HE ASIAN AGE

NEW DELHI THURSDAY 5 DECEMBER 2019



NATION | Politics

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WORLD Afghanistan

US envoy Khalilzad in Kabul; Washington set to restart Taliban talks

Vol. 26 No. 289 | 32 pages | ₹5.00

TABLOID

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www.asianage.com

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



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Washington: Sundar Pichai, become the chief of the parent company Alphabet after the internet giant's co-founders Larry Page and Sergey Brin stepped down from their executive roles.

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Son Karti Chidambaram tweets: 'Phew. At last after 106 days'. He is seen here at Parliament

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New personal data law has stiff fines 18 Indians killed

Companies liable to pay ₹15cr for major violations, Cabinet gives nod

MADHUSUDAN SAHOO NEW DELHI, DEC. 4

In a bid to fix companies who violate the proposed personal data protection of their global turnover.

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Mr Trudeau was seen standing in a huddle with

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Wang, Doval to hold talks in Delhi soon

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Mr Wang's visit will be the first to India by a Chinese leader after the informal summit between Minister Narendra Modi and President Xi Jinping in October.

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"The Embassy representative has rushed to the site. A 24-hour emergency hotline +249-921917471 has been set up @EoI_Khartoum. Embassy is also putting out updates on social media. Our prayers are with the workers and their families," he tweet-

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Nation

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> - Sitaram Yechury, **CPI(M)** general secretary

SHORT TAKES

Minister's dance

Bhopal: A video purportedly Women and Child Developfunction went viral on Wedthe minister, clad in pink sari, dancing to the tune of around her were seen showfor her comment on the viral Chaturvedi came out in her defence. "What is wrong with dancing," he said.

Nagpur: A Nagpur court on Wednesday granted former Maharashtra chief minister Devendra Fadnavis exemption from appearance for the day in the case where he is accused of concealing information about two criminal matters against him in an election affidavit. The court also fixed January 4, 2020, as the next date of hearing in the case. Fadnavis' lawyer Uday Dable sought an exemption from appearance for his client before the court on Wednesday, which was granted by Judicial Magistrate First Class S D Mehta. The winter session of the state legislature is scheduled to be held from Dec. 16 to 21.

Bhubaneshwar: Members of

Shankar Mishra in Odisha capital. Several NSUI members holding party flags marched towards Mishra's residence and hurled tomatoes demanding his resignation over the Puri gang-rape incident. They also warned to hurl eggs at Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik and demanded his resignation too. Around 15-20 NSUI members were taken into preventive

SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR GRANTS PASSED

AGE CORRESPONDENT

was replying to the debate on the first batch of Supplementary Demands for Grants. Prices of onions prices in many places has crossed ₹100 per kg because of short-

age. Steps taken by the government to check rising prices of onion include ban on exports, imposition of stock limit, import and transfer of onion from surplus to deficit area. The government plugged all loopholes through DBT and "all dalals and middlemen have been eliminated from the system. she said. Lok Sabha later passed the first batch of Supplementary Demands for Grants allowing the government to spend an additional ₹21,246,16 crore, including

current fiscal ending March

TMC MP calls for ban on rape scenes in films

Urges govt to bring law to bar use of vulgar words in literature

AGE CORRESPONDENT

Trinamul Congress Member of Parliament, Kalyan Banerjee, on Wednesday urged the government to bring in a legislation to prohibit picturisation of rape and molestation in films, and ban the use of vulgar language in literature.

Raising the matter of women safety in the wake of the recent incident in Hyderabad during the Zero Hour in Lok Sabha, Banerjee said everyone in India is at present "very much concerned about the factum of committing rapes all over the coun-

try".
"I will request the hon. Minister and our hon. Prime Minister to bring in legislation prohibiting rape scenes, molestation scenes, and use of vulgar languages in the movies. Similarly, the Government should bring legislation prohibiting the use of any vulgar words in novels, etc. I would request the hon. Ministers headed by the hon. Prime Minister to think about it," said

Incidentally, five actress es were sitting in the House at that time, two of TMC Mimi

Chakraborty and Shatabdi Roy — and three of BJP — Hema Malini, Kirron Kher and Locket Chatterjee along with two actors — Ravi Kishan (BJP) and Anubhav Mohanty (BJD).

Speaking immediately after Banerjee, BJP MP

'Govt will be



request Prime Minister to bring in legislation prohibiting rape scenes, molestation scenes, and use of vulgar languages in the movies.

> Kalyan Banerjee



from Hooghly, Locket Chatterjee took on TMC over the safety of women and rising crime in West Bengal resulting in a verbal dual between the two

'Today everybody is highly concerned about the condition of the women in the country. particularly in Hyderabad, and Kalyanji has very rightly raised the issue. He has talked about removing the vulgar dialogues and obscene shots from the movies. Very true. But what pains me more is the fact that when the entire country is fuming against the Hyderabad incident, in our state West Bengal, just near the house of our chief minis-ter, two women foothpath dwellers were gang raped and nobody talked about

NEW DELHI, DEC. 4

It was an embarrassing

Bharatiya Janata Party

(BJP) when its young Member of Parliament

irom Ladakn, Jamyang

expressed anguish over

ditions in Ladakh.

NITIN MAHAJAN

NEW DELHI, DEC. 4

Bharatiya Janata Party

(BJP) is hopeful that the

Citizenship Amendment

Bill, cleared by the union cabinet on Wednesday,

will be passed by the

Parliament without much

As a part of the strategy,

the party has deployed

senior leaders and minis-

ters to reach out to Opposition and NDA

allies for passage of the

Bill, which is scheduled to

be presented before the

Party sources stated that

several Cabinet ministers

in the Narendra Modi gov-

ernment and senior lead-

ers of BJP is in talks with

NDA allies and other par-

ties to secure adequate

numbers for the passage

of the Bill in Parliament.

Though the legislation is

expected to sail through

Lok Sabha, where the BJP

has a clear majority, it

may face some trouble in

Rajya Sabha. The party

strategists are trying to

shore up numbers after

recent desertion of the

two Houses next week.

trouble next week.

Namgyal,

■ Reservation for these categories set to expire on Jan. 25, 2020

Cabinet approves SC/ST quota in LS

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, DEC. 4

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved a proposal to extend the reservation for Schedule Caste and Schedule Tribes in the Lok Sabha and state Assemblies for 10 years.

Though it is a statutory exercise, which needs to be repeated after every 10 years, there were speculations that the government is rethinking its plan to continue with the quota for the Anglo-Indian community.

In Lok Sabha, two seats are reserved for the members of the Anglo Indian community, who are nominated for the Lower House. Sources aware of the development told this newspaper that the issue was discussed at length during the Cabinet meeting and a Cabinet note from the social justice ministry, too, is learnt to have been deliberated

There is, however, no clarity whether the government has reached any conclusion. The picture is likely to become clear once the text of the Bill comes out.

Interestingly, in the current Lok Sabha, which was convened after the general elections in May this year, nobody has been

17TH LOK SABHA

Not a single member has been nominated from the Anglo-Indian community in the present 17th Lok Sabha where sitting members from all the 37 parties add up to 543, which is the total strength of the Lower House.

nominated from the community and the column for nominated members in Lok Sabha's website has

been left blank while sitting members from all the 37 parties add up to 543, which is the total strength of Lok Sabha.

In the previous 16th Lok Sabha, there were two nominated members from the Anglo Indian community, namely George Baker and Richard Hay (both of who had later joined the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party).

The reservation for these categories in the Lok Sabha and assemblies was to expire on January 25, 2020, and therefore it was decided in the Union Cabinet to extend it to a further 10 years.

The government will

bring a bill to extend the reservation till January winter session.

When asked whether reservation for the Anglo-Indian community has also been extended, Union Javadekar told reporters that once the Bill is intro-duced, the details will be

known. The minister said there are 84 members from the Scheduled Caste and 47 from the Scheduled Tribe communities Parliament.

In-state assemblies across India, there are 614 SC members and 554 ST

Salaries, pensions increasing expense of railways: Goyal AGE CORRESPONDENT 'Several methods being used NEW DELHI, DEC. 4

Union Railways Minister, Piyush Goyal, on Wednesday, defended his ministry after the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) ticked off Railways for recording an Operating Ratio of 98.44% in 2017-18, which was worst in the last 10 years.

Responding to the CAG report in Lok Sabha during the Question Hour, Mr Goyal said this has happened mainly due to construction of new lines and operating trains in economically unviable areas and payment of salaries and pensions after the 7th Pay Commission.

There is a social cost of running a Government utility as a service to the people of India. Therefore, we should take into considto prevent elephant deaths' AGE CORRESPONDENT railway tracks and the accidents involving ele-

NEW DELHI, DEC. 4

The Railways Ministry on Wednesday said that several ways are being used to deter elephants and other wild animals from getting hit by approaching trains. Railways Minister of State, Suresh Angadi, said that fencing, honey bees and smog devices are being used to prevent elephants from entering

The Railways is also planning to construct underpasses and ramps for the movement of wildlife at identified locations, the minister said during the Question House in Lok Sabha

where several members

raised concerns over deaths of elephants in accidents with trains.

phants have come down

amounts are being invested in all these social obligations besides the financial impact of the 7th Pay The commission," minister said.

Commission itself has had an impact of over ₹22,000 crore on the expenditure of the Railways which is more than 10% of the total revenue that is collected in the Railways," Goyal said.

BJP MP slams govt over connectivity

NCP chief Sharad Pawar (right) with BJP's Rajya Sabha

member Subhash Chandra during the ongoing Winter

Session of Parliament in New Delhi on Wednesday.

Ladakh leader says govt schemes not reaching people in UT **VINEETA PANDEY** Namgyal raised the matter or telecommunication. It



Union law minister, Shankar Prasad, on Wednesday. said in Lok Sabha that

Modi gov-

ernment Prasad "will not be a postman on the issue of appointment of judges but will be a stakeholder and have a say on it".

had flagged the shortage Bengal.

pending before you They should be cleared," said Banerjee.

judges

judges.
"There is a collegium of the High Court, of the Supreme Court, and I have said it very clearly - and I am repeating on the floor of the House this Law Minister and this Government will not be a post office. We are also a stakeholder and we will our convey views in the appoint-ment process. That is what I have to say. But



Jamyang Tsering Namgyal

the Union government's inaction in improving con-Mr Namgyal criticised the government for not doing anything to improve connectivity in the newlyin a much focused way. However, Mr Namgayal on Wednesday had a com-pletely different take on carved out Union Territory Ladakh that shares borders with both

China and Pakistan. The MP said that in the absence of telecommunications, phone and internet connectivity, Central government's schemes are not reaching people in the

The Union government while separating Ladakh from Jammu and Kashmir in August this year had said that the move will help in developing the area

With Union minister for communications, electro-nics and information tech-Ravi Shankar Prasad sitting right before him in the front row, Mr

BJP deploys big-wigs to

ensure passage of CAB

Amit Shah has

also held meetings

with political lead-

other stakeholders

to allay their fears

regarding the pro-

Shiv Sena from the NDA

ranks and likely Opposition by its ally, the

It is learnt that the rul-

ing party is talking to var-

ious parties like the BJD,

TRS and YSR Congress for

through

The party feels that if it

can secure the abrogation

of Article 370 and bifurca-

tion of Jammu Kashmir,

then CAB could also be passed with proper floor

"One on one and party

level meetings are taking

place. We are trying to see

who all can be taken along. And how to be

taken along. We will try to

accommodate their con-

cerns and bring in some

amendments if need be,'

Bill

posed bill

getting

strategy.

important

Parliament.

ers, civil society and

during the Zero Hour of Lok Šabha, saying that though he gets a prompt response to his letters from the minister's office what he doesn't get is action on the ground.

'I am verv grateful to the minister because in the last five months I have got replies to all the letters that I have written to him but no action has happened," the MP sarcasti-

Mr Namgyal narrated the hardships of the peo-ple in Ladakh where the temperature in winters dips to minus degrees making even evacuation of patients difficult due to

lack of communication. "Ladakh has its border touching with China and Pakistan. There are 350 villages and hamlets here where there is no mobile

BJP sources stated.

its support base.

the proposed Bill.

It is learnt that assur-

ances be given for putting in amendments deemed fit

to be introduced with the

CAB is one of the core issues that can appeal to

The Union home minis-

ter Amit Shah has also

held meetings with politi-

cal leaders, civil society and other stakeholders to

allay their fears regarding

Senior party leader and

Defence Minister Rajnath

Singh had on Tuesday during the BJP's parlia-

mentary party asked BJP

MPs to be present in large

numbers in Parliament

The Union Cabinet had

on Wednesday approved the draft law that seeks to

grant citizenship to non-

Muslim refugees from

Pakistan, Bangladesh and

Afghanistan if they faced

there. The Opposition has

termed it as divisive and

communal as it attempts

to grant citizenship on

persecution

religious

communal lines.

when the bill is tabled.

The BJP feels that the

is winters now and the area will be covered under 12-15 feet snow. There is no connectivity ture in my constituency Drass today is minus 24.8

communication even to evacuate patients. The 344 DSTs (digital satellite phone terminals) that were functioning till last year have stopped now. Communication lines in such difficult areas in much needed but since there is no commercial viability there is no private sector or BSNL set up coming up because of the high the operational cost. Hence, I would request the Union government to pro-Ladakh through Universal Service Obligation Funding. You can't imagine how we will survive this winter when tempera-

234 inmates from J&K in UP jails,

degrees," said Namgyal.

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, DEC. 4

Following the revocation of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir in August this year, security agencies had shifted a large number of prisoners from the State to other parts of the country as part of a preventive measure.

2019, up November, altogether 234 prisoners belonging to Jammu and Kashmir are in jails in Uttar Pradesh and 27 in Haryana prisons, Union minister G. Kishan Reddy said in reply to a written question asked member Veerendra Kumar in the Rajya Sabha.

as outside, is 3,509.

says govt

He also said a total of 3,248 prisoners are lodged in the jails of Jammu and Kashmir and the total number of prisoners belonging to Jammu and Kashmir, within the state as well



· BY GAUTAM LAHIRI -

NEWS OF CHIDAMBARAM RECEIVING BAIL

ROCKS LOK SABHA

Chidambaram mentary demand for grants, which

House. Mr Chidambaram has been regularly tweet-

ing on the state of the country's economy from

behind bars. Now some Congress MPs think that it

would be fitting if the leader were to speak on the

economy in the House. MPs across party lines were

also seen inquiring about when Mr Chidambaram

would come to Parliament. Meanwhile, Congress

Rajya Sabha MP Kapil Sibal, Mr Chidambaram's

advocate, received praise for securing his bail. Mr

The moment the news of

▲ to former finance minister P.

Chidambaram, who has been lodged

in Tihar jail, reached Parliament on Wednesday, the Congress' floor man-

agers started pondering out loud on

whether or not he should be made to

speak during the debate on supple

was being discussed in the Lower

Supreme Court granting bail

Ps across party lines have objected strongly to SP MP Jaya Bachchan's demand that rapists should be lynched. Even the TMC Parliamentary party has voiced its disagreement with the leader on the subject. However, when journalists asked TMC MP Mimi Chakraborty about Ms Bachchan's comment, she voiced her support of it Later, the TMC came out with a statement that Ms Mimi Chakraborty didn't mean what she said. Similarly, the BJP MP from Darjeeling, Raju Bisht, mentioned in Zero Hour that the NRC process was riddled with flaws and that the names of several Gorkha families' have been dropped from the final list. He also sought a rethink of the NRC. Later, the BJP leadership sought a clarification from him.

CITIZENSHIP AMENDMENT BILL ON MPS' MINDS DURING V-P'S LUNCHEON



Tice-President Venkaiah Nai du on Wednesday hosted lunch for 250 Rajya Sabha MPs in commemoration of the 250th session of the Upper House. Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, Opposition leader Ghulam Nabi Azad and deputy leader Anand Sharma were seated at the main table along with the

vice-president while Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, home minister Amit Shah and defence minister Rajnath Singh were also present. Many MPs were curious toknow whether Mr Shah had brought up the Citizenship Amendment Bill. Later, Congress MP Jairam Ramesh mentioned at the event that the BJP has no number in the Upper House. If it goes to the Rajya Sabha, they will demand that it be sent to aselect or standing committee, he said.





video goes viral

showing Madhya Pradesh ment Minister Imarti Devi dancing energetically at a nesday. The video showed Bollywood song "Mujhko rana ji maaf karna". People ering currency notes on her. Devi could not be reached video. But state Congress spokesperson Pankaj

Fadnavis gets court exemption

Tomatoes hurled at Odisha HM house

National Students' Union of India (NSUI), student wing of the Indian National Congress, on Wednesday hurled tomatoes at the residence of minister of state for home Dibya

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Wednesday said in Lok Sabha that the Centre has taken several measures including imports to deal with the rising prices of onion, even as the Opposition attacked the Centre over poor economic growth and sluggish performance of various key sectors. She said that there are several structural issues related to storage of onions and the government is trying to addressed them. The minister

over ₹8,820 crore Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh in the

stakeholder

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, DEC. 4

Shankar

He said this in response to a query from Trinamul Congress MP Kalyan Banerjee who judges in West

"In Calcutta High Court, there are two Circuit Benches, one is at Port Blair and another one is at Jalpaiguri which is newly constituted. Two judges are going to Port Blair and four judges are going to Jalpaiguri. So, six judges are gone The Supreme Court Collegium has also recommended so many names. Many names are

Responding to the TMC MP, Prasad said there is a process for appointing judges in High Courts and it is done after the Supreme Court and a Collegium of senior recommends names to the government for appointment of

yes, I take your point. We are expediting it. We will look into it," Mr Prasad

Nation

THE ASIAN AGE





Crimes against women is highest in UP. Even then cases are not registered — Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, **Congress leader**

SHORT TAKES

Priyanka flays delay in Unnao rape trial

New Delhi: Criticising the delay in the Unnao rape case trial, Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Wednesday wondered if it was because of the involvement of an influential former BJP MLA. "The Supreme Court had given instructions that the trial in the Unnao case should be completed in 45 days. However, its been 80 days. Crimes against women is highest in UP and cases are not registered. And if the case involves a influential BJP MLA, then firstly FIR is delayed, then there is delay in arrest and then the trial is left hanging," she said. - PTI

Onion to be brought from Egypt, Turkey

Guwahati: Onion will be imported from Egypt and Turkey to improve the domestic supply of the staple and control its prices, the Assam assembly was informed on Wednesday. During a discussion on skyrocketing prices of essential commodities, Congress MLA Ajanta Neog alleged that unscrupulous syndicates were operating in the state, which resulted in a price rise of onion and the state government has no control on it. Food and Civil Supplies minister Phani Bhusan Choudhury told the House that onion will be imported from the two countries this month. — PTI

Sabari council to continue protests

New Delhi: The All India Sabarimala Action Council (AISAC) will continue with its protests democratically to ensure that the sanctity, customs and traditions of the Avvappa temple is protected with no menstruating woman (in the 10-50 age group) visiting there, its general secretary S J.R. Kumar said on Wednesday. "We will continue with our fight legally in the Supreme Court" to ensure that the meditation of celibate god Ayyappa is not disturbed by women of such age group, Kumar told PTI over phone from Kochi. The Supreme Court agreed on Wednesday to hear the plea of a Kerala

AFTER TEJASHWI, TEJ FEUD, SPAT IN RJD OLD GUARDS

Buxar: Lalu Prasad's RJD, which has reeled under a cold war between his two sons for quite some time, was on Wednesday embarrassed by a spat among its old guard. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, the party's outspoken national vice-president, launched a veiled attack on the newly appointed state president Jagadanand Singh, alleging that the party office here almost resembled a "government office". Both leaders have been associated with the RJD since its inception in 1997. "Discipline ought to be selfenforced and not imposed from outside. It needs to be appreciated that our party workers are not our paid employees. "We must try not to make the party office resemble a government office," the RJD vice-president told reporters here in an apparent reference to a recent restriction barring entry of visitors to the party state chief's chamber without permit. He, however, did not elaborate as to what had got his goat, but RJD sources said he had been unhappy with the style of functioning of Jagadanand Singh - a man of few words, known to be a stickler for pro-

priety. The sources also said

on condition of anonymity

appointment, last month, as

the state unit president has

hogged limelight as he is the

that Jagadanand Singh's

upper caste leader. — PTI

Cong on PC bail: 'Truth has finally prevailed'

So finally Chidambaram too joins the long list of out-on-bail-club of Cong, says Sambit Patra

New Delhi, Dec. 4: The truth has finally prevailed, the Congress said on Wednesday after the Supreme Court granted bail to senior party leader P. Chidambaram in the INX-Media money laundering case.

Activist Trupti Desai is taken into preventive custody for bid to protest near Telanagana CM office over vet's gangrape and murder

> Former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi said Chidambaram's over 100 days of incarceration was "vengeful and vindictive", while expressing confidence that he will be able to prove his innocence in a fair trial.

> Mr Chidambaram's son Karti heaved a sigh of relief, tweeting, "Phew. At last after 106 days."

Later, talking to reporters, he said, "I am very happy that my father is coming home. It has been a long wait, it has been an unwanted incar-

Several party leaders welcomed the order granting bail to the former Union minister Chidambaram's and Congress colleague Abhishek Manu Singhvi

describing the ruling as "excellent light after a rather long tunnel". "Truth finally prevails #SatyamevaJayate," tweet-

ed the party from its official handle. Senior Congress leader Shashi Tharoor was more circumspect and said "justice delayed is justice

Hyderabad, Dec. 4: The

Telangana government

orders for setting up a

fast track court to try the four men accused of the

gang rape and murder of

a woman veterinarian

last month, even as protests continued over

incident

Hyderabad and other parts of the state.

The government desig-

nated the court of First

Additional District and

Sessions Judge in Mahabubnagar district

speedy trial of the case.

Chandrasekhar Rao had

on Sunday announced setting up of a fast track

court for expeditious trial of the case.

Women's rights activist

Trupti Desai and six others were taken into preventive custody after

they attempted to stage a

protest near the Chief

Minister's office-cum-

residence here over the

incident, police said. When Desai, founder of

minister

court for

special

Wednesday issued

Truth has been vindicated and justice has finally prevailed. Clearly, he (Chidambaram) is a victim of vendetta politics which remains a threat to our Constitutional - Anand Sharma, Congress leader

denied", adding the bail should have been granted much earlier.

A three-judge bench, by Justice R. Banumathi, granted bail to the 74-year-old former Union finance minister, who has been in custody since August 21 when he was arrested by the CBI in the INX-Media corruption case. The Enforcement Directorate had arrested him on October 16 in the money laundering case.

Mr Singhvi termed the order "balanced", 'nuanced" and "comprehensive" and a great order in favour of human rights and balanced jurispru-

The BJP took a dig at the Congress's reaction following the Supreme Court bail, saying that bail, saying that Chidambaram has joined the "Out On Bail Club".

"Classic case of @INCIndia 'Celebrating Corruption'!! 'So finally Chidambaram

GANGRAPE MURDER

designated the court

▶ The government

of First Additional

Sessions Judge in

for speedy trial of

Mahabubnagar dis-

trict as special court

tion, along with some of

its members reached the

spot to hold a protest, police prevented them

whisked them away in

Rao was attending wed-

dings and had no time to

The protesters alleged

immediately

District and

the case

their vehicles.

members.

and

too joins the long list of "OOBC(Out On Bail Club)" in the Congress ..He joins

T'gana sets up

to try accused

fast-track court

members of which are:1)Sonia Gandhi 2)Rahul Gandhi 3)Robert members are:1)Sonia Vadra 4)Motilal Vohra 5)Bhupinder 6)Sashi Tharoor Etc Etc,' BJP national spokesperson Sambit Patra said on Twitter. Asked about the BJP's allegations against his father, Karti told a TV channel, "If they have evidence, they must take it to the court and put it before us and not hide behind this sealed cover tactic...

Nobody is saying we won't face trial. I'm happy to face trial." He also said that Mr Chidambaram will be in Parliament on Thursday at 11 AM.

Rajasthan chief minister and senior Congress leader Ashok Gehlot echoed the party to say truth had pre-

Congress leader in Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury also welcomed the Supreme Court deci-sion, while deputy leader of opposition in Rajya Sabha Anand Sharma said quest for truth has been vindicated and justice has finally prevailed.

UP schoolgirl 'ganraped' by **CRPF** jawan and 3 others

four men, including a

school student was allegedly called by one of the accused,

An FIR was registered by the victim's

meet the victim's family Against the backdrop of the gruesome incident, the Telangana government said cases of crimes against women and missing women be registered immediately by police on receipt of complaint by following the "Zero FIR"

Mirzapur, UP, Dec. 4: A 15-year-old girl was allegedly abducted and gang-raped by CRPF jawan in Uttar Pradesh's Mirzapur district, police said on Wednesday. The incident took

night when the high who along with three others took her to a forest and gang-raped her, they said.

ather on Tuesday at Haliya police station under various sections including Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Inspector

Davidar Shukla said. He said the accused had called the girl's mother on Monday night at 10 pm but when the girl came out of her house, they forced her in their vehicle and drove towards Halia forest.



Congress MP Karti Chidambaram (2nd from right) hugs party MP Hibi Eden at the Parliament House during the Winter Session in New Delhi on Wednesday.

Sealed cover practice is against fair trial, says SC

PARMOD KUMAR

The Supreme Court on Wednesday said though it was open to the court to peruse material relating to a case that has surfaced in the course of investigation and handed over to it in a sealed cover but doing so in every case would be against the concept of fair trial.

..though it is held that it would be open for the court to peruse the documents, it would be against the concept of fair trial if in every case the prosecution presents documents in sealed cover and the findings on the same are recorded as if the offence is committed and the same is treated as having a bearing for denial or grant of bail," said a bench of Justice R. Banumathi, Justice A.S. Bopanna and Justice Hrishikesh Roy. The court said this

while granting bail to former finance minister P.Chidambaram in INX

of a girl thrashing an

eve-teaser in broad day-

Jeypore is garnering

appreciation and acco-

lades from all quarters

for her bravery.

The girl in the video is

seen thrashing a bike-

borne youth who was try-

ing to snatch his bike

keys near Jay Nagar

light in

Girl thrashes youth for

passing lewd remarks

Koraput, Odisha: A video Park for allegedly harass

It would be against the concept of fair trial if in every case the prosecution presents documents in sealed cover

Supreme



Media money laundering case. Mr Chidambaram was ordered to be released after 106 days of incarceration. He was taken into custody on August 21, 2019.

The court held that it would be contrary to the concept of fair trial if in every criminal case prosecution hands over to the court material in sealed cover that has emerged during the course of investigation. This assumes signifi-

cance as the top court by its September 5, 2019, judgment had said it was open for the court to receive the materials that has emerged during

ing and passing lewd

Though the identity of

the girl is yet to be estab-

lished, it is believed she

was returning home from tuition when the

incident happened. Some

unknown person recorded the whole episode on a

mobile phone and made

it viral on social media.

comments at her.

investigation and peruse the same to satisfy its conscience while deciding plea for the grant of bail/anticipatory bail. The court had said that

it could peruse the material to satisfy its conscience whether investigation was moving in right direction. The top court had said

this on September 5, 2019, while addressing the question whether the court could look into the documents, handed over to it in a sealed cover by the prosecution, while considering an applica-tion for bail or pre-arrest bail.

The top court had justi-

fied perusing the material handed over to it in a sealed cover while rejecting Mr Chidambaram's plea for anticipatory bail in the INX Media on September 5, 2019. Mr Chidambaram had moved the top court challenging the rejection of his pre-arrest bail in INX Media case by Delhi high court on August 20, 2019.

TIMELINE OF PC CASE

MAY 15, 2017 CBI registers FIR in INX media case alleging irregularities in FIPB clearance to the group for receiving overseas funds of ₹305 crore in 2007.

FEB 16, 2018 ED lodges the money laundering case in this regard. CBI summons Chidambaram

for questioning. MAY 30, 2018 Chidambaram moves Delhi High Court seeking anticipatory bail plea in the cor-

ruption case of CBI. JUL 23 He moves Delhi HC for anticipatory bail in the money laundering case of ED. JUL 25 High Court grants him interim protection from arrest

in both cases. **AUG 20** HC dismisses the anticipatory bail pleas. It also declines Chidambaram's request to stay the order for three days to enable him to move an appeal in SC. AUG 21 Chidambaram arrested in CBI case.

his plea in ED case challenging high court order denying pre-arrest bail. OCT 18 CBI files charge sheet against P Chidambaram and 13 others in INX

SEPT 5 SC dismisses

Media case OCT 22 SC grants bail to Chidambaram in the corruption case. **NOV 15** HC denied bail to Chidambaram in money-laundering

NOV 18 Chidambaram moves SC challenging HC order dismissing his bail petition.

