

THE ASIAN AGE

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WINDOWS



US actress Julia Roberts poses on the red carpet upon arrival at The Fashion Awards 2019 in London on Monday. — AFP

9 held in J&K for attacking forces, threat to traders

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir police on Tuesday claimed arresting five persons involved in hurling Molotov cocktails at security forces vehicles and threatening traders and local residents of central Srinagar to force shut-downs. Separately, four persons were arrested in north-western town of Baramulla for allegedly being responsible for acts of arson. **Full report on Page 4**

'Suicide-murder' at Ghaziabad flat?

Ghaziabad: 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 Indrapuram on the outskirts of Delhi, the police said on Tuesday. **Full report on Page 13**

UP Raj Bhavan gets threat letter

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. The letter threatened to blow up the Raj Bhavan with dynamite.

COUNTERPOINT



At last they arranged 'Z' category security!

WEATHER

Max: 24°C
Min: 9°C
RH: 49%
Rainfall: Nil

Forecast: Mainly clear sky

ASTROGUIDE

Vikari: Dakshinayana
Tithi: Margasira Shuddha Ashtami till 1.44 am (Thursday)
Star: Shatabhisham till 5.09 pm
Varjyam: 12.20 am to 2.08 am
Durmuhurtam: 11.43 am to 12.28 pm
Rahukalam: 12 pm to 1.30 pm
SUNSET TODAY 5.24 PM
SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.58 AM
MOONRISE TOMORROW 12.57 PM
MOONSET TODAY 11.37 AM

Amid tussle on Gandhis, SPG Bill gets RS approval

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, DEC. 3

The Rajya Sabha on Tuesday passed a bill to amend the law governing the elite Special Protection Group. The bill had already been passed by the Lok Sabha last week. The passage of the amendments to the SPG 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 vendetta.

Home minister Amit Shah, rejecting the Opposition's claim, said the government was concerned about security 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 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
RANCHI, DEC. 3

The economic slowdown could possibly emerge as the major threat for the 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 experiment of playing



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Jharkhand chief minister Raghubar Das waves at supporters during an election rally in Jamshedpur on Tuesday. — PTI

the nationalist and Hinduva card in Maharashtra did now work too well for the party, the BJP in Jharkhand remains confident of "returning to power". Despite this confidence, however the going could **Turn to Page 4**

Pawar: I knew Ajit, Fadnavis were in talks Uddhav: Bullet train still on, only Aarey shed axed

AGE CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI, DEC. 3

Maharashtra chief minister 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 suburban Goregaon. The CM had called a meeting of top state offi-



Uddhav Thackeray

cial at Mantralaya here on Tuesday to discuss development projects. The meeting assumed significance in the light of reports that the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) gov-

ernment had decided to review the bullet train, a pet project of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Speaking to reporters 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 implementation of other projects that we want to **Turn to Page 4**

2 killed in Pak firing near LoC, 7 injured

YUSUF JAMEEL
SRINAGAR, DEC. 3

Two civilians, including a woman, were killed and seven others injured, a few of them seriously, when Pakistani troops pounded civilian areas and forward Indian military posts along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and 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 Shoaib 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**

Cabinet may clear CAB tomorrow

High drama as N-E groups meet Shah; bill likely in Lok Sabha on Dec. 10

ANIMESH SINGH
NEW DELHI, DEC. 3

While the whole of the Northeast is up in arms over the proposed Citizenship Amendment Bill (CAB), the Centre, which was keen to bring the contentious law for clearance at the Union Cabinet meeting scheduled Wednesday, may now hold another meeting

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 ministers of all northeastern states and other civil rights groups, which had begun on Tuesday evening, and is likely to continue till the early 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 threatened to stall the bill if there is no unanimity on its contentious aspects, sources said. Highly placed sources said the Centre may introduce the bill in the Lok Sabha on

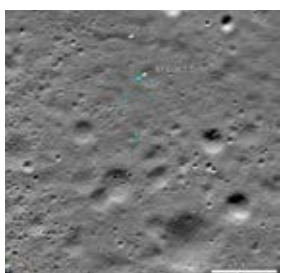
December 10. The government was earlier planning to bring the bill in the Rajya Sabha.

