

THE ASIAN ACE

TABLOID 19

NEW DELHI FRIDAY 6 DECEMBER 2019



NATION | Politics

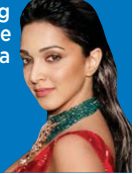
Bengal governor's gate at Assembly is locked, Dhankar slams Trinamul

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WINDOWS



US actor Will Smith arrives for the Spies in Disguise premiere at the El Capitan theatre in Hollywood on Thursday. — AFP

Delhi sees 7.6°C, -17°C in Kargil as North gets colder

New Delhi: The mercury dipped below the normal in several parts of north India with Delhi recording the season's lowest at 7.6 degrees Celsius, while Kargil shivered at minus 17°C. There was no respite for Himachal as cold winds swept the hill state, while in Punjab and Haryana, the minimum temperatures hovered below the normal at most places. — PTI

Smog returns to choke Delhi-NCR

New Delhi: Smog returned to choke Delhi-NCR even as the air quality slipped down to "very poor" category. Weather experts said though stubble burning period had almost ended, a dip in the air quality was expected due to slow wind speed and falling temperatures.

JNU students plan to boycott exams

New Delhi: The Jawaharlan Nehru University Students' Union has decided to boycott semester-end examinations, scheduled to begin from December 12, and go for complete suspension of academic activities in protest over the hostel fee hike.

COUNTERPOINT



Instead of hiding money in Switzerland, let's buy an island and have our own kingdom!

WEATHER

Max: 23°C
Min: 7°C
RH: 58%
Rainfall: 10%

Forecast: Partly cloudy

ASTROGUIDE

Vikari: Dakshinayana
Tithi: Margasira Shuddha Dasami till 6:33 am (Saturday)
Star: Uttarabhadra till 10:55 pm to 9:33 am and 12:29 pm to 1:13 pm
Rahukalam: 10:30 am to 12 pm
SUNSET TODAY 4:24 PM
SUNRISE TOMORROW 5:59 AM
MOONRISE TOMORROW 1:58 PM
MOONSET TODAY 1:21 AM

N-E boils: Parties, civil groups plan joint move to block CAB

MANOJ ANAND GUWAHATI, DEC. 5

The Opposition Congress on Thursday took out a procession in the Assam Assembly premises against the Citizenship Amendment Bill while the All Assam Students Union (AASU) and 30 other outfits are meeting here to formulate a joint strategy to block the controversial bill that the BJP is determined to pass during the Winter Session of Parliament.

Leaving Assam, the Opposition Debabrata Saikia, his deputy Rekibu Hussain and former minister Ajanta Neog led the protest. The Congress legislators walked through the corridors of the Assembly

Sena's move to back CAB upsets Congress

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, DEC. 5

The Shiv Sena's indication that it would back the controversial Citizenship Amendment Bill has raised eyebrows in the top leadership of the Congress, which is part of the Shiv Sena-NCP coalition government in Maharashtra. The other coalition partner

Shard Pawar-led Nationalist Congress Party is opposed to the bill like the Congress. Sources in top Congress leadership told this newspaper that they are mulling placing a call to Maharashtra CM and Shiv Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray in order to clarify the party's stand.

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CAB and implementation of the 1985 Assam Accord in letter and spirit.

Congress president Sonia Gandhi has, meanwhile, directed the AICC to challenge the bill not only in Parliament but also in the courts. AASU chief adviser S a m u j j a l Bhattacharjee, who was holding a marathon meeting of its central executive on Thursday, said that they are determined to oppose this bill, but this time they won't allow the escalation of students to be affected by the agitation. Clarifying they are also seeking suggestions from guardians to decide their next course of action, Mr Bhattacharjee said, Mr Bhattacharjee said, Mr Bhattacharjee said, Mr Bhattacharjee said.

JHARKHAND

BJP starts to explore a post-poll AJSU deal

YOJNA GUSAI JAMSHEDPUR, DEC. 5

With the situation getting somewhat tricky, the BJP, which is contesting on its own, has already begun window-shopping in Jharkhand. There are indications that the BJP was "open to the idea of tying up" with All Jharkhand Students' Union (AJSU) in a post-poll scenario. Though the AJSU is a part of the NDA, it is contesting independently. The BJP top brass is also in touch with a former party member and JAMP secretary Babul Marandi for a possible post-poll alliance.

While the BJP seemed to be fighting a tough battle in this tribal-dominated and Maoist-ridden state, the fight could get harder for chief minister Raghubar Das even at his home turf — East Jhanshpur. The battle gets interesting as the chief minister is facing a former Cabinet colleague Sarayu Roy. On November 18, BJP leader Sarayu Roy filed his nomination papers to fight against Mr Das as an Independent. Mr Roy had quit the cabinet, as he was denied a ticket from Janshpur West Assembly constituency.

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Unnao rape victim set on fire by 5 men out on bail

All 5 arrested; victim airlifted to Delhi hospital

BHASKAR HARI SHARMA with agency inputs NEW DELHI/UNNAO, DEC. 5

A 23-year-old rape survivor from Unnao is battling for life with 80 per cent burns on Thursday after five men, including two of the accused who are out on bail, allegedly set her on fire while she was on her way to court. All the five men have been arrested.

The NCRW has sought a detailed action report from the Uttar Pradesh police against the culprits. The Rajya Sabha was adjourned for half an hour amid an uproar by the Opposition parties, mainly Congress, over the incident.

The victim was airlifted to Delhi on Thursday evening for further treatment at Safdarjung Hospital. A 13-km "green corridor" was made by the Delhi Police from IGI Airport to the Safdarjung Hospital, which was covered in 18 minutes.

The woman, who was raped in December last year and was being treated at a Lucknow hospital, said in a statement that she was on her way from her village in Unnao district to the Delhi Police station for the trial is going on, when she was attacked and set ablaze early on Thursday.

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Rao, not Rajiv, to blame for 1984 riots, says Manmohan

Sukhbir Badal calls it 'a shocking attempt to shift blame'

SANJAY KAW NEW DELHI, DEC. 5

Giving then Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi a clean chit, former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has put the blame on then home minister P.V. Narasimha Rao for the escalation of the 1984 anti-Sikh riots. Dr Singh said the riots could have been avoided if Narasimha Rao called in the Army to intervene and stop the violence.

Speaking at an event on the birth centenary of former PM Inder Kumar Gujral in New Delhi on Wednesday, Dr Singh said Gujral had informed Rao that the situation was grave. He said, "When the sad event of 1984 took place, Gujralji on that very sad evening went to then home minister Shri (P.V.) Narasimha Rao and told him the situation is so grave that it is necessary for the government to call in the Army at the earliest. If that advice had been heeded, perhaps the massacre that took place in Delhi could have been avoided."

Dr Singh said both Gujral and he shared the same legacy of being Pakistan refugees who came on to become Prime Ministers of India. "Gujralji and I were born in the same district of Jhelum in Pakistan and told him the situation is so grave that it is necessary for the government to call in the Army at the earliest. If that advice had been heeded, perhaps the massacre that took place in Delhi could have been avoided."

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MPC decided on 'pause' over inflation fears RBI pegs GDP down to 5%, no rate cut

FALAKNAAZ SYED MUMBAI, DEC. 5

The Reserve Bank of India on Friday sharply cut the economic growth forecast for FY 2019-20 by a whopping 1.1 per cent, down to five per cent, from the 6.1 per cent projection it had made in its October monetary policy, as it kept lending rates unchanged.



Shaktikanta Das

Over the 11 months since February, the RBI has slashed its GDP forecast by a whopping 2.4 per cent. In its February policy, the RBI had forecast FY20 GDP at 7.4 per cent, which was revised lower to 7.2 per cent in April. Then in June, the central bank set a seven per cent target for the economy to

grow, and then down to 6.9 per cent in August, and 6.1 per cent in the October policy, which slashed the GDP forecast sharply to five per cent in the December policy. The policy repo rate since February was cut in every policy, cumulatively easing by 1.35 per cent or by 150 basis points to 5.15 per cent. The repo

rate is that at which commercial banks borrow from the RBI by selling securities and is currently at a 10-year low.

In its fifth bi-monthly monetary policy, the RBI's six-member Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) stamped the market as it unanimously voted to keep rates unchanged while continuing with an accommodative stance. The decision to hold interest rates was triggered by the recent spike in inflation.

The stock and bond markets were expecting the MPC to cut the repo rate by 25 basis points. The MPC, however, acknowledged there is space for monetary policy action in

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SC judge is 'sorry' after protests by top lawyers

PARMODO KUMAR NEW DELHI, DEC. 5

Justice Arun Mishra of the Supreme Court on Thursday defended a crisis and offered an apology as senior lawyers aired the grievances of a section of young lawyers over the harsh treatment being meted out to them while hearing cases in his court.

Offering an apology from the "core of his heart" for any hurt that might have been caused to any lawyer by him during hearings, Justice Mishra said he would "apologise 100 times if anyone is aggrieved by any of the observations he has made in the course of hearings".

Recalling his days in the Rajasthan high court and all he did to improve conditions there, Justice Mishra said he was perceived as a "pro-Bar judge".

He said there was no place for arrogance from any side in the functioning of the Supreme Court. Solicitor-general Tushar Mehta and senior lawyers like Kapil Sibal, Abhishek Manu Singhvi, Mukul Rohatgi and Shekhar Naphade were seated in the first row of the courtroom.

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'Why is PM unusually silent?' Govt is clueless on eco, mantris are bluffing: PC

SREEPARNA CHAKRABARTY NEW DELHI, DEC. 5

A day after being released on bail after 106 days, former finance minister P. Chidambaram on Thursday hit the ground running, taking on the Narendra Modi government over the state of the economy and joining his colleagues in Parliament for a protest over the rising price of onions. Sources said he would address a press conference in Ranchi, Jharkhand, on Friday where the five-phase assembly elections are on.



P. Chidambaram

Addressing the media at the AIIC headquarters here, Mr Chidambaram said even after seven months, the Centre believes the economic slowdown was cyclical, but the "government is wrong".

"It is wrong because it is clueless. It is unable to look for the obvious clues because it is stubborn and mullish in defending its catastrophic mistakes like demonetisation, a flawed GST, tax terrorism, regulatory overkill, protectionism, and centralised control of decision-making in the Prime Minister's Office," he said.

Contending that the

current slowdown was not cyclical, but structural in nature, he said the government had no solutions or reforms to address the structural problems. "I believe that the Congress and some other parties are better equipped to pull the economy out of the slowdown and push economic growth the way it has to have on the belief," Article 11 says, I can do whatever I want".

Mr. Pelosi, 79, has been leading the Democratic Party's effort to oust Trump from the White House through the Constitution approved impeachment process. The success of her efforts depends on the support from at least a few Republican Senators in the Senate, where the GOP enjoys a majority.

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Pelosi: Abuse of power by Prez leaves us with no choice but to act House to move ahead with Trump impeachment

LALIT K. JHA WASHINGTON, DEC. 5

Alleging that US President Donald Trump has abused power undermining national security and jeopardising the integrity of the elections, Speaker of House of Representatives Nancy Pelosi on Thursday said they are going ahead with the process to impeach him.

The Democratic Party, which enjoys a comfortable majority in the House, is most likely to get through the motion of impeachment. President Trump, making him only the third president in American history to face removal by Congress.

"Our Democracy is what is at stake. The President leaves us no choice but to act, because he is trying to corrupt, once again, the election for his own benefit," Ms Pelosi said ramping up her charges against Mr Trump.

She said the "President has engaged in abuse of power undermining our national security and jeopardising the integrity of our elections. His actions are in defiance of the values of our Founders and the oath of office that he takes to preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the US."



Donald Trump

We 'will win' this battle, says Trump

Washington: A defiant President Donald Trump predicted on Thursday he "will win" after the Democratic House Speaker of the House of Representatives gave the go-ahead for impeachment. — AFP

beyond important and seldom used act of impeachment will be used routinely to attack future Presidents. That is not what our Founders had in mind. The good thing is that the Republicans have NEVER been more united. "This will mean that the

tweeted soon after Pelosi's announcement.

In a live televised address, Ms Pelosi said the President's actions have seriously violated the Constitution — "especially" when he says and acts after the manner of Article II says, I can do whatever I want".

Mr. Pelosi, 79, has been leading the Democratic Party's effort to oust Trump from the White House through the Constitution approved impeachment process. The success of her efforts depends on the support from at least a few Republican Senators in the Senate, where the GOP enjoys a majority.

