two in their second innings, 140 ahead with Taylor on 105 and Williamson on

It ensured the spoils went to New Zealand after their innings victory in the first Test, and improved their record to eight wins, a draw and one loss to South Africa in their past 10 Test

for sportmansip in World Cup final

Kane, Taylor lead NZ to series win

Martin-Jenkins Spirit of Cricket award for its exemplary show of sportsmanship during the epic final of the ICC World Cup at Lord's in July, which it lost under controversial circum-

Kane Williamson and his men were robbed off the World Cup title fol-

Williamson brought up his 21st Test century with a four off Joe Root in the third over after lunch, while Taylor reached century number 19 with a flourish in Root's next over when he smacked a four and two sixes in con-

out

secutive balls. Two balls after Taylor had raised his bat and poked his tongue out in his signature celthe 🕖 ebration, rain arrived to

wash England's hopes. New Zealand resumed the day at 96 for England

Hamilton, Dec. 3: The New Zealand cricket team has been bestowed with the Christopher lower team has been bestowed with the Christopher lower team has been bestowed with the Christopher lower team has been bestowed to the super over and to the super over and eventually claim their maiden crown on bound-

ary count. The team was presented the award, the brain-child of the Marylebone Cricket Club and the British Broadcasting drawn second Test against England at Coddon Park. — PTI Corporation, during the

wickets but their plans went off track when Ollie Pope and then Denly spilled simple chances from Williamson. The New Zealand skip-

per was on 39 when wicketkeeper Pope put down a regulation offering off the gloves, much to Ben Stokes annoyance, and on 62 Denly inexplicably dropped an even easier **BRIEF SCORES**

New Zealand 375 and 241/2 (K. Williamson 104 not out, Taylor 105 not out) drew with England 476 (Root 226, Burns 101, Pope 75, Wagner 5/124).

Williamson gently chipped a slower delivery Jofra Archer straight to Denly at short midwicket and, as the bowler leapt in celebra-tion and Williamson made an apologetic gesture to Taylor, the ball popped out of Denly's hands. "It was a one-off goober," said Root.

There were comparisons drawn on social media to the widely regarded worst dropped catch in Test history when England's Mike Gatting put down a sitter off the gloves of India batsman Kiran More in



Games







I'll be disappointed if they are cheering enthusiastically for Tiger Woods.

— Adam Scott, International team's golfer, asking the fans to not cheers for Woods at the President's Cup

SHORT

TAKES

Austin wins it for West Brom

London: Charlie Austin's 90thminute penalty sent West Brom back to the Championship summit with a 1-0 win at Preston. Austin converted from the spot to secure the Baggies a fifth successive victory and move them back above Leeds. Slaven Bilic's side looked set to rue a number of missed opportunities in the first half as they struggled to break through a resilient Preston defence.

But Austin's spot-kick moves them two points clear of Leeds, while Preston slipped to a third successive defeat. "I'm an experienced cool head

and I know what I'm doing," Austin told said. "I had a look at the 'keeper and sent him the wrong way.

We've got great youngsters, we're top of the league and it's an exciting future for us," he The visitors were much the

better side in the first half and Bilic would have been frustrated his side failed to lead at the break. Preston were vastly improved in the second period and created a flurry of chances just after the hour mark while West Brom increasingly strug-

gled to break through a resilient Preston defence.

Spanish league president resigns

Madrid: Javier Tebas has announced that he will stand down as head of the Spanish football league (LFP) in a bid to win a third term as president in new elections.

"I have presented my resignation as president of La Liga in order to begin new presidential elections, in which I will be a candidate," Tebas said on Twitter. Tebas, 57, was first named president of the LFP, which runs Spain's two professional divisions, in 2013 before being re-elected three years later after resigning and ther standing unopposed. Elections to decide the new president were initially sched-

uled for October next year, but Tebas said in a letter to Spanish clubs that he had forced an early poll in order to "give the greatest level of stability" to the LFP. Tebas cites the bidding for TV rights for 2022-25, which will begin "between March and June 2021 ... Too close to the original election schedule". "Over the years, we have followed a genuine strategy for our TV rights, it's not simply a case of results on the day of the competition, we are working with this in mind, we are preparing the market," he added. — AFP

TYPHOON AT IT AGAIN, HITS **SEA GAMES**

Clark, Philippines: Powerful Typhoon Kammuri forced organisers of the Southeast Asian Games in the Philippines to reschedule about half of the events set for Tuesday, but they pledged the competition would

The storm, which made landfall late Monday, wrought particular havoc on water-based and outdoor events, causing approximately 16 of them to be postponed

finish on time.