DEC 4 SC sets aside Delhi HC's Nov. 15 verdict denying bail to Chidambaram, who has been in custody for 105 days since August 21, and grant-ed him bail in the INX

"Bhumata Brigade," a system. social rights organisa-UN climate change meet

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY BHOPAL, DEC 4

Two Gond arts from Madhya Pradesh have found place among 16 artworks selected worldwide for display at the ongoing UN Climate Change Conference or COP 25 at Madrid in Spain. The two Gond arts on

display at the pavilion of the COP25 have highlighted importance of protection and preservation of environment to counter impact of an imminent catastrophic climate change in the world.

"Our tribe worships nature which we consider an integral part of our life. Gond art revolves round themes based on how lifestyle of our tribe is closely linked to nature," Dilip Shyam whose painting depicting how cutting of trees may cause devastation to earth, has been on display at the conference, told this newspaper here on Wednesday.

The artwork shows the



displays Gond arts of MP

earth resting on a tree, drawn as 'Sheshnag', the mythical snake which carries the universe on its head, and a man armed with an axe advancing to cut it. The other Gond art

selected for display on the occasion was the work of Dhawat Singh. The artwork highlights how a tree is important to sustain environment and climate.

"We are happy that Gond arts from MP have found place among 16 artworks currently on display at the ongoing UN Climate Change Conference at Madrid," Nidhi Chopra of state



Shyam and Gond art by Dhawat Singh

tribal museum here told this newspaper. "Gonds or any other

tribal community worship jungle and now live in cities. They go back to their roots quite often and very closely see the changes in climate," she Gonds are primarily

storytellers of their folk-lores and lifestyle. The storytelling Gonds has transformed in the last four decades, finding way to canvas. Gond art now finds place in famous galleries in the world," Dikhya Tripathy, a connoisseur of tribal arts, told this



Koraput's

E-Tender No. PCD-2599 Online bids (e-tender) on Domestic Competitive Bidding (DCB) are invited on behalf of SJVN Ltd. for, "Routine repair and maintenance work of NJHPS offices, guest houses, colony, power house road, colony roads, Nursery and lawns etc. at Jhakri for one year" (PCD-2599). For details, please visit websites www.sjvn.nic.in, https://sjvn.abcprocure.com & www.eprocure.gov.in

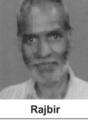
Last date for downloading of bid documents is 26.12.2019 (12:00 Hrs.). Last date for bid submission is 27.12.2019 (13:00 Hrs.).

Amendment (s), if any, shall be issued on above websites only For and on behalf of SJVN Ltd.

DGM (P&C) Deptt. NJHPS, SJVN Ltd., Jhakri, Distt. Shimla, HP-172201 SAVE ENERGY FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE SELF AND THE NATION

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General public is hereby informed that a man namely Rajbir, S/o Ramcharan, R/o H.No. A-2544, Phase-II, Metro Vihar Holambi Kalan, Delhi has been missing/ kidnapped since 31/10/2019 from the area of P.S. Narela Industrial Area, Delhi. In this regard D.D. No. 40-A, dated 04/11/2019 has been registered at P.S. Narela Industrial Area, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the missing/kidnapped man but no clue has come to light so far. The description of the missing/kidnapped man is as under:



Name: Rajbir, Gender: Male, Age: 60 years, Height: 5'6", Complexion: Shallow, Face: Long, Built: Medium, Identification: Left hand Damaged, Wearing: Maroon colour shirt & grey colour pant and black colour slipper in his feet. If anyone has any information regarding this missing/ kidnapped

Man, kindly inform SHO/ Narela Industrial Area. E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in

Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641 Fax: 011-24368639

P.S. Narela Industrial Area, Delhi Ph. No. 011-DP/808/ON/19

SHO



E-NOTICE INVITING TENDER

For and on behalf of President of India, Sr. Divisional Security Commissioner(Cord) RPF / Northern Railway, Delhi Division, New Delhi invites 'E- Tender' in prescr tender form for the following work.

Hiring of one multi utility road vehicle Non AC (Innova Crysta, Tata Hexa, Scorpio or equivalent) along with vehicle driver for movement of day & night (24 hrs.) under jurisdiction of ASC/RPF/GZB Delhi Division on monthly basis for a period of

Sr.DSC (Co-ordination)/RPF, P.K.Road ,New Delhi Office Address Approx. Cost of work (Tender value) (Rs) with GST as applicable E.M.D (Rs) Rs.27,100/ 15.00 hrs on 03.01.2020 tender bid and opening of tender

details of tender documents can be seen Rs. 2000/- + 360 GST 18% Total Rs. 2360/ payment of tender document Fee in respect of e-tendering should be accepted through net

banking or payment gateway only TENDER NOTICE No.- 2 Sr.DSC(Cord)/RPF/ASC-GZB/H.V./Delhi-East/2019-20

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



Website particulars where complete

General public is here by informed that this child (depicted in the photo) namely: Kajal D/o Unknown R/o Unknown has been missing/ kidnapped child/girl was found in unclaimed Condition from Ramlila Ground, Nerela, Delhi since 08.10.2019. In this regard FIR No. 443/19 U/s 363 dated 11.10.2019 as been lodged at PS. Narela, Delhi.

His physical description is as under:-Age: 08-09 years, Height: 3'0" ft., Complexion: Shallow,

Face: Long, Wearing: Black Colour Printdar Frock. Any person who is having information or clue about the girl child's guardian may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address or Telephone Numbers.

Website:http://cbi.nic.in E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in Tel. No.: 011-24368638/24368641 Fax No.: 011-24368639

P.S. Narela, Delhi Ph. No.: 011-27280435 Mob. No: 7065036323 DP/815/ON/19

4 Army soldiers killed in

avalanche along border

In Nov, 6 soldiers

porters were killed

after an avalanche

facilities in Siachen

fied as Naik Akhil SS, was

killed in the Gurez incident, he said. "The rescue

teams managed to locate

and retrieve all personnel

Despite best efforts by the

rescue and medical teams,

three Army personnel in Tangdhar sector and one

Army personnel in Gurez

sector succumbed," the

A statement issued by the Army said that 28-

year-old Naik Akhil, a res-

ident of Veeranakavu vil-

lage of Trivandrum dis-

spokesman added.

both incidents.

swept two Army

and 2 civilian

glacier area

Nation

THURSDAY | 5 DECEMBER 2019 | NEW DELHI THE ASIAN AGE

YUSUF JAMEEL

Four soldiers were killed

after an avalanche swept

an Army posts in Tangdhar sector along the Line of Control (LoC) and

another post in the neigh-

bouring Gurez sector was

hit by a snow blizzard on

Tuesday, the Army said

here on Wednesday. Giving the details,

defence spokesman Col.

Rajesh Kalia said that

three Army jawans died

after they were buried

under heaps of snow in Tangdhar. They have been

identified as Havaladar

Rajendra Singh (36) of

Hardiya (Rajasthan), Sepoy Amit (28) of Mundsa Jhaggar village in Haryana and Sepoy Kamal

Kumar (21) of Rajasthan's



Jammu and Kashmir saw one of the most peaceful festive seasons in decades

- Jitendra Singh,

DMK seeks more

handed over a memorandum seeking constitutional amendment giving more to Tamil Nadu from NEET halt irrigation schemes since it would affect the state. Upping the ante on its pet autonomy, the DMK said states were left with greatly reduced law-making powers. "The DMK, therefore, demands suitable amendments to the Constitution to

Man purchases lion nails online, held

Junagadh: A man was arrested on Wednesday for allegedly possessing two lion nails, which he purchased on Facebook, a forest official said. Piyush Joshi was caught red-handed while receiving a parcel containing two lion nails at his home in Bhanduri village of Gujarat's Junagadh district, chief conservator of forests Dushyant Vasavada said. 'The accused had ordered lion nails on Facebook, and he was caught while receiving the parcel that was delivered to him from Jhunjhunu in Rajasthan," he

10-yr-old raped by

that the nails belong to an

Asiatic lion, the senior forest official said. — PTI

Shimlal: A 10-year-old girl was allegedly raped by her cousin in Himachal Pradesh's Kullu district on Wednesday, the police said. The incident took place when the girl was going to school, Kullu superintendent of police Gauray Singh said. A case has been registered against the accused under section 376AB (punishment for rape on woman under 12 years of age) of the IPC and sections 4 and 6 of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act at a women

ITBP jawan kills 5 colleagues

Shoots self in Chhattisgarh; was likely to be under mental stress

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY with agency inputs BHOPAL, DEC. 4

In a suspected case of fratricide, a jawan of Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) on Wednesday shot dead five of his colleagues in a camp of the paramili-tary force at Kednar in Chhattisgarh's south Bastar district of Naray-

The jawan, identified as constable Masudul Rahman Rahman, opened fire on his colleagues from his service weapon. He

CBI to quiz

2 ex-Odisha

cricket body

AGE CORRESPONDENT

The CBI is set to ques-

tion two former mem-

bers of the Odisha Cric-

ket Association (OCA) in

agency's probe pertain-

ing to the state's multi-crore-rupees chit fund

scam. The agency recent-ly arrested Ashirbad

Behera, former secre-

tary of OCA, in connec-

According to sources, the agency has identi-

fied two other former

members of the OCA,

who allegedly helped

Behera and other accu-

sed in receiving funds from the suspected firms

for sponsoring Odisha

Premier League (OPL) in 2011. "They will soon

be called for question-

sed to divulge the identi-

ty of both the former members of the OCA. The CBI had recently

arrested Behera and hotelier Kamalakanta

Das in connection with

ing," sources said. Sources, however, refu-

tion with the case.

connection

employees

2 personnel were also injured in the incident. They were airlifted to Raipur for treatment.

also shot himself dead, Bastar police said.

Two ITBP personnel were injured in the incident. They were airlifted to Raipur in Chhattisgarh for treatment.

'Prima facie, it appears the jawan who opened fire on his colleagues was under mental stress. The Narayanpur district superintendent of police

KUMARASWAMI

NEW DELHI, DEC. 4

Four bilateral grant proj-

ects in the Maldives were

highlighted by India on

Wednesday at a Digital

Video Conference (DVC)

between Prime Minister

Narendra Modi and Maldivian President

Ibrahim Mohamed Solih

which included "installa-

tion of LED streetlights in Male" that "will also add

to the safety and security of the residents of Male,

particularly women and children". This ironically

comes at a time when

there is a raging debate in

India over the need for streetlights at night and

safety of women. The four

projects "represent the breadth and ambition of

the development partner-

ship between India and

While it is well-known

that India has been con-

cerned about growing

Chinese military and eco-

nomic presence in the

region, it is significant

that during the DVC, "both leaders (PM Modi

the Maldives"

has been asked to submit a report on the incident. Bastar range inspector P.Sunderraj said.

Earlier, the IG had said: "It was not yet clear whether Rahman killed himself or died in retaliation by his colleagues. Weapons of the killed jawans will be checked to ascertain whether they had retaliated or not."

The camp of 45th battalion of ITBP has been set at Kednar, falling under Abujhmad area loosely translated into English as unknown.

Delhi & Male to enhance

security in Indian Ocean

India committed to development of Maldives: PM

and President Solih)

agreed to work closely

together to enhance coop-

eration for peace, prosper-

ity and mutual security of

India and the Maldives

and for the wider Indian

The DVC was organised

to "launch some of the important initiatives (by India) that were

announced during last

one year" and comes even

as India is battling Chinese influence in almost all of its neigh-

bouring countries. At the

DVC, PM Modi "spoke of

India's steadfast commit-

ment to the socio-econom-

ic development of the Maldives in line with the

priorities of the people

and government of the Maldives"

Ocean region".

Four bilateral grant projects in the Maldives

were highlighted by India at a Digital Video

Conference between Prime

Minister Narendra Modi and

Maldivian President Ibrahim

Mohamed Solih which

included 'installation of LED

streetlights in Male'

Vivek Kumar Pandey said in New Delhi that the jawan killed his colleagues and then shot himself dead, adding that he was not shot by other troops. Abujhmad is considered a Maoist stronghold.

The slain jawans have been identified as head constables Mahendra Singh and Daljit Singh, constables Surjit Sarkar, Biswaroop Mahatoo and Bijeesh.

Those injured in the incident have been identified as S.B. Ullas and

Expressing his apprecia-

tion, Maldivian President

Solih conveyed his com-

mitment to deepen cooperation and partnership

The four key initiatives

are the gifting of a "Made in India" patrol vessel named "KAAMIYAAB" to

the Maldives National

Defence Force, exchange

of MoUs for 3 grant proj-

ects for setting up neigh-

bourhood fish plants, ex-

change of an MoU bet-ween National Payments

Corporation of India and

the Bank of Maldives to

launch the RuPay card in

the Maldives, and "instal-lation of LED streetlights in Male" that "will also

add to the safety and secu-

rity of the residents of

with India.

Sahawa village. Another soldier, identitrict in Kerala, while on China minister to

Chinese foreign minister and state councillor Wang Yi is likely to visit India later this month to hold boundary talks with national security adviser Ajit Doval. Mr Wang and Mr Doval are the designated special representatives (SRs) of the two countries for the boundary talks. Apart from holding boundary talks with Mr Doval, the Chinese foreign minister is expected to meet exter-

This comes on the heels of the meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping last month in Brazil in which the two leaders had "noted that the special representatives will have another meeting on matters relating to the boundary question and reiterated the importance of maintaining peace and

areas" be the first

leader to India after the informal summit between PM Modi and President Xi in Mamallapuram near Chennai in October this

Late last month, it had

naval ships too set to dock at Chinese ports and that establishment of diplomatic ties between the

dition," it said. Last month, six soldiers and two civilian porters were killed after a snow avalanche swept two Army facilities in Siachen glacier area of Ladakh.

patrol along the de facto border was caught in a

snow blizzard. "Owing to

the inclement weather

and high altitude, he

developed severe medical condition. After immedi-ate first aid, he was evacu-

ated to 92-Base Hospital in

Srinagar's Badami Bagh

Cantonment, where he, unfortunately, succumbed

to his severe medical con-

Siachen, at a height of 19,600 feet, is the world's highest battleground, where India and Pakistan have fought intermittently since April 1984 but which has also been the scene of many natural

visit India in Dec.

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, DEC. 4

nal affairs minister (EAM) S. Jaishankar.



security in the border Mr Wang's visit will also

Wang Yi visit by a senior Chinese

also been announced that India would send a "midlevel tri-service delegation of the Indian armed forces" to China, with the the two nations would also host a series of cultural exchanges relating to Buddhism and the visit of ancient Chinese traveller Hiuen Tsang. A total of 70 measures are to be taken jointly by the two Asian giants to celebrate the 70th anniversary of

ED quizzes Hooda in land scam case probe

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, DEC. 4

The Enforcm e n t Directorate Wednesday questioned ormer Haryana chief minis-

Bhupinder ter and senior Congress leader

Bhupinder Singh Hooda as part of its money laundering probe per-taining to a land scam

Sources said Hooda's statement was recorded under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). He was questioned by the ED sleuths in Chandigarh. The ED is probing Hooda's role in multiple criminal cases of money launderincluding the Manesar land case and the Associated Journal Limited (AJL) land case. Earlier, another Central investigative agency, the CBI, had filed a case against Hooda in con-nection with alleged irregularities acquisition of land in Haryana when he was the CM of the state.

According to ED sources, Hooda allegedly misused his official position and allotted a plot in the guise of re-allotment at an under-valued price to the Associated Journals Limited (AJL), a group that runs the National Herald newspaper. Sources alleged that the value of the plot was ₹64.93 crore, but Mr Hooda gave it away for ₹59 lakh.

checks to get to Nepal

from where he may have

flown out to his new safe

VHP set to increase cadre base by 50L

NITIN MAHAJAN NEW DELHI, DEC 4

The Rashtriya Swayam-Sangh-affiliate Vishwa Hindu Parishad is likely to increase its cadre base by a whopping 50 lakh members after the Supreme Court verdict on the the Babri Masjid-Ram

Janmabhoomi dispute. The VHP had launched a drive to garner new members, also known as Hindu Hit Chintaks. It was launched on November 24 and is scheduled to culminate on December 8. Sources stated that a target of around 30 lakh members was set earlier.

▶ The VHP drive was launched on Nov. 24 and is scheduled to culminate on Dec. 8

However, massive response from people to ioin the outfit made the VHP revise the target for new members to 50 lakh. A membership drive by the VHP, launched after

three years, is understood to be attracting massive interest in the saffron outfit. The Hindu Hit Chintaks are part of the VHP and work for the betterment and improvement of the Hindu society. These members can also be drawn from other faiths tion of a grand Ram temlike Jains, Buddhists and Sikhs.

Buddhists and been one of the chief con-

Sources stated that the membership drive is launched every three years. "This year's efforts have received immense response due to the positive mood in the country the Janmabhoomi verdict by

the apex court," a senior VHP functionary stated. VHP sources stated that owing to the upbeat mood of the nation, the organisation decided to revise its target. The VHP has been in the forefront of the Ram Janmabhoomi cause, calling for the construc-

been one of the chief conthe height of the agita-

The Ram Janmabhoomi verdict was delivered by the Supreme Court on November 9.

The apex court had ordered the disputed land of 2.77 acres be handed over to a trust, to be formed by the government of India for the temple. The court also ordered the government to give an alternative five acres of land to the Sunni Waqf Board for building a

resolved carefully: Rajnath AGE CORRESPONDENT

Indo-China incursion issues

NEW DELHI, DEC. 4

Union defence minister Rajnath Singh said on Wednesday that the armies of India and China carefully work to resolve incidents of transgression, incursion and face-off with each other. He added that incidents happens as there are perceptional differences between India and China on border and that Indian forces are fully

alert and the border is

secure. Mr Singh was replying to an issue raised by Congress MP Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury in the Lok Sabha during the Zero Hour. The member accused the Modi government of going soft on China despite its aggressive tone and tenor.

"Our security forces are alert on the borders and the borders are safe, there should be no doubt on that," the minister said.



Navy personnel perform during Navy Day celebrations in Mumbai on Wednesday.

PC walks out of Tihar

will undergo sentence. It further noted that after the

rejection of anticipatory bail by the Supreme Court on September 5 in the case being investigated by the ED, Mr Chidambaram was available for custodial interrogation for more than 45 days.
Speaking for the bench,

Justice Bopanna, pronouncing

not inclined to look into the material given in a sealed cover by ED, as a single judge of the Delhi high court had perused the same and arrived at certain conclusions, and since it was being challenged, "we had to look into it to satisfy ourself".

The court said the high court's single judge was "not justified" in arriving at the findings which it did "based on the material" made available to him by the ED in a sealed cover. "Hence, in our opinion, the

finding recorded by the learned judge of the high court based on the material in the sealed cover is not justified", the Supreme Court bench said.

Directing the release of Mr Chidambaram on furnishing a bail bond of ₹2 lakhs and two sureties of like amount, the court said that he would not make any public comment or give any interviews in connection with the case.

Trump calls Justin '2-faced'

■ Continued from Page 1

reception was recorded by a pool camera. The clip was posted online by Canadian broad-caster CBC and has been viewed more than 5 million

Speaking Wednesday at the summit venue in Watford, outside London, Mr Trump said Mr Trudeau was likely upset that the US President had broached the fact that Canada

falls short of the Nato target of spending 2 per cent of its gross domestic product on defence.

honestly, with Trudeau he's a nice guy, I find him to be a very nice guy but you know the truth is that I called him out on the fact that he's not paying 2 per cent and I guess he's not very happy about it."

AASU warns

■ Continued from Page 1

activists shouted slogans against the bill and the government in Assam's Biswanath district. The protesters also demanded that the government to scrap the bill immediately.

One of its leaders said: "We held this protest across the state. Assam can't take the additional burden of illegal foreigners. We have opposed the government's policy as they are giving us the additional burden of illegal for-eigners. We will not accept it. Our protests and agitations will continue in the coming days. We will take action if the government passes the bill in Parliament.

The Citizenship (Amendment) Bill will grant Indian citizenship to Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain, Parsi and Christian refugees from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan.

The All India United Democratic Front (AIUDF) has also sent a memorandum to the home minister asking not to implement the CAB in Assam.

Three-time former CM Tarun Gogoi alleged that the BJP was diverting the attention of people from other issues by talking solely about the Citizenship Bill and a nationwide National Register of Citizens. His party, the Congress, already taken a position against both the issues.

'Hindu nation' near Ecuador

■ Continued from Page 1 story of persecution that is yet unknown to the world," it said. The country has its own triangular flag with an emblem of Paramashiva and Nandi and is called the 'Rishabha Dhvaja'. English, Sanskrit and

Tamil are its main lan-

guages. The government of the new country has various departments like homeland security, defence, treasury, commerce, housing, human services and education.

Top police sources have said that he may have taken a convoluted land route to avoid passport

haven in South America. Clearly looking for a way out, Nithyananda whose Indian passport had expired in 2018, was trying to get Australian citizenship. But Australian authorities reportedly sought clearance from local police in Bidadi, where his ashram is located. The local located. Ramnagara police are said to have responded in detail about the allegations, charges and the cases pending against him in court and asked them not to consider his

Personal data law has stiff fines

■ Continued from Page 1 without consent in case of issues around sovereignty, national security, court orders, etc", the source said.

As the proposed bill is likely to be tabled in Parliament in the ongoing Winter Session, the government is likely to bring in a detailed framework in the public domain, which will include processing of personal and private data by public and private entities, among others.

"Storage and processing of personal data, Broad guidelines on collection, consent of individuals, penalties and compensation, code of conduct and an enforcement model are likely to be a part of the law," the source said. However, the government said it would share

the details with the public soon after the bill is tabled in Parliament. "Will not be able to share more details about the bill as it will be introduced in Parliament soon," Union minister Prakash Javadekar said after the meeting.





Minister of state in PMO

SHORT TAKES

powers to states

Chennai: DMK MPs on Wednesday called on Prime Minister Narendra Modi and powers to States, exemption and directing Karnataka to ideological theme of more

memorandum by party chief M K Stalin said. — PTI

accord rights to States in the

true spirit of federalism," a

said. It has been confirmed

cousin in Himachal

police station on the victim's statement, he said. The accused, a Class 10 student, is a child in conflict with law, Mr Singh said. - PTI

Navy Day celebrations in Mumbai



CAB is cleared by Cabinet

■ Continued from Page 1 by Opposition parties as communal and divisive, with the Congress threatening to go to the Supreme Court to challenge the proposed legislation.

At a briefing after the Cabinet meeting, environment and forests minister Prakash Javadekar said that the government had taken care of the interests of all sides and "the interest of India". He added, when asked about the protests erupting in the Northeast: "People will welcome it as it is in the interests of the nation.' During his meetings with leaders, student bodies' representatives and civil society groups from the Northeast, Mr Shah assured them that the states where the Inner Line Permit (ILP) regime exists, and those regions which are governed under the Sixth Schedule of the

Constit-ution, will be excluded from purview of the bill. In terms of Section 2 of the Bengal Eastern Front ier Regulations 1873, the Inner Line Permit system is in force in Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram and Nagaland. Citizens of other states require an ILP $\,$ to visit these three states. Under the Constitution's

autonomous councils and districts were created in the tribal areas in Assam, Meghalaya and Tripura The autonomous councils and districts enjoy certain executive and legislative

■ Continued from Page 1 the judgment, said they were

entitled to be granted bail"

The court further noted Mr Chidambaram has not been named in ECIR of the ED and on the allegations against Kartti Chidambaram it is indicated that P. Chidambaram, who was then finance minister, had allegedly aided the illegal transactions as Karti Chidambartam is his son. In this context, the court said, even if the statements on record and materials gathered are taken note of, the complicity of the appellant will have to be established in the trial, and if convicted, he

"Well, he's two-faced," Mr Trump told reporters. "And

YEARS AGO IN DECCAN

Ajoy ends fast, asks people to fight violence

Calcutta: West Bengal chief minister Ajoy Mukherjee broke his three-day fast this morning, reaffirming his resolve to fight violence and lawlessness with the "mighty weapon" of nonviolence.

He made a fervent appeal to the people of the state not to remain helpless spectators in the face of mounting violence but to rise their voice of protest and resist those indulging in barbarism.

Mr Mukherjee told a huge crowd at Curzon Park that about 1,500 people in 103 centres all over the state ended their fast today while an equal number embarked on a Satyagraha.

The relay fast, he said, would continue as long as violence and lawlessness lasted in the state.

It was not enough for the people to vote for their representatives once in five years. They must be vigilant and ensure that their representatives did not betray their trust.

Mr Mukherjee said that it was both regretful and shameful that violence should occur in West Bengal at the very time when the whole world was celebrating Gandhiji's birth centenary.

In a reference to CPI(M) volunteers, Mr Mukherjee said these volunteers were moving about donning helmets and carrying lathis. They had become so bold that they were ordering not only the police but even the district magis-

"Why are they armed? Is it their duty to maintain peace? It so, why do we have magistrates and a police force?" he said.

ODDLY ENOUGH

Full stop for UK apostrophe society

London: Britain's Apostrophe Protection Society is closing down, its founder has announced, saying it had sadly lost the fight against "ignorance and laziness". Former journalist John Richards, 96, started up the society in 2001, aiming to preserve the correct use of what he said was the "much abused punctuation mark". Richards spent the last quarter of his career as a sub-editor, preparing journalists' copy for a newspaper — a task which often involved correcting their use of apostrophes. When he retired, he kept spotting the same glaring mistakes in daily life and decided to take action, seeing the apostrophe as an endangered species in need of protection. "We, and our

many supporters worldwide,

present in modern times have

have done our best but the

ignorance and laziness

won!" he said. - AFP

Indian writers take part in small but vibrant literature festival in Bangkok



Shankar

focus

A literature festival in Bangkok is very special, as there are not too many serious book lovers in the city. That's why the first ever Bangkok Literature Festival was exciting and pioneering, even if it was a modest twoday event. The festival was held in the old and grand **Nelson Hays** Library, an iconic British institution housing as many as 20,000 books!

"We are so small next to the Jaipur Literature Festival, but we are excited to make a start!"

— Nalin Vanasin, president of Nelson Hays Library, organisers of the literature festival

Bangkok: A literature festival in Bangkok is very special, as there are not too many serious book lovers in the city. That's why the first ever Bangkok Literature Festival was exciting and pioneering, even if it was a modest two-day event.

The festival was held in the old and grand Nelson Hays Library, an iconic British institution housing as many as 20,000 books! It has about 640 members, and a dedicated board of eight bibliophiles who

In fact, the two-day festival was held to celebrate the 150th

anniversary of the library, and most of the events were held in their wooden, book-lined library room.

library room.

Needless to say, the Jaipur Literature Festival was mentioned almost every day.

"We are so small next to them, but we are excited to make a start," said Nalin Vanasin, the president of the Nelson Hayes Library. She informed that she worked with a small budget of two million baht and 40 volunteers (including many local Indians) for the event.

The festival had as many as 30 writers who came in through contacts and connections, as also support from cultural institutions.

institutions.

Among these was the India Studies Centre of the well-known Chulalongkorn Varsity, who supported the trips of Indian writers P. Sivakami and Raghu Karnad to the festival.

The third Indian writer at the festival was Pankaj Mishra, who was invited by the festival's consultant Nisid Hajari. The latter is a writer/journalist of Indian origin who lived in the US but now lives in Bangkok and has written a critically acclaimed book on India: Midnight's Furies: The Deadly

At a panel discussion which dealt with growing nationalism in many countries including India, the two writers admitted that India was going through troubled times.

"It is disturbing because it is an overwhelmingly young country!" said Mishra, adding, "Liberals are still a minority,

and are identified as elitist".

Outspoken Tamil writer
Sivakami, who has propagated
dalit literature to the forefront
with her own numerous books,
short stories and essays, was
proud that there were as many
as 100 dalit writers in Tamil
Nadu alone. But she admitted
that she had lost faith in gov-



ernments, which was why she had resigned from her Indian Administrative Services job, as she felt she could do more for her community if she was out of the system.

The writer has been fighting for many causes, especially land acquisition for dalits, and spoke about it at the festival. She admitted that the late chief minister of Tamil Nadu, Karunanidhi, had allotted free land to the landless, but everything had stopped after his death.

"Democracy is about equality, but that doesn't exist with the dalits" she stated

Raghu Karnad spoke at length about his essay The Ghost in the Kimono, which was interesting and enlightening, as it dealt with the little-known story of Japanese women who had been interred in the Purana Quila ramparts during World War II in 1942.

Dr Verita Sriratana, who teaches contemporary literature in Chulalongkorn Varsity, and who moderated the discussion with both the two Indian writers, commented about their works: "Sivakami's work is a much-needed provokingly feminist re-writing of India's canon-

ical texts, most of which have laid the foundation of class and gender inequality for centuries."

About Karnad, she stated: "He transcends the genre of memoir writing and historical fiction. The lines dividing these two are there, but are refreshingly rendered."

Verita, who teaches Indian

Verita, who teaches Indian writing in English, informed that Arundhati Roy was a big favourite with her students.