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Few attend farmer debate in LS

BJP leader denies existence of onion crisis, accuses Opp. of 'doing politics'

VINEETA PANDY
NEW DELHI, DEC. 5

Every political party tends to invoke farmers and agricultural issues, but when a discussion on the farming crisis and crop loss was held in Lok Sabha on Thursday, the House was an empty look. Fittingly, one member pointed out during the debate that 95 per cent of the members of Lok Sabha were connected with farming in one way or the other, but this did not reflect in their attendance. At one point of time, only 21 members of Parliament belonging to the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and its allies and 31 from Opposition were present in the House during the debate. And this ratio remained more or less the same as the House discussed crop loss and its impact on farmers under Rule 193.

While the members from Opposition parties raised several issues concerning farmers, including the onion crisis, the treasury benches were seen defending the government and lauding the work done by the Modi government for farmers' welfare. A few MPs from states are not governed by the BJP did not lag behind in mentioning the good work by their party's chief ministers. For instance, the Union Agriculture Minister Jagannathan Reddy's farmer welfare schemes. While the Opposition accused the government of not taking enough measures for farmers' welfare and to keep food prices in check, the treasury benches listed the welfare schemes that have been launched by the Modi government in the last six years. Some BJP members were in a power position in the Congress and its allies for not doing enough for farmers in the states where they are in power. The Opposition is so aggressive, it's as if this government has not done anything even though they have governments in several states," said Arvind Singh, the BJP MP from Bhiwani, Madhya Pradesh.



Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs Arjun Singh Meghwal along with Congress leader Adhir Choudhary and others arrives at the Parliament House during the winter session in New Delhi on Thursday, December 05, 2019.

Some MPs also suggested providing a minimum support price (MSP) to farmers for onions, as is the case with other crops, while others argued that there was no crisis in the first place. The BJP MP from Uttar Pradesh's Ballia constituency, Virendra Singh Mast, stated that the onion prices issue was being overblown. "Onion is not an issue in the MP in my area. How long will you (the Opposition) do politics over onions," he said. Suggestions were also made for reducing the goods and services tax (GST) rate on agricultural equipment and bringing diesel and petrol under its ambit, providing subsidies on agricultural machines, greater integration of National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) with farming through improved water bodies and that farmers be allowed to decide the MSP for their crops.

Sena hints it may back CAB, upsets Congress

SREEPARNA CHAKRABARTY
NEW DELHI, DEC. 5

The Shiv Sena's indication that it would back the controversial Citizenship Amendment Bill (CAB) has raised eyebrows in the top leadership of the Congress, which is part of the Shiv Sena-Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) coalition government in Maharashtra. The Shiv Sena leader Pawanlekar NCP is opposed to the bill like the Congress. Sources in top Congress leadership told this newspaper that they are mulling placing a call to the Maharashtra chief minister and Shiv Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray in order to clarify the party's stand. Sena MP Arvind Sawant had said on Wednesday, "We will support the bill as it is against infiltrators

by these parties. The matter is also understood to have been discussed at a meeting of Opposition parties on Thursday afternoon in which many leaders opined that the Shiv Sena could vote whichever way it wanted to, but the Opposition should focus on building the correct narrative for the bill. The meeting was held at Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Ghulam Nabi Azad's office in Parliament and was attended by almost all Opposition parties such as the Trinamool Congress, Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam, Samajwadi Party, NCP and the Left. Sources said that Congress leader from Assam Ripun Bora was asked to brief the Opposition leaders on the bill "to give a correct perspective".

It might be recalled that the formation of a government in Maharashtra by these three parties had been stalled over the inclusion of a guarantee to follow "secular" credentials of the Constitution by the Shiv Sena, which is known as a Hindutva party and had been one of the earlier allies of the BJP. Subsequently, the word "secular" had been mentioned in very first paragraph of the Common Minimum Programme thrashed out

SHORT TAKES

CAB set to be introduced in LS

New Delhi: The Citizenship (Amendment) Bill is likely to be introduced in the Lok Sabha on December 9 and will be taken up for passage the next day, official sources said on Thursday. The bill will be tabled in the Rajya Sabha after being dealt with by the Lower House of Parliament. Its passage in the Lok Sabha is all but certain due to the massive majority the BJP and its allies have, and the Union government is confident of its passage in the Rajya Sabha as well with the support of several non-aligned regional parties. — PTT

Onion prices touch ₹168/kg in MP city

Bhopal: Onion prices have literally sent shock waves in the Madhya Pradesh market with the essential vegetable selling at record ₹168 per kilo in the retail market on Thursday. The price of red onion jumped a whopping ₹8 per kilo in a day to ₹68 in the retail market in the city. "The price of onion has risen to 23-year-old record. The highest price commanded by the bulb in the city was ₹100 per kg," Manas Mishra, a trader in the Lalita Chowk vegetable 'mandi' said. However, the freshly harvested onion procured from Nashik in Maharashtra is sold at ₹120 per kilo in the city.

BJP leader Arasa Kumar joins DMK

Chennai: BJP Tamil Nadu unit vice-president B Arasa Kumar who created ripples in the saffron party by praising DMK chief M.K. Stalin a few days ago joined the Dravidian party here on Thursday. Arasa Kumar joined the DMK in the presence of Stalin at the party headquarters 'Anna Arivalayam'. In his speech at a function on Sunday, Kumar had said "ripe time will come and things will take place automatically. Thalapatthi (as Stalin is called by his followers) will ascend the (chief minister's) throne". The BJP had earlier raised his praise an act of indiscipline. — PTT

RS GROUP TO STUDY PORN ISSUES ON NET

New Delhi: Rajya Sabha Chairman M. Venkaiah Naidu on Thursday announced that a 14-member informal group will study issues related to pornographic content on internet and social media platforms. The group, which will be coordinated by Congress leader Jairam Ramesh, will prepare its report within one month, he said. Mr Naidu constituted the informal group of several members during the zero hour last week expressed concern on the pornographic content on internet and social media platforms. "After studying the matter and discussion with members, I have decided to give one month time to an informal group to look into the issue," Mr Naidu said. The group will comprise of 14 members from across all parties and will be coordinated by Mr Ramesh, he said. Other members can also share information related to this issue with the group, the chairman said. Mr Naidu said the group will prepare an "informal report" after discussing about the issues related to pornographic content on internet and social media platforms with civil society groups, NGOs and emergency responsive teams and social media companies. — PTT

AGE CORRESPONDENT

Rajya Sabha member and chairman of the committee on subordinate legislation, Dr T. Subbarami Reddy, on Thursday demanded that the Union government should make allocations for the Polavaram project in the Union Budget. Instead of taking some other routes to fund the project. It was, however, learnt that the NABARD route would be taken to fund the project, he stated.

Raising the issue in Rajya Sabha, Dr Reddy mentioned that the Polavaram project has not been completed, would supply water to 7.2 lakh acres of land and generate 960 MW hydropower and lift 80 TMC of water to the Prakasam Barrage. "It also includes 20 TMC of drinking water to Vizag. It will also solve the drinking water problems in 540 villages along the Polavaram project," he said. Dr Reddy pointed out that as per the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, the Central government has to fund the Polavaram project. There were two options — that the central government would construct the project or that the state government would construct it and fund it. But, surprisingly, instead of funding the project through the allocation made in the budget, the government has taken the route of NABARD. Dr Reddy, a former



T. Subbarami Reddy

Union minister, highlighted that as on today, Andhra Pradesh is reeling under great difficulties. "Previously, the state government spent ₹2,000 crore on Polavaram, which the Centre was supposed to reimburse. But this has not happened. Ultimately, after great persuasion and giving lot of clarifications, the water resources ministry agreed to release ₹3,000 crore, they released ₹1,820 crore last month, ₹1,180 crore this month. But still, the money has not reached. The reason is, the water resources ministry processed it and sent to NABARD. The NABARD, in turn, should raise money from the floor of the House and seek a clarification from the government on the status Muslims, "persecuted in other countries and seeking Indian citizenship."

While Rahul is opposed to bill, some old guards seek middle path Bickering in Cong over Citizenship Bill

ASHHAR KHAN
NEW DELHI, DEC. 5

While Congress scion Rahul Gandhi on Thursday vehemently opposed the Citizenship Amendment Bill, a section of old guards in Congress want the party to follow a middle path on the issue. The old guards feel that at opposing the Bill this juncture would brand the Congress as "anti-Hindu". They apparently urged the Congress high command to support the Bill on the floor of the House and seek a clarification from the government on the status Muslims, "persecuted in other countries and seeking Indian citizenship."

The leaders feel that in the past the BJP has been able to score political points over the Congress by branding it anti-Hindu. The fear that some Congress leaders have is that the BJP will accuse the Congress of "deserting distressed Hindus" who are being persecuted in neighbouring countries including Pakistan. This will also provide fodder to the BJP to target the Congress in the ongoing Jharkhand Assembly elections. Instead, they feel that the Bill should be supported and "right questions" should be asked from the government. Interestingly, all leaders of the Congress agree on the point that discrimination



Rahul Gandhi

on the basis of religion is against the letter and spirit of the Constitution. At present even if the Congress opposes the Bill, it may well pass in Rajya Sabha as several smaller parties have given their support to the Bill. After the 2014 Lok Sabha



PARLIAMENT DIARY

BY GAUTAM LAHIRI

SHIV SENNA KEEPS OPPOSITION GUESSING ON CITIZENSHIP BILL

Most Opposition parties met on Thursday to finalise their stand on the proposed Citizenship Amendment Bill (CAB), which is to be tabled in Lok Sabha on Monday. No representative of the recently forged Congress-Nationalist Congress Party-Shiv Sena Maha Vikas Aghadi alliance was present. Some leaders had tried to contact their counterparts in the Shiv Sena but they were told that they would receive an answer as the Sena would decide its stand after seeing the bill. On Thursday evening, Opposition parties were told that the Shiv Sena had earlier supported the CAB Bill when it came up in the 16th Lok Sabha and it couldn't change its stand on the bill. The Sena also emphasised that its alliance was meant for Maharashtra and should not be seen as a national alliance.

BJP MP SUPPORTS PRICE HIKE FOR ONIONS

Discussions on the skyrocketing price of onions rocked the Lok Sabha on Thursday. Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) member of Parliament Saumitra Khan, who represents the Bishnupur constituency in West Bengal in the Lower House, wanted to intervene but didn't receive time to speak his mind from the Speaker. Immediately after the adjournment of the House, however, he came out to the courtyard of the Parliament House and gave bytes to broadcast journalists in support of the high prices. The representative said that he felt onion farmers were benefiting from the price rise. The price should be double than that of the present market rate, Mr Khan stated.

FOOTBALL BRINGS TOGETHER WHAT POLITICAL AFFILIATIONS DIVIDE

These days, whenever an Opposition leader has one-on-one meetings with leaders of the ruling party, tongues start wagging. Union minister Gen (ret'd) V.K. Singh happened to run into TMC MP Prasun Banerjee and was found talking to him very animatedly. Amid talk that he nurses long-term political plans, Mr Banerjee explained to his colleagues that he is one of the finest footballers in the middle field when he represented Gorkha Regiment in the national football championship, and the Durand Cup. At that time, Mr Banerjee was also a noted football player. The TMC leader claimed that this was why whenever they meet they always discussed football and not politics. Both have eyes for each other as former footballers, he said. The Durand Football Tournament or Durand Cup is a football competition in India which was first held in 1888 in Amritsar, Shimla.



V.K. Singh



Swedish King Carl XVI Gustaf and Queen Silvia participate in Ganga puja at the ghats of river Ganga in Rishikesh on Thursday. — PTT

debate, the Congress had set up the Antony Committee to look into the reasons of party's defeat. The Committee in its report also listed "perceived minority appeasement" as one of the reasons of the party's defeat. On several issues, including Ayazuddin, dilution of Article 370, the Congress has been accused of minority appeasement and ignoring the interests of the majority community. The current Citizenship Amendment Bill provides that Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians from Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan shall "not be treated as illegal migrants" even if they had entered India illegally. Earlier this year, the Congress was caught unaware when the government brought in the abrogation of Article 370. The initial response of the Congress was to attack the move of the government with Ayazuddin, dilution of Article 370, the mood and the mood of its leaders, the party supported it on the floor of the House. The CAB was cleared by the cabinet on Tuesday. It is expected to be tabled in Parliament next week.