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.
CHENNAI, DEC. 3

Chennai techie Shanmuga Subramanian helped Nasa to identify the crash site of the Vikram lander of Chandrayaan-2 on the lunar surface just when the space science community was getting desperate over not being able to decipher the disappearance of the lander on September 7 when it was supposed to do a soft touchdown on the moon. The 33-year-old engineer posted on Twitter that Nasa has credited him with finding the Vikram debris on the lunar surface as his conclusions from Nasa images helped the US space agency to spot the exact location of the lander that reportedly 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. Chennai-based techie Shanmuga Subramanian (right).

images "pixel by pixel" to identify a single bright pixel from its mosaic taken on 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 Isro. "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 a stream of media **Turn to Page 4**

I will stay out of the UK election: US Prez Trump clash with Macron overshadows Nato summit

London, Dec. 3: US 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 build-up 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 should focus more on



US President Donald Trump and France's President Emmanuel Macron shake hands during their meeting in London on Tuesday. — PTI

Islamist terrorists and on re-opening a strategic dialogue with Russia, branding it a "very, very nasty statement". "Nobody needs Nato more than France," he warned. Mr Trump also 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. — AFP

UN: 2010s hottest decade in history

Madrid, Dec. 3: This decade is set to be the hottest in history, the United Nations said Tuesday in an annual assessment outlining the ways in which climate change is outpacing humanity's ability to adapt to it. The World Meteorological Organisation 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 years ever recorded. Emissions from burning fossil fuels, building infrastructure and transporting goods mean 2019 is set to break the record for atmospheric carbon concentrations, locking in further warming, the WMO said. — AFP **More on Page 11**

Row as Jamiat 'sacks' Dhavan as its lawyer

Jamiat. The day started with Rajeev D h a v a n describing as "malicious 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**

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.



50 YEARS AGO IN

DECCAN 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 situation 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 State."

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.

Operation Talwar: How the Navy silently contributed to Kargil win



Cmde Srikant Kesnur & Cdr Digvijaysinh Sodha focus

■ **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**

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 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 *A Prime Minister to Remember — Memories of a Military Chief*, Admiral Sushil Kumar, the Navy chief at that time, recollected 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 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 blackmail.

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.

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 readiness 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 Indian Armed Forces. 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 tandem 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 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, one may affirm that the Navy's role in the Kargil war was silent, understated but significant. As Sushil Kumar states, "the overwhelming 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 Minister 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 book *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.

ODDLY ENOUGH

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 Acebucho, 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

TODAY, DECEMBER 4, IS NAVY DAY

Hiranandani, a naval historian, writing about the war in his book *Transition to Guardianship* states that Pakistan naval headquarters directed their ships 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 remain in harbour".

The escort operations revealed that blockade of Karachi and interruption of oil supply from the Persian Gulf were 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-

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...**

Under the able and visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the government is 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 pro-

fessionals and entrepreneurs are reaping the benefits of 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 \$5 trillion 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 start-ups being recognised 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 focus.

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



Endorsement

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 (predecessors) were unable to prevent the spread of Islamic extremism

—Gotabaya Rajapaksa
Sri Lankan President

2019 in top three hottest years on record, UN says

Climate change outpaces humanity's ability to adapt to it Extreme weather unhealthy

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 Meteorological Organisation said global temperatures so far this year were 1.1 degrees Celsius above the pre-industrial 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 WMO said.

Oceans, which absorb 90 per cent of the excess heat produced by greenhouse

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 Organisation (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 heat-trapping carbon emissions saying it could save a million lives a year

through lower air pollution alone.

"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-

mate action goes to the health sector, she said, calling it 'absolutely outrageous'.

Global temperatures could rise sharply this century with "wide-ranging and destructive" consequences after greenhouse gas emissions hit record levels last year, international climate experts warned last week.

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

CHRISTMAS FEAST



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

IN BRIEF

Dutch police arrest rape gang

The Hague: Police have arrested eight men suspected of being part of a sex ring who dragged underage 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 Najib 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 IMDB 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 IMDB 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 sustained 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 extent of the damage."

LAM: U.S. LAW WILL HURT HONG KONG

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 legislation," Lam said, but did not specify what additional measures would be taken to boost economic activity. — AFP

Sikh woman enters Pak sans visa to meet FB pal

Lahore, Dec. 3: In a film-style act, an Indian Sikh woman visiting the Gurdwara Darbar Sahib 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 permit.

Indian pilgrims can visit the 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," a senior 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 area.

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

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 references.

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 Accountability Bureau (NAB) and Accountability Court No. 2 have 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 differently-abled 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



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

The PPP co-chairperson's medical reports were submitted along with the application to the IHC. Zardari, who has been detained on charges of money laundering through fake bank 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 members.