The panel on Women's Writing was made up of writers from Australia, India, Thailand, Myanmar, etc. Dr Ma Thida from Myanmar was jailed for her writings, but remains an activist. However, she confessed that with so many languages and dialects in Myanmar, "our community is divided, and we have no collective identity". That's why she did not expect anyone to help them, including Aung San Su

Kyi. Women writers Kanako Nishi from Japan and Kilin Yuri from Thailand spoke about writing on gay and lesbian issues.

In fact, an entire panel was devoted to LGBT issues, with various writers, including and well-known Thai academic Vitit Muntarbhorn, who spoke at length about their issues and conflicts. According to the latter, "Sex is biological, while gender identity is sociological".

There was also a section for Children, with author Mike

Darrel McLeod from an indige-

nous community in Canada,

Children, with author Mike Curato, illustrator of the popular *Little Elliott* series creating live drawings and a story for them.

Among the other events at the festival was a play-reading from a drama about child abuse by well-known Singaporean-Indian playwright Haresh Sharma. It was interesting to learn from him that stage-plays were "cleared" in Singapore, not through censorship laws but a rating system.

There was also the screening

of a thought-provoking docufeature *Hope Frozen* about a family who kept their dead twoyear-old child's brain frozen in a cryptonic chamber in the US, with the hope of bringing her back to life. The screening was followed by a strong discussion on the sensational subject of the movie.

As for the Thai writers, the

(Clockwise from top left)
P. Sivakami with women
writers; Raghu Karnad;
Pankaj Mishra at a panel
discussion

festival introduced the public to many of the country's top poets and fiction writers. Among these was Zakariya Amataya, a Thai Muslim poet who studied in Aligarh Varsity, India, lives in the south of Thailand bordering on Malaysia and is more comfortable writing in the Malay rather than the Thai language. Writer Anusorn Tipayanon opted to leave Bangkok to live in the countryside of Isaan, as he felt "freer" to write there.

The Thai writers confessed

The Thai writers confessed that their biggest problem was getting their works translated into the English language.

That was why a debut novel Bangkok wakes to rain, written in English by Thai-American writer Pitchaya Sudbanthad, which was reviewed by the New York Times, received a lot of attention at the festival.

An interesting point made, right from the first day of the festival, was the way writing narratives had changed, with the advent of the mobile phone, that has become an important weapon of communication today.

Pankaj Mishra mentioned how Donald Trump had access to a huge range of followers due to the "alternative reality" of social media.

Bangkok's maiden literature festival deserves credit for packing in a holistic range of literary activities at the city's oldest and best book-haven, the Nelson Hays Library.

One sincerely hopes it will become a yearly phenomenon.

The writer is a commentator on lifestyle and culture based in Bangkok

Needed: A white paper on policies for dalits



Surendra Kumar

meanwhile

ome election time, leading politicians compete with each other in hailing Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar as one of the greatest builders of India. They showcase their love for dalits by squatting on the ground and eating in Harijan bastis in front of TV cameras.

in front of TV cameras.

Alas, away from these photo ops, untouchability is still alive and kicking in thousands of villages and murders, rapes and public humiliation of dalit youth such as in Una happen. Over 47,000 cases of attacks against the Dalits in 2017 officially registered by the National Crime Records Bureau (Uttar Pradesh alone accounted for 11,440 of these) don't shame us. The entire blame for incom-

petence, inefficiency and lack of delivery in government services is routinely laid at the reservation policy's door.

Isn't it time we have an

Isn't it time we have an honest and dispassionate debate on these issues that hang over any public discourse like thick fog in the Delhi winters?

An objective assessment of the graph of dalits' progress Independence indicates a upward trend. slow notwithstanding continuing prejudice and negative discrimination. But the gradient would have been sharper had various welfare policies announced by successive governments been implemented in full and in a timely way. While the major share of the blame for this lies with the government, the elected representatives of these castes also cannot absolve themselves — for not putting adequate political pressure on the governments.

The biggest strength of the dalit community is its numerical strength. It can be a potent tool for social change. But it is most often frittered away in infighting and ego fights and for lack of an inspiring vision.

Regrettably, most Dalit

Regrettably, most Dalit leaders have reduced themselves to promoting tokenism of their political parties, lapping at the ministerial crumbs that are thrown at them.

It's an uncomfortable truth that without the provision of reservation of seats in Parliament and the various legislatures there would have been no Mayawatis or Ram Vilas Paswans. And without reservation in services, there won't be a good sprinkling of dalit officers among the ranks nor the conditions for a Tina Dabi to top the civil services. Evidently, both quotas and

affirmative action have helped and deserve to be continued, if in an amended form, in the foreseeable future.

For one would be dishonest if one doesn't admit that the reservation policy has generated considerable anger and bitterness against the dalits. And to top that, self-proclaimed champions of meritocracy in the intelligentsia, acade mia, media and India Inc. shout from the rooftops, sans support of a study, they claim that the reservation policy is the only stum-bling block in the way of India becoming a five trillion dollar economy. So how come Tamil Nadu and Karnataka, which have witnessed extensive reservations for decades, are better administered than Bihar and Uttar Pradesh?

Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes candidates who join the IAS/IFS/IPS/Central servation and are later able to send their kids to public schools with no known discrimination. They are the ones who

It's an uncomfortable truth that without the provision of reservation of seats in Parliament and the various legislatures there would have been no Mayawatis or Ram Vilas Paswans. And without reservation in services, there won't be dalit officers.

should encourage their next generations to compete without the crutches of the reservation. It will go a long way in reducing the bitterness against the reservation policy.

Education is the best tool

Education is the best tool for empowerment, so reservation of seats in educational institutes must be continued. There should be exemplary punishment against the heads of institutions where dalit students are subjected to discrimination. Infrastructure and teaching facilities should be drastically

upgraded with the provision for computers, hygienic environment, and facilities for sports and, of course, qualified and trained teachers. Based on the annual income of parents, education of dalit students till 22 years should be totally free.

A white paper must be brought out by the government giving verifiable information about the seats reserved for SC/ST candidates in services, universities and colleges since Independence and how many of these lie unfilled. Vacancies lying unfilled for long should be filled via emergency recruitments.

This paper must put on record officially registered cases of assault and attacks on dalits in the last 30 years. Suspension of district officials is not a deterrent punishment. If atrocities against dalits are committed in the tenure of an IAS/IPS officer twice, they must be dismissed from convices.

If the government sincerely wants people to transform themselves into job generators rather than job-seekers, it must make credits and loans available to dalit youth who want to migrate from their traditional occupations to start medium and small scale industries. Can't MPs be asked to use 25 per cent of their constituency development grants to encourage these endeavours? Can't big business do the same under corporate social responsi-

Usually, out of around 43 secretaries at the Centre, there is rarely more than one secretary from the SC/ST. Why? Thanks to continuing prejudices, very few SC/ST officers rise to secretary rank. There is no dearth of competent officers only if the seniors could shed their casteist prejudices.

rejudices.
The establishment of a well equipped "Centre for Social Transformation", fully funded by the central government, headed by an experienced, energetic and empathetic serving or retired person of the rank of secretary could be a one-point data bank on the

able statistics about Dalit communities in various states. This centre should periodically organise megaevents to publicise achievements of members of the community and flag issues confronting them. This will help dispel widespread and deep-rooted negative perception about SC/ST. The head of this centre should have the authority to travel to spots where atrocities against the SC/ST have been committed with two colleagues at government cost. They should submit a report after conversation with the survivors postvisit so that the efforts of the local authorities to brush the issues under the carpet are foiled.

SC/ST. It should have reli-

carpet are foiled.

While celebrating the 150th birth anniversary of M.K. Gandhi, why shouldn't the central government take a pledge to eradicate untouchability, bonded labour, child labour and atrocities against dalits in

the next five years?

The writer is a retired Indian diplomat

THE ASIAN AGE

THE ASIAN AGE

5 DECEMBER 2019

Madrid CoP 2019: Can India save the world?

nion prices are high, even though in Hyderabad the Telangana government has controlled prices at ₹100 per kilo. It is a result of climate change: heavy rain in October and a cyclone off Maharashtra meant severe damage to the crop. Similarly, in Andhra Pradesh, construction has slowed down to a standstill because of climate change. There is no sand to construct; heavy rain through October put the Krishna river, for instance, in spate and the barrages had to be opened not just once but four times this season. There is thus no riverbank, and no sand. One could go on and on about the effects of climate

change, but this newspaper has only 16 pages. It is currently being discussed at the 25th Conference of the Parties (CoP) under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), on for two weeks in Madrid. Yet if UN secretary-general Antonio Guterres himself says that the world is "at the point of no return", then one cannot but be gloomy that even incremental steps will be taken to ensure that humanity can at least keep pace with climate

change and adapt to it. The World Meteorological Organisation has said that global temperatures were 1.1 degrees (Celsius) above the pre-industrial average, and that 2019 was one of the three hottest years

2019 was one of the three hottest years ever recorded... Each decade produces a rise of 0.1-0.2 degrees. Mr Guterres has pointed out that though humans have the tech arrest this trend, we lack the will to do so.

ever recorded. Oceans, which are supposed to absorb the excess heat have themselves become too acidic, threatening the marine ecosystem on which most humans significantly rely. Each decade produces a rise of 0.1 to 0.2 degrees, which means that before long we will hit the danger mark of a global average of 1.5 degrees above the pre-industrial mark

ans have the tech and the money to arrest this trend, we lacked the will to do so. This is most obvious when it comes to the United States, whose President pulled out of the 2015 Paris

Agreement and who is so beholden to his fossil fuel industry that he pooh-poohs the overwhelmingly scientifically supported theory of climate change. India has done well to push forward on cutting emissions to help slow down the temperature rise, though the greenhouse effect is a legacy bequeathed to us by the developed West. Also heartening is the determination of youngsters like Greta Thunberg who have emerged as a rallying point to push climate change higher on the globe's political agenda.

The CoP this year is a preparation to strike a deal at the CoP to be held next year in Glasgow. It will take much preparation — the Paris agreement took six years to conclude. And the US is openly a disruptor. It means that it is up to India, among others, to take the lead in the negotiations. A lot of political capital has been lost of late in various matters on the government's ideological agenda; purposeful action and leadership to ensure an agreement by next year is a way for India to recoup (and more)

Uddhav makes a good start

aharashtra CM Uddhav Thackeray's first act, to scrap the Metro shed project at Mumbai's Aarey, for which his predecessor ■Devendra Fadnavis had 3,000 trees cut in the face of intense protests, should be lauded. Also praiseworthy is the government's move to withdraw cases against social and environmental activists who were thrown into jail by its predecessor for seeking to block the building of the Metro shed, arguing that the facility be moved to a place where tree-felling won't be required. The Thackeray government has also withdrawn cases against activists who opposed the setting up of the Nanar oil refinery on the Ratnagiri coast.

The CM's outlook offers a refreshing contrast to that of his predecessor who, in line with the BJP-RSS's thinking, appeared harsh in tackling social activists unless affiliated to NGOs of the religio-political kind of the

It's to be seen if the new CM offers a liberal face in relation to all sections of society, including political rivals, unless they are involved in violent

Congress and NCP leaders in Maharashtra have urged the chief minister to withdraw criminal cases against dalits in the Bhima Koregaon fracas of January 1 last year in the Pune area. We hope he will. We hope that he will further withdraw the so-called Elgar Parishad cases of the previous day against some of the country's leading intellectuals.

The earlier government had shamefully declared professors, lawyers, and public-minded citizens, who have taken up the cause of the poorest Indians in a sustained fashion over the years, as "urban Naxals", and put them behind bars under the draconian Unlawful Activities Prevention Act. A retired Supreme Court judge from Maharashtra was associated with the Elgar Parishad, and there was nothing unlawful about it.

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Aggressive BJP shows symptoms of weakness



Venkateshwar Rao Jr

home minister and BJP president Amit Shah is the only man in the government and the party who stays calm in the face of all-round criticism and parries the Opposition's barbs with a certain dexterity. But others in the government and the party, including Cabinet ministers, display dogged aggression at the slightest provocation. When industrialist Rahul Bajaj spoke can-didly about the "atmosphere of fear" prevailing under BJP rule, Mr Shah responded quite firmly but without dismissing Mr Bajaj's opinion. Soon after minister of state for urban affairs Hardeep Singh Puri without naming Mr Bajaj characterized the industrialist's remarks in a tweet as a "fake narrative" and as a sign of "indiscipline". It is gratuitous aggression on the part of Mr Puri, a only confirmed the fears articulated by Mr Bajaj.

Earlier in the week, during a short duration discussion in the Rajya Sabha on the economic situation, finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman dug into the statistics of economic growth of the UPA-2 government (2009-14) to counter the criticism of the Opposition about the falling growth figures of the last six

quarters. Sitharaman, of course, resorted to a legitimate political counter-attack but in doing so she showed that she was not confident of explaining the present economic situation, and explained in detail the post-Budget measures that she had announced to cope with what she called a slowdown, which was not a recession. She forgot that in politics you cannot go back to the record of a

Congress Party in power six years ago. People are concerned with the situa-

tion as it is today. It just showed that BJP ministers were showing symptoms of frayed nerves. There was also a tendency on the part of other members of the BJP, who seems to be infected by the Congress symptom of frenetically jumping to the defence of the "leader" in season and out of season. The motivation of ingratiating with the leader is understandable, but it shows that there is not much difference between the cravenness of members of the Congress and those in the BJP, and which only undermines democratic traditions inside and outside the political parties What other BJP minis-

ters and members can learn from the example of Mr Shah is not to get rattled by criticism and show the poise that from ommanding majority in both Houses of Parliament. It seems that after long years spent in Opposition, the BJP members display the mentality of being forever under siege, a deep sense of insecurity. Speaking on the SPG Amendment Bill, Mr Shah was firm in his commitment that there would be no lapse in the security extended to members of the Nehru-Gandhi family even

Mr Modi and Ms Sitharaman are unable to accept that there is a problem with the economy, and that it cannot be blamed on the acts of omission and commission of the past Congress governments

What other BJP members can learn from the example of Mr Shah is not to get rattled by criticism and show the poise that comes from commanding a majority in both Houses of **Parliament**

though changes have been made based on

assessment of threat perception. And he countered the emotional outburst of Congress members that the move was a political vendetta against the Congress' first family. Mr Shah said that he and his party were not opposed to the "parivar" (family) but opposed to "parivarvaad" (dynastic principle). And when a BJP member said in the course of his speech about the reason why Indira Gandhi was assassinated, and there was uproar of protest from Congress benches, Mr Shah got up to say that though his party mem-ber was not in any way justifying the assassination of Indira Gandhi, he wanted that part to be expunged. Taking in critsmall gestures of sensitivity and politeness would go a long way in strengthening the cre-dentials of the ruling party

But there is a form of aggression that goes beyond the speeches in Parliament and on the social media. It is the ingrained aggression of the right-wing party in its policy orientation. Minister Narendra Modi and Mr Shah are guilty of this Donald Trump-like aggression in policy and governance. Their stance on Jammu and Kashmir is an example of this inherent element aggression in matters of policy. Prime Neither the Minister nor the home minister are willing to accept that the situation in the newly-formed Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir is

far from normal, and

admit to the fact that the drastic decisions, and it is debatable whether they were necessary or not, have impacted the lives of the people negatively in the short term, instead of doggedly hold-ing on to the claim that things were normal. It is a known fact that even before the removal of the special status and the demotion of Jammu and Kashmir from a state into a Union territory there was trouble in the state as there had been

since 1989.

The BJP's inability to look trouble in the eye, whether it be in Jammu and Kashmir or in the economy, reveals the brittle sensibility of a party that is not surefooted in its acts of governance. An aggressive attitude is not a sign of confidence, rather it is a compensatory act of hiding uneasiness. What is expected of Mr Modi and Mr Shah is that Jammu and Kashmir is a troubled spot and it will take time to restore normality instead of indulging in confidence talk that all is well, especially when all is clearly not well. Mr Modi and Ms

Sitharaman are unable to bring themselves to accept that there is a problem with the economy, and that it cannot be blamed on the acts of omission and commission of the past Congress governments. Mr Modi was sanguine that he would forge an economic miracle with his wellintentioned plans, which unfortunately were not well thought out. But he is not bold enough to accept that things did not go according to plan and that planning itself was inadequate, and that steps will be taken to set things right to the extent that it possible to do so. The admission that there is trouble and that trouble will be handled will send out a positive message than the attempt, a cowardly one, to deny that there is any trouble

> The writer is a Delhi-based commentator and analyst

LETTERS

SWAMY IS WRONG

BJP member Subramanian Swamy has made it public that he supports the Citizenship Amendment Bill. He also hailed the SPG amendment bill in the Rajya Sabha on Tuesday and spoke of the Congress' alliance with the DMK after Rajiv Gandhi's assassination. He cited Sonia Gandhi's letter to the President asking for the assassins' death sentences to be commuted. He said Priyanka Gandhi Vadra visited Nalini in jail, and that the LTTE is no longer a threat. Well, neither are Muslims for they are secular today. Mr Swamy should revise his opinion.

Amjadullah Sitamarhi, Bihar

SHANMUGA'S FEAT

Blogger, coder, photographer, and now Vikram finder. What Isro and could not, Subramanian accomplished, armed with two computers and 30 hours. The Tamil Nadu techie used a crude method of going through Vikram landing images pixel after pixel and then tweeted his findings and followed it up by tagging both Nasa and Isro and an email. With his technology, Shanmuga crossed the final frontier and stole the show in

> Jayanthy S. Maniam Mumbai

GLORY TO SHAME

The doping scandal has returned to haunt Indian sports with pugilist Neeraj Phogat testing positive for 'Lingandrol and other anabolic steroids". The boxer had created ripples by beating world champion Alessia Mesiano in an international meet in Russia and was a strong contender to be part of the 2020 Tokyo Olympics contingent. The doping taint has dashed Ms Phogat's Olympic hopes, besides, showing how sportspersons enticed by the lure of fame and medals can quickly fall from glory to shame.

N.J. Ravi Chander

Bengaluru

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SC's Ayodhya verdict fails to shore up BJP's political clout

at ranja kar kasu ko ki apney to etiqaad/ Dil dhaae ke jo kaaba ∎banaaya to kya hua" ("A house of worship on the ruins of a broken heart?/ My faith and yours are so far apart"). The heart-tugging advice against inflicting one's religion on another's came from 18thcentury Muslim poet Mir Taqi Mir. He lived roughly halfway in time between emperor Babar's brief rule and the demolition 27 years ago of a mosque that one of his generals built in Ayodhya in 1528.

Had Mir Baqi, the general, constructed the mosque by destroying a Hindu temple, as some Hindus claim? Mir the poet would admonish him though India's supreme court found no such evidence in its verdict last month. Were the zealots who razed the mosque on Dec 6, 1992, right in delivering what they claimed to be historical retribution? Mir would frown, though he was prone to departing from his faith to crave seclusion in Hindu temples, their bells and fragrances.

The five-member bench of the supreme court missed the delicate point last month when it gave away the land, where the mosque once stood, to the side that destroyed the monument to subvert the court's

Mir was not alone in sinking his spirit in India's multicultural milieu. Nazir Akbarabadi and Ghalib, among others, followed him faithfully though the habit possibly precedes the earlier Urdu poet Wali Dakhani approximating to Aurangzeb's period. They both died in 1707 after leading entirely opposite lives.

Wali wooed and applauded the diverse people of India. Aurangzeb alienated them, a departure from his forbears, led by the eclectic Akbar. "Koocha-i-yaar ain Kaasi hai/ Jogiya dil wahin ka baasi hai." The Mughal era poet who wrote the lines was also known as Wali of Gujarat, which is where Narendra Modi's hooligans destroyed his grave in 2002 and built a metal road over it. Some admirers still leave flowers at the spot to register their love and pain. What was the verse about? "My beloved lives in the sacred town of Varanasi/ And my ascetic heart belongs there.

As this Friday marks the anniversary of the Ayodhya sacrilege, from the rubble of the mosque is emerging a tiny but discernible strain of unsettling remorse. Aggrieved Indians should rejoice that those who had supported the destruction of the mosque, or were followers of a dubious historiography that justified the violent assault are seeing their folly. For this reason and more, the widelyheld fear of a majoritarian state emerging in India seems misplaced. Let's go with Amartya Sen's headcount of 200 million Muslims, about an equal number of Dalits with large number for Adivasis. Add Hindus who have been shot or jailed to the mix of a billon plus, Lalu Yadav, P. Chidambaram, Govind Pansare, Dhabolkar and Gauri Lankesh among them. Where's the majority, leave alone majoritarianism?

An early encouragement to a strong hunch in this regard came in the 1960s, when shabbily painted Ayodhya-related slogans in saffron appeared on Lucknow University's walls and across the road on Colvin Taluqedar College. A little ahead was the IT College, hugging the road to Ayodhya, via Barabanki and Faizabad. In the other direction, the graffiti extended right up to the British-built Monkey Bridge that linked the two banks of the Gomti. 'Garv se kaho hum Hindu hain" ("Say with pride we are Hindus").

One hadn't noticed any neighbour looking worried about their Hinduness. So who was being cajoled? The perplexing quest goes slightly back in time, actually, around the 1920s. Adopt the Hindu way of life or become a second-class citizen in future India, thundered M.S. Golwalkar to India's Muslims and Christians. Would Ghalib or Mir pass the test? See the treatment Wali got in Gujarat under Modi's watch. What about Iqbal who described Lord Ram as 'Imam-i-Hind' in a long ode to the mythical hero?

A clear stance is emerging against an alien narrow-mindedness being pushed by the Hindutva coterie. Resentment connects Bengal to Maharashtra, Kashmir to Kerala. It is significant that the most dogged critics of Modi belong to the evolving Hindu right. They are matched only by a nondescript response from the left and centrist ideologues who will be tested again in the Delhi polls in February. It was their poor judgement that brought India to its current pass in May this year.

Among the leading voices slamming Modi are those of former BJP minister and journalist Arun Shourie and his colleague Yashwant

Sinha. Shourie pronounced the Modi government as 'Congress plus cow'. You would have expected the left at the barricades against the wilful subversion in Kashmir. However, it is Yashwant Sinha, formerly from the Hindutva stable who is leading the charge for Kashmiri rights. Industrialists who had supported the prime minister are publicly slamming his damaging sectarian policies. Journalists who never tired of cheering Modi are admitting their

And now the Maharashtra bomb-The Babri Masjid verdict should have brought succour to the government's cheerleaders, but it hasn't. Horse-trading of elected deputies cannot be seen as a win for Hindutva as was dubiously claimed in Haryana and earlier in Karnataka and Goa. It is bizarre that the world's largest democracy should be shored up by elected representatives hidden away in safe houses for fear of being poached by the ruling party. The once silenced rubble in Ayodhya is conversing with Mir Taqi Mir, and more and more Indians are beginning to listen.

By arrangement with Dawn

THE ASIAN AGE

Why does Panipat the movie make Afghans see red? It's simply history



Abhijit Bhattacharyya

item that "Afghanistan raises alarm over reel on Third Battle of Panipat" appeared puzzling to this writer. What is the reason behind Afghan "sensurrounding the upcoming Indian movie *Panipat* that focuses on emperor Ahmad Shah Abdali", or the "perceived insult to an Afghan king" be dealt with by the state? It was certainly avoidable.

It was reported that "there are perceptions that the movie insulted Ahmad Shah Abdali, prompting sharp reactions from many Afghan citizens". But as a student of world affairs, one can say with conviction that Afghanistan need not be extrasensitive on a movie based on a real battle fought on Indian soil 258 years ago. A bloody battle with far-reaching consequences on the course of Indian history and psyche of people, which cannot be ignored or wished away. In reality, the sensitivities of Indians far outweigh the Afghan admiration for Ahmad Shah Abdali, the multiple foreign invader of India. It would be best if eminent Afghans don't make an issue of mid-18th century history in the 21st century. Let the filmmakers depict history, and let not the 258-year-old confrontation between two characters not be turned into a diplomatic wrangle between the peoples of two friendly nations.

Let's rewind the clock of Indian history to revisit the facts. The Third Battle of Panipat was fought on Indian soil, on the banks of the Yamuna, on Wednesday, January 14, 1761 between two helligerents from Afghanistan and India. Factually, the Afghans were indisputably invaders of a foreign territory and the Marathas were trying to establish their rule over the tottering Mughals of a shrinking Delhi durbar. Hence, if history, real or reel, castigates an invader, one should take it in one's stride and not make a huge

issue out of it. The British directly ruled over India for 89 years; from 1858 to 1947. Indians have castigated several members of the British ruling class, which has been adequately documented. Should the British take offence? There is no ground for that, as they know they came to India, from 8,000 km away, to rule by force. They had no business to be here to oppress and suppress Indians, taking advantage of internal

squabbles of various shades. În Europe, Hitler remains a hated and reviled character, and all signs and symbols connected with the Nazis are abhorred and eschewed. Non-Germans who suffered at Hitler's hands have nasty words to say about Hitler's Germany and its brute force. Do Germans feel humiliated or make issue No foreign invader is praised as a hero by those who fall victim in their own land. A foreign invader will be portrayed as a villain, and (in)appropriate adjectives will be used. If one turns the pages of history, India stands out as one of the worst sufferers.

with non-Germans? No. Far from it. In fact, they too join in disowning Hitler and his henchmen. So much so, virtually every German feels unabashedy apologetic about the incalculable harm Hitler caused to the whole of Europe, resulting in the psyche of a "collective guilt complex".

The point is that no foreign invader is praised as hero by those who fall victim in their own land. Any foreign invader will be portrayed as a villain, and (in)appropriate adjectives will be used. If one turns the pages of history, India stands out as one of the worst sufferers. It has faced at least 40 major foreign invasions in the past 1,000 years alone; making it one in every 25 years. No sooner was independent India born on August 15, 1947, within 69 days took place an invasion through the northwest by Pakistanorganised Pashtuns, Waziris, Afridis and other tribals. The invasion of India by the Pakistani Army-ISI duo continues till date. Can Indians ever portray these invaders as heroes? Should diplomatic heroes? niceties be breached for making a statement of fact?

Chinese dictator Mao Zedong had invaded India in 1962, without any provocation, and over 10,000 Indian soldiers died in the high Himalayas. Mao may be a hero to Chinese President Xi Jinping, but he is a villain to me.

Seen in juxtaposition; if Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi of Kathiawad had, on back of his (Chetak-type) favourite horse, personally led an army of two lakh soldiers to invade Kabul, Kandahar, Herat and Mazar-e-Sharif eight times, between 1920 and 1939, and killed thousands of Afghans aged five to 105 years, looted, destroyed and come back to India with 50,000 women and children as slaves. as a victory trophy, and died in 1948, how would he be judged by the Afghan successors of those massacred by the Gandhi regiment? Hero or villain? That says it all! So let's go through Ahmad Shah Abdali's list of invasions, beyond Afghanistan, east of the Indus river, spanning Punjab and India's capital, New Delhi.

Ahmad Shah Abdali first invaded India as Nadir Shah's junior commander in 1739 and participated in mass murder in Delhi. He detected "the weakness of the Mughal Empire, and the imbecility of the Emperor". After Nadir Shah's death, Ahmad Shah Abdali revived Afghan power, conquering Kandahar, Kabul, Peshawar and then invaded India in 1748. However, he was defeated at the battle of Manpur. Abdali invaded Punjab a second time, in 1750, and won. In the third invasion, 1751, he captured Kashmir and forced Mughal emperor Ahmad Shah to cede territory around Sirhind.

Abdali's fourth invasion, in November 1756, brought him to the gates of Delhi: "the imperial city was plundered and its unhappy people again subjected to pillage". He also plundered "Jat country, south of Delhi, and retired April 1757". Abdali's fifth invasion, in October 1759, resulted in the conquest of the whole of Punjab; and this constituted a virtual ultimatum to the Marathas, who were planning post-Mughal political suprema-

cy over Hindustan. Understandably, this led to the sixth invasion of India by the Afghan Abdali of Kandahar, resulting in the Third Battle of Panipat on January 14, 1761, with the indigenous Maratha regiment under the Peshwa.

Indisputably, in one of the bloodiest single-day battles on Indian soil, the Marathas were battered. They were never the same again. Afghan Abdali power too was gone, notwithstanding his two further invasions of India, in 1764 and 1767. It was a pyrrhic defeat for Indians and an equally pyrrhic "victory" for the invading Afghans on the soil of Hindustan.

In this background, if Indians portray the Kandahari Abdali as a bloodthirsty foreign invader who repeatedly resorted to invasions and inflicted immense misery on the people of India, one doesn't see any reason for anyone to feel bad, humiliated or insulted. Reality speaks and bites. Invaders like Hitler, Mussolini, Nadir Shah, Ahmad Shah Abdali, Taimur Lang and Kublai Khan will always be reviled; and no successor, in light of mass murder of prede-cessors, can be expected to praise foreign invader(s). Thus, foreign invaders will always have a dual place in history; one as a hero in his native place and another as a villain abroad. where he had carried out his acts of violence and misery.