Naidu pulls up MPs for low attendance in reports

AGE CORRESPONDENT
with agency inputs
NEW DELHI, DEC. 5

Rajya Sabha chairman Venkaiah Naidu on Thursday pulled up MPs for their low attendance in parliamentary standing committees' meetings and urged the leaders of all parties to ensure "quantitative and qualitative functioning" of these panels. The comments of the chair came after a meeting of Mr Naidu with chairpersons of these panels in the House. He pointed out that only 18 members each from both Houses of Parliament attended the Rajya Sabha committee meetings since being reconstituted in September this year. "Sharing concern about the functioning of these committees in the Upper House, Mr Naidu said, "I expect the number of members of this House present in the meetings of the committees to rise." Each member of the department-related standing committee represents 25 members of Parliament while deliberating in the committee. If one member is absent, the voice of 25 MPs would not be heard, according to Mr Naidu. He said he has tested an important responsibility of functioning on its behalf," he added. Mr Naidu said Rajya Sabha's eight department-related standing committees with full attendance in the which were reconstituted in September, had held a total of 41 meetings since then. A detailed analysis of attendance in all these 41 meetings revealed a "disturbing trend".



Venkaiah Naidu

Behave or face consequences: Punjab CM Amarinder Singh warns Pakistan against fomenting trouble in state

Umasankar



They (Cong leaders) were in jail due to crimes, and not due to fight for Freedom.

Prakash Javadekar, Union minister

SHORT TAKES

Hang rapists in public: Raj mantri

Jalpur: Amid a country-wide outrage over a spate of rape incidents and the subsequent brutalisation of victims, a Rajasthan minister on Thursday batted for rapists' execution by public hanging...

SC reserves order on TN rural polls

Chennai: The Supreme Court on Thursday reserved its order on the holding of panchayat elections in Tamil Nadu as stated to hold panchayat polls at the village, intermediate and district level except in nine districts...

CENTRE SEEKS VIEWS ON IPC, CrPC OVERHAUL

AGRE OVERHAUL NEW DELHI, DEC. 5 The Union home ministry has written to all state governments seeking suggestions for what it has described as a "major overhaul and recasting" of important laws like the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC)...

Collarwali, famed tigress, hurt in territorial fight

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY BHOPAL, DEC. 5

"Collarwali", the highly ferocious tigress of Pench Tiger Reserve (PTR) in Madhya Pradesh who has shot into fame for giving birth to 29 cubs in eight litters since December 2018, has been injured in a territorial fight, leaving conservationists worried.

MP: Traffic jams indicate auto sector doing fine

AGRE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, DEC. 5

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MP from Uttar Pradesh — Virendra Singh Mast — while defending his government on a poor GDP figure and an economic slowdown said that if the roads are still clogged with cars, people are going to markets to shop, groups are changing at least four suits during their wedding ceremonies and marriages are a lavish affair then how can Opposition say that the country is going through economic crisis.

In an attempt to counter Opposition on its campaign on economic slowdown and how it is reflecting in the auto sector, the MP said that such statements were being made to defame the country and the government. The GDP growth rate went down to 4.5% in the second quarter of 2019-20 when figures were released recently.

Properties of editor of daily that exposed honey-trap case razed

AGRE CORRESPONDENT BHOPAL, DEC. 5

Four structures owned by editor of a local daily that covered the infamous honey trap scandal story, were demolished in district headquarters of Indore in Madhya Pradesh by local civic body authorities on Thursday.

K'takabypolls: Exit polls predict big BJP victory

BHASKAR HEGDE AND S.S. VATTAM BANGALURU/MYSURU/BEL AGAVUL, DEC. 5

Fifteen Assembly constituencies in the state voted on Thursday in what is considered an acid test for the B.S. Yediyurappa government which was days away to win at least seven of the 15 seats to ward off a threat from the opposition Congress and JD(S) while the JD(S) which has reportedly transferred its votes to the Congress candidate in many constituencies as part of a silent understanding, may have to content with just one seat. Counting of votes will be taken up this evening on Monday, December 9.

LS MPs will now be able to bring only 3 private member bills Motion of thanks amendments capped

ANIMESH SINGH NEW DELHI, DEC. 5

Lok Sabha (LS) MPs will now be able to bring only three private member legislations in the lower house during a session. Also, the number of amendments to the motion of thanks on the President's address, and an cut motions to a "demand for grant" have been capped at 10, each.

These changes have come into effect after the speaker amended the concerned directions in pursuance of rule 105 of the rules of procedure and conduct of business in the Lok Sabha. Till now, there was no cap on the number of private member legislations which a lawmaker could bring in a private member session.

BJP accuses freed PC of violating bail conditions

NEW DELHI, DEC. 6 The BJP on Thursday accused Congress leader P Chidambaram of violating bail conditions by claiming to have a very clear record as a minister, and said the case against him was essentially about corruption he was allegedly involved in as the finance minister.

Union minister Prakash Javadekar told reporters that the claim by Mr Chidambaram was released on bail on Wednesday, amounted to "self-certification". The Supreme Court had asked the Congress leader not to speak about the case against him while ordering his release on bail. "P Chidambaram has violated the bail condition of the very first day after his release... What he is in violation of this condition," the BJP leader said.

Similarly, there was no limit to the number of amendments which could be brought to the motion of thanks and on the number of cut motions to a "demand for grant" in the lower house. A private member legislation is a much sought-after privilege of MPs as they are quite keen to bring in as many private member bills during a session. The MPs are given a chance to bring a private member bill through a ballot system. At the same time, cut motions or amendments to the motion of thanks are brought in by political parties, especially those which are in the opposition.

Former finance minister and Congress MP P. Chidambaram takes part in an anti-govt protest at Parliament House in New Delhi on Thursday



Former finance minister and Congress MP P. Chidambaram takes part in an anti-govt protest at Parliament House in New Delhi on Thursday

Former finance minister had said earlier "In the last 106 days, I was strong in spirit and I have become stronger because... My record as minister and my conscience are absolutely clear". Taking a jibe at the opposition leader over his attack on the Modi government on a host of issues, Mr Chidambaram said he has got to speak to the media after so many days and that is why he was taking out his anger on every subject. Some Congress leaders are in jail, some have just

recently "the existing direction 27 shall be renumbered as direction 27A and the new direction numbered 27 shall be added." According to this amendment, "a member shall be permitted to introduce not more than three private member legislations during a session. Where notice of bills received from a member is in excess of three, the first three admissible notices shall be taken into consideration, unless the member has indicated the preference." Similarly, the other amendment related to cut motions and the motion of thanks reads: "The existing direction 42 shall be renumbered as direction 42A and the following new direction numbered as 42 shall be added."

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that this person named: Unkown, S/o: Unkown, R/o: Unkown, Age: Approx. 35-38 Years, Sex: Male, Height: 5'7", Complexion: Shallow, Identification Mark: Tattoo mark on Right Hand name "KALLU RAM", Wearing: Pink Colour T-shirt and Gray Colour Pant has been found at Safdarjung Hospital, He died during treatment on 30.11.2019.

SC Rowal, Near Govt. S.S. Boys School, Sultan Pur Road, Nangoli, Delhi on 22.11.2019 at M.C.No. 19142/19 and refer to Safdarjung Hospital. He died during treatment on 30.11.2019. In this regard a FIR/DO No. 53-B, dated 30.11.2019 has been registered at P.S. Nangoli, Delhi.

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Table with 2 columns: Name of work/location, Approx. Cost of the work, Tender Document Fee, Earnest Money Deposit, Address of the Office, Date & time for upload, Website particular & notice board location where complete details of tender can be seen etc.

Tender No. 588-Sig-1re-1e-AMC-084 Dated: 05.12.2019 389119

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION. General public is hereby informed that this person named: Unkown, S/o: Unkown, R/o: Unkown, Age: Approx. 35-38 Years, Sex: Male, Height: 5'7", Complexion: Shallow, Identification Mark: Tattoo mark on Right Hand name "KALLU RAM", Wearing: Pink Colour T-shirt and Gray Colour Pant has been found at Safdarjung Hospital, He died during treatment on 30.11.2019.

The Brihanmumbai Electric Supply & Transport Undertaking (Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation) TENDER NOTICE e-tenders are invited for the supply of following items. (1) 52231 - Procured Resolving of Nylon Bus Tyres. Re-invited e-tenders.

NORTH DELHI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (M)-IKPZ Keshav Puram, Delhi-110035; E-Mail ID: eem.kpzs@gmail.com NIT No. E.E./M-IPKZ/PTG/2019-2021 Dated: 02.12.2019 NOTICE INVITING TENDER



If we don't stand up to a Prez abusing power, it's a grave threat to democracy

— Pramila Jayapal
Indian American Congresswoman

IN BRIEF
Europeans rap Iran for N-work

United Nations: France, Germany and the United Kingdom say Iran's developments of nuclear-capable ballistic missiles go against a UN Security Council resolution calling on Tehran not to undertake any activity related to such missiles. Ambassadors from the three European nations urged UN secretary-general Antonio Guterres in a letter to inform the council in his next report that Iran's ballistic missile activity is inconsistent with the call in a council resolution endorsing the 2015 nuclear deal with Iran. The letter cites footage released on social media on April 22, 2019, of a previously unseen flight test of a new Shahab-3 medium-range ballistic missile variant equipped with a maneuverable re-entry vehicle. It says: "The Shahab-3 booster used in the test is a conspicuously unrecognizable variant of the Shahab-3 missile. It is a technology control regime category-1 system and as such is technically capable of delivering a 2015 nuclear deal with Iran."

58 migrants die in boat tragedy

Nouakchott: Scores of migrants swam through rough Atlantic Ocean waters to safety from a capsized boat while 58 others drowned were receiving care in Mauritania after one of the deadliest disasters in recent years among people making the perilous journey to Europe. The boat that left Nouakchott a week ago had been carrying at least 150 people, including women and children. It was headed toward Spain's Canary Islands when it tried to approach the Mauritanian coast to get fuel and food. Laura Langarica, chief of mission in the West African nation with the UN migration agency, said: "Many drowned. The ones who survived swam up to the Mauritanian coast close to the city of Nouakchott," she said. "The Mauritanian authorities are very efficiently coordinating the response with the agencies currently present" in the northern city. At least 85 people swam to shore, while Mauritanian authorities said security forces found 85 survivors. Ten people were taken to a hospital for urgent treatment. Local authorities continued to search for an unknown number of missing people. The survivors were receiving care.

STUDY LINKS LUNG DISEASE TO VAPING

Los Angeles: An e-cigarette user has been diagnosed with a rare form of lung cancer which is usually seen in metal workers, according to a study. The study, published in the European Respiratory Journal, is the first known case where the disease called hard metal lung cancer is linked to vaping, researchers said. The condition creates an unusual and distinctive pattern of damage to the lungs that results in breathing difficulties, according to the researchers at the University of California. It is typically diagnosed in people who work with "hard metals" such as cobalt or tungsten, in jobs like tool sharpening, diamond polishing or making dental prosthetics, they said. "Hard-metal pneumoconiosis is diagnosed by looking at a sample of patient's lung tissue under the microscope," said Professor Kirk Jones from the University of California, San Francisco. "Hard-metal pneumoconiosis can result in permanent scarring in patients' lungs with symptoms such as breathing difficulties and chronic coughing."

SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS



A woman takes pictures with a smartphone of people skating at a temporary open air ice rink in the centre of Red Square, with St. Basil's Cathedral and the Kremlin's Spasskaya Tower seen in the background, in Moscow.

'Trump committed impeachable crimes'

Scholars invited by Democrats say US President abused power, while Republican expert dismisses

Washington, Dec. 5: Three constitutional scholars bolstered Democrats' case for impeaching Donald Trump by saying the president's actions seeking foreign interference in US elections were clear grounds for removal, as the inquiry kicked into high gear in Congress.

But reflecting the Washington political divide, a fourth expert strongly dissented, saying there was "woefully inadequate" evidence that Trump committed high crimes and misdemeanors necessary for removal. Democrats have made a forceful case that Trump should be impeached for trying to leverage a White House meeting and military aid to pressure Ukraine for dirt on an election rival. In a sometime theatrical hearing of the House Judiciary Committee, the president's attorney, Jeffrey D. Brantner, argued that Trump committed high crimes and misdemeanors by trying to pressure Ukraine for dirt on an election rival. In a sometime theatrical hearing of the House Judiciary Committee, the president's attorney, Jeffrey D. Brantner, argued that Trump committed high crimes and misdemeanors by trying to pressure Ukraine for dirt on an election rival. In a sometime theatrical hearing of the House Judiciary Committee, the president's attorney, Jeffrey D. Brantner, argued that Trump committed high crimes and misdemeanors by trying to pressure Ukraine for dirt on an election rival.