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

security officials detained the man along with his two friends, including a woman. — PTI

NAB freezes Sharif assets

AGE CORRESPONDENT ISLAMABAD, DEC. 3

Pakistan's National Accountability Bureau (NAB) has tightened the noose around Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz) President Shehbaz Sharif, and further froze his family assets on Tuesday.

Shehbaz Sharif will not be able benefit from his family's assets which are

allegedly based on TT (telegraphic transfer).

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 Durrani — one of the wives of Shehbaz Sharif.

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 belonging to other political parties including PPP.

U.S. PROPOSES FACE SCANS FOR TRAVELLERS

Washington, Dec. 3: The Trump administration intends to propose a regulation next year that would require all travellers, including US citizens, to be photographed when entering or leaving the United States, according to the administration's regulatory 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 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," he said.

The Trump administration contends in its 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 regulations.

— Reuters



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 that included forcing women to wear high



heels, stockings and makeup, and even stipulating what colour hair they can have.

The labour ministry drafted guidelines in October against workplace harassment —

known as 'power harassment' or 'power hara', but failed to address the issue of employers dictating how female employees should dress. "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 themselves 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 the new guidelines, expected to be finalised this month.

Ishikawa earlier this year began the #KuToo protest movement, sparked by her own memories of being forced to wear 7-cm (2.8-inch) 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

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 forces, Amnesty International has said, as one government official acknowledged telling police to shoot demonstrators.

Iran has yet to release any nationwide statistics over the unrest that gripped the Islamic Republic beginning November 15 with minimum prices for government-subsidised gasoline rising by 50 per cent. Iran's mission to the United Nations disputed Amnesty's findings, 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 claim.

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

'RIOTERS' SHOT AND KILLED, ADMITS IRAN

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

The 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 killed were "rioters who have attacked sensitive or military centres with firearms or knives, or have taken hostages in some areas." The report 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 alleged. "In such circumstances, security forces took action to save the lives of Mahshahr's people." — AP

Advertisement for North Delhi Municipal Corporation (N-DMC) regarding the Office of the Executive Engineer (M-II) KPZ. It lists details for two tenders: one for road work on Singh Sabha Road and another for road work on Padamshree & Dronacharya Guru Hanuman Marg. The advertisement includes NIT numbers, dates, and contact information for the Executive Engineer.

NEW DELHI WEDNESDAY 4 DECEMBER 2019



SPORT | Cricket

Pollard sets tone with big knocks during practice

14



SPORT | Athletics

Team India clinch 27 medals on 2nd day at South Asian Games

15



GUIDE TO FORTUNE

Tick the answer and check them below.

1 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

3 What was the first antiparticle to be discovered?

- X-Ray
- Positron
- 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 high-security 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. — PTI

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 vice-chairperson Preetha Reddy said: "The healthcare sector needs more investments and we can set up a healthcare investment promotion bureau."

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 Arvind Singh Lovely joined BJP. In 2018, both return to their parent organisation.

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 ministerial 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 elections.

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

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

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-

zens. On the other hand, the Modi government has done tremendous work to improve the city's infrastructure and provide ownership rights of properties to the people living 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 party.

In the last three state polls, BJP had announced its chief ministerial candidates. The saffron party

had nominated senior party leader Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra, Dr Harsh 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 Gupta, and Union health minister Dr Harsh Vardhan.



L-G Anil Bajjal and CM Arvind Kejriwal at the convocation of Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University in New Delhi on Tuesday. — ASIAN AGE

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 government 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 move a call-attention motion, which was turned down by the Speaker.

After rejecting the motion moved by the Opposition leader, Mr 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.

Responding 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 Bajjal as well.

Mr Kejriwal said the proposed university will explore new possibilities of employment for the youth to meet the demands of markets.

of 10-15 women staged a protest at the Assembly premises. The "hooliganism" was done by bringing women protestors inside the Assembly premises and the Opposition leader did it, Mr Goel alleged in the House.

Following the accusa-

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.

Charred body recovered from Tughlaqabad scrap godown

New Delhi, Dec. 3: The charred body of a 55-year-old man was recovered from a scrap godown in South Delhi's Tughlaqabad village where a fire took place shortly after midnight, Delhi Fire Service officials said on Tuesday.

Fire department officials received a call around 12.40 am on Tuesday about a fire on the first and second floor of a thread and raw materials godown in Churiya Mohalla, Tughlaqabad village, they said.

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 said.

The scrap godown is owned by one Saleem, a

resident of Pul Prahladpur. Saleem identified 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 Mumsii, a senior police officer said.