The writer is an alumnus of the National Defence College and is the author of China in India

Season of revolts across the world is likely to continue



Mahir Ali

f there's a common theme that runs through the plethora of mostly spontaneous popular mobilisations that have rocked several continents in recent ullet months, it's corruption. It takes multiple forms, and tends to inspire revolts when it reaches some kind of critical mass. The triggers vary from one country to the next. In Lebanon, for instance, it was a proposed charge on WhatsApp calls, in Chile it was a small increase in metro fares, in Iran it was an unexpected spike in petroleum prices, in Hong Kong it was the prospect of suspects being extradited to mainland China.

In Iraq, it was a more general sense of ennui propelled by relentless administrative incompetence that prompted initially peaceful protests, which have led to the most horrific death toll in any of the recent revolts. Malta stands out insofar as the promised resignation of its Prime Minister is the consequence of a criminal inquiry into the assassination of a journalist two years ago. Even there, though, the murder of Daphne Caruana Galizia was prompted by her fearless determination to delve into deep-seated corruption at the

highest levels of government. She named and shamed, among others, a senior minister as well as the Prime Minister's chief of staff in the wake of the Panama Papers revelations. Both have finally resigned, Malta's richest businessman has been charged with complicity in the murder, and Prime Minister Joseph Muscat — himself a former journalist, ironically — has agreed to step down once his party picks a replacement.

That scenario, too, is frequently replicated. In Lebanon, for instance, the protesters succeeded where the Saudi crown prince had failed in securing Saad Hariri's resignation, but he remains ensconced as Prime Minister in a caretaker capacity, and for the time being it seems that a change of face will eventually be engineered within the discredited power structure that the street marchers have been militating against.

A similar scenario appears to be unfolding in Iraq where Parliament has approved Prime Minister Adel Abdul Mahdi's resignation, but the prospect of a replacement could play out for months — and it anyhow defeats the purpose of the revolting masses, whose chief gripe is against the post-Saddam political system put in place by the US and, inevitably, co-opted by Iran.

Iranian symbols have come under attack, and the myth of Tehran's mystical hold over Iraqi Shias has demonstrably been shattered. But the systemic deliverance being demanded by often fearless demonstrators does not automatically follow. The US sanctions against Iran, which a handful of European nations are gradually finding ways to dodge, no doubt account to a considerable extent for the faltering economy. But unemployed young Iranians — who are legion — are also impressed by their government's tendency to devote substantial resources to throwing its weight about in Iraq, Lebanon and Syria, at the expense of domestic investment that could conceivably revive the economy.

Iran may be one of the only countries, perhaps alongside Egypt, where recent protests have prompted outright repression without recompense or accommodations. Even elsewhere, although concessions have been made, the kind of change that the angry populace desires seems remote.

Arguably, the sole exception has been Bolivia, where regime change has been effected through a right-wing coup, following allegations of electoral malpractices that largely remain unsubstantiated. Even there, fresh elections have been promised, but no one can guarantee that they will be fair or free. In Chile, there is finally the prospect of a post-Pinochet constitution. But how that process will play out under the ruthless presidency of Sebastian Pinera remains to be seen. Overall, in the wake of almost universally inadequate to the popular impetus for systemic change, it seems likely that the lately witnessed season of revolt will not only slip into 2020 but substantially widen its remit.

By arrangement with Dawn

On the meanings behind Advent symbols



Dominic Emmanuel

ithin the normal Gregorian calendar that the world follows, the Church has an additional liturgical calendar, according to which the new liturgical year began on December 1 with the first Advent Sunday. From now until December 25, when the world will celebrate Jesus' birth, the time is designated as the Advent season.

While Christmas itself has several other symbols like the star, the Christmas tree, the little stable signifying where Jesus was born, Advent season too has its own

special symbols.
As the most important of Advent symbols, an especially prepared wreath is placed in prominent places in churches, institutions and homes. It is not your normal wreath but is

decorated with four candles of different colours. Its use during Advent is a longstanding Catholic tradition originally adopted in the Middle Ages to make spiritual preparation for Christmas.

The evergreens in the wreath mean continuous life. The circle signifying no beginning or end symbolises the eternity of God, the immortality of the soul and the everlasting life one eventually discovers in Christ. The pine cones that decorate the wreath symbolise life and resurrection. The wreath reminds us of both the immortality of our souls and God's promise of everlasting life to us through Christ.

The four candles represent the four weeks of Advent, and one candle is lit each Sunday. Three of the candles are purple because the colour violet is a liturgical colour that signifies a time of prayer, penance

The first candle, purple in colour, symbolises hope, remembering also the prophecies made about the birth of Christ in the Old Testament. The second candle, also purple, represents faith and reminds us of Jesus' parents Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem for the census ordered by emperor Augustus. The third candle is pink and symbolises joy. Similarly, the third Sunday of Advent is known "Gaudete" (joyful) Sunday and reminds us of the joy the world is expected to experience at Jesus' birth. It is the midpoint of Advent. On the fourth week of Advent,

the final purple candle to mark the final week of prayer and penance awaiting the birth of the Saviour. This candle symbolises peace, reminding of the message to the angels: "Peace on earth, goodwill toward all people." Some people have now started to also add an extra white candle placed in the middle and is lit on Christmas Eve.

The significance of the Advent season is to help people prepare their hearts and minds spiritually for the unique event of God taking on an incarnation in the form of the person of Jesus. The faithful are helped in doing this by the appropriate set of prayers and hymns. They are also encouraged to meditate on the selected Bible passages that speak of the Messiah's advent in the world.

Father Dominic Emmanuel, a founder-member of the Parliament of Religions, can be contacted at frdominic@gmail.com













intel

5G Modem

QUALCOMM UNVEILS TWO NEW CHIPS

Maui, Hawaii, Dec. 4: San Diego-based Qualcomm. has unveiled two new chipsets — the flagship Snapdragon 865 and the 765/765G — with an aim to compete in the 5G arena and artificial intelligence.

The company expects over 200 million 5G smartphones by the end of 2020 and forecasts 2.8 billion 5G connections by

Addressing the Annual Snapdragon Tech Summit, Bin Lin, co-founder, vice chairman, Xiaomi Corporation, announced that in the first quarter of 2020, the company will introduce its flagship Mi 10, one of the world's first smartphones to feature the flagship Snapdragon 865 mobile platform.

Chinese phone maker OPPO also said it will launch its flagship product using the Snapdragon 865 mobile platform in the first quarter (Jan-March) of 2020.

In the era of 5G and intelligent connectivity, OPPO will continue to invest in 5G products, research, standard development and application scenarios, with Qualcomm Technologies and other partners in the industry, to bring more 5G values and possibilities to users around the world. said Alen Wu, vice president and president of global sales,

Qualcomm said it expects the two new chipsets to power the most advanced android-based smartphones launching in 2020, regardless whether users are in 5G or 4G

Alex Katouzian, senior vice president and general manager, mobile, Qualcomm Qualcomm Technologies, Inc., announced 3D Sonic Max, the latest version of it's ultrasonic finger-



ELON MUSK DEFENDS SPAT ON TWITTER

Los Angeles, Dec 4: Tesla co that he did not literally call the British caver a pedophile during their infamous spat on Twitter, telling a Los Angeles court that he had simply defended himself from unprovoked insults.

The tech billionaire told the defamation trial jury he had been 'upset' when he described British diver Vernon Unsworth helped rescue youth soccer players trapped in a cave in Thailand — as 'pedo guy' in a

During the July 2018 row, Unsworth had described the 48-year-old entrepreneur's proposal to build a mini-submarine to rescue the boys as a 'PR stunt.'

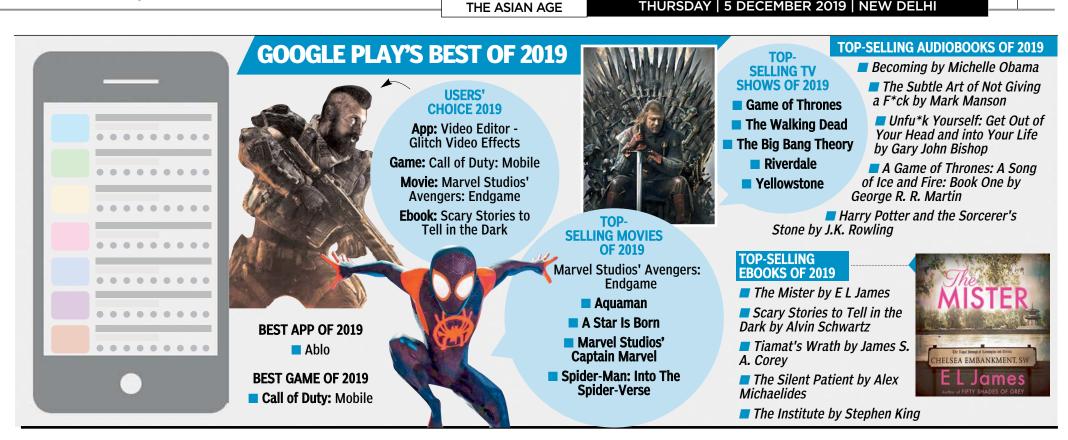
"It was an unprovoked attack on a good-natured attempt to rescue the kids," Musk, dressed in a black suit and dark tie, told the courtroom on Tuesday.

'I was upset. It was wrong and insulting and so I insulted him back," he said.

Musk was questioned by Unsworth's attorney, Lin Wood, about comments made by the caver, who had said the custom-built device would never have fit in the cave and suggested that Musk could 'stick his submarine where it

hurts.' 'It's idiomatic, just as I was not literally meaning he was a paedophile," replied Musk. Musk's attorney Alex Spiro earlier on Tuesday told the jury of six women and two men that his client meant no harm when he hit out at Unsworth and that his words

were spoken in anger. The tweets are not allegations of crimes. They are joking, taunting tweets in a fight between two men," Spiro told the court.



Sundar Picchai is Alphabet boss

Google co-founders, Larry Page and Sergey Brin, step aside for Indian techie

San Francisco, Dec. 4: Google co-founders Larry Page and Sergey Brin are stepping aside as leaders of the Internet behemoth they founded 21 years ago, ending an extraordinary run that saw them build one of the world's most valuable and influential companies.

Trusted lieutenant, Sundar Pichai, who has run the core Google search business since 2015, will immediately take the reins as CEO of parent

Alphabet Inc.
"While it has been a tremendous privilege to be deeply involved in the dayto-day management of the company for so long, we believe it's time to assume the role of proud parents — offering advice and love, but not daily nagging!" Page and Brin wrote in a blog post on

Tuesday.
Page, Brin and Pichai
have shared an emphasis on developing artificial intelligence software to make web searching faster and more personalised, while expanding the range of information and services available from a simple text query.
But their vision faces

unprecedented scrutiny, with governments on five continents demanding better saieguards, an end to what many view as anticompetitive conduct, and more taxes from the world's largest online advertising company. Thousands of employees have protested, and some have even resigned, over ongoing concerns that Google's famous "don't be evil" mantra — once embraced by Page and

Brin — may be cracking. Streamlining Alphabet's unorthodox management structure could help the company better respond to the challenges and focus on growing profits, inve-

stors said. "This signals a shift away from the more fringy efforts and more towards a company focused on technology that makes money," said Kim Caughey Forrest, chief investment officer at Bokeh Capital Partners.

Alphabet, which owns more than a dozen companies including self-driving car business Waymo and health care software company Verily, was created in 2015 as part of a restructuring. The Google unit retained control of major businesses including video giant YouTube, the

SHUNNING AN OPEN CULTURE

Sundar Pichai recently sent out an email to Google's 1,00,000 employees saying the company took a decision to cut back the biweekly 'TGIF' meet-ing to once a month, ending a tradition that had long empowered employees with an opportunity to reach out to the top boss.

Google cited its plans to stick to product and business strategy, decreased atten-dance rates, the difficulty in running a real-time gathering across time zones for restricting the TGIF. But, this was not the first instance in the recent times, when the company didn't take the opinion of its employees.

broke that Google was helping the US
Department of Defense with an initiative to build artificially intelligent drones to use in war. Thousands of Google employees protested the partnership with a petition.

■ In March 2018, news

Google Assistant's new Duplex feature is an AI that could make calls on a user's behalf. Allegations that the demo might have been 'faked' have since cropped up, but even if it wasn't, some say the tech is deceptive, as the AI never identifies itself as non-human.

Sacked Google engineers seek probe into dismissal

oogie. ahead Thanksgiving holiday have said that they were seeking a federal investigation into their dismissal, which they claimed was in retaliation for their labour organisa-

tion efforts. The dismissal of the group group dubbed the "Thanksgiving Four" on social media highlighted deepening tensions at Google, which had stated the employees violated

data security policies. A Medium post signed by the four said Google "fired us for engaging in protected labour organising" at

the Silicon Valley giant. 'We spoke up when we saw Google making unethical business decisions that create a workplace that is harmful to us and our colleagues," said the posting signed by engi-neers Laurence Berland, Paul Duke, Rebecca Rivers

Android smartphone soft-

ware and hardware opera-

tions, and cloud comput-

Page had wanted to focus

on developing the newer

businesses, which collectively lose money. He left

San Francisco, Dec. 4: and Sophie Waldman. sexual harassment, and Four employees fired by "We participated in legally organising around topics orotected labor organising, fighting to improve workplace conditions for all Google workers.'

The four said they would file a complaint alleging unfair labour practices with the National Labor Relations Board.

"We look forward to hearing the NLRB's findings, which we expect will confirm that Google acted unlawfully," they said. The dismissed engineers

said they were acting on the basis of Google's own internal rules. "The company's code of conduct states unequivocally: 'Don't be evil, and if

and contractual workers.

challenging the protection

of executives accused of

Alphabet, to Pichai, who

in turn delegates a lot of

authority to deputies who

manage the various prod-

uct lines. Brin had stayed on as Alphabet's presi-

you see something that you think isn't right — speak up!' And we did," they wrote. The post said the employees were seeking better conditions for temporary

such as gender discrimination and Google's projects involving the US and Chinese governments.

Google, the biggest operating unit of parent company Alphabet, said in a memo to employees that the dismissals were based on unauthorised access to data from other employees and sharing that information externally.

The tech giant denied the employee allegations.

"We dismissed four individuals who were engaged in intentional and often repeated violations of our long-standing data security policies, including systematically accessing and disseminating employees' materials and work," a Google statement

"No one has been dismissed for raising con-cerns or debating the com-

pany's activities.

But Page and Brin, once regular sights at public

and other research proj-

events and at Google headquarters, had become

much less visible in recent years. Page's retreat into the background drew increasing criticism from employees and US law-makers, who demanded answers from him rather than Pichai about controversial projects such as an experimental search app

for Chinese users.
Page and Brin, both 46, remain directors of the parent company but will cede their respective CEO and president titles immediately, Alphabet said. The president role will not be filled, it said, describing the changes as long discussed.

Page's voice has been impaired for years because of a chronic condition, but his health did not play a role in the decision to step aside, Alphabet said.

"With Alphabet now well-established, and Google and the Other Bets operating effectively as independent companies, it'd the natural time to it's the natural time to simplify our management structure," the co-founders said. "We are deeply committed to Google and Alphabet for the long term." The co-founders still con-

trol the company through their ownership of preferred shares. As of April, Page held 26.1% of Alphabet's total voting power, Brin 25.25% and Pichai less than 1%. Alphabet shares rose 0.56% following the afterhours announcement to

Page and Brin developed the core Google search technology while they were still graduate students at Stanford, and it quickly proved far superior to competing search engines of the early

Internet era. By the time it went public in 2004, Google dominated web search and was on its way to becoming a household name and the most powerful force in the global advertising business. The young cofounders also nurtured a free-wheeling, engineering-driven culture that became a model in Silicon Valley, which is littered with startups launched by Google veterans.

Pichai, 47, who has spent 15 years at Google, rose to prominence while leading the development of Chrome browser. He later led product development and engineering across all of Google's services for a year before gaining the CEO title. — Reuters

World's first spray-on facial mask unveiled

Tokyo, Dec. 4: A Japanese cosmetics company on Wednesday unveiled what it said was the world's first spray-on skin, a moisturising facemask made of fibres one-100th the thickness of a human hair.

After applying an absorbent lotion, users spray the fibres onto their face and a thin translucent sheet is quickly formed, acting as a "greenhouse" for the real skin below to soak up the moisture and still be able to breathe.

The "second skin" can

be worn overnight or peeled off after about a

"This is the world's first cosmetic product using such technology," according to Masayuki Uchiyama, skincare researcher at Kao, the firm behind the innovation.

The hand-held diffuser was 10 years in the making, said Uchiyama, who admitted: "We struggled to make the device small." Kao researchers did not initially think of using the technology of ultra-thin fibres to create a layer on the skin, he said, adding that the precise material from which they were made was a secret.
"But we learned that the

can still breatne under the thin fibres for



A super thin transparent layer being removed with a palm-sized diffuser, during a product demonstration in Tokyo. — AFP

many hours" in an environment akin to a green-

Such cutting-edge tech does not come cheap though, with each diffuser costing 50,000 yen. Nevertheless, Kao predicts cosmetic sales could reach 100 billion yen if

the technology is applied to the medical field. In the future, Uchiyama said it could be used to cover scars or to create an invisible medical patch. Similar technologies already exist, including those using cells or polymer, but Uchiyama said Kao's technology is different.

"Ours is focused on fibres. They're more flex-ible and hard to break, even if you move.

Banks eyeing your spending habits

a powerful new player watching what you buy so it can tailor product offerings for you: the bank behind your credit or debit card.

For years, Google and Facebook have been showing ads based on your online behaviour. Retailers from Amazon to Walgreens also regularly suction up your transaction history to steer future spending and hold your loyalty.

Now banks, too, want to turn data they already have on your spending habits into extra revenue by identifying likely customers for retailers. Banks are increasingly aware that they could be sitting on a gold mine of information that can be used to predict — or sway

— where you spend. Historically, such data where you spend.

New York, Dec. 4: There's has been used mostly for fraud protection.

Suppose you were to treat yourself to lunch on Cyber Monday, the busiest online shopping day of the year. If you order ahead at Chipotle - paying, of course, with your credit card — you might soon find your bank dangling 10% off lunch at Little Caesars. The bank would earn fees from the pizza joint, both for showing the offer and processing the payment.

Wells Fargo began customising retail offers for individual customers on Nov. 21, joining Chase, Bank of America, PNC, SunTrust and a slew of smaller banks.

"Banks have the secret weapon in that they actually know what we spend money on," said Silvio Tavares of CardLinx

TECH | AGE

Chinese short video platform Kuaishou named by Apple as the application defining 2019

Apple picks Chinese app for inclusiveness

New York, Dec. 4: Lead-ing with the tagline "In 2019, these apps helped us discover our inner creators," Apple names Chinese short-video app Kuaishou among the apps that define the app trend of the year — "Storytelling

Simplified." Apple unveiled the top apps of 2019 and trends that drove app culture makes Kuaishou stand over the year. The awards consisted of the "app of the year" for iPhone, iPad, Apple TV and Mac as well

year." In addition to its

usual end-of-year press releases, this year Apple chose to celebrate its picks with a first-of-its-kind event in New York City, gathering app developers, Apple executives and the press.

Yang Yuanxi, co-founder of Kuaishou Technology, attended the event and shared with the press what

'Kuaishou places great importance in equality and inclusiveness," Yang said. "Kuaishou gives as the "app trend of the said. every content creator an

Kuaishou, the app chosen by Apple for its inclusiveness, was created based on the belief that everyone's lives are worth chronicling.

opportunity to shine." On a mission to increase every individual's happiness through technology, embodied in its Kuaishou was created

Google, by far the biggest dent, spending time on and most profitable part of robotics, health ventures

With inclusiveness as its DNA embodied in its level playing field algorithms, Kuaishou distrib-utes traffic more evenly and ensure people find inner happiness.

based on the belief that everyone's lives are worth chronicling. With "incluas its DNA "level

fic more evenly and make sure people from all backgrounds access Kuaishou easily and find their inner happiness in the commu-

nity. Launched in 2011, Kuaishou now boasts more than 200 million daily active users, supported by an archive of 13 billion original short videos.

The app trend of 2019

"Storytelling Simplified" showcases apps that, according to Apple, according "helped us fill the prover-

playing field" algorithms, bial blank page with our Kuaishou distributes traf- memories, dreams, imamemories, dreams, images, and voices." Among them, along with Kuaishou, are apps including Anchor, Canva, Unfold and Steller. According to Phil Schiller, Apple's senior president

Worldwide Marketing, the 2019 App Store Best Apps and Games winners reflect a "global desire for connection, creativity and fun."

As short-video-making and sharing continues to be one of the most power-

ful trends for users and

developers worldwide, Yang also shared with the press his insight into the dynamic future development of the sector.

"Short videos have now developed into a new form of expression, which is far more diversified and more timely than traditional text and pictures. An upgrade in the form of expression has brought about new experiences in 'crossovers' instance, we can crossover

with the education sector, or with agriculture," he — Agencies







Infra stocks under pressure as Maha reviews key projects

India ranks 73rd in UN's e-com readiness index



Overleaf

quick

INDICATORS Sensex 40,850.29 +0.43 Nifty 50 12043.20 +0.41 S&P 500 3,113.83 +0.67 Dollar (₹) 71.67 -0.17 Pound Sterling (₹) 93.54 +0.25 79.44 -0.19 Euro (₹) Gold (10gm)* (₹) 38,156▼94 -0.25 Brent crude (\$/bbl)* \$63.23 +2.41 IN 10-Yr bond yield +6.462 0.00 US 10-Yr T-bill yield +1.748 +0.039

Bharti Airtel gets board nod for raising \$4 billion

* As of 9:30 pm IST

Bharti Airtel's board approved raising \$4 billion through equity dilution and debt funding. The board for now has given its go-ahead to raise up to \$3 billion and has also approved raising an additional \$1 billion, an official said. The board has given its approval to raise \$2 billion through QIPs, public/private offerings of equity shares, debentures, etc, the firm said.

Cabinet okays 4th labour code on social security



Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar said that the Union Cabinet has approved the fourth labour code—the Code on Social Security Bill 2019. The bill seeks to consolidate the laws relating to social security of workers and subsume eight central laws, including the Employees' Compen-sation Act, 1923; ESI Act, 1948 and EPF and Miscellaneous Provisions Act.

Tata Power-ICICI JV acquires Prayagraj power

A joint venture of Tata Power and ICICI Bank acquired real estate baron Manoj Gaur's biggest power plant at Prayagraj in Uttar Pradesh by agreeing to take over Rs 6.000 crore of debt of the company. Renascent Power Ventures Pvt Ltd, a 100% arm of Resurgent Power Ventures Pte, has acquired 75 per cent stake in Prayagraj Power Generation Co Ltd.

Greg Hyttenrauch named Cognizant **EVP & President**

Cognizant has appointed Greg Hyttenrauch as its Executive ice President and President of Digital Systems & Technology. Cognizant CEO Brian Humphries made the announcement in an email to employees. The former Vodafone executive will join the Executive Committee. Hyttenrauch will be based in London. Prior to Vodafone,

Hyttenrauch spent seven years

at Capgemini.

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Lenders get no immediate relief from SAT in Karvy case

with agency inputs

The Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT) on Wednesday asked Sebi to pass the final order in the pleas filed by ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank, IndusInd Bank and others against the regulator's move to transfer pledged shares to clients of Karvy Stock Broking Ltd.

The SAT refused to give any immediate relief to the top lenders, who chal-lenged the transfer of securities held with Karvy Stock Broking back to the

clients and sought transfer of the shares into an escrow account.

HDFC Bank and ICICI Bank had on Tuesday fought to lay their hands on the client shares that Karvy had pledged with them, seeking to recover Rs 1,000 crore they had lent to the brokerage. IndusInd Bank had also joined in the plea, claiming dues of Rs 132.50 crore.

The three private banks had contended that many of these securities had been used to borrow money from them and had been used pleaded with the tribunal to either get the securities back to them or put them in an escrow account to protect their funds.

The case pertains to the securities that were used by Karvy for borrowing, courtesy the power of attorneys that they held. The securities held by over 83,000 clients were given back to them on Monday after the Securities and Exchange Board of India asked NSDL to do so, forcing Bajaj Finance to move the SAT and secure an interim relief on further

The NSDL transfers helped 90 per cent of the Karvy demat account-hold-

ers get back their shares bought on borrowed money from these lenders. The private sector banks

joined the Bajaj Finance petition on Tuesday and there was a lengthy hearing. On November 22, Sebi barred Karvy from taking new brokerage clients and

also prevented it from

using the power of attorneys (PoAs) given by its clients after the brokerage was found to have allegedly misused clients' securities. Wednesday, SAT bench comprising M.T. Joshi and C.K.G. Nair

refused to give nay relief to

the lenders beyond the order in the Bajaj Finance plea and asked them to Sebi approach by December 6.

The SAT also asked Sebi whole-time member Ananta Barua, who issued the order against Karvy on November 22, to give a personal hearing to the aggrieved parties and pass

an order by December 12. In the Bajaj Finance case, SAT on Tuesday asked Sebi to hear the financier latest Wednesday, and directed Sebi to pass a fresh order by December 10.

crore, while Bajaj Finance's exposure is Rs On these banks' specific 312 crore.
The lenders had collecrequest for either getting

tively said that the NSDL decision following a Sebi direction on Monday can back the securities which have been given out as loans or at least freezing put the entire loans against them till a decision is reached, the SAT mainsecurities business in a tained that such a plea is quandary if the underlying security will no longer be available to be invoked. "untenable" as the securities are already with the clients.

The NSDL counsel had told the SAT that the deci-During the course of the arguments on Tuesday, a sion was taken by its board counsel for HDFC Bank and also cited a June 19 Sebi order that barred said it has an exposure of them from taking such Rs 300 crore to such loans, while the value of the securities against which the

Speaking to reporters earlier in the day, Sebi chief Ajay Tyagi declined to comment on the matter, saying the matter is sub-

■ New avenue for retail investors, state-run firms

Centre to launch first bond ETF this month

FC BUREAU NEW DELHI, DEC. 4

The country will soon have its first exchange-traded fund (EFT) for bonds comprising debt of state-run companies, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Wednesday. The idea is to give retail investors an option to buy government debt while creating an additional source of funding for Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) and state-owned financial institutions.

The Union Cabinet headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the launch of ETF for bonds to create an additional source of funding for Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) and state-owned financial insti-

of Bharat Bond ETF, on similar lines of Bharat L'I'F' for equities, would be launched this month itself. With the creation and launch of umbrella ETF we

scheme is expected to bring in maximum returns for retail investors. You can invest in bond **ETF** for assured returns, which will be better than FDs — N. SITHARAMAN

This bond ETF



hope to diversify investor base," Sitharaman told reporters. It will help deepen bond market as was announced in the Budget,

ETF will be a basket of bonds issued by state firms or any government organisation, and will be tradable on exchange, she said, adding that the unit size will be of Rs 1,000, allowing small investors to invest. Each ETF will have fixed

The new fund offer (NFO) maturity date and will track underlying index on risk replication basis, she said, adding that for now it will have two maturity series -- 3 and 10 years --

with a low cost of 0.0005 per

"This bond ETF scheme is expected to bring in maximum returns for retail investors. You can invest in bond ETF for assured returns, which will be better than the fixed deposits (FDs) in banks," the finance minister said.

The government said that the ETF would be listed on the stock exchanges. Large investors will also be able to buy and sell units with the fund house directly. The first series will hold AAA-rated securities only. Later tranches could hold securities rated between

AAA and AA+. It is also expected that

there will be two baskets of securities on which the fund will be based upon. "The three-year variant will have 13 companies, with REC, Nabard and PFC as its top three components. The 10-year variant will have 12 companies with the NHAI ational, IRFC and REC as its top three constituents," source said. Experts have welcomed

the development, saying that Bharat Bond ETF would enable deepening the corporate bond market with enhanced retail participation. Edelweiss Asset Management Company CEO Radhika Gupta said, "Bharat Bond ETF will be a diversified basket of public sector company bonds aimed at providing easy access for retail investors to invest in these bonds and bringing liquidity in the corporate bond market.

it will also neip these companies with new source of funding," she

Reliance Jio to raise tariff by up to 39%

New Delhi, Dec 4: Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Jio will raise mobile call and data charges by up to 39 per cent from December 6 through its all-in-one plans, which still will be an estimated 15 to 25 per cent cheaper than rivals'.

The all-in-one plans will provide at least 1.5 GB per day of data and increased number of offnet calls, the company said.

The tariff hike, which is planned to match similar increases by rival Bharti Airtel and Vodafone Idea earlier this week, give 300 per cent more benefits, it said. "Further to its last statement dated 2019, December

Jio...announced the new 'All-in-One plans'. These plans will provide up to 300 per cent more benefits to the Jio consumers. These plans will go-live on 6th December 2019," Jio said in a statement.