MELANIA SLAMS US SCHOLAR TO DEFEND MINOR SON

Washington, Dec. 5: US First Lady Melania Trump publicly rebuked a scholar who used her 13-year-old son's name to make a point during an impeachment hearing against the president. Constitutional law professor Pamela Karlan invoked Barron Trump, the son of Donald and Melania Trump, saying, "So while the president can name his son 'Baron', he can't make him a baron." The First Lady tweeted a reply, "A minor child deserves privacy and should be kept out of politics. Pamela Karlan, you should be ashamed of your very angry and biased public pandering." MELANIA TRUMP, US First Lady

AMID DRAMA, TRUMP LAWYER RUDY GIULIANI IN UKRAINE

Washington, Dec. 5: President Donald Trump's personal lawyer Rudy Giuliani returned to Ukraine on Wednesday, shrugging off the scandal over seeking dirt from Kiev on rival Democrats. The New York Times said Giuliani had travelled to Budapest on Tuesday and Kiev on Wednesday to speak with former Ukrainian prosecutors who could have information that would support Trump's battle against impeachment. One America News Network also said it had a camera team travelling with Giuliani in Ukraine for an investigation into the impeachment case against Trump.

PEARL HARBOUR

Pearl Harbour, Dec. 6: An active duty US sailor whose submarine was docked at Pearl Harbor opened fire on three civilian employees on Wednesday, killing two and then taking his own life just days before dignitaries and veterans descend on the base for the 78th anniversary of the Japanese attack. The commander of Navy Region Hawaii, Rear Adm. Robert Chadwick, said he didn't know the motive behind the shooting at the Hawaii base's naval shipyard that left the third civilian department of defense employee hospitalized. It also wasn't known if the sailor and the three male civilians had any type of relationship, or what the motive was for the shooting, Chadwick said. "We have no indication yet whether they were targeted or if it was a random shooting," Chadwick said. The sailor was assigned to the fast attack submarine USS Columbia, which is at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam for maintenance. Details about the sailor were not immediately released. It wasn't immediately known what type of weapon was used or how many shots were fired. Chadwick said that was part of the investigation. Personal weapons are not allowed on base. Names of the victims won't be released until their families are notified. Our thoughts are with the families of the victims and everyone involved in this tragedy. It also wasn't known if the sailor and the three male civilians had any type of relationship, or what the motive was for the shooting, Chadwick said. "We have no indication yet whether they were targeted or if it was a random shooting," Chadwick said. The sailor was assigned to the fast attack submarine USS Columbia, which is at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam for maintenance. Details about the sailor were not immediately released. It wasn't immediately known what type of weapon was used or how many shots were fired. Chadwick said that was part of the investigation. Personal weapons are not allowed on base. Names of the victims won't be released until their families are notified. Our thoughts are with the families of the victims and everyone involved in this tragedy.

against the president — lawmakers listened to damning testimony from constitutional law professors. "On the basis of the testimony and evidence before the House, President Trump has committed

impeachable high crimes and misdemeanors by corruptly abusing the office of the presidency," Harvard Law School professor Noah Feldman told the hearing. "We three are unanimous" in that view,

jurisprudence professor Michael Gerhart of the University of North Carolina stated, referring to himself and fellow witnesses Feldman and Stanford Law School professor Pamela Karlan. The trio was invited by Democrats to testify. Americans tuning in to the eight-hour live broadcast witnessed clashes between Democrats and Republican Trump loyalists on the panel, who repeatedly forced procedural votes to stall the

process. The new phase of impeachment began a day after a congressional report on the high-stakes inquiry detailed "overwhelming evidence" of abuse of power and obstruction by the president. Pelosi delivered the historic announcement as Democrats push toward a vote, possibly before Christmas. She said she was authorising the drafting of formal charges "with confidence and humility" — Agencies

Musharraf treason case verdict on Dec 17: Court

SHAFQAT ALI ISLAMABAD, DEC. 5

A special court in Pakistan on Thursday decided to announce the verdict of high treason case against former military ruler, Pervez Musharraf on December 17.

'SHARIF FAMILY INVOLVED IN CORRUPTION'

AGE CORRESPONDENT ISLAMABAD, DEC. 5

Special assistant to the Prime Minister on accountability, Barrister Shahzad Akbar on Thursday alleged that Sharif family is involved in corruption worth billions of rupees. Shahzad said a company was established to do money laundering and the amount was transferred to different accounts before being withdrawn. The illegitimate affairs were carried out from the CMF. Business empire of as many as 33 companies was created through T. Boti. Cash boys of Sharif family have been arrested and investigations are ongoing," Shahzad Akbar said.

SENATOR KAMALA HARRIS EXIT REFLECTS HARDSHIPS

Washington, Dec. 6: California senator Kamala Harris abruptly withdrew from the race after her once-promising campaign failed to coalesce around a message that would resonate with voters. And without clear support from voters, Harris couldn't raise the money needed to keep going. Responsibility for the collapse of a presidential campaign almost always rests with the candidate. But Harris' exit also demonstrates the unique challenges facing candidates of colour in the 2020 campaign. As Democratic voters of all races almost singularly defeat over who is seen as best positioned to beat President Donald Trump next year, candidates who aren't white are largely seen as not fitting the bill. With less than two months before voting begins, those judgments — right or wrong — are becoming fatal. As candidates weigh these cues to decide when to pull back, other white candidates have had success that women and candidates of colour have said isn't available to them. — AFP

PENSION DEBATE OF FRANCE

The overhaul of the pensions system aims to streamline a complicated patchwork of provisions, but workers argue it will require them to work longer and will reduce their income. All retirees receive a state pension.

GRAND PLAN OF MACRON

Macron is planning a unified scheme, so that all workers have the same rights. Specific steps would be maintained like allowing military and police officers and people with physically demanding jobs to retire early.

NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE

The Dy. Chief Engineer (T&C) Sec. 5, Eastern Railway, for and on behalf of the President of India invites tender for Supply/Package System for the under noted work -

- Name of work and location: Hiring of Track of minimum 30 capacity for loading of Railway material such as track machine spares, T&C and other Equip. Material of any length & breadth etc. for maintenance of Track Machines in jurisdiction of Dy. C.E./T&C/Sec. 5, S.E. Road, New Delhi for approx. 02 years.
- Completion period of the work: 02 Years
- Approx. Cost of work: Rs. 32.83L crore
- Cost of Tender Document: Rs. 3000/-
- Earnest Money Amount (to be deposited online): Rs. 67300/-
- Date & Time for submission of Tender and opening of tender: Tenders may be uploaded upto 15:00 hrs on 02.01.2020 on IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in. The bidders can participate in the e-tender, the tender will be opened on 02.01.2020.
- Detailed Tender Notice & Tender Document: The detailed tender notice and Tender document is available on Railway website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in. Above tender document will be available for submission of offer on IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in from 19.12.2019 to 02.01.2020. The bidders who desire to participate against e-tenders, are advised to electronically register themselves on the above website for which, they would require to obtain class II digital certificate (if already not obtained) issued by CA under IT Act 2000. All other terms and conditions in respect of above tender and purchase document are available on the website.

Tender Notice No. 14W-CET/CTM/TCR/14-19/2019-20 05.12.2019 3892019

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

BETTER EATING HABITS CAN REPLACE INSULIN SHOTS

Washington, Dec. 6: People diagnosed with Type 2 diabetes take insulin injections to regulate the movement of sugar into the liver, muscles and fat cells, but a great insulin injection replacement, a study published in *Diabetes Care* said.

so, is there another way to treat diabetes? Yes. Consuming a starch-rich breakfast early in the day coupled with light dinner can work as a great insulin injection replacement, a study published in *Diabetes Care* said. — ANI

CORRIGENDUM NOTICE

Sr. No.	NAME OF BOARD CORP./AUTH	OLD REFERENCE/NET NO.	NATURE OF CORRIGENDUM	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	THE SERA DISTRICT COOPERATIVE PRODUCERS' UNION LTD., SIKKAVITA (INDIA)	MUS/TENDER/2019/81/2019_HRC_107933,107946,107960,107963	The Last Date of Online Bid submission is Extended upto 12-12-2019 upto 11:00hrs. (Closing of online bid closing date)	http://www.sera.coop.in	0172-2587969 0172-2587968 Email:www.sera@gmail.com
2	MHVA, PANCHAJALA	07/DCD-190/HVA/VES/2019-20 DATED: 30.09.2019	The last date of online bid submission is extended upto 12.12.2019 upto 11:00 hrs.	http://www.panchajala.gov.in	0172-2587969 0172-2587968 Email:www.panchajala@gmail.com
3	MHVA, PANCHAJALA	NOTICE INVITING TENDER NO. SCL/GEN/IR/DR/04/22542	date of submission extended upto 16.12.2019 upto 11:00 hrs.	http://www.panchajala.gov.in	0172-2587969 0172-2587968 Email:www.panchajala@gmail.com
4	HPCIL,PANJAB	(E-Net No. HP/PS/2019-20/145) TENDER NO. 2019_HRC_43199	Start date: 08.09.2019 & Last date: 18.12.2019 upto 11:00 hrs.	www.hpcil.org.in	0180-2560615 0180-2560616 www.hpcil@gmail.com
5	HPCIL,PANJAB	(NET No SCL/CH/17/2019-20/192) TENDER NO. 2019_HRC_43199	Start date: 31.10.2019 upto 17:00 hrs. & Last date: 18.12.2019 upto 11:00 hrs.	www.hpcil.org.in	0180-2560615 0180-2560616 www.hpcil@gmail.com

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in

THE ASIAN AGE

6 DECEMBER 2019

Dubious politics behind rush to enact new CAB

When the government first brought the Citizenship Amendment Bill (CAB) to Parliament in January this year, it was unconstitutional though it passed in 2019...

The strongest voice against the January bill came from the Northeast — where the BJP has muscled its way into governments in several capitals since coming to power in 2014...

Thus, when illegal immigrants become citizens under the new law, they will not be free to reside where they like as other citizens. This is plainly discriminatory.

The new law is meant to give refuge to non-Muslims supposedly running away from religious persecution in Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh...

Essentially, then, the whole thing will centre on Bangladesh, which borders India's Northeast and West Bengal...

Besides creating religion-based citizenship, and questioning democracy's inviolable principle of equality before the law, the supposedly revised CAB also violates the 1965 Assam Accord...

Keep promises to states

In the over 70-year-long history of independent India, there have been several episodes of economic slowdown but none might have occurred like what the current one did — adversely affect the financial sovereignty of states...

While the effect of economic slowdown could be felt on every section of the society, Mr Modi should be mindful of the ramifications of the Centre breaking its promise on the fiscal autonomy of states...

THE ASIAN AGE

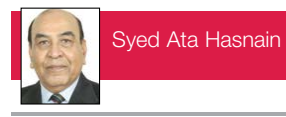
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Subhani

How Bajwa affair may impact politics in Pak



Syed Ata Hasnain

The moment Pakistan's Supreme Court took cognizance of procedural lapses in the extension order for Gen. Qamar Bajwa's continuation as Army Chief, it was obvious that a crisis was in the making...

dent and further embolden the judiciary into creating a 2007-type situation in which a major tussle took place between Chief Justice Iftikhar Chaudhry and Gen. Pervez Musharraf, then Pakistan's President...

LETTERS UNCONSTITUTIONAL

The Citizenship Amendment Bill is unconstitutional inasmuch as it goes against Article 14 of the Indian Constitution that provides for equality of the citizen before the law...

FM MUST BE NEW

AT A TIME when onion prices have risen unaccountably, finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman has told the Lok Sabha that she does "not eat onions and garlic much..."

STENCH THICKENS

The Central Crime Branch appears to be making more inroads into the Karnataka Premier League scam. On Tuesday another skeleton tumbled out of the KPL closet with the arrest of KSCA member and former state cricketer Sudheendra Shinde...

Shahzad Sharjeel
The myriad interpretations of Sufi anthem 'Mast Qalandar'
If one hails from the subcontinent, it is hard never to have heard the throbbing beat of 'dama dam mast qalandar' — a Sufi anthem whose following has transcended geographical boundaries...

ter year, it was sung by Madam Noor Jehan who truly immortalised it. It happens many a time that folklore is adapted for contemporary usage and minor tweaks make it more accessible and attractive for audiences...

With the political environment so vitiated, and the Army itself divided, Pakistan could be heading for a period of suspension of the legislative and direct rule by the Army

Lal while the latter was named Usman Marwandi. Utero was a Sufi saint and his music was complex in Tando Adam, district Sanghar in Sindh, has a unique distinction of being administered jointly by the Muslim and Hindu community...