A case under sections 336 (act endangering life or personal safety of others), 285 (negligent conduct with respect to fire or combustible matter) and 304A (causing death by negligence) of the Indian Penal Code has been registered, the officer said.

A fire officer, Dayaram, was injured while trying to control the blaze. He is stable now, the officials said. — PTI

Protest over high cost of learning spreads to IIMC

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 students 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 institute.

Asthya Savyasachi, a student of English Journalism at IIMC, said that ₹1,68,500 for a 10-month 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

is ₹1,68,500; for Advertising and PR it is ₹1,31,500; for Hindi Journalism it is ₹95,500; for English Journalism; and ₹55,500

for Urdu Journalism. 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 hostels.

"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

we have tested other 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," he said.

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 Delhi Commission for Women chief Swati Maliwal to vacate the Jantar Mantar premises, citing a standing order that prohibits protests at the venue after 5 pm.

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



Swati Maliwal

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 standing order, protests at Jantar Mantar can be organised between 10 am and 5 pm.

Man lies in front of Rajanth's convoy for change in Aadhaar

AGE CORRESPONDENT
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, police said.

The man, a resident of Kushinagar in Uttar Pradesh, claims to be a Bhojpuri singer, they said. When the convoy was exiting the 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

name in the Aadhaar card 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 outside Parliament swung into action and removed the man from the road, he added.

The man was detained for security breach and

later taken to Parliament 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.

- Positron
- London
- Dell



Trial

Former Pakistan cricketer Nasir Jamshed will go on trial in Britain on Tuesday accused of being part of an alleged spot-fixing bribery conspiracy in the Pakistan Super League

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 spearhead 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 and Conditioning Coach back in August and the job was handed to Nick Webb under the Committee of 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 over 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 re-look.

"This is not a judgment on Nick in any way, but the process was harder for Rajni than anyone else. I had enquired from a member on the panel who was surprised at the apparent hostility towards



Jasprit Bumrah during a gym session.

— Twitter

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 the Indian set-up is pretty 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 why he was sent to the UK for consultation.

"Can't take a chance 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 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 team said.

— Agencies



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 TAKES



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 being 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: Waqar

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 label 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 a 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." — PTI

GHAVRI NAMED SAURASHTRA RANJI COACH

Rajkot: Former India pacer Karsan Ghavri has been appointed as the coach for the Saurashtra Ranji 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

Father's sacrifices helped Priyam fulfill his dreams

Lucknow, Dec. 3: Priyam Garg says his journey from a small child without 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 fulfill 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 of six.

"My 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

Ponting feels Australia's bowling attack better than India

Adelaide, Dec. 3: Cricketing great Ricky Ponting reckons Australia's bowling attack is better than the current Indian bowling as Australians are better suited in different conditions and that is why he has to pick 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

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." — Agencies

Kane, Taylor lead NZ to series win

Hamilton, Dec. 3: Centuries from Kane Williamson and Ross Taylor ensured New Zealand drew the rain-hit second Test against England in Hamilton on Tuesday, sealing a 1-0 series win.

New Zealand batted the final day needing a substantial 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 draw.

"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 104.

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 series.

Kiwis win Spirit of Cricket award for sportsmanship in World Cup final

Hamilton, Dec. 3: The New Zealand cricket team has been bestowed with the Christopher 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 circumstances. Kane Williamson and his men were robbed of the World Cup title following a controversial overthrow that allowed England to take the final to the super over and eventually claim their maiden crown on boundary count.

The team was presented the award, the brainchild of the Marylebone Cricket Club and the British Broadcasting Corporation, during the drawn second Test against England at Seddon Park. — PTI

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 consecutive balls.

Two balls after Taylor had raised his bat and poked his tongue out in his signature celebration, the rain arrived to wash out England's faint hopes.

New Zealand resumed the day at 96 for two with England hunting early



Kieron Pollard during a training session in Hyderabad on Tuesday.

— P. Surendra

Pollard sets the tone in training

GANDHARV KAMALA HYDERABAD, DEC. 3

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 here.

Tall, 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 all-rounder had an opinion. He even had friendly banter 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 1-2.

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 second T20 is in Thiruvananthapuram on December 8. The third T20 will be played in Mumbai on December 11.



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 top-order 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, Priyam too aspires to meet Sachin Tendulkar to take tips from the legend. — PTI



New Zealand captain Kane Williamson dodges a bouncer from England's Jofra Archer.

— AFP