The company on December 1 has announced that it will raise mobile plans rates by up to 40 per cent. According to the new tariff plans, Jio customers will have to pay Rs 555 for 84-day validity and GB of data per day, which is 39 per cent high-



loans were made is Rs 470

er than the earlier plan of Rs 399 offering similar

The company has raised the price of Rs 153 plan to Rs 199; Rs 198 plan to Rs 249; Rs 299 plan to Rs 349; Rs 349 plan to Rs 399; Rs 448 to Rs 599; Rs 1,699 plan to Rs 2,199; and Rs 98 plan to Rs 129.

The Rs 199 plan, a 28-day validity plan that offers 1.5GB data per day, is about 25 per cent cheaper than the plans of rivals offering similar benefits at around Rs 249.

Airtel Bharti Vodafone Idea already raised mobile services rates by up to 50 per cent from December 3.

Reliance Jio new plans come in line with expectamarket analysts that the company will price them lower compared to rivals.

HDFC Bank online glitch riles customers

SUVASHREE GHOSH

A prolonged glitch at HDFC Bank Ltd, a lender well-known for its digital services, could erode trust and hurt business as clients struggle to perform basic transactions.

An unknown number of the Mumbai-based lender's 49 million customers have been locked out of its online banking platform for the past three days, prompting dozens to vent their anger on social media. An HDFC Bank

spokesman declined to comment on the reason for the outage or say when it would be fixed, beyond what the company was telling customers on Twitter.

The error has prevented some account holders from making loan and salary payments, according to complaints on the oank's Twitter handle Almost 90 per cent of the lender's transactions are

digital. 'HDFC Bank management should address these glitches in minutes rather than hours as banking is now technology-dependent and a huge client base gets impacted," said Kranthi Bathini, an analyst at

Wealthmills Securities. HDFC Bank, which was awarded the best digital bank in India in 2019 by *Asiamonev*, savs in its most recent annual report that building digital capabilities is a prior ity for the lender, which is one of the nation's largest facilitators of cashless payments.

It's not the first time the private-sector bank has faced such an issue. When it launched a renewed version of its mobile banking application a year ago, customers struggled to log in. That forced the bank to withdraw the new app and restore the old version.

-Bloomberg



Ujjivan Small Bank IPO subscribed 165 times

FC BUREAU MUMBAI, DEC. 4

Ujjivan Small Finance Bank's Rs 750- crore initial public offering received overwhelming response from investors as the IPO got subscribed more than 165.66 times on the last day of bidding on Wednesday, as per information given by the stock exchanges. The Rs 645- crore IPO by

state-run IRCTC was overall subscribed 111.92 times earlier in October and CSB Bank's Rs 410-crore IPO was subscribed 87 times.

As per last information from sources close to the merchant bankers, the Ujjivan Small Finance Bank had been subscribed 170.24 times with the qualified institutional buyers category subscription at 113.80 times, non-institutional or high net-worth category subscription at 486.14 times, retail individual investor category sub-scription at 50.16 times

and shareholder reservation category subscription at 4.23 times. Earlier on November 29,

the bank had mopped up Rs 303.75 crore from 18 anchor investors, includ-Government of oore, Monetary Singapore, Authority of Singapore, CX Partners Fund, Aberdeen, HDFC Life Insurance Company, Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance Company, Sundaram Company, Sundaram Mutual Fund, Goldman Sachs India and ICICI Prudential.

Ujjivan Small Finance Bank is a mass market focused bank promoted by Ujjivan Financial The bank has a presence in 24 states and caters to financially unserved and underserved segments with the aim of building Illiancession in the country.

of Ujjivan

Financial Services closed 4.07 per cent up at Rs 349.25 on the BSE.

Services return to growth

Bengaluru, Dec. 4: India's dominant services sector bounced back to growth in November, expanding at its fastest pace in four months, driven by a strong pick-up in new business, a private sector survey showed on Wednesday.

The Nikkei/IHS Markit Services Purchasing Managers' Index rose to 52.7 last month from 49.2 in October, above the 50mark separating contraction from growth on a monthly basis.

be taken from November's survey was a renewed increase in new work, which provided the platform for growth of services activity and employment whilst resulting in an improvement in business confidence,' said Pollyanna DeLima, Principal Econ-omist at IHS Markit.

The main positive to —Reuters

Yes Bank's \$2 bn capital plan leaves investors unimpressed SUVASHREE GHOSH & NUPUR ACHARYA

Almost a week after embattled Yes Bank Ltd unveiled details of its plans to raise \$2 billion in capital. shareholders remain unconvinced that a deal will take place.

Shares of the Mumbaibased lender have fallen about 8 per cent since it announced the names of the investors for its proposed preferential issue. Doubts over key foreign bidders have triggered concerns that the Reserve Bank of India might not allow them to take ownership of the bad-debt laden

The bank's 3.75 per cent dollar-denominated notes due February 2023 fell 1.9 cents to 88.7 cents, the biggest decline in more than two months, prices compiled by Bloomberg

"The biggest worry is



whether Yes Bank will get the RBI's approval for the huge stake dilution with institutional and have questions on their credibility," said Jaikishan Parmar, Analyst at Angel

Such concerns follow reports of lawsuits involving Erwin Singh Braich, a Canadian entrepreneur who alongside SPGP Holdings has committed \$1.2 billion to the capital increase. A rejection by the RBI would add pressure on core equity capital

largest lender, which at 8.7 per cent is barely above the 8 per cen minimum regulatory norm. Yes Bank shares rose 5.9 per cent in Mumbai on

at the country's fourth-

Wednesday, paring this week's decline. The stock has tumbled about 65 per cen this year amid deepening concerns over the bank's exposure to the troubled shadow financing sector and other corporate borrowers. "We expect the pressure on Yes Bank to continue as names of investors are

unfavourable and there is no precedent of the central bank allowing an individual investor to take a large stake in a bank, said Ravikant Anand Bhat, a Mumbai-based analyst at Indianivesh Securities Ltd. "The stock is likely to decline further until the regulator gives its decision.

— Bloomberg

United Breweries steps into craft beer market

RITIK MUKHERJEE KOLKATA, DEC. 4

Craft beer, brewed in traditional way by small breweries, is creeping up on pub tables as an emerging fad. The market for this alternate beer category may still be less than 1 per cent of India's 4.7 billion litres (2017 estimate) beer market, but is growing at over 40 per cent a year, patron-

ised by a young, well-trav-

er disposable incomes, according to a Deloitte study.

The change is beer consumption habit is palpable. Going by a study by Craft Brewers Association of India, over the last five the number of microbreweries in India has jumped from 20 in 2013 to 120 now. Compared to this, in the US, where craft beer is considered to have

over 6,000 craft breweries and 12 per cent of beer sales is from craft.

The other significant change 2013 to 120 taking place in India is that in the initial years, the trend was to set up brewpubs, but now it seems to have shifted to selling packaged beers. The overall

expected to reach \$900 million by the last five the end of 2024. years, the numniche ber of microbrewmarket having eries in India has popular brands jumped from 20 in like Bira 91 and

> will soon have competition from United Breweries in major beer consuming states. UBL has stepped into the space with the

White

Rhino

the first non-lager beer from the stable of Kingfisher. The craft-styled beer is brewed with the authentic Belgian wheat beer recipe, it said.

"Consumers today expect more from their beersthey crave uniqueness in flavour, taste & experience. Ultra Witbier will retain the sense of style and authenticity of the parent brand Ultra, and we are confident it will appeal to our consumers across country," said Debabrata Mukherjee. Marketing Officer, United Breweries.

He said Kingfisher Ultra Witbier is available in 330ml, 500ml and 650ml ml bottles, priced at Rs. 110, Rs. 150 and Rs. 185, respectively in Karnataka. The beer will soon be available in Maharashtra, Delhi and Haryana, besides, Goa and

Karnataka where already present.

Interestingly, South India accounts for the largest market share of more than 42 per cent in terms of beer consumption, owing to a significant rise in urban and female consumers in the region.

The per capita consumption of beer is 1.5 litre and has been budding at over 15 per cent in the last few

SBI to sell up to 8.25% in UTI AMC

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD MUMBAI, DEC.4

The much-awaited initial public offering of UTI Asset Management Company may see the light of the day soon with one of the share-holders State Bank of India's board according final approval for divest-ment of SBI stake in UTI

UTI Mutual Fund is promoted by the four of the largest public sector financial institutions as sponsors—SBI, LIC, Bank of Baroda and Punjab National Bank, with each of them holding a 18.24 per cent stake in the paid up capital of

T Rowe Price Group through its wholly owned subsidiary T Rowe Price International has acquired a 26 per cent stake in UTI Asset Management Company.

SBI will be offloading up to 8.25 per cent stake through IPO by way of offer for sale after regulatory approvals by the Securities Exchange Board of India and other con-

cerned authorities and departments.

NoBroker expands to **Delhi NCR**

New Delhi, Dec 4: NoBroker.Com. a brokerage free property platform, on Wednesday announced its entry into the Delhi-NCR market and aims to have presence in 20 major cities over the next three-four

October, Bengaluru-based firm raised \$50 million in Series D funding, led by Tiger Global Management. for business expansion. It has raised \$121 million since its inception in 2014. NoBroker.Com helps in

buying/selling and renting of housing and commercial properties by connecting owner and property seekers without involving brokers.

"We have entered into the Delhi-NCR which is property market in the country,' NoBroker.Com founder Saurabh Garg told reporters here.

The company now has presence in six cities-Bengaluru, Mumbai, Pune, Hyderabad, Chennai and the national capital region and aims to have presence in 20 major cities over four

Siddharth Mittal made **Biocon CEO**

FC BUREAU NEW DELHI, DEC. 4

Bengalurubased Biocon Siddharth Mittal has taken over as Siddharth Chief Executive Officer and Joint

Managing Director, with effect from December 1. Biocon said Mittal has

been Chief Financial Officer from August 2014. Mittal takes over from Arun Chandavarkar who retired as CEO & Joint MD on November 30.

"I am very pleased to welcome Siddharth as CEO & Joint MD of Biocon," Biocon CMD Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw said, adding, "Siddhar-th's strong leadership qualities, comprehensive understanding of various aspects of the busideep financial insights and robust operational experience make him an excellent fit for the role of CEO to lead Biocon through its next phase of growth.

Mittal said Biocon is "at an inflection point where it is well positioned to create value for its shareholders.'

■ Kazakhstan (57) Vietnam (64) & Tunisia (70) ahead of India

India ranks 73rd in UN's e-com readiness index

United Nations, Dec. 4: India has been ranked 73rd out of 152 countries in a business-to-consumer ecommerce index that measures an economy's preparedness to support online shopping, moving seven places up in the list.

The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development's Business-to-Consumer (B2C) E-commerce Index 2019 has been topped by the Netherlands for the second consecutive year.

European nations hold eight of the top 10 spots on the index, which ranks 152 countries on their readiness to engage in online commerce. The only non-European countries on the top 10 list are Singapore (3) and Australia (10).

The index scores 152 nations on their readiness for online shopping, worth an estimated \$3.9 trillion globally in 2017, up 22 per cent from the previous

India is ranked 73rd in the 2019 index, slightly improving its position from 80 in 2018 and 83 in 2017. According to the report, in India Internet shoppers as a share of Internet users was 11 per cent and Internet shoppers as a share of population 3 per

Faring better than India



are countries such as Iran, ranked 42nd, Kazakhstan (57), Azerbaijan (62), Vietnam (64) and Tunisia (70).

Switzerland is ranked sec ond on the list, followed by Singapore, Finland, the United Kingdom, Denmark, Norway, Ireland, Germany and Australia.

Countries are scored on the access to secure internet servers, the reliability of postal services and infrastructure, and the portion of their population that uses the internet and has an account with a financial institution or mobile-money-service provider.

The 10 developing countries with the highest scores are all from Asia and classified as high-income

portion is below 10 per cent in most low and lower middle-income countries. 'There is an urgent need to help less prepared coun-

chases online. But that pro-

tries improve their infra-structure and build trust among their population," Sirimanne said

'Otherwise, their businesses and people will miss out on the opportunities offered by the digital economy, and they will be less prepared to deal with various challenges.'

UNCTAD's index also highlights the need to improve the reliability and availability of statistics, especially in developing countries.

For example, internet user data for 2018 were available for less than half of the countries at the time of index calculations. And the latest data on bank and mobile-money accounts are from 2017.

Typically, countries that are the least prepared for the digital economy also have the least amount of statistical information to help their policymakers make well-informed decisions," Sirimanne said.

"E-commerce allows consumers to benefit from greater choices and lower prices," it said.

pressure as Maha reviews key projects

Infra stocks under

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD

Shares of engineering and construction companies having major exposure to ongoing infrastructure projects in Maharashtra infrastructure fell on Wednesday as investors got a scare after reports said Maharashtra government was reviewing the infra-structure projects, expecting a situation like Andhra

Pradesh in the making. However, Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray said his government will not put on hold or stop any infrastructure project started by the earlier government.

Thackeray said except Aarey Metro car shed in Mumbai, no work has been stopped by his government. However, other constituents of the new gov-ernment, NCP and ernment, Congress, may have a different opinion on presti-gious bullet train project, Mumbai-Nagpur expressway project, among other key projects.

Engineering & Construction major Larsen & Toubro's shares fell to a three-month low as it shed 2.16 per cent on the BSE. The stock is down close to 11 per cent in the last one

month period.
The other losers included IRB Infrastructure Developers (-2.36 per cent), KNR Construction (-1.23 per

Review impact

Stock	CMP	Change
	(₹)	(%)
Larsen & Toubro	1285.20	-2.16
IRB Infrastructure Developers	70.35	-2.36
KNR Construction	228.85	-1.23
Sadbhav Engineering	126.05	-3.37
Dilip Buildcon	390.40	-1.74
	Sou	ırce: BSI

cent), Sadbhav Engineering (-3.37 per cent) and Dilip Buildcon (-1.74 per cent). The infra stocks that bucked the trend included Hindustan Constrcuction Company (2.45 per cent) and J Kumar Infraprojects

(3.01 per cent).
Soon after taking charge as Chief Minister Thackeray held a meeting of state officials to review the ongoing projects, including Mumbai Metro, Mumbai Coastal Road project, Trans Harbour Link, Mumbai-Nagpur express way project, Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train and other projects.

Earlier, a change in Andhra Pradesh government led to a review of ongoing projects in the state started by the former chief minister Chandrababu Naidu by the new Chief Minister Y. S. Jaganmohan Reddy and that has caused delays in execution of some of the

cent CAGR over FY19-22.

Expect re-rating to contin-

by FY21; remains buy with

Shukla): Bank is picking

up business from better-

rated companies. Emphasis

on shorter and medium

chances of big loans turn-

ing bad, diverse range of

products to allow it to grow

balance sheet. Share price

offers a reasonable risk-

return trade-off: business

loans.

(Manish

Reduced

PT of Rs 526.

Citigroup

term

PROJECTION FOR TODAY

Nifty forms a bullish candle

The market on Wednesday closed higher by around 175 points in a volatile session, driven by buying in banking, auto and select IT stocks. The Sensex closed at 40,850.29 up by 174.84

points or 0.43 per cent, while the Nifty rose by 43.10 points or 0.36 per cent to end at 12,037.30. According to analysts, the market is cautiously

awaiting RBI monetary policy to be held on Thursday where it expects the Central Bank to deliver its sixth rate cut of the year despite higher inflation. The market has 25bps rate cut is already factored in by the market and thus investors would watch out for any surprise on that front and the commentary on future path. Globally, sentiments have turned positive with US-China inching close towards the trade deal and investors would watch out for further development on that front which would decide the market trend.

Technical View

"Technically, Nifty formed bullish candle similar to Bullish Piercing Line pattern on daily scale. It took support around lower end of the channel and 20 EMA on daily chart for second consecutive session. Now it has to hold above 12000 zones to witness an up-move towards 12158 then 12250 levels. On the flipside, strong support for Nifty is placed at 11935-11950 then 11880 levels," Siddhartha Khemka, Head - Retail Research Motilal Oswal Financial Services.

Among index stocks Tata Motors rose 7.1 per cent, ICICI Bank gained 4 per cent and Yes Bank rose nearly 6 per cent while State Bank of India advanced 1.7 per cent

The BSE index advanced 0.52 per cent while small-cap rose by 0.33 per cent.

Market View "We continued with our

'Buy on declines' strategy and as expected, the market was setting up around key support of 11950 to unfold the next leg of the rally. Today's (Wednesday) late surge certainly validates this point and the way both (Nifty and Bank Nifty) key indices are shaped up now, we will not be surprised to see decent moves in next couple of

'Going ahead, the Nifty is likely to continue its march towards 12090 -12140 and on the downside, 12000 followed by 11930 has now become a sacrosanct zone," Sameet Chavan Analyst-Technical Angel Derivatives Broking said.

GST Council set to review cess

New Delhi, Dec. 4: The GST Council meeting scheduled to be held on December 18 is likely to deliberate on raising cess on some more products to meet the growing need of compensation among other issues

The meeting of all-powerful GST Council is going to be held against the backdrop of lower-than-expected GST collection.
The GST Council will

deliberate on the matter of GST compensation at its meeting on December 18, Minister of State for Finance Anurag Singh Thakur said on the sidelines 62nd founding day of Directorate of Revenue Revenue Intelligence (DRI).

The compensation requirements have increased significantly and are unlikely to be met from the compensation cess being collected.

This discussion is quite critical as lower GST and compensation cess collections have been a matter of concern in the last few months, according to a letter written by the GST Council to Commissioner, SGST of all states.
The Council has sought

suggestions, inputs or proposals as regards measures, on compliance as well as rates which would help in augmenting revenue.

'Specific suggestions may please be provided on ... Review of items currently under exemptions, GST and compensation cess rates on various items, rate calibrations for addressing the inverted duty structure, compliance measures other than those currently under implementation and any other measure to augment revenue," it said.

stions made will be placed before the committee for urgent examination, it said.

Earlier in the day, finance ministers and representatives of opposition-ruled states met Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and expressed their concern over the delay in releasing GST compensation. -PTI

CSB Bank shares rocket 54% on debut

or upper middle-income

economies.
At the other end of the

spectrum, least developed

countries occupy 18 of the

Out of the 20 economies

with the lowest value in the

2019 index, 18 are Least Developed Countries, with

Congo and Syria being the

only non-LDCs in this

group. Comoros, Burundi,

Chad and Niger are last in

the index.
"Our B2C index shows

how real and worrying the

digital gap is between

developed and developing

countries," director of UNCTAD's unit that prepares the annual index,

Shamika Sirimanne said.

For example, in half a

dozen European nations,

more than 80 per cent of

20 bottom positions.

New Delhi, Dec. 4: Shares of CSB Bank made a strong debut at bourses Wednesday and closed the day with a sharp premium of 54 per cent, against the issue price of Rs 195.

The scrip debuted at Rs 275, up 41 per cent on the BSE. During the day, it climbed 57.43 per cent to Rs 307. It later closed at Rs 300.10, showing a sharp gain of 53.89 per cent from the issue

On the NSE, the scrip settled at Rs 300.35, a jump of 54 per cent. In intra-day trade, it touched a high of 306.80 and a low of Rs

A total of 40.27 lakh shares of the company were traded on the BSE and 3.7 crore units on the NSE during the day. The company's market valuation was Rs 5,205.41 crore. —*PTI* —PTI

Top performer of 2019 ICICI Bank to rise more

NUPUR ACHARYA

ICICI Bank Ltd, with a 45 per cent climb this year that's the most among a gauge of the nation's financial stocks, has a recommendation consensus of 4.87 on a Bloomberg scale where 5 is a unanimous buy. That's close to its highest reading in at least a decade. The lender remains a buy for all but one of the 57 brokerages compiled by Bloomberg.

The stock has done well, yet we think the scope for meaningful re-rating over the next 12-18 months is high," Anil Agarwal, an anaivst with Morgan Stanley, wrote in a note on Tuesday, after attending the bank's first analyst day

in more than a decade. The view comes amid a deteriorating economic environment where growth has slipped to the slowest pace in six years and the financial system continues to recover from a prolonged

Up north ICICI Bank has outperformed India's Jun I July I Aug I Sept I OCt I Nov Normalised as of 06/04/2019

period of loan losses and a crisis at shadow banks. Here's a roundup of brokerage views on why they think ICICI shares are a

buy.
Nomura (Adarsh Parasrampuria): RoE target well entrenched; expect ROE of 16-17 per cent in next 12-18 months compared with bank's guidance of 15 per cent by 1QFY21. Bank can continue to grow in most types of retail loans as market share is only 8 per cent of system's assets in category. Estimate pre-provisioning operating profit, or PPoP. to record 19 per

ue with improving quality of earnings and lower cred-Ambit (Pankaj Agarwal): Digitisation in retail banking to help improve PPoP and ROE by reducing oper-ating expenditure, cost of acquisition. Linking top management incentives to overall performance of bank could lead to better performance. Bank can achieve 16.5 per cent ROE

offers meaningful upside in medium term. ICICI Bank is top sector pick; PT raised —Bloomberg

JLR drives in XE sedan at ₹44.98 L

MICHAEL GONSALVES

Motors-owned British luxury car maker, on Wednesday introduced new Jaguar XE sedan to take on marker leader Mercedes-Benz. BMW. Audi, Volvo and Lexus in Asia's third biggest economy. Next year, Jaguar is will

Jaguar Land Rover, Tata

also launch the all-electric I-Pace SUV in India. With prices starting at Rs

44.98 lakh at pan India showroom, Jaguar XE, which was revealed in



international markets earlier this year, will compete with newer rivals like the BMW 3 Series, Mercedes-Benz C-class and Audi A4 in the Indian luxury car market.

Available in the S and SE

than its price, consider M4.

options, the former costs Rs 44.98 lakh and the latter Rs 46.32 lakh.

Compared to the outgoing model, prices have increased by about Rs 4.4 lakh for the equivalent base petrol variant. However, the new top-end XE diesel costs Rs 66.000 less.

"The Jaguar XE has always been a distinctly designed executive sports saloon that provides exhilarating performance," Rohit Suri, President & Managing Director at Jaguar Land

Skoda sees flat market ahead 2018 to 15,000 units in 2019.

RITWIK MUKHERJEE

It is not because of the cab aggregators like Ola or Uber but thanks to the economic slowdown that auto sales dipped as high as 20 per cent. At least that's what Skoda Auto India topbrass feels. That's not all. There is no immediate respite either. The passenger car market is likely to remain fairly flat throughout 2020 and is expected to pick up from 2021. Skoda Auto Îndia's own sales dropped from 17000 units in

However, this negative sentiments notwithstanding, the Czech automajor is in the process of shelling out nearly Rs 8,000 crore in India to fund its ambitious roll-out plans, strengthen designing and engineering capacity, overhaul and ramp up manufacturing facility and increase localization under India 2.0 ini-

"Talking about the auto industry, in general, sales were down upto 20 per cent across board for the last few

15,000 units as compared to 17.000 in 2018. There were certain issues which had an adverse impact including cyclical slowdown of the economy and maybe, the US-China trade Besides, banks are shying away from extending finances to some extent. In 2020, sales are expected to remain 'fairly flat'. Going by the indications so far, the market is expected to pick up in 2021," said Zac Hollis, director (sales, service and marketing), Skoda Auto India Private Limited.

— Ashwin J Punnen

The case for quantitative easing in India is getting stronger

ANDY MUKHERJEE

With India's nominal GDP growing at its slowest pace in 17 years, it's a given that the central bank will cut interest rates again this Thursday.

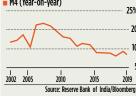
What's the point, though? Commercial bank lending rates have turned immune to monetary policy, so much so that a sixth reduction this year in the benchmark price of money will make hardly any difference. The only medicine that can work is quantitative easing, a remedy authorities aren't even discussing. QE may not cure the patient, but it may well succeed in bringing India's economy out of a coma.

To see why the quantity of money is a bigger problem

The growth rate of India's broadest measure of money supply has collapsed to single-digit levels for some time now, and is refusing to budge. New loans automatically create new deposits in the banking system. But until there are creditworthy takers for fresh advances, deposits won't revive. Time and demand deposits at banks account for 84 per cent of money supply, so it's hard for the latter to get a boost without an uptick in

the former. Unconventional asset purchases can make a difference, though not the Japanese variety in which the central bank buys government bonds from banks for cash, which they stuff into their

Missing money The broadest form of money in India is growing too slowly for the economy M4 (Year-on-year)



current accounts with the monetary authority.

This kind of QE does have a couple of advantages. One, it lowers the long-term government bond yield. That reduces loan costs for risky borrowers, since govern-ment bond yields act as a benchmark. Two, a more liquid banking system with more low-yielding cash than

higher-yielding bonds will be impatient to lend — at least in theory. Yet this type of QE relies on loans being made. If the demand side of the economy is struggling, the impact may be limited because of the

money supply in the broader economy. That's a point Invesco Asset Management economist John Greenwood has made in

one thing

doesn't do: lift

Japan's case. For India, it would help much more for the central bank to buy government bonds from nonbanks, following in the footsteps of the US Federal Reserve, which primarily purchased securities from hedge funds,

bank sellers of bonds don't have accounts at the Reserve Bank of India, they'll deposit any cash they receive with commercial lenders. Money supply

lem."

broker-dealers and insur-

ance companies. Since non-

being made. That may be quite useful in India's current circumstances. Banks, shadow lenders and India Inc. are all suffering from Nomura Holdings Inc. economist Sonal Varma calls the "triple balance sheet prob-The Indian governis already helping

itself to practically all of the

household sector's savings.

It doesn't have more scope

out new loans

growth rate would only swell the national debt. If the RBI does experiment would accelerate with-

with Fed-style quantitative easing, how far can it go? As much as 15 per cent of the outstanding Rs 59 lakh crore (\$827 billion) of federal Indian debt is already owned by the central bank. while commercial lenders are sitting on another 40 per cent. The remaining 45 per cent is with other financiers, insurance companies, provident and mutual funds. corporations, foreign investors, primary dealers and state governments. Were the RBI to buy half of nonbanks' \$365 billion stockpile of bonds, India's \$1.8 trillion

for deficit spending. In any

case, borrowing at a higher

cost than the nominal GDP

in bank deposits could rise by 10 per cent, injecting new life into the anaemic expansion of money supply.

If nothing else, a more liq uid non-bank sector would want to buy new government debt to earn a vield New Delhi's financing constraints would ease, allowing for a round of fiscal pump-priming that hopefully would create new machinery and project orders for the private sector, ending years of gloom around investment.

If the RBI thinks of asset purchases as a way to reduce the price of money, it will want to wait until it has exhausted its conventional firepower by cutting the 5.15 per cent policy rate further

Bloomberg





I'm going to be photographed with every possible leader

> - Boris Johnson **British PM on avoiding Trump**

> > IN BRIEF

Peter Mathews in

US Congress race

Washington: Indian-American Peter Mathews, also a political analyst on CNN television, will be running for Congress. Mathews, who was born in India and immigrated to the US along with his parents at the age of 10, announced to enter the race for US House of Representatives from 47th Congressional District of California. His father is from Kerala and mother from Tamil Nadu. "We must move away from selfish, shortsighted policies that are destroying people's lives and our climate through corporate deregulation and tax cuts for the rich started by Reagan and pumped up by Trump," Mathews said.

Harris-Trump war on Twitter

Washington: Democrat trailblazer Kamala Harris pulled the plug on her US presidential campaign after a promising start to her bid was eroded by underperforming in a crowded field and a failure to raise sufficient funds. The exit of the progressive senator leaves 15 candidates in the battle to see who challenges President Donald Trump in the November 2020 election. Harris has been a fierce Trump critic. repeatedly calling for his impeachment. He reacted to her withdrawal by tweeting, 'Too bad. We will miss you" to which Harris quickly replied, "Don't worry, Mr. President. I'll see you at your trial." Her departure, following weeks of campaign tur-

Malaysian Muslims skip prayers, jailed

Kuala Lumpur: Six Malaysian Muslims have reportedly been handed one-month iail terms for skipping prayers in sparking fresh concern on Wednesday about rising religious conservatism in the multi-ethnic country. Attending Friday prayers is obligatory for Muslim men in Malaysia, but it is rare for such harsh punishments to be meted out for missing them. Aged 17 to 35, the men had been caught having a picnic by a waterfall instead of taking part in prayers on a Friday, the holiest day of the week for Muslims. They were also fined between 2,400 and 2,500 ringgit.