However, roughly 17 other competitions - primarily indoor ones - were supposed to go ahead as planned, a statement

from the organisers said "It's not safe to play and we apologise," Ramon Suzara, the organising committee's chief operating officer, told a news conference, announcing the

rescheduling Kammuri brought high winds and heavy rains across the northern Philippines, but did not directly hit the region around the capital Manila which is home to the three main event hubs. The storm's potent gusts also forced officials to close Manila's international airport as a precaution.

Indians have a field day

Clinch 27 medals on day two, second at South Asian Games

Pokhara, Dec. 3: Indian men's and women's badminton team expectedly claimed gold medals after beating Sri Lanka in its respective finals at the 13th South Asian Games (SAG) here on Monday.

coach of Chinese football team Guangzhou

Evergrande after winning the league

The men's team, led by Kidambi Srikanth, defeated Sri Lanka 3-1 in the finals, while the women's side blanked the same opponents 3-0 in the summit clash to make it a double bonanza for India.

Srikanth started the proceedings for the men's, struggling past Dinuka Karunaratne 17-21, 21-15, 21-11 in the opening match. Siril Verma then gave India a 2-0 lead after his opponent Sachin Premashan retired with the scoreline reading 21-17, 11-5 in the Indian's favour.

Arun George and Sanyam Shukla, however, suffered a 18-21, 21-14, 11-21 loss to Sachin and B. Tharindu Goonathilake as Sri Lanka grabbed one point to make it 1-2.

Krishna Prasad Garanga and Dhruv Kapila then completed the win with a 21-14, 21-18 win over Karunaratne and Hasitha Chanaka in the second doubles match.

In the women's finals, Ashmita Chaliha, Ashmita Aakarshi Kashyap and Gopichand Gayatri claimed victories in the three singles to give India a 3-0 win against Sri Lanka.

Earlier in the day, the team mauled men's Pakistan 3-0 with doubles pair of Arun George and Sanyam Shukla, singles players Krishna Prasad Garanga and Siril Varma registering easy wins.

While Arun and Sanyam Raja Muhammad Hasnain and Atique Muhammad 21-12, 21-12, Siril thrashed Zahid Awais 21-7 21-7 and Krishna Prasad Garanga overcame Ali Murad 21-19, 21-18.

Up against the same opponents, the India women's team also blanked Pakistan 3-0 in the semifinals to enter the summit clash against Sri

While Sai Uttejitha Rao Chukka overcame Mahoor Shahzad 21-12, 21-18; Gopichand brushed aside Palwasha Bashir 21-14, 21-11 and doubles pairing of Meghna Jakkampudi and N. Sikki Reddy saw off Javeed Huma and Akram Sheera

21-14, 21-12. **PADDLERS CLAIM TEAM**

The Indian men's and women's table tennis teams claimed gold medals after defeating Nepal and Sri Lanka in its respective

India beat hosts Nepal 3-0 in the men's final, while women's counterparts defeated Sri Lanka by an identical 3-0 margin to win a gold each.

Santoo Shrestha gave some torrid moments to Anthony Amalraj before the Indian rallied to win 12-10, 14-16, 11-5, 11-8 to put his team in the lead.

Soumyajit Ghosh then accounted for Shiva Sunder Gothe 11-3, 11-2, 12-10 and Harmeet Desai finished it off in style with a 11-4, 11-4, 11-8 win over Borja-Purushottam



Five-star champs blank Maldives

Pokhara, Dec. 3: Bala Devi grabbed a brace as the Indian women's football team mauled Maldives 5-0 in their opening game of the 13th South Asian Games here on Tuesday.

Apart from Bala, Dangmei Grace, Manisha and Jabamani Tudu — all scored a goal apiece to hand India three points at

the Pokhara Stadium here. It only took five minutes for the Maymol Rockycoached side to take the lead through Grace, who rifled in a shot from the

right flank. Bala, who returned last week from a trial with Scottish club Rangers WFC, scored two goals in quick succession to put India in a commanding

In the 25th minute, she latched on to a pass from Jabamani from the left flank to score. Eight minutes later, she was on the end of a cross from substitute Manisha — making no mistake with the finish.