Every Monday the best letter of the week wins ₹500. Email: letters@asianage.com

By arrangement with Dawn

Nostalgia for an event that has only just finished A home where what is seen at ground level is only a small part of structure, with the rest being underground

THE ASIAN AGE FRIDAY | 6 DECEMBER 2019 | NEW DELHI

Story of Oudh's begum & prince comes to life



Saeed Naqvi
Wide Angle

It took Pulitzer Prize winner Ellen Barry of the *New York Times* to put at rest last week the 40-year-old mystery of "Begum Wilayat Mahal" of Oudh, her children, "Princess" Sakina and "Prince" Ali Reza, alias, Cyrus. The haunting visitation began in the early 1970s at the New Delhi railway station and ended in the thickly forested Malcha Mahal four decades later. It was a story of bleak, dark paths, not quite the stuff of high tragedy.

As early as 1975, Anjum Qadar, whose desire to transfer the "royals" to a medieval hunting lodge on the ridge. It is known as Malcha Mahal. This transfer may also have been to remove a nuisance from public gaze.

In the early 1970s, a woman with sharp aristocratic features took up residence on platform number one of New Delhi railway station and proclaimed herself the last Begum of Oudh. For greater credibility, she had in her entourage two children, a handsome dog, and a liveried servant. The mainstream media took perfunctory interest but the Urdu press amplified the fit of the House of Oudh and readers, in enclaves like Jama Masjid, saw it as part of a continuing story of victimhood. Here was tearing jerking melodrama: "our royals betrayed".

In the early 1970s, a woman with sharp aristocratic features took up residence on platform number one of New Delhi railway station and proclaimed herself the last Begum of Oudh. She had in her entourage two children.

ably caused by neglect because there were stories of her unwashed hair dropping in matted locks. It was with the "Prince", variously named as Prince Ali Reza, or Cyrus, who spent his last years in Malcha Mahal, that Ellen struck an equation of tenderness mingled with curiosity. Google her NYT piece titled "The Jungle Prince of Delhi".

The last king of Oudh (Awadh), Wajid Ali Shah's exile to Metiabruz near Kolkata, or the more recent Partition of India, are disorienting events for those in the thick of it, by historical memory or raw experience. In minds like Wilayat Butti's, the historical memory and immediate experience are all jumbled up in knots.

Ellen believes that disruptions caused by change (Partition for instance) had a great deal to do with the Butti tragedy. A grievance "undressed, had metastasised" to become an epigamy.

Ban on e-cigarettes smart move by Modi govt, upsets a small minority



Rajeev Ahuja

Last week, the Lok Sabha passed the Prohibition of Electronic Cigarettes Bill (2019) that seeks to ban any commercial activity in e-cigarettes. Although the bill was subsequently introduced in the Rajya Sabha, it is yet to get passed. The bill is intended to replace the ordinance on this effect signed last September.

The single decision of the Narendra Modi government must have delighted millions of grand/parents having or would, enter youth. They feared that their grand/children might take to e-cigarettes, or vaping—a harmful addiction which was quietly picking up in the country. Many ignorant parents may not even realise the impact that this potentially beneficial decision may have on younger generations. By bringing out a national law to ban e-cigarettes, the Narendra Modi government is nipping the problem in the bud itself. But in doing so, the Narendra Modi government has also upset some people.

The decision to ban e-cigarettes seems a good judgment, for it safeguards the interests of the majority, even if it upsets a small minority in the process. This is only to be expected.

Second, why not treat e-cigarettes the same way as conventional cigarettes? In other words, if conventional cigarettes are permitted, are subject to heavy taxation and other regulations, why ban e-cigarettes? Well, the war against the nicotine industry has a long history. A vested interest in the tobacco industry has gotten entrenched over several decades. This vested interest has been so strong that it took several decades of fight to come up with stronger regulations that now guide this industry. In comparison, e-cigarette is a nascent industry in which a strong vested interest is yet to develop with full force. It is much easier to deal with it now than at a later stage when use of e-cigarettes becomes rampant. Further, it gives a wide variety of brands and flavours present in the e-cigarette industry. Regulating it at the retail level can be a real nightmare and burdensome for governments.

by a few states only and hence not as effective as one would like it to be. (b) the ban is comprehensive in nature as it relates to all aspects of e-cigarettes: production, marketing, import, export, transport, sale, distribution and storage. (c) any violation of the ban invites a stiff penalty even for first time offenders. It consists of punishment with imprisonment of up to one year or a fine of up to ₹1 lakh, or both for the first offence and imprisonment of three years or a fine up to ₹5 lakhs or both, for a subsequent offence.

The glory of the Bhagavad Gita



Swami Tejomayananda

Found in the Mahabharata, the Bhagavad Gita is the most well-known and renowned portion of this great epic. Even though, it was taught to Arjuna thousands of years ago, the Gita continues to retain its popularity and appeal — especially in today's fast-paced, nerve-racking and changing world. Why is this so?

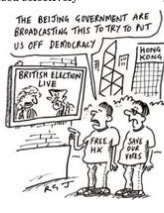
atmosphere of the Mahabharata were very different. Therein, we find the wise rishi, sitting in the calm and serene surroundings of their ashram or on the banks of a river, far away from the din and roar of the marketplace. Moreover, the supreme truth was expounded to highly evolved disciples — intelligent men and women who had examined and understood the limitations and hollowness of worldly life.

student of the Gita was a person of the world. He was an ambitious, noble and heroic man of action. He had undergone numerous trials and tribulations; abundant experiences, good and bad. However, when confronted with the prospect of fighting his own kith and kin, he was overwhelmed and became confused. He was unable to think or act. He wished to run away from the battlefield.

the struggles faced by the modern man are very different. We do not know what to value and just do things out of fancy. In constant doubt about our work, we do not put our heart and soul into it.

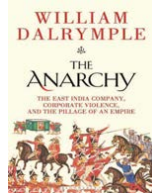
the struggles faced by the modern man are very different. We do not know what to value and just do things out of fancy. In constant doubt about our work, we do not put our heart and soul into it.

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Swami Tejomayananda is from Chinmaya Mission. To find out more about Chinmaya Mission and Swami Ji, visit www.chinmayamission.com

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NON-FICTION



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William Dalrymple
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Rajdeep Sardesai
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3 DARA SHUKOH: THE MAN WHO WOULD BE KING
Avik Chanda
HarperCollins, ₹699

4 REMNANTS OF A SEPARATION
Aanchal Malhotra
HarperCollins, ₹599

5 GOOD ECONOMICS FOR HARD TIMES
Abhijit V. Banerjee, Esther Duflo
Juggernaut, ₹699

6 R.N. KAO-GENTLEMAN SPYMASTER
Nitin Gokhale
Bloomsbury, ₹599

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Megha Rao
Tara - India Research Press, ₹299

10 BACKLASH
Brad Thor
Emily Bestler Books - Atria, ₹699

Sikh heritage brought to life in 229 great photos



Navtej Sarna
review

Heritage, as this beautifully produced book defines, is "the entire collection of quantifiable symbols handed on by the past to each society and therefore, to the whole of humankind, acting as a major link with history". For the relatively young Sikh community all of 550 years old, this heritage is not lost in the hoary past. It does not need to be excavated and nor does it need to be imagined. It is living and extant around us. It does however need to be protected — from degradation, or unnecessary embellishment, or distortion. This is not an easy task and no one person or organisation can take on this responsibility. For one, this heritage, even if one restricts it to objects and buildings, is widely spread — in gurdwaras, in museums, in private collections and even across the border in Pakistan.

The first step to such protection lies in proper documentation; we cannot preserve what we do not know exists. This volume goes a long way in producing a cohesive display of what this heritage is and where it lies today. The clear photographic lens in Sondeep Shankar's experienced hands has produced breathtaking images which create a mesmerising effect; the competent accompanying text stitches together the lives and contribution of the ten Gurus along with the evolving historical context. It brings the history of the community right down to the present day as it examines the cultural wealth and diversity housed in the five temporal seats — the Akal Takht at Amritsar, Takht Patna Sahib, Takht Keshgar Sahib at Anandpur, Takht Hazur Sahib at Nanded and Takht Damdama Sahib at Talwandi Sabo.

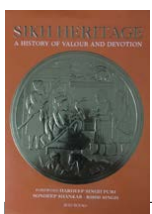
Great pictures speak for themselves and Sondeep Shankar has several in this book, taken lovingly over years of working in Punjab. The Harmandir Sahib with its sarovar, the other major gurdwaras with their impressive structures and white spaces, the audacious Nihangs, the *langar* or communal kitchens and

the congregations with their colourful turbans and *dupattas* are any photographer's delight and Shankar clearly rejoices in them. Particularly impressive are the close ups of detail from various gurdwaras — the Harmandir, Baba Atal and Bauli Sahib in



Goindwal. Long captions take the story of each picture further and provide telling detail and context.

One of the great thrills of a visit to Takht Keshgar Sahib at Anandpur is the display of weapons of Guru Gobind Singh that takes place every evening. Double edged serrated daggers (*khanjars*), punch daggers (*katar*), swords, spears including the deadly *nagani* barch, and muskets bring home the immediacy of the Sikh heritage. This volume contains impressive photographs of these weapons as well as many from the collection of Maharaja of Patiala. One such photograph shows the Guru's battle axe called Maha Kuli, with an etching of the Goddess Durga on a tigress on the cutting edge. Another display of a sheaf of the



By SONDEEP SHANKAR and RISHI SINGH
Reji
pp.215, ₹2,495

Sacred chola of Guru Nanak Dev believed to have been presented to him during his visit to Mecca by a Muslim saint in Baghdad. The chola has verses from holy Quran embroidered on it; Granthis reading from Guru Granth Sahib at Takht Sri Hazur Sahib in Nanded, Maharashtra; paintings of Guru Nanak with Bhai Mardana from an archival compendium at Patna Sahib

Guru's arrows shows their golden tips, which an injured enemy soldier could use to get himself treated. The Patiala collection also contributes an ethereal portrait of the Tenth Guru, even if its caption does not indicate when it was painted and by whom.

In the 50th birth anniversary year of Guru Nanak this attractive and lovingly created book will be an invaluable asset to those interested in Sikh history and religion. An appropriate tribute to a heritage rich with devotion, spirituality and valour.

The writer is a retired diplomat who has served as India's ambassador to the United States and high commissioner to the UK, and an author and poet

Indians rhyming in English have come such a long way



Sudeep Sen
Polyphony

Nearly a hundred years have passed since E. V. Rieu's *India in Song: Eastern Themes in English Verse by British and Indian Poets* (Oxford University Press, 1920), one of the earliest known attempts to present Indian poetry in English in serious anthology form. Since then many more anthologies have appeared (including significant ones from Macmillan, Orient Longman, Oxford, Rupa, Penguin and HarperCollins), and through them one can see and map the trajectory of Indian poets — their outlook, approach, innovation, language and a varied evolving style. In the early years, Indian poetry in English tended to be imitative, almost Victorian. Then came the use of Indianism in Indian English poetry. Barring a few exceptions, it was really not until the late 1900s that Indian poets wrote as if English was one of their own mother tongues.

In the last two decades, Indian poetry in English tended to be imitative, almost Victorian. Then came the use of Indianism in Indian English poetry. Barring a few exceptions, it was really not until the late 1900s that Indian poets wrote as if English was one of their own mother tongues. In the last two decades, Indian poetry in the English language has developed by leaps and bounds. New poets have emerged, introducing new literary tropes, and extending the scope of the poetic muse. What marks them is their confidence — they are unafraid and outwardly political; they engage head-on with gender issues, aspects of intolerance, inequality and divergent sexualities; and their approach to language is free, open and unabashed. The contemporary scene is truly vibrant and full of the energy that poetry demands and thrives upon. In the introduction of *The HarperCollins Book of English Poetry* (by Indians), which I had edited and curated in 2012, I had stated, that the best of English-language poetry by Indians is far superior to the vast amounts of average English-language fiction that is being published regularly. That significant anthology, spread over a mammoth 550 demised pages, contained 85 poets born after 1950.

In 2016, an exuberant new anthology of young poets, 40 under 40 (*Poetrywala*) of "post-globalisation poetry" was one of the many proofs validating my statement of five years ago. Also in 2017, Indian Literature published a special issue of its

journal showcasing the best of "21st Century Indian Poetry in English". Three recent international anthologies: *World English Poetry* (Bengal Foundation), *Capitals* (Bloomsbury) and *Name Me a Word: Indian Writers Reflect on Writing* (Yale) contain many top Indian poets. Additionally, several magazines like *The London Magazine* and *Modern Poetry in Translation* (both UK) have brought out special issues of new Indian poetry.