CHINA-US CLASH OVER HK, XINJIANG

Beijing: Already strained relations between China and the United States were further muddied after US Congress overwhelmingly approved a bill targeting Beij-ing's mass crackdown on ethnic Muslim minorities on Wednesday, less than one week after President Donald Trump signed separate human rights legislation on Hong Kong. China's ruling Communist Party has long regarded Hong Kong and the far west Xinjiang region as crucial areas for asserting territorial sovereignty, and it has responded with fury to what it considers foreign meddling. "Xinjiang is China's Xinjiang," said a statement from China's **National Ethnic Affairs** Commission, echoing another government mantra: "Hong Kong is China's Hong Kong." Tensions over the recently passed US bills have cast doubt over the potential for a trade deal between the two countries, which have been embroiled in a 16month tariff war. Trump said on Tuesday that he has "no deadline" for striking an

agreement and that he may

wait until after next year's

presidential election. — PTI

629 Pakistani girls sold as brides to China

THE ASIAN AGE

Drive against trafficking has largely come to a halt to prevent hurting Pakistan's lucrative ties to Beijing

Lahore, Dec. 4: Page after page, the names stack up: 629 girls and women from across Pakistan who were sold as brides to Chinese men and taken to China. The list, was compiled by Pakistani investigators determined to break up trafficking networks exploiting the country's poor and vulnerable.

The list gives the most concrete figure yet for the number of women caught in the trafficking schemes since 2018.

But since the time it was put together in June, investigators' aggressive drive against the networks has largely ground to a halt. Officials with knowledge of the investigations say that is because of pressure from government officials fearful of hurting Pakistan's lucrative ties to

Investigations into trafficking have slowed, the investigators are frustrated, and Pakistani media have been pushed to curb their reporting on trafficking

apart. In October, a court in Faisalabad acquitted 31 Chinese nationals charged in connection with trafficking. Several of the women who had initially been interviewed by police refused to testify because they were either threatened or bribed into silence, according to a court official and a police inves-At the same time, the

Beijing. government has sought to The biggest case against curtail investigations, put-traffickers has fallen ting "immense pressure"

on officials from the Federal Investigation Agency pursuing trafficking networks, said Saleem Iqbal, a Christian activist who has helped parents rescue several young girls from China and prevented others from being sent

"Some (FIA officials) were even transferred," Iqbal said. "When we talk to Pakistani rulers, they don't pay any attention. Asked about the com-

plaints, Pakistan's interior

and foreign ministries refused to comment.

doing anything to help these girls," an official

Several senior officials familiar with the events said investigations into trafficking have slowed, the investigators are frustrated, and Pakistani media have been pushed to curb their reporting on trafficking. "No one is

Treason: Pak court issues order in Musharraf case

SHAFQAT ALI | DC ISLAMABAD, DEC. 4

Pakistan's Islamabad High Court has issued a written order to stop the verdict of Pervez Musharraf

treason case.
The IHC Chief Justice has issued a 24-page written order, in which he stated the reasons for closing the ruling of the treason

The written decree stated that there are unique, unusual and unprecedented circumstances in the

The written order read that the federal government and the prosecution as the accused.



have an important role to play in the treason case. The federal government has full authority to appoint the prosecutor and the prosecution team. The fair trial is also entitled to prosecution as well

ment stated that the federal government only filed the complaint of emergency 2007 rather than the treachery. action further increased the burden of fair trial on the judiciary," it read. In addition, the written

decree stated Musharraf cannot be denied the right for defense despite being a fugitive. It further read that the Supreme Court did not prevent the court from ruling on Musharraf's acquittal request. It added that the testimony cannot be recorded if Musharraf is not present.

MIN BLAMES INDIA **TRADE DEAL ROW FOR FOOD PRICES**

Islamabad, Dec. 4: A senior Pakistani minister has blamed the suspension of trade with India for the current price hike of food items in the country as the prices of tomatoes skyrocketed to Rs 300 per kg.

Minister for economic affairs Hamad Azhar's remarks came when senior members of the economic team of Prime Minister Imran Khan were briefing the media about the latest economic situation. Azhar said the prevailing price hike, par-ticularly the food inflation, emanated from the suspension of trade with India and seasonal factors and the role of the middle-

US to restart Taliban talks after presidential green light

tiator on Afghanistan will shortly resume talks with the Taliban and seek efforts toward a ceasefire, officials said Wednesday, three months after President Donald Trump abruptly halted diplomatic efforts that could end America's longest war.

Zalmay Khalilzad has arrived in Kabul to meet President Ashraf Ghani, a Department voiced s senior Afghan official told port for a ceasefire

Trump visited Afghanistan and gave his blessing for a return to negotiations.

The state department said that Khalilzad, a veteran US negotiator who was born in Afghanistan, would head to Qatar to meet with the Taliban after his meetings in Kabul. In a nod to concerns

raised by Ghani, the State Department voiced sup■ The state department said that Khalilzad, a veteran **US** negotiator who was born in Afghanistan, would head to Qatar to meet with the Taliban after his meetings in Kabul

which the Taliban have long rejected and did not figure in a draft accord that with the Islamist insur-

"Ambassador Khalilzad will rejoin talks with the Taliban to discuss steps that could lead to intra-Afghan negotiations and a peaceful settlement of the war, specifically a reduction in violence that leads to a ceasefire," a state department statement department

In September, the United

appeared on the verge of signing a deal that would have seen Washington begin pulling thousands of troops out of Afghanistan in return for promises to keep out foreign extrem-

It was also expected to pave the way towards direct talks between the Taliban and the government in Kabul and, ultimately, a possible peace

18 years of war. month, abruptly called the yearlong effort "dead" and withdrew an invitation to the insurgents to meet in the United States after the killing of an American sol-

dier. During a surprise visit to an American military base in Afghanistan last week, Trump said the Taliban said it was "way too early' to speak of resuming direct talks with Washington.

The Taliban have described the Afghan government as illegitimate and steadfastly refused any halt in their grisly campaign of violence, which they see as leverage.

But even during the stall in talks, Khalilzad has seen signs that the Taliban is ready to cooperate. -AFP



in an industrial zone in north Khartoum.

Iran willing to talk if US lifts sanctions: Rouhani

Dubai, Dec. 4: Iran's President Hassan Rouhani said on Wednesday that Iran is still ready for nuclear talks on condition the United States first lifts 'unlawful' sanc-

"If they are prepared to put aside the sanctions, we are ready to talk and negotiate, even at the level of heads of the 5+1 countries." Rouhani said. He also called for the

Watford, Dec. 4: Nato

leaders professed unity on Wednesday at a sum-

mit near London — but a

spat over off-the-cuff chit

chat at a royal reception

rattled their show of soli-

Trump

northern

'two-faced"

US President Donald

Canadian Prime Minister

Justin Trudeau appeared

to gossip about Trump in

comments caught on

camera and microphone.

standing in a huddle with

French President Emma-

nuel Macron, British Pri-

me Minister Boris John-

son, Dutch Prime Min-

ister Mark Rutte and Brit-

ain's Princess Anne, dau-

ghter of Queen Elizabeth

II at Tuesday evening's

Buckingham Palace rece-

After Johnson asked

ption for Nato leaders.

Trudeau was

branded the of America's

neighbour



and innocent people who were detained during protests against gasoline price hikes, after two

Nato leaders heard mocking

Trump at Watford summit

weeks of violent clashes. The unrest, which began on Nov. 15 after the government abruptly raised fuel prices by as much as 300%, spread to more than 100 cities and towns. "Religious and Islamic clemency be shown and those innocent unarmed people who protested against petrol price hikes should be released," he said.

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE

"Provision of Data Entry Operator for Safety Department to

maintain safety related records as per scope of work for two

years from the execution of contract, DRM's Office, New Delhi.' Rs. 18,40,996/- (Eighteen Lakh Forty Thousand Nine hundred

be in the form of net banking or gateway only. Note: FDR not be

accepted as EMD for tender invited on IREPS as per Railway Board

of tender at 13.00 hrs.

213-S/Manpower Contract/Safety/2019

Ninety Six only) plus GST as applicable Earnest Rs. 36800/- (Thirty Six Thousand Eight Hundred only) (Note: It should

Completion period Two years i.e. 24 months from the date of execution

Cost of tender document on cash/by post Rs. 2360/- with GST @18%

Date and time for submission Upto 13.00 hrs on 10.01.2020 Opening

Website particulars notice board location complete details of tender can be seen | REPS site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

letter no 2015/CR-I/CT/5/1 dated 31.08.2016)

No.: 213-S/Manpower Contract/Safety/2019 Dated: 04.12.2019.

of President of India invites e-tender for the following work

General Public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of a male Namely Unknown S/o Unknown, R/o Unknown Age: 55 years, **Height:** 5 feet, **Complexion**: Shallow, Face: Round, was found in illness condition and admitted to Safdarjung Hospital, he expired

of tender and opening of tender

during the course of treatment on 26.10.2019 at 06:42 AM. In this regard a DD No.07A,

dated 26.10.2019 has been lodged at P.S. Safdarjung Enclave, New Delhi. If any one having any clue about deceased male may

kindly inform the undersigned and contact on following

P.S. Safdarjung Enclave, Delhi Ph.: 011-24106345-46 DP/7172/SW/19 Mob.: 7065036231

Can Fin Homes Ltd

CAN FIN HOMES LTD. First Floor Canara Bank Building, Plot No. C-3,

Sec-1, Noida-201301, UP Email: cfhlnda@gmail.com CIN: L85110KA1987PLC008699

[RULE 8 (1)] **POSSESSION NOTICE** [FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY]

Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of Can Fin Homes Ltd. Plot No. C-3, Above, Canara Bank, Sector-1, Noida, Gautambudh Nagar, under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 (Act 54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the security interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice dated 08/05/2019 calling upon the borrowers Mr. Pawan Kumar and Mrs. Khushi and Guarantor Mr. Arun Kumar, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs.21,44,880/- (Rupees Twenty One Lakh Forty Four Thousand Eight Hundred Eighty Only) as on 08.05.2019 with further nterest, expenses and other charges thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the

The borrowers/guarantor having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the prrower, guarantors and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under sub-section (4) of section 13 of Act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on this 03rd day of December of the year 2019.

The borrowers/guarantor in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Can Fin Homes Ltd., Plot No. C-3, Above, Canara Bank, Sector-1, Noida, Gautambudh Nagar for an amount Rs.21,44,880/- (Rupees Twenty One Lakh Forty Four Thousand Eight Hundred Eighty Only) as on 08.05.2019 with further interest, expenses and other charges thereon w.e.f. 09/05/2019

The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

All the part and parcel of the immovable property Part of Plot No. 31A, Upper Ground Floor riends Colony, Raispur, Ghaziabad-201005, with following boundaries East: Rasta 40 Feet, West: House of Gopal Sharma, North: Other Plot, South: Rest part of

Date: 03.12.2019

New Delhi invites E-Tender for the following work. Name of work with its location Hiring of 05 nos. road vehicle Non AC Tata Sumo/Bolero for movement of RPF Personnel day & night in jurisdiction of Inspector in charge RPF Post, Shamli (Uttar Pradesh), Faridabad (Haryana), Delhi Shahdara, Nizammudin & Anand Vihar Terminal (Delhi) Delhi East on monthly basis for two years. **Tender Number**: 6 Sr. DSC-RPF-V.H.-DLI-E-2017-18 Office Address: Sr.DSC(Co-ordination)/RPF, P.K Road, New Delhi 110001 Period of works: For Two years. Approx. cost of work: Rs.67,68,000/-, with GST as applicable. Earnest money: Rs.1,35,400/- Date and Time of closing tender bid: 03.01.2020 & 15.00 hrs. Tender open date & time: 03.01.2020 & 15.00 hrs. Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen: www.ireps.gov.in Cost of tender documents: Rs.5000/ 900 (GST 18%) total Rs.5900/- Payment of Tender Document Fee in respect o e-tendering should be accepted through net banking or payment gateway only Tender No.: 6 Sr.DSC-RPF-V.H.-DLI-E-2017-18 Date: 04.12.2019

Serving Customers With A Smile

Details of the Corporate Debtor

uction: 09th December, 2019 | Time of e-auction: 11:00 AM to 12:30 PM (with unlimited extension of 5 minutes each)

Authorized Person

Name: Mr. Ravi Chaudhary | Contact No.+91-9711813299 This notice is for sale of Assets and Properties owned by the J. V. Strips Limited (under

Liquidation) forming part of Liquidation Estate formed by the Liquidator, appointed by the Hon'ble National Company Law Tribunal, New Delhi Bench-Courtll, New Delhi vide order dated 18th February 2019. The Sale will be done by the undersigned through the E-Auctionplat form: https://www.eauctions.co.in

Asset	Block	Reserve Price	EMD Amount	
Cars	Block-1	Rs. 22,76,342	Rs. 2,27,634	
· Mercedes E-250 CDI Diesel				
· Maruti Suzuki Swift LXI BS4 MT Petrol				
· Hyundai Verna VTVT SX AT Petrol Hyundai				
· Verna CRDi 1.6 MT Diesel				

This Sale Notice shall be read in conjunction with the complete "E-Auction Process Document" containing therein the details of the assets, online e-auction bid form, declaration and undertaking forms, general terms and conditions of the e-auction Sale, is available on the website: https://www.eauctions.co.in. You may please contact Mr. Jinesh Jariwala @ +91-9537046315 Email: admin@eauctions.co.in for any support and assistance, if required.

Important Terms and Condition of the E-Auction: E-Auction will be conducted on "AS IS WHERE IS", "AS IS WHAT IS" and "WHATEVER IS THERE IS"

basis through approved service provider, M/s. Linkstar Infosys Private Limited.

The reserve price of the assets is based on latest valuation carried out strictly in accordance with the provisions of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 and the rules and regulations mad

The intending bidders are required to do due diligence of the said assets and e-auction process document prior to submitting their bid, liquidator reserve the right to reject erroneous form or incomplete form in any manner at any point of time.

The intending bidders, prior to submitting their bid, should make their independent inquiries regarding the title of vechiles, local tax dues, electricity and water charges, maintenance charges, if any and inspect the properties at their own expenses and satisfy themselves. The property mentioned

above can be inspected by the prospective bidders at the site with prior appointment, by contacting Mr. Ravi Chaudhary.
The intending bidders are required to deposit Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) amount either through

NEFT/RTGS or Deposit through Cash/Cheque in the bank acco drawn on any Scheduled Bank in the name of J.V. STRIPS LIMITED IN LIQUIDATION.

Details of Bank Account: Bank Name and Branch: YES Bank, Shakarpur Delhi

Name of Account: J.V. STRIPS LIMITED IN LIQUIDATION

Account Number: 010763300001328 IFSC Code: YESB0000107

The intending bidders should submit the evidence for EMD Deposit along with Request Letter for participation in the E-Auction along with self-attested copy of (1)Bid Application Form; (2) Proof of Identity; (3) Proof of Address (Current); (4) PAN Card; (5) Valid e-mail ID; (6) Landline and Mobile Number; (7) Affidavit and Undertaking; (8) Declaration by Bidder. The formats of these Annexures can be taken from the Complete E-Auction Process Document.

These documents should reach the office of the Liquidator physically or by Email, at the

address given below before 06:00 PM on 07th December, 2019. The Names of the Eligible Bidders will be identified by the Liquidator to participate in E-Auction on the portal https://www.eauctions.com. The E-Auction Service Provider will provide User ID and rd through E-mail to all the Eligible Bidders.

The Eligible Bidders, participating in the E-Auction, will have to Bid for at least the Reserv Price and increase their Bid by a minimum incremental amount of Rs. 25,000 in multiples of

In case a bid is placed in the last 5 minutes of the closing time of the E-Auction, the closing time will automatically get extended for 5 minutes with unlimited extension. The bidder who submits the highest bid amount (not below the Reserve Price) on the closure of e-auction shall be declared as the Highest Bidder and a communication to that effect will be issued through electronic mode by the E-Auction Service Provider. However, the declaration of successful bidder will be subject to app

EMD of unsuccessful bidders shall be refunded. The EMD shall not bear any interest.

The Liquidator will issue a Letter of Intent (LOI) to the Successful Bidder and the Successful Bidder shall require to deposit the balance amount (Successful Bid Amount minus EMD Amount) within 90 days of issuance of the LOI by the Liquidator, provided that payments made after thirty

days shall attract interest at the rate of 12%.

12. Default in depositing the balance amount by the Successful Bidder within the time limit as mentioned in the LOI would entail forfeiture of the entire amount deposited (EMD plus Any Other Amount) by the

13. The Successful Bidder shall bear the applicable stamp duties/transfer charges, fees etc. and all the statutory / non- statutory dues, taxes, rates, assessment charges, fees etc. in respect of the properties put on E-Auction.

14. After payment of the entire sale consideration, the Sale Certificate/Agreement will be issued in the name of the Successful Bidder only and will not be issued in any other name.

15. The Liquidator has absolute right to accept or reject any or all bids or adjourn /postpo cancel the E-Auction or withdraw any property or portion thereof from the E-Auction at any

stage without assigning any reason thereof.
The Sale shall be subject to the provisions of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 and

under.

Debashis Nanda
Liquidator
J. V. Strips Limited

IBBI Regn. No.: IBBI/IPA-003/IP-N00040/2017-18/103/
Address: CS-14, C Floor, Ansal Plaza, Vaishali, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh
Email ID: liquidatorjvstrips@gmail.com, dnanda.cma@gmail.com Date: 05.12.2019 Place: New Delhi







reception at Buckingham Palace

Macron, "is that why you were late?" Trudeau

could be heard saying "he



Britain's Prime Minister Boris Johnson talks to

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudea left, and

Italian Prime Minister Guiseppe Conte during a



Trudeau confirmed that

was a reference to Tru-

mp's long and unsched-











reunite with Elizabeth writer

Michael Hirst for *The Ibis Trilogy*

THURSDAY | 5 DECEMBER 2019 | NEW DELHI

People visit the area along the Medellin river in the Colombian city of Medellin on

Monday after it was decorated for the Christmas season.

I love all of Marvel superhero movies because they are so not real

> · Melanie Laurent, French actress

Blige documentary is in the works

Los Angeles: Amazon Studios and Entertainment One are developing a documentary on singer-songwriter Mary J. Blige. Blige and Sean Combs will executive produce the documentary feature, to be directed by Vanessa Roth. 'We all know Mary Blige as the two-time Oscar nominee, Grammy Award winning who has sold over 80 million records. But through this documentary, audiences will see a raw and honest side of Mary opening up about her personal journey of redemp-

Women have natural

tion Matt Newman, co-head of movies at Amazon Studios, said. — PTI

superpower: Laurent

Seoul: French star Melanie Laurent says women are real-life superheroes as they have the ability to successfully juggle personal and professional roles. The acclaimed star, best known outside French cinema for her turn in Quentin Tarantino's Inglourious Basterds, was recently in Seoul to promote her Netflix film 6 Underground. "I have two kids. My youngest is two months old. I am a superhero already. To be here with my kids, working at the same time is a superpower." -PTI



Fontana, 1st female

Star Trek writer, dies Los Angeles: Dorothy Catherine "DC" Fontana, the first female writer for Star Trek, has died. She was 80. According to the Star Trek website, Fontana died on Monday evening following a short illness. The writer penned numerous stories for

the original Star Trek TV series, and developed one of its signature characters, Spock. She wrote 1967's Journey to Babel, which introduced Spock's parents Sarek and Amanda. Fontana also worked on the Star Trek animated series and wrote 1973 episode Yesteryear, in which Spock travels back in time to save a younger ver-

WAS HOMOPHOBIC AS A TEEN, SAYS CHRIS MARTIN

sion of himself. - PTI

Los Angeles: Coldplay frontman Chris Martin says he was "very homophobic' during his teens as he discovered his own sexuality. In an interview with Rolling Stone magazine the singer said he faced "terrible turmoil" while coming into his own as a young man and battled societal and religious tension. "When I went to

boarding school, I walked a bit funny and I bounced a bit, and I was also very homophobic because I was like, 'If I'm gay,



like, you know, discovering sexuality...'Maybe I'm gay, maybe I'm this, maybe I'm that, I can't be this.' I was terrified. It can be brutal until you realise everyone is going through this,' Martin said. The singer added that his "hardcore" classmates, who he believes must have also been "going through their thing", harassed him every day. "For a few years, they were very much like, 'You're definitely gay', in quite a full-on manner, quite aggressively telling me that. It was weird for me

for few years," he said. - PTI

NY City considers 'virginity test' ban after rapper sparks uproar

T.I. takes daughter to gynecologist every year to check if hymen is intact

New York: New York state is considering banning so-called virginity tests after an American rapper sparked outcry by saying he takes his daughter to a gynecologist every year to check if her hymen is still

Democratic legislator Michaelle Solages has tabled a bill proposing the ban, saying the examina-tion, which the World Health Organisation (WHO) says has no scien-tific basis, amounted to sexual violence.

"Hymen exams are not medically necessary. They are often painful and humiliating," Solages told

WHO called for the practise to be stopped last year, noting that the appearance of a woman's hymen cannot prove whether they have had sexual intercourse.

The hymen is a thin tis-

In 1st, Turner

Prize 2019 for

art goes to all

four finalists

London: This

Tuesday.

London: This year's prestigious Turner Prize will be shared by all four shortlisted artists after they formed

a collective to show soli-

darity at a time of global "political crisis", in a shock win announced

Lawrence Abu Hamdan,

Helen Cammock and Tai

Shani were all named winners on Tuesday evening at a ceremony at

Contemporary gallery in the seaside town of Margate, in southeast

England.
The four — who had

not met each other

before being shortlisted
— will split the £40,000

(\$52,000, \in 47,000) prize money for one of the

world's most prestigious

awards for visual and

contemporary art.
British Vogue magazine editor Edward

Enninful, who announced the prize,

Ahead of the announcement, the four

had sent a plea to the judges explaining their

reasons for forming the

"At this time of politi-

cal crisis in Britain and much of the world, when

there is already so much

that divides and isolates

people and communi-

ties, we feel strongly

motivated to use the occasion of the Prize to

make a collective state-

ment in the name of

commonality, multiplicity and solidarity — in art as in society," they

wrote. More than 60,000

people have already seen

the works by the four

shortlisted artists since

they went on display at

the gallery in Margate in September. "We each

work with specific issues, but it doesn't

mean that we see those

things in separation

from each other," said Abu Hamdan. — AFP

canea "incredible".

collective.

Democratic legisla-tor Michaelle Solages has tabled a bill proposing the ban, saying the examination, which the WHO says has no scientific basis, amounted to sexual violence. WHO called for the practise to be stopped last year

sue that surrounds or par-

tially covers the entrance

to the vagina. It can be

damaged in many ways,

such as riding a horse, and not all women are born

with them.
Rapper T.I., a three-time

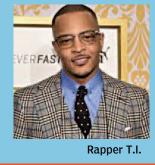
Grammy winner whose real name is Clifford

Harris, told a podcast last month that he took annual

trips to a gynecologist

with his daughter, now 18.

The Atlanta rapper, 39,



said he tells the doctor to check her hymen and 'give me back my results

"T.I.'s comments... And the examination he does on his daughter is unacceptable. He sends a message saying women are property and that's wrong," said Solages.
Her bill, which she says

expeditiously."

has bipartisan support, will be debated in January

returns from recess.

Her bill, which she

says has bipartisan

support, will be debat-

ed in January when the Assembly returns from

If approved, then any

doctor who carries out

examination will lose

their license. Others

may be charged with sexual assault.

If it is approved, then any doctor who carries out the examination will lose their license. Others could be charged with sexual assault.

The tests are common in socially conservative countries where being a virgin is a prerequisite to marriage. T.I. Has served two terms in jail on possession of weapons and drugs charges.

NEWS NUGGETS **'INTRODUCING NUTS EARLY TO INFANTS**

FETCHES €9.5M

RARE GAUGUIN ART

AT PARIS AUCTION

Paris: rare canvas by French artist Paul Gauguin from his time in Tahiti fetched $\in 9.5$ million(\$10.5 million) in Paris, nearly twice its estimated value, the auction house said.

The bidding had drawn keen interest amid growing controversy over Gauguin's relation ships with

young girls on the Polynesian island and his depictions of them. The 1897 painting, *Te Bourao II* or *tree* in the local Tahitian language, had been expected to go for around five to seven

million euros.

The buyer is an "international collector", the Artcurial auction house said, adding the artwork depicting an evocative Tahiti landscape would remain in France. -AFP

last decade in an

The 45-year-old

box-office hits such as War and

Super 30 topped

who has

annual ¹

compiledby

news weekly

'Sexiest Asian Male'

Eastern Eye, based on votes from film fansaround the world, heat generated on social

networking sites as

wellas wider impact over

the year. Roshan scored a

double win as he

toppedthe overall ranking

on

London

actor

ranking

Wednesday.

MAY PREVENT ALLERGY DEVELOPMENT

London: Early introallergies

infants were recruited and placed into one of Group.

two groups. One was introduced to six aller-

PERMANENT HAIR COLOURS LINKED TO HIGHER BREAST CANCER RISK: STUDY

Washington: Women who use permanent hair dye and chemical hair straighteners are at a higher risk of developing breast cancer than those who don't use these products, according to a study which analysed data from nearly 47,000

am flattered,

said Roshan, as

he stressed that

he did not viewit as an "achievement". He said, "Just

a person's looks

are not relevant

in the larger

scheme things. I don't judge people by the way they look.

Similarly, I don't judge

myself either by the way I

look. What is attractive in

a person is his/her story.

journey and the way that

person has dealt with sit-

uations in his/her own

life. Looking certain way

for my characters is just a part of my job..." — PTI

part of my job...'

The data was collected from participants

Hrithik voted sexiest

Asian male in UK poll

London: Bollywood star for the last 10 years as Hrithik Roshan has been well. "I would like to

votedthe Sexiest Asian thank everyone who feels

Male of 2019 as well as the so and has voted for me;I

Institute Environmental Health Sciences to learn how the environment and genes may affect the chances of developing

to eight weeks were

Hit Israeli drama

get local remake

Mumbai: After Fauda, another hit Israeli series getting an Indian

Abundantia

Entertainment and ADD

Content teaming up to

develop a local version of *The Missing*.
The original

titled *Ne'elamim* in Israeli, was created by

Yaron Arazi and produced by ADD Content. It has had three hit sea-

sons on Nickelodeon in Israel and has recently

been renewed for a fourth. The thriller fol-

lows Emma and Alon, a

brother and sister who

move to a small town

and quickly find out that

nothing is quite as it seems in their new neighbourhood. — PTI

remake

The Missing to

duction of certain foods known to cause peanuts and eggs — to infants can prevent them from developing an allergy a study says. The study in the Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology, is a continuation from The Enquiring About Tolerance study in the UK where over 1300 three-month old

genic foods (including peanut and egg) from three months of age alongside breastfeeding, and another group was exclusively breastfed for six months. Group which received the allergenic foods was called the Early Introduction Group, and the one which was only breastfed was termed the Standard Introduction

breast cancer.

The researchers said that the women who used hair straighten-

ers at least every five about 30 per cent more in the Sister Study, a likely to develop nationwide effort by breast cancer. -PTI

More than 100 Jewish graves defaced with Nazi swastikas

Freya Allan at Netflix's The

Witcher Season 1 photocall

held at The Egyptian Theatre

in Hollywood, California, on

Singer Dua Lipa (left) at the

Nagoya, Japan, on Wednesday.

— AP

Asian Music Awards in

Tuesday.

Paris: More than 100 graves at a Jewish ceme-tery in France have been swastikas in the latest in a wave of anti-Semitic attacks, BBC reported.

Vandals spray-painted the gravestones in the eastern town Westhoffen, near Strasbourg, days after another incident in a nearby village.

In response, President Emmanuel Macron said France would fight anti-Semitism "until our dead can sleep in peace" France is home to a Jewish community of

about 5,50,000 biggest in Europe. "Jews are and make France," Mr Macron said

evening.

in a tweet on Tuesday "Those who attack them, even in their graves, are not worthy of the idea we

have of France," he said. France's north-eastern



Vandals spray-painted the Jewish gravestones with swastikas in the eastern town of Westhoffen, near Strasbourg, in France.

Alsace region, on the border with Germany, has been marked by a series of anti-Semitic acts in recent months. Chief Rabbi Haïm Korsia said he was outraged and horrified to learn of the desecration of yet another cemetery in

As well as swastikas, the number 14 was used, a slogan linked to a white

The prefect of the Bas-Rhin region, Jean-Luc Marx, visited the site to express his support for the Jewish community.

Ananya Pandey (above) and

Filmfare Glamour and Style

Alia Bhatt (below) at the

Awards in Mumbai on

The Westhoffen cemetery houses about 700 graves, including those of several relations of former Prime Minister Léon Blum, France's first Jewish leader before and shortly after World War

Nato summit: Trumps hobnob with royals



Prince Charles and Camilla, the Duchess of Cornwall, with US President Donald Trump and wife Melania at Clarence House as Nato leaders gather in London on Tuesday. Leaders from across the 29-member trans-Atlantic alliance are gathered in London to mark its 70th anniversary and to show that it is adapting to modern threats.