The defending champions then scored two more goals in two minutes in the closing moments of the

Bala Devi netted a brace while Dangmei Grace, Manisha and Jabamani Tudu — all scored a goal apiece to hand India three points.



Bala Devi (in blue) vies for the ball during their match against Maldives at the South Asian Games in Pokhara on Tuesday. India won 5-0.

Mehuli Ghosh

claimed gold with a

Shriyanka Sadangi

and Shreya Agrawal

bronze in women's

(250.8) took silver

(227.2) clinched

10m air rifle.

score of 253.3 while

MEHULI LEADS SHOOTING MEDAL

Kathmandu, Dec. 3: Indian shooters bagged nine medals, including four golds in the 13th South Asian Games here on Tuesday, with Mehuli Ghosh finishing on top of podium with a score better than the world record.

The 19-year-old Mehuli clinched the gold with a score of 253.3 in the final, which is 0.4 more than the current world record of 252.9 which is in the name of another Indian, Apurvu Shriyanka Sadangi took

the silver with a score of 250.8, while Shreya Agrawal (227.2) clinched the bronze in a 1-2-3 podi-

India also won the team gold in the 10m air rifle

In the men's 50m 3P Chain event, clinched the gold medal with compatriot Akhil Sheoran winning the sil-

Singh Yogesh Gurpreet Singh won the gold and silver medal in the 25m center fire pistol event respectively. India also won a silver medal in the 25m center fire pistol team event.

Pressure is on Joshua, says Ruiz

Riyadh, Dec. 3: Heavyweight champion Andy Ruiz Jr. said on Monday that all the pressure will be on dethroned champion Anthony Joshua in their con-tentious showdown in Saudi Arabia.

Ruiz, who was born in the United States but fights as a Mexican, caused one of boxing's biggest upsets in New York in June when he handed Joshua a first defeat to win the WBA, IBF and WBO crowns in New York.

The pair will fight the rematch on Saturday in Diriyah, close to the Saudi capital Riyadh, in a hotly-anticipated contest dubbed "Clash on the Dunes"

"We've got to see where he's at because all the pressure is on him. The pressure isn't on me because I followed my dream, made my dreams come true," Ruiz said in

"Of course I want more though — I want the legacy of Andy Ruiz Jr.," he added.

Meanwhile, Joshua said he was "comfortable" and "very relaxed" ahead of the rematch.

"I am just going to win. I know I can do it.I was this close last time, so next time I won't mess up, Joshua said.

Saturday's bout is mired in controversy. The Saudis have faced intense diplomatic fallout over last year's murder of dissident journalist Jamal Khashoggi in the conservative kingdom's consulate in Istanbul. — AFP

We've got to see where he's at because all the pressure is on him. The pressure isn't on me because I followed my dream, made my

dreams come true. - ANDY RUIZ JR. Heavyweight champion on his bout against



Mandeep wins on comeback

Greater Noida, Dec. 3 Mandeep Jangra marked his return to the ring with a hard-fought split decision win over Dinesh Dagar to help North East Rhinos hold Bengaluru Brawlers to a 1-1 draw at the Big Bout Indian Boxing League here on Tuesday.

The Brawlers' 91kg Reyal Puri left Uzbek boxer Ergashev Timor with a bloodied nose in the second round. That result did put pres-

sure on the 2013 Asian Championship finalist Mandeep when he stepped into the ring against the taller and younger Dinesh in the

Milwaukee rout hapless Knicks

Los Angeles Dec. 3: Giannis Antetokounmpo scored 29 points as the Bucks Milwaukee stretched their winning streak to 12 games on Monday with a 132-88 demolition of the hapless New York Knicks.

The Eastern Conference leaders showed no mercy to the worst side in the division, outscoring the Knicks by 33-15 in the first quarter and showing no let-up through a one-

Antetokounmpo was on court for just 21 minutes, adding 15 rebounds and shooting 10-of-14 while leading the scoring.

The Greek star was Middleton with 16 points

Giannis Antetokounmpo scored 29 points as the Milwaukee Bucks stretched their winning streak to 12 games with a 132-88 demolition of New York Knicks.

and D.J. Wilson, who added 19 off the bench. fewer than six Milwaukee players finished in double digits, including Antetoko-unmpo's elder brother Thanasis who chipped in with 10 points from his 12 minutes on the court.

The win saw the Bucks improve to 18-3 at the top the Eastern Conference, while the Knicks remained rooted to the bottom of the standings with just four wins against 17 defeats.