India has now reached a critical mass where high-quality English-language Indian poetry is readily available to anyone who wishes to find it.

Modern English Poetry by Younger Indians (Sahitya Akademi, pp.256, ₹300) published this month, contains only younger poets who are in their 40s or below. I am sharing a quick background on a few of the poets featured, by way of a sneak peek into the book. Rohan Chhetri and Rohinton Daruwalla had their first debut picks in 2016. Chhetri's *Slow Startle* (TGIPC) is remarkably assured and tightly controlled. He knows exactly how and when to break a line, when to resort to understatement and irony, and he does this in a language that is finely cadenced — 'Afghan Refugee': "From her shoulder blade the background softens, / where her scarf, once-draped over her head,

vanishes / into a green eel of silence." The eponymous poem in Daruwalla's *The Sand Libraries of Timbuktu* ("Speaking Algerian opens remarkably: "What does a book that's been / silent for seven hundred years / say when you open it?" His poems reveal themselves gently — slow, astringent and evocative; deliberate and thoughtful. Amit Majumdar's recent volume, *Dothead* (Knopf), "is an exploration of self-hood both intense and exhilarating", as he sensitively deconstructs the bipolar notion of being an American and a foreigner ("my dark unshaven brothers' whose names overlap with the crazies and God-finders"). He is particularly skilled at the "long-poem form". His poems are very clever. *Ab ovo, or from supernova, / we're less de novo than // abracadabra, ...* ("From the Egg", as well as exact — which is unsurprising as he is also a diagnostic nuclear radiologist by profession.

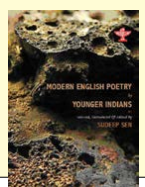
Biswamit Dvivedy's third volume is titled *Ancient Guest* (HarperCollins India). His poetry is tightly wrought, evocative, innovative, experimental, using language with utmost care, truthness and facility.

Jennifer Robertson's debut volume, *Pojo: a Deux*, is forthcoming. She is an intelligent and thoughtful poet possessing an urgent passion for language. She is particularly concerned with ideas of ekphrasis, cinematic tropes, colour and surrealism — as we partly see in the poem "Pip's Prologue": "Bohlo says, / all poets, / that poets are orphans by vocation, // So, I wait by the window / for a sparrow to arrive, while I rehearse my lines. // Dad, here's your coat."

English-language Indian poetry (not to mention the hugely vibrant non-English scene in India's many diverse languages) is now a cause for great celebration. This volume celebrates the incredibly varied, rich and exciting poetry by the younger generation. I hope the readers will savour the divergent spectrum of verse that appears within the pages of this anthology.

As the Caribbean poet of Indian descent, Vahni Capildeo, writes: "Language is my home. It is alive other than in speech. It is beyond a thing to be carried with me. It is ineluctable, variegated and muscular."

Sudeep Sen is a writer, translator, literary editor and photographer



MODERN ENGLISH POETRY BY YOUNGER INDIANS
Selected, introduced and edited by SUDEEP SEN
Sahitya Akademi
pp.256, ₹300

quick BITES

INDICATORS	%
Sensex	40,779.59 -0.17
Nifty 50	12,016.40 -0.21
S&P 500	3,111.77 -0.03
Dollar (₹)	71.28 -0.34
Pound Sterling (₹)	93.63 -0.02
Euro (₹)	79.05 -0.14
Gold (10gm) (₹)	38,985.74 -0.18
Brent crude (\$/bbl)	63.34 +0.54
IN 10-Yr bond yield	+6.608 +2.225
US 10-Yr T-bill yield	+1.816 +1.965

*As of 9:30 pm IST

15th Finance Commission submits report

The Finance Commission submitted its report for the financial year 2020-21 to President Ram Nath Kovind. The Commission headed by N K Singh apprised the President of the recommendations made, an official statement said. The 15th Finance Commission was constituted to make recommendations for a period of five years from April 2020 to March 2025.

Amit Shah holds meet on onion prices



Home Minister Amit Shah reviewed the progress in importing onions to boost domestic supplies and check spiralling prices. Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal and Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar were among those attended the meeting, officials said. Cabinet Secretary Rajeev Gauba and Advisor to Prime Minister P K Sinha were also present.

Dumping probe into radial tyres from Thailand

The Commerce Ministry has launched an investigation into imports of radial tyres from Thailand to decide on imposition of anti-dumping duty on the product to discourage below-cost shipments. The Automotive Tyre Manufacturers Association has filed a complaint before the Directorate General of Trade Remedies on behalf of the domestic industry.

Mankind Pharma 2nd in world to sell infertility drug

Mankind Pharma said it has launched its generic Drogesterone tablets for treatment of infertility and pregnancy-related complications in the Indian market. With the launch, the company has become the first Indian and second global firm to develop the drug. Its company's product is generic version of Abbott's Duphaston tablets, it said. The process of making Drogesterone is complex.

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Guv says vegetable prices should soften by early Feb. 2020

RBI rubs it in, says no respite from price rise

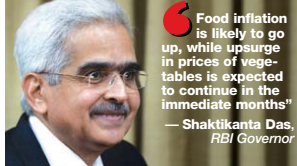
MADHUSUDAN SAHOO
NEW DELHI, DEC. 5

Amid a hue and cry over skyrocketing onion prices, the central bank, on Thursday, hinted that the price of household groceries would remain costlier, leaving the same admin. juggling with the household budget, in the lurch.

The high rabi crops are picking up and are expected to give good yields to farmers, the banking regulator still unsure of the price movement due to myriad factors.

Sensing that the inflation outlook would be influenced by multiple factors, Reserve Bank of India Governor Shaktikanta Das said, "Food inflation is likely to go up, while usage in prices of vegetables is expected to remain stable in the immediate months."

"However, a pick-up in arrivals from the late kharif season along with measures taken by the government to augment supply through imports should help soften vegetable prices by early February 2020," Das added. Prices of the bank's fifth bi-monthly monetary policy meeting.



The RBI's statement comes at a time when prices of the prime kitchen staple have remained over Rs 100-110 a kg on an average in the past few weeks in several parts of the country. Though the government has been trying to bring onion prices down with many measures, such as imports from Egypt and a ban on hoarding, the prices have refused to come down.

The Consumer Price Index, or CPI, inflation spiked to a 39-month high of 6.9 per cent in October, pushed up by a sharp increase in vegetables prices from heavy unseasonal rains. "Prices of onions, in particular, shot up by 45.3 per cent in

September and further by 19.6 per cent in October," the RBI said. Besides, onion, potato and other vegetables, RBI has pointed out that there are incipient price pressures seen in other food items such as milk, pulses, and sugar likely to be sustained, with implications for the trajectory of food inflation. "Retail inflation increased sharply to 4.6 per cent in October, propelled by a surge in food prices," it said.

The RBI is of view that rabi sowing is catching up from the setback caused by delay in kharif harvesting and unseasonal rainfall in the form of heavy rain in November. "As compared to last year, when the storage

in major reservoirs for irrigation was at 61 per cent of the capacity this year, the storage is at 86 per cent of the full reservoir level as on November 26. Hence, the percentage of reservoir level means better availability of water for rabi irrigation," the RBI said.

Experts have expressed concerns over the sudden surge of vegetable prices and felt that the government needs to pay immediate attention to this aspect. Retail inflation indicated by the consumer price index has shot up to 4.62 per cent, well above the RBI target ceiling of 4 per cent. This would require caution," said Joseph Thomas, Head of Research, Emkay Wealth Management. Suvodeep Rakshit, Vice President & Senior Economist, Kotak Institutional Equities, said, "The December policy highlights that inflation remains a priority. The flexible portion of the RBI target ceiling of 4 per cent work of the monetary policy panel was tested in this policy as headline inflation rose to 4.62 per cent, transitory increase to around 5 per cent."

New pre-paid card/wallet with ₹10K load soon

SANGEETHA G
CHENNAI, DEC. 5

The existing payment platforms will have some competition with the RBI proposing to introduce a new type of pre-payment instrument. This instrument can be used for purchase of goods and services. "Prepaid Payment Instruments (PPIs) have been playing an important role

in promoting digital payments. To further facilitate its usage, it is proposed to introduce a new type of PPI which can be used only for purchase of goods and services up to a limit of Rs 10,000," the RBI said. The loading/reloading of such PPI can be done only from a bank account and it can be used only for making digital payments, such as bill payments, merchant payments, etc. Such PPIs can be issued

on the basis of essential minimum details provided by the customer. The apex bank will issue details about this instrument by December. Currently three types of PPIs are available in the market—closed system PPIs; semi-closed system PPIs and open system PPIs. PPIs can be issued in the form of cards and mobile wallets. The major players in the payment space are

GooglePay, PhonePe and Paytm. The new type of payment instrument will see entry of new players in the payment space and can pose competition for the existing players. Currently most of these payment platforms are powered by government's unified payment interface (UPI). UPI payments have been growing fast in India and UPI is reportedly the best payment interface in the world.

P2P pending limit raised to ₹50L

RITVIK MUKHERJEE
KOLKATA, DEC. 5

The P2P lending sector is expected to get a boost with the RBI deciding to increase the borrowing and lending limits of users of the peer-to-peer (P2P) platform. The move aims at not only helping lenders with borrowers but also borrowers to get larger sums of loans. At present, the aggregate limit for both borrowers and lenders across all P2P platforms stand at Rs 10 lakh, whereas exposure of a single lender to a single borrower is capped at Rs

50,000 across all NBFC-P2P platforms. In order to give the next push to the lending platforms, the aggregate exposure of a lender to all borrowers at any point of time, across all P2P platforms, shall be subject to a cap of Rs 50 lakh, the RBI said. Besides, the RBI would do away with the requirement of escrow accounts to be operated by a bank promoted trustee for fund transfer through P2P platforms, and bring cheerts to those looking to borrow or invest on the P2P platform. "When you have the robust technology and

technological platform, it always makes sense to use them in order to create an opportunity for lenders to diversify their portfolios. I think, the increased limit will help in providing credit to small and medium MSMEs. If the economy is to prosper, priority must be given on providing easy credit to small businesses and the self-employed. There has to be a steady flow of alternative credit into the economy through NBFC-P2P platforms. Overall it's a good move," said Hemant Kanoria, Chairman, Srei Infrastructure Finance Ltd.

Banks fall after RBI pause on rate cut

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD
MUMBAI, DEC. 5

Bank stocks fell after RBI's monetary policy committee unanimously voted for a pause on rate cuts. The 10-year government bond yield spiked to 6.82 per cent levels, meaning mark-to-market losses for the banks. The yield on the 10-year government bond shot up by 10 basis points (bps) to 6.82 per cent from 6.72 per cent. The yields had fallen by around 20 bps in the last

two months. The Nifty Bank Index fell 0.83 per cent while Nifty PSU Bank Index fell 1.90 per cent. The top losers were Axis Bank (2.30 per cent), PNB (2.28 per cent), RBI Bank (2.21 per cent), SBI (1.71 per cent), Yes Bank (1.67 per cent), Axis Bank (1.60 per cent), Bank of Baroda (1.54 per cent), Federal Bank (1.08 per cent), HDFC Bank (0.54 per cent) and ICICI Bank

(0.34 per cent). The public sector banks fell sharply, led by Canara Bank (3.01 per cent), Union Bank (2.76 per cent), J&K Bank (2.32 per cent), Oriental Bank (2.17 per cent) and Indian Bank (2.07 per cent). While the rate cuts have been significant, with cumulative rate cuts of 135 basis points since February 2019, concern remains about the slow transmission of rate cuts by the banks to the end-con-

sumer, analysts said. With the banks now under pressure to pass on lower interest benefit to end-consumers without further rate cut, their margins could get impacted. The RBI's decision to pause on rate cut, the fiscal situation and the lagged impact of the recent measures announced by the government. Zain Darwada, CEO, India, Standard Chartered Bank

No need for rate cut now

JOSEPH THOMAS

There are three reasons why there was actually no need for the RBI to cut the rates this time. First, the retail inflation indicated by the consumer price index has shot up to 4.62 per cent, well above the RBI target ceiling of 4 per cent. This would require caution. But the composition that has affected the inflation level is fruit and vegetable prices. This is considered a seasonal phenomenon and may wane off over the next one or two months. But it is a bit worrisome that the prices of fruit and vegetables remain elevated and in some cases it is too high that it may come down too soon. And this would mean that the impact on CPI may be longer than

expected. Second, the rupee is weaker today that it was three months ago. A weaker rupee is akin to lower interest rates. Since the rupee is expected to be weaker from here a cut may not be the best thing to do at this juncture since effective lower rate is already established with a weaker rupee for a rate cut. Third, the liquidity in the interbank market and the systemic liquidity are in surplus and there is sufficient liquidity to see the auctions go through smoothly. The liquidity conditions ensure that rates, especially at the short end of the curve, remains low. This is what is actually achieved by a repo rate cut, too. Therefore, a cut was not needed at this juncture. (The author is Head of Research, Emkay Wealth Management)

The current pause with an accommodative stance could just be an attempt to allow the impact of surplus liquidity and transmission to permeate through the system... Given that inflation will stay elevated in the next couple of months at close to 5.3%-5.4%, a February cut is ruled out, at least logically, by the same logic, an April cut looks difficult. Thus, it might be a longer pause.