Video of polar bear daubed with cryptic graffiti 'Ť-34' in Russia sparks outrage

a polar bear spray-painted with graffiti has sparked outrage among environ-mentalists amid fears that the creature was targeted by locals in an area where the animals increasingly forage.

Scientists were con-cerned that the bear filmed in Russia – daubed with the letters "T-34", the name of a second world war-era Soviet tank – would have trouble hunting and maintaining camouflage with the black lettering clearly visible on

A senior Russian state biologist has said they are trying to identify where flank, the



lated that the animal would have to have been sedated for someone to paint the letters on T-34 is the name of a second world war-era Soviet tank

locals or as a practical

the video of the bear was reported. Some Russians shot. Scientists speculated often paint the same letthat the animal, which ters on their cars for the was recorded walking Victory Day holiday marka road at an ing the end of the second unknown location in world war in May, and it Russia, would have to have was not immediately clear been sedated for someone whether the letters had been written by angry to paint the letters on its

Climate change has driv-en Russia's Arctic polar bear population into closer contact with humans, as hungry bears looking for food have increasingly foraged in towns in north-ern Russia. A town in Novaya Zemlya, an island chain off of northern Russia, saw an influx of more than 50 polar bears in February this year. The video of the bear

was uploaded to Facebook by Sergey Kavry, a World Wildlife Federation employee based in Russia's Far East. He said he received the footage through a WhatsApp chat

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Guardian



DELHI SPECIAL

NEW DELHI THURSDAY 5 DECEMBER 2019



Kohli regains No.1 spot in Test as



SPORT | Basketball



Matinee

Looking beyond acting

GUIDE TO FORTUNE

Tick the answer and check

The original name of this tech company was PC's Limited.

- Hewlett-Packard
- Dell ■ Microsoft
- 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

Minor girl molested by dentist at clinic

New Delhi: A minor girl was allegedly molested by a 52year-old dentist when she had gone for a check up at his clinic in Southeast Delhi's Kalkaji area, police said on Wednesday. According to a complaint lodged by the victim's mother, the dentist touched her 15-year-old daughter "inappropriately" on November 26 and 28. A case was registered on Sunday under relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act at the Kalkaji police station, deputy commissioner of police (Southeast) Chinmoy Biswal said. The statement of the girl was recorded by the magistrate, following which the dentist was arrested, he said. The accused is presently in judicial custody, he

2 held for siphoning ₹4cr from company

New Delhi: With the arrest of two persons, the Delhi Police claimed to have solved a case related to misappropriation of funds to the tune of over ₹4 crore. The accused were identified as Dharmesh, a native of Mainpuri UP. He was inspired by the serial Crime Patrol while the second accused was his childhood friend Ajay. DCP (East) Jasmeet Singh said that Dharmesh was deputed by his company to deposit ₹4,04,84,084 in various bank accounts of HDFC Bank. He was sent as a custodian in a cash van as his company provides door-step banking services to its customers. Dharmesh loaded the cashbox and reached at the bank. The van left after dropping the cash box and taking advantage Dharmesh fled away with entire cash.

7-yr-old reunited with her family

New Delhi: The Delhi Police reunited a seven-year-old missing girl with her family. The MPV staff on Tuesday afternoon comprising of ASI Sushil, W/Ct. Sonam and head Constable Sanjay were checking vehicles near Bhalswa Chowk in Jahangir Puri where they noticed a minor girl in school uniform. During enquiry, she was unable to tell anything except her name, further it was revealed that Burari police station has received a PCR call regarding missing of this schoolgirl. The girl was later handed over to her parents. Her parents said that she is a 3rd standard student at Sarvodya Kanya Vidyalaya, Burari. She slipped away from school around 12 noon and lost her way. DCP (PCR)

THE ANSWER TO TODAY'S GUIDE TO FORTUNE

■ Positron пориод Dell

Sharat Kumar Sinha said.

SPORT | Cricket

Smith slips a rung



James rockets **but Houston** felled by Spurs

The doctor lived with his

family in Rohini Sector-13.

The deceased woman's

husband works in a trans-

port company in Delhi while her married son

lives with his family in Dubai. The woman lived with her family in sector-

18, Rohini, the police official added.

friends and their friend-

ship was never a cause of

worry for their families,"

said Ashok Yadav, a busi-

A close friend of the doc-

The two were very good

Parliament gives nod to illegal

AGE CORRESPONDENT with agency inputs NEW DELHI, DEC. 4

colonies bill

The Rajya Sabha on Wednesday passed the bill to grant ownership rights to lakhs of people owning property in 1,731 u n a u t h o r i s e d colonies in Delhi. The Lok Sabha had passed the National Capital Territory of Delhi (Recognition of Property Rights of Residents in Residents in Unauthorised Colonies) Bill, 2019 on November 28. Minister of state for housing and urban

development Hardeep singh Puri said the law would provide relief to about 40-50 lakh people who live in unauthorised colonies in Delhi. "The bill grants ownership rights to residents of the identified colonies based on five documents. Maps of the 1,731 colonies will be uploaded on the website of the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) within days," he said.

As per the statement of objects and reasons of the bill, the properties in the u n a u t h o r i s e d colonies are not being registered by authorities con-cerned and thereby the residents do not have any title docu-ments in respect of such properties.

Further, the owner-

ship of the properties in unauthorised colonies have been transferred several times on the basis of registered or un-registered or notarised power of attorney, agreement to sale, will, possession letter and other documents including documents evidencing payment of consideration and stamp duty.

Doctor, employee found dead in car

Police suspects that 62-yr-old shot woman to death before killing himself, extra-marital affair suspected

AGE CORRESPONDENT

In a sensational incident, bodies of a general physician and his employee with gunshot injuries were found in a car in Delhi's Rohini sector-13 on Wednesday morning. Police said that preliminary investigation suggests that the doctor (62) shot the woman (50) with his licensed gun and then shot himself.

Police were informed about the incident around 7:45 am on Wednesday. The deceased have been identified as Dr Omprakash Kukreja, a resident of Rohini sector-13, while his employee has been identi-fied as Sudipta Mukherjee, a resident of Rohini Sector-18. Police said that

Kukreja shot Mukherjee in the chest and killed her and then he shot himself in the temple.

According to S.D. Mishra, deputy commissioner of police (Rohini district), after receiving a police con-trol room (PCR) call, a police team reached the spot and found that the car, which belonged to the doctor, was locked from inside. "A wedding card was also found in the vehicle. It seems they were returning from a wedding in Paschim Vihar on late Tuesday night," said the DCP.

"The doctor and the woman had worked together for over 15 years. The woman earlier used to assist him at his clinic in Samaypur Badli. Later, when the doctor started his own nursing home in sec-

Women participate in a peaceful demonstration during DCW chairperson Swati

for rapists within 6 months of conviction.

Centre's nod to

5-star hotel in

Pragati Maidan

AGE CORRESPONDENT

The Union Cabinet has

approved the plan to

transfer 3.7 acres of land

at Pragati Maidan on a 99-

vear-fixed leasehold basis

at a price of ₹611 crore in

favour of the special pur-

pose vehicle (SPV), which

will be formed by India

Tourism Development

Corporation and IRCTC

for development and

operation of a five-star

The implementation of he International

Convention Centre proj-

ect is scheduled to be

completed in 2020-21. In

order to complete the

project in a fast track mode, the SPV will take necessary steps, includ-ing selecting a suitable

developer and operator

third party through a

transparent competitive

bidding process to con-

struct, run and manage

the hotel on a long-term

fixed lease basis.

Exhibition

NEW DELHI, DEC. 4

Maliwal's hungerstrike at Samta Sthal in New Delhi on Wednesday demanding death

AGE CORRESPONDENT

Ahead of the state

Assembly elections, chief

minister Arvind Kejriwal

on Wednesday announced

that Delhiites will get free

15 GB data per month

through a hotspot network across the city, asserting that the AAP has fulfilled

all its poll promises. Work

on setting up 11,000 hotspots across the city is

in progress. On December

16, 100 hotspots will be

inaugurated launching

the Delhi government's

free wifi scheme, he said.
An app will be launched

through which users can

upload their KYC details.

An OTP will be received to

activate the WiFi connec-

tion.
"With this free 15 GB

internet data usage being

provided to people, we (AAP) have fulfilled all

promises made in our manifesto for the 2015 Assembly polls," Mr Kejriwal said.

The chief minister also

said that free WiFi connec-

NEW DELHI, DEC. 4

Delhiites will get 15 GB per

month data, says Kejriwal

The doctor and the woman had worked together for over 15 years. The woman earlier used to assist him at his clinic in Samaypur Badli. Later, when the doctor started his own nursing home in sector-15, Rohini, in 2005, she joined him and was looking after administrative works

could be the reason behind the killing. tor-15, Rohini, in 2005, she joined him and was looking after administrative works," said the police offi-

cial privy to investigation. "It is suspected that they were in an extra-marital relationship. A personal

dispute between them could be the reason behind the killing," said the police official. "Kukreja is survived by wife, son and a daughter. The son, an ENT specialist, lives in Dehrahun with his wife,

O.P. Kukreja S. Mukherjee

A personal dispute

who is also a doctor. Kukreja's daughter, a dentist, lives with her family in Delhi's Yamuna Vihar," said the police official. The deceased doctor's wife had lost her vision due to

It is suspected that

they were in an

in Rohini. The

extra-marital rela-

tionship. The doctor

lived with his family

deceased woman's husband works in a

transport company in

ried son lives with his

family in Dubai. The woman lived with her

family in Rohini.

Delhi while her mar-

nessman and a close family friend of the deceased tor said that the woman and the doctor were in a relationship and it is being

suspected that the woman wanted to marry him, a

accountant

Brother-in-law held for Ghaziabad mass suicide

The accused and

victim and sold his

his mother duped the

AGE CORRESPONDENT GHAZIABAD, DEC. 4

The police on Wednesday arrested the brother-in-law of businessman Gulshan Vasudeva, who had jumped to death along with his wife and another woman after killing his teenage chil-dren in Indirapuram on the outskirts of Delhi.
"Rakesh Verma, the

rakesii verina, the brother-in-law of Vasudeva, has been arrested for abetting suicide, while his mother Phoola Verma, also accused in the case, is on the run." Chariched son

in the early hours of Tuesday from the eighth floor of their apartment block in Krishna Apra Society in Indirapuram. Before jumping to death, Vasudeva had killed his son Hrithik (14) and daughter Hrithika (18) by

property for ₹1.49cr to a person named Imran Ali. When victim put pressure on him to return the money, accused gave him cheques which bounced at the bank

slitting their throats at around 3.30 am on Tuesday and also killed their pet rabbit, the

"Verma had duped several people by offering them good returns on investment in property. He lured Vasudeva as well into investing ₹1.09 crore in a property and also made him convince his friend and chartered his project around five years ago. He promised to pay them back an additional interest of five per cent on the principal money," Mr Singh said. Verma told the police

Bakshi into investing in

that he had returned ₹98 lakh to Vasudeva as interest, but Bakshi and Vasudeva were asking for the rest of the amount, which was ₹1.39 crore with interest, Mr Singh Verma and his mother

then duped Vasudeva and sold his property for ₹1.49 crore to a person named gave him cheques

lodged against Verma and his mother under IPC sections 420, 406 and 506 at Sahibabad police station and he and his mother were subsequently arrested and sent to jail

According to the police, Vasudeva had invested the run," Ghaziabad sen-Imran Ali. When Vasudeva put pressure on him to return the money, ior superintendent of money in a property scheme on the behest of police Sudhir Kumar Singh said. Vasudeva (45), his wife Verma, who had assured him of good returns but which bounced at the Parveen and manager instead put him in debt. Sanjana jumped to death bank, the officer said. The SSP said an FIR was

5,000 DU teachers on indefinite stir

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, DEC. 4

Protesting against a circular mandating appointment of guest teachers on permanent posts, the Delhi University teachers on Wednesday entered a building housing the vicechancellor's office after breaking three gates and allegedly painted graffiti on the historic structure.

The Viceregal Lodge Estate houses the office of the DU vice-chancellor. Almost 5,000 teachers, cutting across party lines, gheraoed the building, and then entered its premises by breaking three gates leading to the office. The call for an indefinite

strike was given by Delhi



of the circular mandating appointment of guest teachers in New Delhi on Wednesday.

Association which is led by Left-backed Democratic Teachers' Front (DTF) but it has received support Congress-backed Academics For Action and Development (AAD) and right-wing outfit National

Front. The walls of the building were painted with slogans 'End slavery and humiliation", "Our right, Absorption", "#VC down", allegedly by teachers who have occupied the V-C office. According to a

Further, the Jawaharlal University Teachers' Association (JNUTA) on Wednesday launched a day-long hunger strike over the issue of the hostel fee hike. The JNUTA said the university was going through a major crisis and accused the administration and the HRD ministry of not making any serious effort to address the concerns of the students and the teachers. JNU students have been on a strike for more than a month now over the

reached the office, the V-C was not present and some

of his staff members were

there, who also left when the teachers entered the

building.

NDMC arranges carnival for women in Karol Bagh

Arvind Kejriwal

Secretariat,

tions will help students and benefit health and

The first 100 hotspots

will be set up at Kashmere

Gate Metro station and ISBT, ITO bus stand, Mandi House bus stand,

Indraprastha Metro sta-

tion, and Adarsh Nagar

(18), Badali (19), Moti

Nagar (10), Seemapuri (16) and Shahdara (18)

Assembly constituencies.

Of the 11,000 hotspots

4,000 will be set up at bus

stops. The rest 7,000 will

be installed in markets.

residential colonies and

other places with each

constituency getting 100.

education sectors.

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, DEC. 4

North Delhi Municipal Corporation on Wednesday announced a two-day street carnival at night in Karol Bagh for women, urging them to "fearlessly step out" and reclaim the streets with music and celebrations. The first-of-its-kind festival in the national capital will be held between 7 pm and 11 pm on Thursday and Friday at the pedestrianised Ajmal Khan Road. The North Corporation

has partnered with UN

Women, Delhi Police, Raahgiri Foundation, Jagori and other civil society bodies to drive home a strong message about women's safety and celebrating on the streets.

"The recent incidents of violence against women depict a certain mindset of some people in the society, and it is this mindset that the festival seeks to challenge. Women should feel safe on streets, and if they come out, they will not feel afraid. We are asking them to come out and reclaim the streets and celebrate the open space," said

The first-of-its-kind festival will be held between 7 pm and 11 pm on Thursday and Friday. The festival will include performances by local pop groups, stand-up comedians, Zumba sessions and movie screenings

municipal commissioner Varsha Joshi.

The festival will include activities such as performances by local pop groups and stand-up comedians,

Zumba workout sessions and movie screenings.
"While plans had been going on for the past sever-

al months to host a festival at the nearly 1.5 km-long Ajmal Khan Road, which we had pedestrianised earlier this year, it sort of came together recently, with convergence of interagencies. We also realised UN Women is marking a fortnight to promote gen-der equality. So, the stars aligned," Ms Joshi added. Over two months ago, the North Corporation had pedestrianised street running from Pusa Road to D.B. Gupta Marg, seeking to decongest the busy area About 600 metres of this stretch of the road will be utilised for the festival.

The entry to the festival is free and open to women and also men accompanying female family members or friends. "There will be selfie points, and game zones for kids, we are going to decorate and illuminate the stretch to give it a feel of a carnival. Also, Metro station is closer to the road," said Karol Bagh zone's deputy commissioner Akriti Sagar.

39-year-old commits suicide in Vasant Kun

them on Wednesday after

New Delhi, Dec. 4: A 39-year-old man allegedly committed suicide by hanging himself from a ceiling fan at his house in southwest Delhi's Vasant Kunj, police said on

Wednesday. The deceased was identified as Harvinder, they added. No suicide note was recovered, the police said, adding that the man was an alcoholic and was treated at a de-addiction

According to the police, Harvinder's wife called noon to inform that her husband had locked himself in a room since Tuesday night.

The police reached the spot, broke open the door of the room and found the man hanging from the ceiling fan with the help of a "dupatta".

The man used to quarrel with his wife often and lock himself up in the room. He was survived by his wife and two sons, the police said.

Cricket





Maybe one day I will get another chance to Knock 400 off.

— David Warner, Australian opener believes he will get another chance to have a crack at **Brian Lara's world record score**

TAKES SHORT

BCCI Apex Council gets its CAG rep

New Delhi: The BCCI will have senior India Audit and Accounts Service officer Alka Rehani Bhardwaj as the Comptroller and Auditer General (CAG) representative in its Apex Council as per the new constitution approved by the Supreme Court. Rehani Bhardwaj is a 1993 batch IA&AS officer and is currently serving as a Director of Regional Training Institute in Mumbai. Vikram Murugaraj, Principal Director (Personnel) of CAG, in a letter informed Rehani Bhardwaj of the "competent authority" nominating her as one of the councillors in the Indian cricket board's all powerful apex Council. As per the SC-approved BCCI constitution passed on August 9, 2018, the apex council will constitute a representative of the CAG as its member. Accordingly, Rehani Bhardwaj will officially become the first government nominee in a BCCI working group. "The BCCI is in receipt of a letter from Office of CAG about Alka Rehani Bhardwaj's appointment. We



believe she would be present

conditions of anonymity. - PTI

from the next Apex Council meeting," a BCCI source said on

Bob Willis

Former England captain Willis dies

London: Former England capain and fearsome pace bowler Bob Willis has died aged 70, his family announced on Wednesday. Willis, who captained his country between 1982 and 1984, played in 90 Test matches with his most memorable performance taking eight for 43 in the Australian second innings of the third Ashes Test in 1981, "We are heartbroken to lose our beloved Bob, who was an incredible husband, father, brother and grandfather," read the Willis family statement. "He made a huge impact on everybody he knew and we will miss him terri-

ROHIT ONE HIT AWAY FROM A MILESTONE

New Delhi: Rohit Sharma is just one six away from becoming the first Indian to reach 400 sixes in international cricket. He will also become just the third player overall to cross the milestone after former Pakistan and West Indies captains Shahid Afridi (476 sixes) and Chris Gayle (534 sixes). Rohit has been a stalwart for India at the top of the order in limited overs cricket. While his Test career did not hit the same heights for a long time, the Indian team's decision to let him open the batting seems to have done the trick. In his first series as India's Test opener against South Africa in October, Rohit broke the record for most sixes hit during a Test series by hitting 19 maximums. He scored a whopping 529 runs in four innings which included a maiden Test double ton. Rohit will next be seen when India take on the West Indies in a limited overs series starting here on December 6. The two sides first play a three-match T20I series and that will be followed by an ODI series consisting of as many matches. Speaking to the media, Greenfield International Stadium pitch curator Biju said

that two pitches have been

by the ICC representatives.

readied and has been cleared

Seasoned South African Mickey Arthur is set to take over as Sri Lanka's new national cricket coach on a two-year contract

with Grant Flower and David Sekar as his support staff



Not here to replace Hardik: Dube

GANDHARV KAMALA | DC HYDERABAD, DEC. 4

or someone who gave up playing cricket from the crucial ages of 13 to 17, to being a part of the Indian men's side at 26, Shivam Dube's ascent to the top has been rapid. Ever since he went from 110 to 75kg — within a year — the Mumbai-born

allrounder has stood out with his consistent performances in the domestic circuit, India 'A' and the recently concluded Vijay Hazare Trophy.

After collecting the Man of the Series award at the end of the four-day game series for India 'A' in the West Indies, the match-winning knocks against South Africa 'A' at home and the quick-fire 67-ball 118 against Karnataka in Vijay Hazare, Shivam started knocking on the senior team's door.

The timing was perfect too. With India's fast bowling allrounder, Hardik rounder, Hardik Pandya, out since September 22, the Men in Blue needed a fast bowling allrounder, someone who could change the innings lower down the order.

And in came Shivam. But the Mumbaikar has plans of his own. "I don't think I am looking to replace any one. I don't see this being a part of the Indian team — as an opportunity to replace Hardik Pandya. I have got a job at hand and that is to do well for my country. I think I am capable enough to make a mark of my own,'

a confident Shivam

said.

On being asked if there is a new regime he is following to maintain the international standards of fitness, he said, "I am not doing anything different from what I used to do while playing in the domestic circuit or for India 'A'. Being an allrounder, I have to maintain higher stan-dards of fitness because I have to perform at my best in both batting as well as

bowling."
In the previous

series against Bangladesh, the allrounder picked three wickets giving away 55 runs. But the six-footer is confident of putting up a good show in the T20 series against Windies, starting on Friday. "I know the opposition (West Indies) have some powerful hitters in their batting order but we have done our homework and know how to handle them. At the moment, this Indian team is the best team in the world and

Bishop hails India's pace revolution with a captain who likes

West Indies speedster Ian Bishop says the foundation of India's "another level" fast bowling unit was laid by the likes of legendary Kapil Dev and built on by current captain Virat Kohli, who believes in the attack.

He said Kohli's passion to put together a strong fastbowling unit has made it easier to build on the foundation that Kapil laid.

"Let's remember that this group of bowlers did not emanate right now. The foundation was laid – if you go back to Kapil (Dev) and down the line, Javagal Srinath, Zaheer Khan, Munaf Patel, Sreesanth," Bishop said in interview 'ESPNCricinfo'.

"Now it's been built on

fast bowlers, who believes in them. But also the fact that you've found a generational talent in Jasprit "Generational because he plays all formats of the game very well. And (Mohd.) Shami has taken his game to another level. Ishant

(Sharma) has also gone up another evel," he added. The 52-year-old Bishop, who took 161 wickets in said he

couldn't have predicted that India's fast bowlers would come to the Caribbean and do to the West Indians what they did to others decades ago. "So credit to Bharath Arun, the bowling coach, the administrators

and captains. I couldn't see this much (improvement), but was a great deal of promise in having guys who could bowl close to, or over, 90mph,"

> however, refused to com-

fearsome West Indians of the past. "Well, they have been performing that well that the comparisons are going to come. I would want to stay away from it, because I don't know how

you measure it.

"When people talk about (Michael) Holding and (Joel) Garner and (Malcolm) Marshall and (Colin) Croft and (Andy) (Colin) Croft and (Andy) Roberts — who bowled together for so many years — how do you compare with that?" he asked.

Bishop was also reluctant to pick the best among the current crop of fast bowlers in the world. 'There are so many. Jofra Archer. I almost feel when he's on song that it's the perfect streamlined tech-



Bumrah is a baby bowler, says Razzaq

Karachi, Dec. 4: Former Pakistan all-rounder Abdul Razzaq has said that had he been active till now, he would have "easily dominated and attacked baby bowler" Jasprit Bumrah.

The 40-year-old, who has played 46 Tests, 265 ODIs and 32 T20Is for Pakistan, said having faced world-class bowlers like Australia's Glenn McGrath and compatriot Wasim Akram, it would be easy to counter Bumrah.

"I have played against great bowlers like Glenn Mcgrath and Wasim Akram, so Bumrah is a baby bowler in front of me and I could have easily dominated and attacked him," Razzaq said. — PTI

Simmons says Virat's wicket is key

Hyderabad, Dec. 4: West Indies coach Simmons says bowlers will have to avoid being "too scared" of Virat Kohli when they take on India in a limited-overs

ficult task of getting the Indian skipper out,

Test as Smith slips a rung I have got a job at series," he concluded. hand and that is to **Dubai, Dec. 4:** India captain Virat Kohli on Wednesday regained the off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin was also static at do well for my country. I think I am ninth in the rankings. "Australia opener David Warner's epic 335 not out capable enough to in the Cricket International Cricket Council's (ICC) Test rankmake a mark of my has lifted him 12 places to ings after Australian Steve the fifth position while Marnus Labuschagne is in -SHIVAM DUBE, Smith slipped a rung in the latest list issued nere. the top 10 for the first time **India all-rounder** Kohli, who had struck a after being ranked as low as 110th at the start of the year," the ICC said in a fine 136 in the day-night Kolkata Test against Bangladesh last week to statement reach 928 points, is now five points clear after Australian fast bowler Mitchell Starc is another Smith's knock of 36 in the

Adelaide Test against Pakistan saw him slip to 923 points from 931 before the match. All-rounder Shivam Dube during a training

Cheteshwar Pujara has session in Hyderabad. held on to his fourth spot, - S. Surender Reddy while Ajinkya Rahane has

come down a spot to sixth in the latest update. Among the bowlers, Jasprit Bumrah is the highest-placed Indian at the fifth position. Senior

Australia player to gain in the latest rankings, which also takes into account

Kohli regains No.1 spot in

performances in the drawn New Zealand-England Test in Hamilton and the one in Lucknow that saw the West Indies e a Afghanistan by nine wickets. Virat Kohl

series as it t h e already dif-Stating that Kohli is a

"difficult proposition" to dismiss, Simmons jovially listed some out of the box ideas to get Kohli out. One, I can make him bat with a stump. Two, we can sign a book and in the ODIs, we can give him a 100 and bowl at the rest of the players or we can make sure that our plans to him are spot on," he

Windies rope in Monty as coach ahead of series

Hyderabad, Dec. 4: The West Indies on Wednesday named Monty Desai as their batting coach ahead of the limited-overs series against India beginning here on Friday. Desai, who has been handed a two-year con-

tract, has joined the team here before the the first T20 International

on Friday.

He has held coaching roles with Afghanistan, Nepal, Canada, Indian regional teams and former IPL sides Rajasthan Royals and Gujarat Lions in a career of over 12 years. He was most recently the batting coach of the UAE team.



Monty Desai Desai joined the West

Indies ahead of the start of the T20 International Series against India, which bowls off on Friday, December 6 at Gandhi Rajiv Stadium in Hyderabad," the West Indies Cricket Board (WICB) said in a better in all areas."

The series against India comprises three T20 Internationals followed by an equal number of one-dayers.

West Indies head coach Phil Simmons said: "I have worked with Monty before and he is an exceľlent coach. He has proven he has the ability to get players to improve on their talent and also to perform better in matches. "He has vast knowledge of the game and it is good he is starting here with us in India. I look forward to seeing him work with our batsmen in all formats as we look to get

Now, a coach is arrested DC CORRESPONDENT BENGALURU, DEC. 4

The fixing saga around the Karnataka Premier League refuses to die down as another case came into the spotlight on Wednesday. Bengaluru city police arrested Sudhindra Shinde, the coach of Belagavi Panthers, on charges of match-fixing on Wednesday.

"The arrests so far are backed by a lot of evidences. On the basis of it, we are arresting them. Sudhindra Shinde has been arrested on the basis of evidences," Bengaluru police commissioner Bhaskar Rao

Central Crime Branch which is probing the matter had grilled Shinde for two days and has finally been arrested.

Modus operandi

Explaining how went Sandeep Patil, Commissioner (Crime) said that the accused Shinde ran a Social Cricket Club in Jayanagar. Ashfaq Thar Ali, the owner of Belagavi Panthers visited the club and sponsored players and those players went on to find places in various KPL teams and help fix the matches.

Shinde had appeared before the CCB (Central Crime Branch) for ques-tioning on Tuesday but refused to answer any questions. There were contradictions to his statements and the witness statements and findings of the investigation. His house was also raided by the CCB two days



Sudhindra Shinde

Shinde is a member of the Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA) managing committee from the Raichur zone and coaches the Karnataka Under-19

cricket team. Police seek help The police commissioner has asked the cricketers to come forward and assist the

investigation in the Karnataka Premier League and not wait for the police to come and knock on the the police knock on your doors" he said.

Hinting that there are more people involved in the scam, the police commissioner implored the players to turn approvers and gain

immunity in bargain.
"Under CRPC (Code of criminal procedure), the can become players approvers and help the police in the investigation. There are many more involved in the scam. The players can give the information and could prevent the arrests," he main-

tained. The latest turn of events follow on the heels of the arrest of Ballari Tuskers players CM Gautam and Abrar Kazi who was arrested last month for match-fix-

Games

Toronto FC striker Jozy Altidore has been fined an undisclosed amount for criticising officiating in last month's Major League Soccer Cup final

THE ASIAN AGE



When Tiger is healthy, he can play at a very high level. But he's not what he used to be.

- Ernie Els on Tiger Woods

SHORT TAKES

Atletico face punishment

Madrid: Atletico Madrid is facing punishment after its fans made threatening chants against former player Antoine Griezmann during last weekend's Spanish league match against Barcelona.

The Spanish league said Wednesday it denounced the club after some fans chanted "Die Griezmann" early in the match won by Barcelona at Wanda Metropolitano Stadium in Madrid.

The Spanish soccer federation's anti-violence committee will analyze the case. The club is mostly likely to be fined if

found guilty. The league said about 2,000 fans from Atletico's "ultras" section made the chants for about 20 seconds in the seventh minute of the match. The chants were repeated in the

second half. Griezmann left Atletico for Barcelona at the end of last season in a transfer worth more than 120 million euros (\$132

million). The France forward was jeered nearly every time he touched the ball at the Metropolitano on Sunday. It was his first match at Atletico's stadium since leaving the club.