Antetokounmpo mean-while said Milwaukee were not thinking about their winning streak but rather looking ahead to their next game.

Knicks coach David Fizdale admitted his team had been bracing for an onslaught from the tip-off. The Bucks are two games clear of second-

placed Toronto, who stand at 15-4, just ahead of the Miami Heat and Boston Celtics (14-5). The Philadelphia 76ers meanwhile remained in

the hunt on Monday, claiming a 103-94 win over the Utah Jazz. Tobias Harris led the

scoring for the Sixers with 26 points, while Joel Embiid added 16 points and 11 rebounds in what had threatened to become a rout at Philadelphia's Wells Fargo Center.

The Sixers had surged into a 60-42 lead at halftime and looked to be in control until a sustained Utah fightback.

The Jazz had trailed by 19 points after three quarters and managed to claw back the deficit to seven points with one minute remaining before the Sixers steadied the ship for the win.

Spieth in Hero Shot GOLF CHALLENGE

Golf legend Tiger Woods defeated fellow American Jordan Spieth to win the inaugural Hero Shot event, an ideal warm-up ahead of the high-profile Hero World Challenge here.

Woods defeated Spieth in the championship round by a score of 1,800-900 on Monday.

The 43-year-old defeated a star-studded field featuring Spieth, DeChambeau, Jon Rahm, Henrik Stenson and Gary

The players took their best shots at a bulls eye 130 yards away, hitting shots

over reflections pool at Baha Mar. The first round of the Hero Shot featured three

1,500m

Athletes

triumph

Kathmandu, Dec. 3:

ued their fine snow at

the 13th South Asian

Games by adding four

medals, including a gold

in men's 1500m race at

the Dasarath Stadium

The Indians bagged

the gold and silver in

the men's the 1500m besides winning the sil-ver and bronze in the

Ajay Kumar Saro won

the gold in men's 1500m

with a timing of 3.54.18

seconds while Ajeet

Kumar clinched the sil-

ver by clocking 3.57.18s.

The bronze went to Tanka Karki (3.50.20s) of

Earlier in the day.

India's Chanda (4.34.51s)

clinched the silver

medal in the women's

1500m event while com-

patriot Chitra Palakeez

(4.35.46s) settled for the bronze. The gold in this

event was bagged by

The Indians have so

far accumulated 21

medals, including six gold, 11 silver and four

Woods gets better of

Uda Kuburalage.

bronze.

Nepal.

women's 1500m event.

here on Tuesday.

head-to-head match-ups -Rahm vs Stenson, Woodland vs Spieth and Rahm DeChambeau vs Woods with each player taking six

shots at the target. Stenson advanced by a score of 1,200-1100, while Spieth won his match-up by a playoff score of 200-100, Woods earned a 900-700 vic-

In the second round, Stenson, Spieth and Woods

with the highest two second round scores advancing to the championship. Spieth and Woods moved on, posting scores of 900 each while Stenson was eliminated after posting a score of 800.

In the championship round, Spieth took on Woods with each taking final six shots at the target. Woods won in walk-off fashion as the two were tied going into the final shot. Woods called game, hitting

bulls eye and earned 1,000 points in the process.

Challenge begins here from Wednesday.

Ole Gunnar Solskjaer does not fear for his future as Manchester United manager despite a spate of Premier League sackings



Unfortunately there are a couple of players like him (Messi) who are a bit unnatural. Six times Ballon d'Or — you need to respect greatness as well

— Virgil van Dijk, Liverpool defender

SHORT

TAKES

Chandigarh, Punjab boxers dominate

Kannur, Kerala: Boxers from

Chandigarh and Punjab dominated the proceedings on the second day of 4th Elite Women's National Boxing Championships here on Tuesday. The day began with a fiery

encounter between last year's bronze medallists K.H. Shamim Banu from Manipur and Chandigarh's Savita in the 54kg bantam weight category. Savita landed a flurry of punches in the dying seconds to outclass the Banu in a 3-2 split verdict to win the bout.

Last year's silver medallist Nupur (75kg) from Haryana began her campaign with an easy 5-0 win over Rajasthan's Shweta. In the 64 kg category, Chandigarh's Neema showed superb form and fitness to notch up a win against Sarmila Rai of Sikkim. Monika (51kg), Ritu (57 kg), Manju (60 kg) were other boxers to win from Chandigarh. Punjab's Mandeep Kaur Sandhu blanked Uttar

Pradesh's Shilpa Baliyan 5-0 in the featherweight category.