Soumya Kanti Ghosh, Group Chief Economic Adviser, SBI

I cannot remember the last time there has been such a record surprise as far as the RBI decision is concerned. It defies the expectation of the market and also the body language of the central bank over the past six months or so.

Taimur Baig, MD & Chief Economist, DBS Group Research

The decision to wait and watch the outplay of previous cuts will go against the current sentiments. The markets overall are disappointed.

Nirjan Hiraniandani, President, Marico

If the economy is to prosper, priority must be given on providing easy credit to small businesses and the self-employed. There has to be a steady flow of alternative credit into the economy through the NBFC-P2P platform.

Hemant Kanoria, Chairman, Srei Infrastructure Finance

The MPC took a pause from cutting its repo rate to take stock of rising inflation, the fiscal situation and the lagged impact of the recent measures announced by the government.

Zain Darwada, CEO, India, Standard Chartered Bank



Standard Chartered Bank

Das got the global economy right at the beginning of the year but says "some signs of resilience are becoming visible." It points to the global rally in stock markets. Das got the global economy right at the beginning of the year but says "some signs of resilience are becoming visible." It points to the global rally in stock markets.

Bloomerg

Allcargo to buy 44% in Gati for ₹416 crore

Mumbai, Dec. 6 Allcargo Logistics, the largest integrated logistics solutions provider in the private sector, on Thursday said it will acquire around 44 per cent stake in Gati for nearly Rs 416 crore, marking its foray into the express logistics market. Under a three-phased deal, Allcargo will first buy over 1.03 crore shares and subscribe to a preferential issue of over 1.33 crore shares (collectively 18 per cent shares) held by promoters and promoter group of Gati, including Mahendra Kumar Agarwal, Mahendra Investment Advisors and TCI Finance and also Gati, at Rs 75 a share. In the second leg of the transaction, Allcargo will make an open offer to buy another 3.17 crore more shares, representing 26 per cent of the paid-up equity share capital (post-preferential issue and vesting of stock options) from the retail shareholders of Gati at Rs 75 a share, taking the total deal value to around Rs 416 crore, said Chairman Shashi Kiran Shetty said.

Take 'trusted vendors' for future 5G: US

WASHINGTON, DEC. 5 The US has urged all countries to ensure that only "trusted vendors" participate in any part of their future 5G networks as the Trump administration stepped up its pressure against Chinese telecoms, citing a potential security threat and possible misuse of data. Asserting that 5G networks will form the backbone of future economies and critical infrastructure, State Department Spokesperson Morgan Ortagus said the stakes are too high to allow networks to be provided and serviced by vendors open to manipulation by authoritarian regimes. "Chinese telecommunications firms such as Huawei and ZTE must comply with the Chinese government directives, without any meaningful checks and balances that would prevent misuse of data," Ortagus said. Allowing these vendors anywhere in a country's 5G networks would present critical risks to the privacy, human rights and security of its citizens, she said.

CBIC circular on ITeS withdrawn

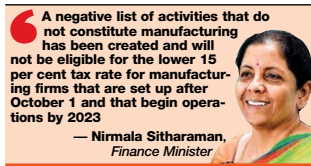
New Delhi, Dec. 6 The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) has withdrawn a circular which created confusion on whether IT service providers can be qualified as intermediaries based on self-assessment under the goods and services tax (GST). The government has withdrawn circular in view of numerous representations received expressing apprehensions on its implications. In view of these apprehensions and to ensure uniformity in the implementation of the provisions of the law across field offices, the CBIC... Hereby withdraws, ab-initio, Circular No. 107/26/2019-GST dated 18.07.2019, an official notification said. The government earlier in the year issued a circular on the scope of information technology-enabled services (ITEs) and coverage under intermediary services. The said circular had created confusion, with this, leaving an onus on ITEs service providers self-assessing on whether they are qualified as an intermediary.

Taxation Laws (Amendment) Bill gets Parliament nod

Developers, miners not eligible for lower tax rate

FC BUREAU NEW DELHI, DEC. 5

The Taxation Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2019 that replaces an Ordinance to cut the base corporate tax rate, got Parliament's approval on Thursday, even as Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman stated that mining companies, software developers and other manufacturing companies will not be eligible for the lower 15 per cent tax rate available for new manufacturing companies. The Lok Sabha on this week passed the bill and the Rajya Sabha returned it on Thursday without making any changes. Replying to a debate on the legislation, Sitharaman said a negative list of activities that do not constitute manufacturing has been



A negative list of activities that do not constitute manufacturing has been created and will not be eligible for the lower 15 per cent tax rate for manufacturing firms that are set up after October 1 and that begin operations by 2023. — Nirmala Sitharaman, Finance Minister

created and will not be eligible for the lower 15 per cent tax rate for manufacturing firms that are set up after October 1 and that begin operations by 2023. The negative list includes the development of computer software in any form or in any media, mining or processing of marble blocks or similar items into slabs, bottling of gas into cylinders, the printing of books or production of a cinematograph film. Sitharaman had on September 20 announced lowering of the base corporate tax rate to 22 per cent from 30 per cent for companies that do not seek exemptions, and reduced the rate for new manufacturing companies to 15 per cent from 25 per cent, including surcharges and cesses (levies to raise funds for specific purposes). The effective corporate tax rate will drop by nearly 10 percentage points to 25.2 per cent for corporates in general and 17.01 per cent for new manufacturing companies. The finance minister said the reduction in corporate tax was done to make India an attractive destination for firms looking to invest outside of the US and China following their trade tensions. A lower rate of 15 per cent was offered for new manufacturing units to draw new investment, thus reviving economic activity and creating jobs, she said. Sitharaman also promised to continue the rollout of reforms to boost the economy.

Ahead of fund raising plan, Moody's shocker for Yes Bank

Mumbai, Dec. 6 Global ratings agency Moody's on Wednesday downgraded the ratings on private sector lender Yes Bank with a negative outlook citing asset quality concerns and the pending capital buffers. The agency said the bank's claim to have received investor interest to tune of \$2 billion has "significant execution risks around the timing, price and regulatory approvals". The board of the bank is slated to meet on December 10 to finalise the fund raising. The bank has been finding the going tough since August last year, after the RBI issued in the March quarter, and very low net income in the September quarter. Moody's, which had



warned of a downgrade on November 6, cut its long-term foreign currency issuer rating to 'B2' from 'B1' on Thursday with a negative outlook. The agency said bank's poor asset quality, stressed assets and low loss absorbing buffers against those assets will add more pressure to its funding and liquidity, creating additional risks to the credit profile. The common equity tier-1 ratio, which stood at 8.7 per cent in September forcing the bank to shrink its lending by 7 per cent, will come under "significant pressure" unless the bank gets fresh capital, it said. However, the \$2 billion capital raising plan announced last week has execution risks, the agency

warned. "Yes Bank's funding and liquidity concerns weakly to other rated private sector peers, and under pressure if the bank failed to strengthen its solvency over the next few quarters," the agency said. The downgrade also takes into account an assumption that government will strive to maintain systemic stability and help prevent any weakness credit profile from significantly affecting depositors and creditors, the agency said. Moody's also said third consecutive year to have under-reported NPAs has also been taken into account which is a negative on corporate behaviour risk.

NABH rule will deny cover to 95% Ayush hospitals

SANGEETHA G CHENNAI, DEC. 5

Insurance regulator's decision mandating NABH accreditation for Ayush hospitals for getting insurance coverage will exclude more than 95 per cent of the facilities in the country. In a recent notification, Iradi said that Ayush hospitals and Ayush day care centres should obtain either a priority level certificate or higher level of certificate issued by National Accreditation Board for Hospitals and Healthcare Providers (NABH) or State Level Certificate under National Quality Assurance Standards (NQAS), issued by National Health Systems Resources Centre (NHSRC). Along with a few such parameters, this would make them eligible for coverage under health policies. The industry is worried that this will straight away exclude more than 95 per cent of Ayush hospitals and this includes Ayush hospitals in medical colleges and hospitals also. In Kerala itself there are more than 1,000 Ayurveda hospitals and there would be several thousands of Ayush treatments centres across the country. More than 95 per cent of the Ayush hospitals are less than 25-bedded facilities and these centres will not be able to afford NABH accreditation. Lack of



Insurance coverage will be detrimental for these centres," said Induchandran, Liaison Officer, Ayurveda Hospital Managements Association. According to him, a centre will have to spend at least Rs 3 lakh for seeking NABH accreditation for a three-year period. This includes the NABH fee, application fee and the travel and accommodation expenses for the assessors. For small centres, this is a huge expense every three year, he said. Further, the centres incur an equally huge cost for upgrading the infrastructure, human resources management and training to the NABH standards. "There are around 590 specifications to be satisfied in order to receive an NABH accreditation. This is mandatory for both small and large centres. In case of allopathic healthcare institutions, the number of specifications is significantly less for smaller institutions compared to the bigger ones. Ayush hospitals do not have this advantage," he added.

OPENING BE

PROJECTION FOR TODAY

Nifty needs to sustain above 12000 for further rise

The market ended lower after a volatile trading day on Thursday as the RBI left interest rates unchanged amid slowing growth. The market which had opened the green on rate cut hopes, tumbled after the monetary policy announcement. Trading sentiment was further dampened after the RBI cut its GDP growth forecast to 5 per cent for 2019-20 from the earlier estimate of 6.1 per cent. After swinging between gains and losses, the Sensex ended 70.70 points or 0.17 per cent lower at 4079, while Nifty settled with a loss of 24.80 points or 0.21 per cent at 12018.40.

Technical View

Sameet Chavan, Chief Analyst, Technical and Derivatives, Angel Broking, said, "Nifty's intraday correction was quite evident after such unexpected outcome, but fortunately the impact was not as severe as it's generally seen after a disappointing outcome that's a sign of a strong uptrend and going ahead, we continue to remain bullish on the market as long as the sacrosanct support zone of 11930 - 11950 remains intact. On the upside, 12080 - 12120 are the immediate levels to watch out for. Technical analysis is to be with the larger trend and should ideally refrain from taking contrarian bets against the major direction on a positional basis." "Technically, Nifty took support around its psychological support of 12000 mark and formed a red body candle on daily chart. At current juncture, it is hovering around a lower end of the channel and 20 EMA on daily chart. Going forward, Nifty need to sustain above 12000 to witness an up move towards 12158 then 12250 levels. On the flipside, a strong support for Nifty is placed at 11835-11950," said Siddhartha Anand, Head of Research, Motilal Oswal Financial.

Market View

Dhiraj Relli, RMD & CEO, HDFC Securities, said, "With the market participants could be disappointed by the timing of the RBI's action, we think that the participants are mature enough to understand the RBI's move. The Central Bank which means that the markets may not react downwards sharply due to this disappointment."

— Ashwin J. Punnen

Maha govt suggests merger of PMC Bank with MSC Bank

FC BANKING BUREAU MUMBAI, DEC. 5

The Maharashtra government has suggested merger of the scam-hit Punjab & Maharashtra Cooperative (PMC) Bank with the MSC Bank in a bid to provide relief to depositors of the troubled lender. State Minister Jyoti Patil said on Thursday if the need arises, the state government will speak to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on the issue of merger of the scam-hit Punjab & Maharashtra Cooperative (MSC) and PMC banks, he said. Meanwhile, in another move the RBI on Friday said that it would tighten the exposure norms for urban cooperative banks to protect the interest of depositors. "The decision follows the RBI's order on the issue of PMC Bank, which had funded a large part of its loans to one corporate house."