Tokyo marathon

will start early

Lausanne: The men's marathon at the Tokyo Olympics will be held early in the morning of the Games' final day in a Sapporo park on the northern island of Hokkaido in a bid to avoid the heat and humidity of the Japanese capital, the IOC announced on

Wednesday Sapporo's Odori Park, used in the past as a venue for the Hokkaido Marathon, has been fixed as the venue for both the men and women's marathons and race walking events at next

vear's Games. "Athletes' health and well being are always at the heart of our concerns, and the decision to move the marathon and race walk events to Sapporo shows how seriously we take such concerns," said Kirsty Coventry,

chair of the International Olympic Committee's Athletes' Commission. The IOC said the competition schedules had also been

revamped to facilitate the support of National Olympic Committee officials and coaches to the athletes. — AFP

MOUNTAIN BIKE EVENT IN WAYANAD

Thiruvananthapuram: Biking professionals and aficionados from India and abroad will test their endurance and expertise in the rugged terrain of the Western Ghats as the two-day MTB (Mountain Bike) Kerala gets underway at Mananthavady in Wayanad from

December 21. This year's event will take the riders through a 5-km stretch at an altitude of 3,000 feet that encompasses terrains like dirt, rock and water.

According to a press release, MTB Kerala is the first mountain bike race in India to be featured in the MTB race calendar of Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI), the Swiss-based world governing body for sports cycling and overseas international competitive cycling

The success of MTB Kerala has placed the state on the global map of mountain biking, Tourism minister Kadakampally

Surendran said. This years race will be held in three categories: International Cross Country, National Cross Country - Men, and National

Cross Country - Women. An added attraction of the event is that it also includes for the first time an additional race for amateurs, titled 'Fun & Thrill Challenge.' Registration starts on December 5 from 10 am and closes on December 10 at 5 pm.

Harden hits half-ton

James rockets but Houston felled by Spurs

Los Angeles, Dec. 4: James Harden erupted for 50 Russell points and Russell Westbrook bagged a triple-double, but it was not enough to stop the Houston Rockets falling to a double-overtime defeat to the San Antonio Spurs on Tuesday.

Three days after a 60-point display against Atlanta, Harden followed that masterclass with a half-century at the AT&T Center in San Antonio.

Yet it was the Spurs who edged a thrilling duel 135-133 after two periods of

overtime. Lonnie Walker IV was the star for the Spurs, rising from the bench to lead the scoring with 28 points and four rebounds.

Walker's intervention had helped San Antonio claw their way back into the game in the closing minutes of regulation.

The Rockets led by 10 points with just under four minutes on the clock but were reeled in by Walker, who hit back-toback three-pointers to tie the score at 115-115 and force overtime.

Houston, however, were on the wrong end of a refereeing blunder earlier in the fourth quarter that turned out to be pivotal.

Harden broke away and took his time before dunking emphatically into an empty net. The points were ruled out, however, after officials mistakenly judged that the ball had

bounced out of the basket. Those lost points proved costly as the Spurs forced overtime and battled their way to a pulsating victory.

Rockets coach Mike D'Antoni bemoaned his team's inability to close out the win after leading by 22 points at one stage. "We quit playing defense, we quit getting back, we turned it over silly," said D'Antoni, who

added he was baffled by Harden's disallowed dunk. "I have no idea," D'Antoni replied when asked why the shot hadn't counted. "I didn't get an

explanation." Lakers show rolls on

Elsewhere Tuesday, the Los Angeles Lakers extended their lead at the western Conference with a 105-96



Washington Wizards guard Troy Brown Jr (6) goes to the basket during the first half of an NBA game against Orlando Magic guard Michael Carter-Williams (7), center Mo Bamba (left) and guard D. J. Augustin (14), in Washington on Tuesday. The Magic won 127-120.

Nuggets in Colorado. The Lakers were once again led by LeBron and Anthony Davis, who each finished with 25 points from 36

minutes on court. Jamal Murray led the Denver scoring with 22 points, but the Lakers were always in control after building up a 60-49 lead at halftime.

The Lakers now lead the Western Conference by 3.5 games from second-placed Denver with 18 wins

against three defeats.
In other games Tuesday, Luka Doncic delivered points

powered the New Orleans Pelicans 118-97.

Slovenian Doncic finished with 33 points, a career-high 18 rebounds and five assists in just three quarters of action as the Mavs improved to 14-6 in the Western Conference standings.

Doncic, aged only 20, has been in sensational form so far this season and was once again the offensive linchpin for the Mavs in a commanding perform-

Seth Curry added 19 OII tne bench, another masterclass as while Tim Hardaway Jr the Dallas Mavericks over- and Maxi Kleber chipped

in with 12 points apiece to back up Doncic.

The Mavericks finished the third quarter leading by nine points but outscored the Pelicans by 34-22 in the fourth quarter to clinch an impressive road victory.

Elsewhere Tuesday, an overtime scoring spree from Jimmy Butler helped the Miami Heat to a 121-110 victory over the NBA

Raptors in Toronto.
Butler reeled off eight points in just under a minute at the start of overtime to finish with a

Butler had 22 points, 13 rebounds and 12 assists in the win while Duncan Robinson added 22 points and Bam Adebayo 18 points.

The win saw Miami move up to second spot in the Eastern Conference with 15 wins and five defeats, 2.5 games back from the leading leading Milwaukee Bucks.

The Raptors meanwhile were cheered by the return of Kyle Lowry, but the shooting guard was restricted to 12 points from 40 minutes on court. Norman Powell led the scoring for Toronto with

IBRA HINTS AT PLAYING IN ITALIAN LEAGUE

Milan, Dec. 4: Sweden footballer Zlatan Ibrahimovic has fuelled speculation that he is set to return to Italy, where he has played for AC Milan, Inter Milan and Juventus, by saying in an interview: "see you soon in Italy"

The 38-year-old striker confirmed his departure from Los Angeles Galaxy last month following the club's elimination from the Major League Soccer

playoffs.
"I'll join a club which must get back to winning, which must renew its history and is in search of a battle against everyone and everything," Ibrahimovic told GQ Italia.

'That is the only way I'll be able to find the necessary motivation to surprise you again. It's not iust about choosing a team, as there are other factors that need to line up, including in the interests of my family. I'll see you in Italy soon," he added.

According to reports in Italy, Ibrahimovic has been offered a six-month deal to come to the aid of struggling former giants AC Milan, who are 11th in the Serie A table.

Napoli are also a possible destination as last season's runners-up sit seventh, after a run of six league games without a win. "I love to make the difference. I don't just want to do one or two things well, I want to do all of it," he added.

Ibrahimovic played for two seasons between 2010 and 2012 with AC Milan, helping them to their last Serie A title.

Tiger's aura has dimmed, says Els

Sydney, Dec. 4: Ernie Els on Wednesday said Tiger Woods has lost some of his aura but the skipper of the International team will not be under-estimating his superstar counterpart at the President's Cup next

Woods is captaining and playing for the United States at the biennial matchplay showdown at Royal Melbourne, and one of Electron and states are the states and states are states are states and states are states are states as a state of the states are states and states are states are states as a state of the states are states are states as a state of the states are states are states as a state of the states are state of Els' key decisions will be who plays the 15-time major-winner in the singles on Sunday.

The big South African has seven rookies in his 12man team, but he also has a core of experienced players such as Adam Scott, Louis Oosthuizen and Marc Leishman. Els said he would decide

who faces Woods after seeing how they perform in the three days of fourballs and foursomes, but suggested it would not be a newcomer.
"I don't want to have a

guy feel overwhelmed," he said in Sydney ahead of the Australian Open, where Els will play from Thursday alongside a handful of his Presidents Cup team. "I will not put a guy in

there that's going to feel that way. I'll see who is going to feel like he's really

Tiger. I don't think today he has the same kind of aura he had in the past. It's different," added Els, him-self a matchplay specialist but will only be captain in Melbourne.

'Not what he used to be'

"It's more of a celebrity kind of aura. But he's still very competitive. He's won the Masters and he won in Japan (both this year). When Tiger is healthy, he can play at a very high level. But he's not what he used to be consistently. That's just what age does. But we'll see when we get to Melbourne," Els added. The United States go into

the tournament as heavy favourites, boasting some of the world's top-ranked players such as Woods, Dustin Johnson and Justin Thomas.

Els said he had a good idea of what his pairings would be for the opening day of fourballs next Thursday, without giving anything away.

There are a couple of pairings that are kind of natural pairings, if you can call it that, but I'm looking at it in a different way, not just a personality way. I'm looking at how the guys can really perform together," he said. — AFP

KEEP IT SHORT, SERGIO TELLS GOLF OFFICIALS

Sydney, Dec. 4: Spanish great Sergio Garcia on Wednesday said players should be allowed to wear shorts at more golf tournaments after the European Tour permitted the move for the first time last week. With temperatures reaching 40 degrees Celsius during the Alfred Dunhill Championship in South Africa,

organisers relaxed their strict rules against shorts. Former Masters champion Garcia said it was a long overdue move and should be introduced more widely. "I would love to see that. I've said it many times — I think at the end of the day, having the possibility of playing with shorts it only kind of brings us together to the sup porters," he said ahead of the Australian Open.

"Because when you go to a course, unless it's winter and it's really cold, if it's spring or summer and the temperatures are nice, when you go to a normal course, 90 per cent of the people are wearing shorts," he added.

Woods says no to rich Saudi event

Miami. Dec. 4: Former world number one Tiger Woods said he had turned down offers to play in the Saudi International golf tournament, but defended the right of players to participate in the event.

Woods said he had rejected approaches to play in Saudi Arabia despite appearance fees reportedly in the region of \$3 million (2.7 million euros). "I just don't want to go over there. It's a long way," Woods told

Golfers participating in the Saudi International faced criticism at the inaugural event last year, which took place just months after the killing of USbased Saudi journalist Khashoggi October 2018.

ESPN reported Woods had first turned down an approach from organisers to play in the 2019 event prior to Khashoggi's murder, and rejected a second offer to play in the 2020 tournament, which takes place from January 30 to February 2. Woods' comments came

after Phil Mickelson became the latest golfer to confirm he would play the event next year. decision Mickelson's

means he will miss next year's Phoenix Open for

comment directly. "I'm excited to go play and see a place in the world I've never been," he wrote. "I understand those who are upset or disappointed. You'll be ok. I'm excited to

experience this for the first

the first time since

Come on, Phil."

time.'

The move prompted dis-

may on social media.

"You're better than taking the money grab from a corrupt regime," wrote one commenter on Twitter.

Mickelson addressed the

Asked about the criticism of Mickelson's decision on Tuesday, Woods said he believed the tournament could help grow golf in Saudi Arabia. "I understand the politics behind it. But also the game of golf can help heal all of that too. There are a lot of top players playing that tournament. It's not a traditional golf hotbed but it has grown quite a bit," Woods said, adding, "I remember going to Dubai for the first time and seeing two or three buildings on the skyline. Now it's a New York City skyline. The game of golf has grown. There used to be only a few courses now they're everywhere. Same with Abu Dhabi. And maybe eventu-

ally Saudi Arabia." — AFP

Tiger hunts title

Nassau (Bahamas), Dec. 4: Tournament host Tiger Woods will aim to win his first Hero World Challenge title in eight years following a landmark 2019 but standing in his way is a star-studded field, including world number three

and defending champion Jon Rahm. Woods, who won his first Major since 2008 with a comefrom-behind victory at the Masters this year, will be playing alongside 17 proven performers.

"Interestingly, when I have done well here, it has acted like a springboard to my following season. Successes at this event have kind of mirrored what I have done at Torey on west coast. This event really has been a kind of a springboard for me," Woods said.

The 15-time Major winner faces stiff competition from the likes of Rahm, the highest ranked player in the field this week. It will also be a nice gift for Rahm to win ahead of his marriage to his fiancee Kelly Cahill. "I'm getting married, next week. No," Rahm smiled when asked if his wedding preparations could distract him.

Aussies, Argies at Copa

Cartagena (Colombia), Dec. 4: Australia will face Messi Argentina in next year's Copa America after being drawn alongside the tournament co-hosts. The Socceroos, one of

two guest teams invited to the South American football championship, will face Paraguay, Bolivia, Uruguay and Chile in Group 'A'.

In Group 'B', Asian champions Qatar, the other guest nation, will face Colombia, Brazil, Venezuela, Ecuador and Peru, with all games taking place in Colombia. The first round designations for Australia and

Qatar were the only major issue left to be decided at Tuesday's cere-The other teams in the two groups had already been determined based on geographical proximi-

ty to co-hosts Argentina

and Colombia. Australia Graham Arnold said his team was relishing the prospect of facing Argentina in Buenos Aires. The former international striker speaks from experience: Arnold was a member of the Socceroos team which lost to a Diego Maradonainspired Argentina in a 1993 playoff for a spot in the 1994 World Cup. "In the old days in the 1990s we played Argentina and Maradona over there and if you speak to the players involved they'll tell

you what a great experience it was," Arnold said. To be able to play in those great stadiums in that environment is going to be a buzz," Arnold



Colombian former goalkeeper Faryd Camilo Mondragon (left) and presenters Andrea Guerrero (right) from Colombia and Juan Jose Buscaglia from Argentina during the draw of the Copa America 2020 at the Convention Centre in Cartagena, Colombia, on Tuesday.

Italy vows to erase racism

Milan, Dec. 4: The Italian league has vowed to go "stadium by stadium" in its bid to eradicate racism from soccer in the country. The season has been marred by constant episodes of racist chants discriminatory behavior but Serie A CEO Luigi De Siervo promised that the governing body

is working on "dozens of

done before, almost noth-

ing, now we're facing it,"

De Siervo said at a news

conference at the Lega

'Too little has been

initiatives

'We need time to resolve

though. Football has to be an example. We'll go stadium by stadium, sector by sector and identify these people to keep them out of there," he added. Racist chants have

recently been aimed at Romelu Lukaku, Franck Kessie. Dalbert Henrique, Miralem Pianic, Ronaldo Vieira, Kalidou Koulibaly and Mario Balotelli. All

except for Pjanic, who is

Serie A headquarters on Bosnian — are black.

Tuesday. "We're working with what we have. The aim is to go and take them one by one and ban them from the stadiums but to make sure that 10, 20, 30 people can't ruin the image of a city, of a country," De Siervo said.

"There are very real initiatives but I can't tell you because we're analysing a lot of things... we need to improve the regulations, lobby the government, create the conditions," he added.

Games





- Pep Guardiola, Manchester City coach after their 4-1 victory

concede much.

TAKES

SHORT

Indian colts beat New Zealand 2-0

Canberra: The Indian junior women's hockey team started its campaign at the Three-Nation tournament on a positive note, beating New Zealand 2-0 here on Wednesday. Lalrindiki (15th minute) and Prabhleen Kaur (60th) were the two goal scorers for the winners. India started the match with an aggressive brand of hockey, pinning down New Zealand, who had defeated hosts Australia 3-1 in their first match on Tuesday. India's dominance in the opening quarter saw them win an early penalty corner in the third minute, but they failed to utilise the chance. A defensive lapse from New Zealand then handed India a golden opportunity at the stroke of the quarter break and Lalrindiki found herself with enough space in front of the goal to slot the ball home. New Zealand had a chance to equalise in the second quarter, but Indian goalkeeper Bichu Devi Kharibam save to keep her

Mumbai look to

side ahead. - PTI

go past Blasters

Mumbai: Mumbai City FC will be eyeing their first 'home' win of the season when they take on Kerala Blasters in an Indian Super League game here on

The Jorge Costa-managed team have played two 'home' games this season at their usual fortress the Mumbai Football Arena in suburban Andheri, but suffered defeat on both the occasions.

First, it was Odisha FC who stunned Mumbai with a 4-2 win here and later. FC Goa defeated the hosts by a similar margin on November 7.

Moreover, this would be Mumbai's first 'home' game after it was announced that the City Football Group has acquired a majority of shares in

the team. Both Mumbai and Kerala are placed in the lower half of the points table and a win would help them improve their posi-

Mumbai have played six games so far, of which they have won one, drawn three and lost two.

Kerala have also played six, won one, drawn two and lost

JUANAN NETS BENGALURU'S WINNER

Pune: Bengaluru FC extended their unbeaten start in the ongoing Hero Indian Super League to seven games with a narrow 1-0 win against Odisha FC at the Shree Shiv **Chhatrapati Sports Complex** here on Wednesday Centre-back Juanan scored his first goal of the season to secure Bengaluru's third win of the season and take them to the top of the table. Carles Cuadrat's side have 13 points while Odisha are sixth. The teams were off the blocks in quick time and Gurpreet Singh Sandhu was called into action within minutes. Nandhakumar Sekar latched onto a pass from the deep, cut in from the left to shift the ball to his right foot and attempted a ferocious strike that looked destined for the bottom right corner but a vital fingertip save by the Bengaluru goalkeeper kept the shot out. The teams missed chances to score as Jerry Mawihmingthanga shot wide from a corner and Sunil Chhetri failed to hit the target from an Udanta Singh cross. With the contest heating up, centre-back Juanan

showcased his centre-forward

lead. Nishu Kumar's lob into the

defender's path by Erik Paartalu

scuffed shot that went in off the

before the Spaniard outfoxed

skills to give Bengaluru the

box was flicked into the

Carlos Delgado to send a

Burnley, Dec. 4: Gabriel Jesus scored twice as Manchester City showed no signs of giving up their Premier League title without a fight as a 4-1 victory at Burnley cut the gap on unbeaten leaders Liverpool

could have been a tricky trip to Turf Moor.

on goal difference.

The visitors were dominant from first minute to last and could have been far more convincing winners but for some wayward finishing and Nick Pope's resistance in the Burnley

"We played a good game, we controlled them and we didn't concede much apart from the goal in the last minutes. Our level was so good in most of the games,' City coach Pep Guardiola

said.
Jesus did not look like a striker searching for confidence as he opened the scoring with a sumptuous curling effort that found the far corner from David

block with his feet from Sterling and Bernardo Silva to keep Burnley in the game until the break.

five minutes into the second half with a thumping finish from Bernardo's

of fantastic finishes when he capped a brilliant individual display by drilling high past Pope 22 minutes

insisted City would be ceaseless as they attempt to chase down Liverpool in the title race.

Premier League goal with a precise strike on his weaker right foot from outside the box.

but that was the only nega-

to fifth with a 1-0 win over Bournemouth despite playing for more than 70 minutes with 10 men at Selhurst Park. Mamadou Sakho was sent off for a wild challenge on Adam Smith, but Palace frustrated the Cherries and then struck 14 minutes from time when Jeffrey Schlupp through Bournemouth defence and

THE RESULTS

Burnley FC

tering standards they set in back-to-back title-winning seasons, but looked more like their old selves in what

Jesus made the most of his chance to shine in the absence of the injured Sergio Aguero with two brilliant finishes either side of half-time to end an eight-game goal drought before long-range strikes from Rodrigo and Riyad Mahrez moved City above Leicester into second place

Silva's pass.

Jesus gave City a cushion

Mahrez came off the bench to score his 50th

Brady denied City a first clean sheet in eight games,

Manchester City (Gabriel Jesus 24, 50, Rodri 68, Riyad Mahrez (Robert Brady 89)

Crystal Palace (Jeffery Schlupp 76) Bournemouth

Liverpool's Trent Alexander-Arnold helps out at St

Andrew's — a place where 25 per cent of donated food

comes before and after Liverpool and Everton home games

to eight points.
Pep Guardiola's men have struggled to match the blis-

Pope then stood up well to

inswinging cross. Rodrigo continued a night

from time. The Spanish midfielder

tive for the champions ahead of Manchester United's visit to the Etihad. Crystal Palace moved up

fired low and hard past Aaron Ramsdale.

Spurs. AIRWA

GABRIEL'S BRACE FIRES UP CITY IN PREMIER LEAGUE

Ole comfortable on Jose's return

Manchester, Dec. 4: Ole Gunnar Solskjaer believes he has the backing of Manchester United fans ahead of a huge week for the Norwegian if he is to maintain the faith of his superiors at the club.

United welcome former manager Jose Mourinho back to Old Trafford on Wednesday with the Portuguese having taken Tottenham above the Red Devils in the Premier League table during his first week in charge of

> Solskjaer's men, who sit 10th in the table, then travel to neighbours Manchester City on Saturday. Mourinho, sacked by United last

December, replaced Mauricio Pochettino in one of three managerial changes in the Premier League over the past two weeks, does Solskjaer not believe he is close to meeting that same fate.

"I'm not going to tell anyone how to run their football clubs, but I think everyone knows continuity is one of the keys of success," said Solskjaer. Some clubs have more

patience than others, some clubs don't have that time and continuity. For me, with Man United, we have a plan in place and hopefully we can get the results to speed it up. Sometimes it doesn't go at the speed you want to, but it's still going in the right direction. But results, that's key for us. We've got a great chance now, the next few days to turn people's perceptions," Ole added.

Just four wins their

14 league games this season has left Bolskjaer frustrated, but he insists the mood inside the club is still more positive than when he succeeded Mourinho last season. "This group is a

different mentality. Results will change moods, but the mood behind the scenes is positive,' added Solskjaer. "The league table never

lies. It's tight, so we need to put a run together and deserve to move up the



I'm not going to tell anyone how to run their football clubs, but I think everyone knows continuity is one of the keys of success. Some clubs have more patience than others. some clubs don't have that time and continuity. For me, with Man United, we have a plan in place and hopefully we can get the results to speed it up.

- OLE GUNNAR SOLSKJAER Manchester United manager

table. I believe in these players and that we can win any game on any given day. For me, when we get players back, when we've got the full squad fit, I'm sure we can challenge and move up the table," the United coach said.

"It's two points up to Tottenham, fifth. We ended up sixth last season, we want to improve on that," Ole added.

Paul Pogba, who repeatedly clashed with Mourinho during their time together at Old Trafford, will not be fit to exact some revenge on the Portuguese with Solskjaer revealing the French mid-fielder is still some way off a return from a long-term ankle injury.
Scott McTominay and

Nemanja Matic are doubts, leaving Solskjaer's options in midfield limited. However, Solskjaer insist-

ed he will still drop those he believes and under-performing and that some are playing for their long-term futures at the club. "Players are never undroppable. I've been part

of a squad where you're never guaranteed a place in the team and that's where we're going to get to," said the former United

Fixtures are a howler: Wolves coach

December schedule 'absurd" and hit out at the decisions of the Football Association and Premier

The Molineux club are said. playing eight games this month, seven of them in the league, culminating in against City and matches Manchester

Liverpool within 48 hours. Wolves host champions City on the evening of December 27 before travel-

3London, Dec. 4: Wolves manager Nuno Espirito 29 for an afternoon kick-off. Santo has branded his side's Espirito Santo's men have what it means to the players. It's not human, the amount of games we have. If we had a lot of compe already played 27 games this season due to their progress

in the Europa League. "It's crazy. This schedule doesn't make sense," he

"In our case we are the team who has more competitions already and we are going to play with 45 hours between games. It's absurd," he added.

"Every time we have a meeting with the FA, we try to make them understand

increase that with international players it becomes really tough."The demands of television broadcasters have been blamed for the staggering of games around the festive period.

When the schedule was released, City also complained that the "sporting integrity" of the Premier League was being compromised by the scheduling --Wolves will have a day less than Liverpool to recover

"We are a team who have had a lot of competitions and the gap between games is not being respectful,' added Espirito Santo.

Despite their fixture pileup, Wolves are sixth in the table and have already secured their place in the last 32 of the Europa League.

The job done by Espirito Santo at Molineux has seen him linked with the vacant managerial job at Arsenal following Unai Emery's sacking on Friday.

Shuttlers dominate South Asian Games

Pokhara, Dec. 4: Indian shuttlers continued their dominating show at the 13th South Asian Games with four individuals and as many doubles pairs cruising into the semifinals to assure themselves medals, here on

Wednesday.
Top seed Siril Verma started the day on a win-ning note for India when he beat Pakistan's Murad Ali 21-12, 21-17 in a men's quarterfinal match.

In the women's singles, 16-year-old Gayathri Gopichand stunned second seed Mahoor Shahzad of Pakistan with a convincing 21-15, 21-16 win.

Joining Gayathri in the semifinals was top seed Ashmita Chaliha, who also thrashed Pakistani opponent, Palwasha Bashir 21-9 21-7.

Aryaman Tandon was another Indian after Verma to reach the men's singles semifinals after registering 21-17, 21-17 win Lanka's

kho kho teams claimed gold medals after defeating **Bangladesh and Nepal** respectively. Men's team won by an innings and seven points.

Meghana

The Indian women's dou-

Bangladeshi opponents.

KHO KHO TEAMS EARN

The Indian men and women's kho kho teams

claimed gold medals after

defeating Bangladesh and

Jakkampudi/

Manchester City's Gabriel Jesus celebrates scoring his

side's second goal during their Premier League game

against Burnley at Turf Moor in Burnley, England, on

uesday. City won 4-1. — AF

● Indian men's and women's : ● Laitika Bhandari, Jarnel Singh and Rudali Barua won a gold each while Saurav and Gangjot clinched a silver each and Chaitnya Inamdar bagged a bronze medal in taekwondo.

Ranthushka Karunathi- Nepal respectively at the 13th South Asian Games here on Wednesday.

The 2016 gold medallists bles pairings of Kuhoo Garg/ Anoushka Parikh crushed the men's team of Bangladesh with an innings and seven points Nelakurthi also pro-gressed to the semifinals after beating their and a scoreline of 16-9. Deepak Madhav was the

top-scorer for India with

five crucial wickets for the While, Garg and Parikh beat Bristi Khatun and team and stayed on the mat for more than two Rehana Khatun 21-18, 21minutes. Jakkampudi and In the women's final, Nelakurthi notched up 21captain Nasreen led from the front as she chased 14, 21-11 victory over down five points while her Shalpa Akter and Alina

> by claiming five more points. The Indian wrapped up the match 17-5 to finish on top of the podium with a innings

teammate Kajal Bhor also

made a vital contribution

and 12 points win for their **TAEKWONDO ADD TO**

India dominated the taekwondo events by clinching six medals, including three golds here on Wednesday. Laitika Bhandari (under

53kg), Jarnel Singh (under 74kg) and Rudali Barua (over 73kg) won a gold each on day three of competitions.

Saurav and Gangjot clinched a silver medal each in the men's under 63kg and women's 62kg events respectively, while Chaitnya Inamdar bagged a bronze in the men's over 86kg category.

On Tuesday, the taek- 11-8, 11-8, 11-6, 5-11, 11-5 to wondo players had won

one gold and three bronze medals.

TABLE TENNIS PLAYERS

Indian paddlers bagged the gold and silver medals in both the men's and women's doubles events. In an all Indian affair,

Harmeet Desai and Anthony Amalraj defeated compatriots Sanil Shetty and Sudhanshu Grover in the men's doubles final to win the gold. The duo of Harmeet and

Amalraj defeated compatriots Sanil and Sudhanshu 8-11, 11-7, 11-7, 11-5, 8-11, 12-10 in the title Nepal's Santoo Shrestha

and Vinesh Khaniya secured the bronze medal as did the Sri Lankan pair Chambers Ginige and Rashmika Krishnanand. In the women's doubles final, Madhurika Patkar and Sreeja Akula beat Sutirtha Mukherjee and

Ayhika Mukherjee 2-11,

Greater Noida, Dec. 4: NE Rhinos' Nikhat Zareen beat Pinki Rani of Bengaluru Brawlers in the

Nikhat powers

Rhinos to win

women's 51kg to help her team notch up a win on the second day of the Big Bout Indian Boxing League here on Tuesday. Pinki Rani gained the

upper-hand in the first round, impressing the judges. That brought Nikhat Zareen under pressure and she responded well to rally to a 3-2 verdict in the most eagerly awaited bout of the day.

She inspired NE Rhinos to rally from 1-3 down to 4-3 win against the Brawlers. Daksh and Laldin Mawia posted victories in the men's 75kg and men's 52kg bouts over Nitin Kumar and Ashish Insah to help NE Rhinos pull the rug from under Bengaluru Brawlers' feet. Daksh was overwhelmingly dominant Laldin Mawia

claimed a split decision

NE Rhinos picked up their first point through Mandeep Jangra who marked his return to the boxing ring with a hard-fought split decision win over Dinesh Dagar in the

men's 57kg bout. Mandeep, who has been away from the limelight for a while now, showed no signs of nerves as he let Dinesh tire himself with an aggressive approach. He waited for the right opening to land scoring punches and win approval of

four of the five judges. Reyal Puri, Simranjeet Kaur and Gaurav Bidhuri's victories for the Brawlers left the NE Rhinos facing a tall order. Reyal Puri gave Ergashev Timor a bloodied nose in the second round of the opening bout to force the referee to stop the 91kg class contest.