East Bengal up for Kashmir test

Kalyani, West Bengal: Last edition runners-up side East Bengal will begin their I-League campaign against Real Kashmir Football Club here on Wednesday.

A title eluded East Bengal last season as, in spite of defeating Gokulam Kerala 2-1 on the last day of competitions, they fell one point shy of eventual champions Chennai City FC. Under the guidance of head coach Alejandro Menendez, the

red-and-gold brigade drew with Real Kashmir at home and scored a victory in Srinagar last season and this will give them a psychological advantage before

they start their season. The Kalyani Municipality Stadium will serve as the home venue of both East Bengal and Mohun Bagan except for the two derby matches.

"Speaking before the match, Menendez said, "Real Kashmir are a very solid and strong side. their defence is very compact. We are very well aware that they are a very competitive outfit. The onus now lies on us, we need to be really accurate and sharp whenever we have the chance to attack " - PTI

EVERTON DRAW LIVERPOOL IN FA CUP ROUND 3

London: Liverpool will face local rivals Everton in the FA Cup third round while nonleague side AFC Fylde will travel to Premier League outfit Sheffield United after Monday's

Jurgen Klopp's league leaders will have home advantage in the Merseyside derby. Ties will take place between January 3 and January 6.

Everton, who face Liverpool on Wednesday in the league, have not won at Anfield for 20 years. The third round is the stage at which clubs from the Premier League and the Championship enter the FA Cup.

Holders Manchester City landed a home tie against fourth-tier Port Vale, while Manchester United will visit Wolves, the club that knocked them out of last season's competition at the

quarter-final stage. Fylde, from the fifth level, will mark their first third-round appearance with a trip to Sheffield while fellow nonleague side North Boston will host Newcastle if they beat Rochdale in a second-round replay. Arsenal, FA Cup winners on a record 13 occasions, face a potentially testing encounter at home to Championship high-

flvers Leeds. Leicester, second in the Premier League, entertain Wigan, with Frank Lampard's Chelsea welcoming Nottingham Forest to Stamford Bridge. — AFP



THE ASIAN AGE

Paris, Dec. 3: Lionel Messi said he hoped to carry on undimmed by age after claiming a record sixth men's *Ballon d'Or* award at the age of 32 in Paris on Monday, while USA World Cup superstar Megan Rapinoe took the women's Rapinoe was not at the Chatelet Theatre in the

French capital, unable to make the trip back to the country where she led the USA to victory in July. However, Messi was there with his wife,

Antonella Roccuzzo, and two of their children. It is Messi's first Ballon d'Or since 2015 and his sixth overall as he moves one ahead of old rival Cristiano Ronaldo. "It is 10 years since I won

my first Ballon d'Or here in Paris and I remember coming here with my three brothers, I was 22 and it was all unthinkable for me what I was going through," Messi said on stage after receiving the award from last year's winner Luka Modric.

"I hope I have several years left to keep enjoying my football. I am aware of the age I have and these moments are all the more enjoyable because the moment when I have to retire is getting closer and that is difficult.

"All going well I'll have several years left but at the moment time seems to be lving and everything is happening very quickly.

hope to keep enjoying my football, my family, facing my rivals and all of this life that I have."



A video of Reign FC's US midfielder Megan Rapinoe is displayed after she won the Ballon d'r France Football 2019 women's trophy in Paris on Monday. Above: Argentinian forward Lionel Messi reacts after winning the Ballon d'Or.

VAN DIJK COMES SECOND

The Barcelona number 10 won this year's prize organised by France Football magazine and voted for by a panel of journalists from around the world — ahead of Liverpool defender Virgil van Dijk, with Ronaldo

It is the first time since 2010 that Ronaldo has failed to rank in the top

Having starred in the Liverpool team that won the Champions League, Van Dijk finished second to Messi just as he did in the voting for Fifa's equiv-

alent prize, The Best, in September.
"Unfortunately there are

a couple of players like him who are a bit unnatural. Six times Ballon d'Or — you need to respect greatness as well," said Van Diik.

Van Dijk was one of four Liverpool players in the top 10, with Sadio Mane fourth, Mohamed Salah fifth and goalkeeper Alisson seventh.

The latter won a new prize for the goalkeeper of the year, named after for-USSR icon Lev

Yashin. Messi has scored 46 goals

in 54 matches so far in

2019, and netted 36 times in total in 34 La Liga matches last season as

Barcelona won the title. He did not enjoy a successful Copa America with Argentina but was also the top scorer in last season's Champions League with 12 goals.

As if any reminder of his brilliance were required, on Sunday he scored a wonderful late winner for Barcelona against Atletico Madrid.

'INCREDIBLE YEAR'

FOR RAPINOE This is just the second year that a women's *Ballon* d'Or — voted for by 48

journalists - has been awarded, with Rapinoe succeeding Norway's Ada Hegerberg.

Rapinoe was the star of the Women's World Cup on, and off, the field, winning the Golden Boot for top scorer, with six goals, and Golden Ball for best player.
She scored the opening

goal as the USA beat the Netherlands 2-0 in the

But the 34-year-old femi-nist icon made headlines with her outspoken criticism of US President Donald Trump during the tournament and has led calls for her team to be paid the same as their male counterparts.

"It's been an incredible year," said Rapinoe in a recorded video message.

"I want to say a huge thank you to my team-mates, the coaches, the US Soccer Federation, for all of the support to allow me to be who I am and do what I do on the field but also be the person who I am off the field."

Rapinoe was one of four members of the US side that lifted the World Cup to be nominated for the prize, along with Tobin Heath, Rose Lavelle and Alex Morgan, who finished on England's Lucy Bronze

came second. Dutch defender Matthijs de Ligt, the ex-Ajax star now at Juventus, succeeded Kylian Mbappe as the Trophy for the best player aged under 21.

d'Or here in Paris and I remember coming here with my three brothers, I was 22 and it was all unthinkable for me what I was going through Lionel Messi

It is 10 years

first Ballon

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say a huge thank you to my team-mates, the coaches, the US Soccer Federation, for all of the support to allow me to be who I am and do what I do on the field but also be the person who I am off the field

I want to

- Megan Repinoe

WINNERS AND OTHER TOP **FINISHERS**

Men's

Lionel Messi (ARG/Barcelona) 2. Virgil van Dijk

(NED/Liverpool)

3. Cristiano Ronaldo (POR/Juventus)

1. Sadio Mane

(SEN/Liverpool) 5. Mohamed Salah

(EGY/Liverpool)

6. Kylian Mbappe (FRA/PSG)

Alisson Becker

(BRA/Liverpool) 8. Robert Lewandowski

(POL/Bayern Munich) 9. Bernardo Silva (POR/Manchester City) 10. Riyad Mahrez

(ALG/Manchester City)

Women's

1. Megan Rapinoe (USA/Reign FC) 2. Lucy Bronze (ENG/Lyon) 3. Alex Morgan

(USA/Orlando Pride) 4. Ada Hegerberg

(NOR/Lyon) 5. Viviane Miedema

(NED/Arsenal) Wendie Renard (FRA/Lyon) 7. Sam Kerr (AUS/Chicago

Red Stars) 8. Rose Lavelle (USA/Washington Spirit)

9. Ellen White (ENG/Manchester City) 10. Dzsenifer Marozsar (GER/Lyon)

Kopa Trophy

(Best player under 21 on December 31) 1. Matthijs de Ligt (NED/Aiax Amsterdam then Juventus) 2. Jadon Sancho (ENG/Borussia Dortmund) 3. Joao Felix (POR/Benfica then Atletico Madrid)

Yashin Trophy

(Best goalkeeper, presented for the first time) Alisson Becker (BRA/Liverpool) 2. Marc-Andre ter Stegen (GER/FC Barcelona) (BRA/Manchester City)

Ballon d'Or showing can spur Liverpool: Van Dijk

Paris, Dec. 3: Virgil van Dijk said that seeing four Liverpool players finish in the top 10 in the ranking for this year's Ballon d'Or can be an extra source of motivation for the Anfield club in their quest for more on-

"Obviously the season we had was outstanding. We had even more players than that on the total shortlist so everyone can be proud of the achievement," said Van Dijk after coming second behind Lionel Messi at the awards ceremony in Paris on Monday.

Sadio Mane finished fourth, Mohamed Salah was fifth, and goalkeeper Alisson Becker came seventh in the voting by journalists from around the world for the prize organised by France Football magazine.

Man Utd 'a closed chapter' for Mourinho

London, Dec. 3: Mourinho says his time at Manchester United is closed chapter" and he is only interested in beating them when he takes his inform side to Old Trafford on Wednesday. It is the new Tottenham

manager's first return to the touchline at United's home ground since his sacking by the club last December. "This is a closed chapter for me," said Mourinho, who

has won all three of his matches in charge of Spurs. 'I left the club, I took my time to process everything that happened, I took my time to prepare myself for the next challenge. 'Honestly, United for me is

in my book of experiences, it's in my history book." United are struggling under Mourinho's successor, Ole Gunnar Solskjaer, but go into the game just two

points behind fifth-placed

'It is not for me to analyse United now," Mourinho said at his pre-match press con-

Live on TV

PREMIER LEAGUE

Chelsea vs Aston Villa from 1 am (Thursday) on Star Sports 3

Man United vs Tottenham from 1 am (Thursday) on Star Sports Select 1, HD **Liverpool vs Everton**

from 1.45 am (Thursday) on Star Sports Select 2 ference. "I analyse them as

an opponent, how they play. How can we beat them? How can they beat us? For me that is the important thing." Mourinho is excited about the prospect of returning to

Old Trafford. He said: "I feel good, I like to play big matches, I like to play against the best teams and go back to a place where I was happy. "I have a great relationship with the Manchester United

supporters. I went back as a

pundit and I was humbled

CHELSEA FACE ASTON VILLA Frank Lampard expects to find out "very soon" find out soon" whether Chelsea will be free to make any January sign-

expect them to forget me."

the coach of the team that

will try and beat Manchester

to learn the outcome of their FIFA transfer ban appeal. Chelsea's appeal to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) was heard last month, with the Blues contesting FIFA's two-window ban relating to the recruit-

ings, with the club waiting

ment of minors. When asked when he expects to discover the result of that appeal, Lampard replied: "Very soon I believe. Days, I think. "I haven't heard any more,

so I would wait and reserve

judgement (on Chelsea's by such a beautiful recepplans for January) until we tion. Tomorrow I go back as get the judgement and see where we want to go from

"I understand that what Fourth-placed Chelsea will they want is the exact opposite of what I want. Of give Tammy Abraham "every possible chance" to give face Aston Villa on Wednesday as the England course during the match I face striker recovers from a hip

Lampard admitted the 22year-old, who has scored 10 Premier League goals this season, is still battling pain from the problem he picked up in the Champions League draw at

Valencia. 'We're giving him every possible chance to be fit," said the Chelsea boss, whose side have lost their past two league matches after a fine run.



ODISHA FC LOOK TO END WINLESS RUN Pune, Dec. 3: Odisha FC would look to break their

ISL | 6

string of draws with a victory when they host defending champions Bengaluru FC here on Wednesday.

Josep Gombau's side come into this tie after playing out three successive draws, two goal-less results against ATK and Kerala Blasters, followed by a 2-2 draw away to Chennaiyin FC.

The pattern of play in all these matches have been similar. They dominated the ball with slick movement and passing, but failed to take their chances and convert their dominance into results.

As Gombau seeks to deliver results, he faces a tough challenge in Bengaluru FC. The Blues are undefeated in the league so far and boast a water-tight defence which has conceded only two goals in six matches.

"It is a beautiful game against Bengaluru, who are one of the strongest sides and the current champions of the ISL. I think it will be an interesting game because both teams play similar football. I am happy with the way we are preparing well for this game and the mentality of the team, said Gombau.

Odisha will bank on Aridane Santana, who has scored four goals so far, to help breach the Bengaluru backline.

LIVERPOOL BELIEF IS SKY-HIGH, **SAYS OX**

London, Dec. 3: Liverpool maintaining their winning the midfielder Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain says the Premier League leaders are going into every game believing they can win after racking up 13 victories in 14

Jurgen Klopp's unbeaten side have dropped just two points this season and established an eight-point advantage over second-But even the pressure of

run, which appears to grow with every game for a club searching for their first league title since 1990, has not affected the mentality within the club, according to Oxlade-Chamberlain.

with the mindset that we're going to win. I think that's how we all feel," the England international told the PA news agency.

'I'm going into it (a game) Liverpool's next match is

at home to struggling Everton on Wednesday, with the Reds unbeaten against their local rivals at Anfield since 1999. But Klopp's side have not kept a clean sheet at home all season and are without suspended firstchoice goalkeeper Alisson Becker.