"With a view to reducing concentration risk in the exposures of primary urban cooperative banks (UCBs) and to further strengthen the role of UCBs in promoting financial inclusion, it is proposed to amend certain regulatory guidelines relating to UCBs. "The guidelines would primarily relate to exposure norms for single and group related borrowers, promotion of financial inclusion, priority sector lending, etc," said the RBI. "These measures are expected to strengthen the resilience and sustainability of UCBs and protect the interest of depositors. An appropriate timeframe will be decided for compliance with the revised norms. A draft circular proposing the above changes for eliciting views from stakeholders will be issued shortly," said the RBI. "I spoke to the MSC Bank chairman day before Wednesday. We have suggested the MSC Bank to merge with the PMC bank with it so that the poorest of its depositors get relief," Patil told reporters here. The PMC Bank has been put under restrictions by the RBI, after an alleged Rs 4355 crore scam came to light following which the deposit withdrawal was initially capped at Rs 1,000, causing panic and distress among depositors. The withdrawal limit has been raised in a staggered manner to Rs 50,000. At least eight depositors, who had high quantum of money stuck with the bank, died in the last couple of months, including one who committed suicide. "We want to assure the PMC Bank depositors that the government stands with them. The merger of the two banks will definitely help small depositors," the minister said.

Soon, govt agencies will procure foodgrains only in jute bags

SANGEETHA G CHENNAI, DEC. 5

In order to promote jute manufacturing units, government is planning to mandate that 100 per cent packaging of foodgrains produced by state procurement agencies and FCI will be in jute bags. The government hopes that at this measure will increase the production of jute goods in India which has been stagnating for the past three years despite all the incentives had supposedly provided the sector. In 2016-17 the country had produced 142,000 metric tonnes of jute goods, this marginally rose to 1,47,000 metric tonnes in 2017-18, but it fell down to 1,16,100 tonnes in 2018-19. "The production of jute goods over the last few years by the jute mills has remained consistent," said Sangeetha G, Managing Director of Textiles, Smriti Zubin Irani said. According to her, the government has been implementing several measures to modernise the jute mills. This includes, Incentive Scheme for Acquisition of Plants and Machinery (ISAPM) to facilitate modernization in existing and new jute mills and for upgradation of technology in



existing jute mills. An incentive of 20 per cent of the cost of machinery for jute mill and 30 per cent for Jute Development Corporation (JDC) is being given. MSME units are considered for reimbursement under the scheme, subject to a maximum of Rs. 2.50 crore per unit. Under this scheme, a subsidy amounting to Rs. 49.71 crore has been disbursed to jute mills and JDP units during the period 2014-15 to 2018-19. Further, a Scheme for Research and Development for the textile industry including jute with an outlay of Rs 80.00 crore has been launched in 2015 by the Government for promotion of research & development, technology transfer and dissemination activities in textile sector including jute, she added.

Loan mela seen as temporary salve & long-term pain

NUPUR ANAND & MANOJ KUMAR MUMBAI/NEW DELHI, DEC. 5

Deen Dyal, who runs a tea stall on the outskirts of New Delhi, was beaming when he walked out of a community hall where Punjab National Bank was disbursing loans as part of government efforts to get credit flowing back into the economy. A Rs 50,000 (\$700) loan he applied for a year ago to expand his range of snacks had finally been approved. Reviving a practice not used in three decades, the government in September ordered state-run banks to help more than 400 loan "melas" or fairs across the country over the following month a measure aimed at boosting economic growth at six-year lows and lending growth at its weakest in three years. Dyal, 32, said PNB previously refused him a loan despite repeated requests. But once the government announced the melas, he'd been inundated with calls from bank officials to grab an approval letter there.

The Finance Minister said the melas "disbursed" loans worth about Rs 2,500 billion (\$35 billion) in October, with some private and shadow banks joining 18 state-run lenders. Several bankers told Reuters, however, the figures included loans that had been approved before the fairs. It represents a record for monthly lending and a huge jump over the \$12 billion in overall bank loans given in September. But bankers and analysts worry the October result is but an artificial and temporary spike in lending, and that normal due diligence standards were abandoned, which will come back to bite a sector already saddled with \$140 billion in stressed debt. "Not much paper work was done in sanctioning the loans," said one banker involved in organizing a melas in the country's most populous state, Uttar Pradesh. The banker, who was not authorized to speak to media and declined to be identified, said he'd used checks on income tax returns or to verify property ownership were dropped and instead



limited to bank account statements and repayment history. Pressure to lend felt intense, bankers said. At the launch of the fairs, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman declared, "For every new customer from the banks, we should bring in and give a loan," she added. "Somebody who has never taken a loan from the banks has brought in and given a loan," she added. Banking and policy experts said the government lending schemes had a track record of skipping on due diligence, leading to higher-than-normal levels of bad loans. Non-performing loans for

"Banks usually lower their guards on the risk profiling of borrowers in such schemes, either as well in government related schemes," said N. R. Ramesh, an Economist at Institute of Public Finance and Policy. In the 1980s, when loan melas were established to boost rural lending, the government was so lax that a phone number was viewed as proof of residency and income, and was sufficient to get a loan, said an executive director at a public sector bank, requesting anonymity. While that era, bad loans increased and bank profitability took a hit. Return on assets - a key performance gauge - slid to 0.15 per cent in 1990 from 1.56 per cent in 1980, according to a central bank report which cited the melas as a contributing factor. More recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's flagship lending scheme for small businesses has seen bad debt surge in the past year, according to online media publication The Wire. Non-performing loans for

Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana, which was set up in 2015, jumped 125 per cent in the first financial year to Rs 164.81 billion (\$23 billion), the report said, citing data gained from a "right to information" file. The Finance Ministry did not respond to request for comment about Mudra loans. India's rising debt problems have long choked the banking system's ability to generate fresh lending, a problem that has worsened this year with the shadow banking industry reeling in loans after the collapse of lender IL&FS. While that may have helped prompt the government's call for loan melas, for many experts it is only a step backward. "With too many difficulties the central bank has been trying to resolve this whole bad loan problem and why do we want to bring it back even if it comes at the cost of some additional economic activity," said Anil Agarwal, an Assistant Professor at Amrita University's Amrut Modu School of Management. — Reuters



An apology

Jason Momoa apologises to Chris Pratt after criticising his use of plastic water bottles



3

I have been living with depression since I was 12-year old

— Shaheen Bhatt, Aifa Bhatt's sister

BRIEF

Galecki and Meyer welcome baby boy

Los Angeles: The Big Bang Theory star Johnny Galecki and his girlfriend Alaina Meyer have become parents to a baby boy, Galecki, 44, shared the news on Instagram...

NZ airlines trials edible coffee cups

Wellington: New Zealand's national airline says it is trialling edible coffee cups in a bid to reduce the amount of waste on board its planes...



Katy Perry, Orlando delay their wedding

Los Angeles: Pop star Katy Perry and actor Orlando Bloom will now get married next year. The couple was earlier planning to exchange wedding vows in December...

LOVE TO PROVE NAYSAYERS WRONG: ANISTON

Los Angeles: Hollywood star Jennifer Aniston says 2019 has reiterated her faith in her capabilities and she loves challenging people who tell her she cannot achieve something...

Los Angeles: A 50-year-old star, who was named as one of the 2019's People of the Year by People magazine, said she has learnt "How much I'm capable of this year. The words, 'I dare you' or 'No' always make me kind of go, 'Oh, okay. Well, let's just see,'" she said...

Washington: As the climate warms, many birds are shrinking in size while their wingspans are increasing, according to a study...

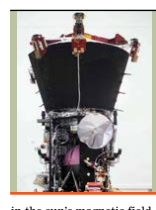
Washington: As the climate warms, many birds are shrinking in size while their wingspans are increasing, according to a study...

Nasa probe uncovers solar wind mysteries

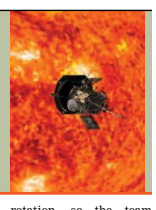
Breakthrough may help better understand electromagnetic storms that can knock out power grid on earth

Paris: Nasa's Parker Solar Probe, having survived its closest encounter so far with the sun, has sent back a "spectacular trove" of data on its corona, the super-hot outwreath of its atmosphere...

when it would normally be expected to cool from the heat source. "So the corona finds a way to heat up. We are looking at the physical processes which allow that to happen," said Alexis Rouillardat...



The spacecraft was launched in August in 2018. Probe is named after US solar astrophysicist Eugene Parker who first developed the theory of solar wind...



thing fundamental about the Sun and how the solar wind escapes. "This has huge implications. Space weather forecasting will need to account for these flows if we are going to be able to predict whether a coronal mass ejection will strike earth, or astronauts heading to the Moon or Mars," he added.

space weather, we could shut down or isolate parts of the power grid, or shut down satellite systems that might be vulnerable. Nicky Fox, Nasa's project scientist for the probe, told reporters the fact that humanity had flown a spacecraft into the atmosphere of a star was in itself a stunning accomplishment.

It is hoped it will allow a better understanding of the solarwind and electromagnetic storms which can cause chaos on earth by knocking out the power grid. One puzzle concerns the sun's surface during a series of fly-bys at other distances and trajectories over seven years.

source for the corona. Scientists were also surprised by what they found about the acceleration of the solar wind, the outwreath of protons, electrons and other particles emanating from the Sun. It was known that closer in, the Sun's magnetic field completely makes up the energy

rotation, so the team expected the effect would weaken further out. "To our great surprise, as we neared the Sun, we've already detected large rotational flows — 10 to 20 times greater than the Sun predict," Kasper said. "So we are missing some-

with some users noting that Socrates did not live happily ever after, as he was sentenced to death by drinking poison. Users of both genders poured scorn on the technique to attract men with one saying: "If a woman told me I sound like Socrates, I would wonder if she's sane."

According to a her, the 16th century playwright. Edited by British writer Allie Esiri, the book is a journey through a calendar year highlighting key moments and dates with either a sonnet, speech or scene.

Stuart Bale, professor of physics at the University of California Berkeley, recalled that a "major space weather event" in 1859 blew out telegraph networks on earth and one in 1972 set off US navalmines in North Vietnam. With society now even more dependent on sophisticated technology, "big disturbances from the sun are potentially a very serious thing," Bale said.

The fact that it's our nearest star and it has a profound effect on us here on earth is even better, but we've waited for decades and decades to understand these mysteries. Probe is named after US solar astrophysicist Eugene Parker who first developed the theory of solar wind, describing a system of energetic particles and plasmas that make up the phenomenon. —AFP

'Asia has at least 10 ancestral lineages'

Singapore: Asia has at least 10 different ancestral groups whereas northern Europe has only one lineage, according to a global genetic comparison that included 588 genomes from India...



Duchess of Cambridge Kate leads children to pick a Christmas tree during a visit to Peterley Manor Farm in Buckinghamshire, England, on Wednesday.

The study analysed the genomes of 1,739 people, and represents the widest coverage of genetic diversity in Asia to date, the researchers said. Covering 64 different countries, the study, published in the journal Nature, will guide scientists in studying diseases unique to Asians.

A picture of the page sparked mirth when it was shared on Twitter with some users noting that Socrates did not live happily ever after, as he was sentenced to death by drinking poison. Users of both genders poured scorn on the technique to attract men with one saying: "If a woman told me I sound like Socrates, I would wonder if she's sane."

NEWS NUGGETS

MAGAZINE RIDICULED OVER 'SOCRATES' DATING SUGGESTION

Tokyo: A Japanese magazine that advised women to compliment men on their intelligence by saying "You sound like Socrates" has been ridiculed in the country...

NEW SHAKESPEARE ANTHOLOGY LETS FANS READ BARD EVERY DAY OF YEAR

New Delhi: What can be better than reading a good quote a day? It is reading revered playwright William Shakespeare everyday. In a good news for the fans of the bard, a new anthology features some of Shakespeare's beloved classics, to be read each day of the year.

THE IRISHMAN NAMED BEST PICTURE BY NEW YORK FILM CRITICS CIRCLE

New York: The New York Film Critics Circle named The Irishman the year's best film on Wednesday, handing Martin Scorsese's mob epic its second such honour in two days. It is the second time Scorsese has received the top award from his hometown's critics following 1990's GoodFellas. They also named him best director in 2006 for The Departed.

Researchers analyse 70,000 North American migratory birds from 52 different species

Birds shrinking, their wingspans increasing due to warming

Washington: As the climate warms, many birds are shrinking in size while their wingspans are increasing, according to a study...



Penelope Cruz (left) and a model attend the 14th annual L'Oréal Paris Women of Worth Gala at the Pierre Hotel in New York on Wednesday.

Sydney: Australian bushfires have caused unprecedented pollution in Sydney and along the country's east coast, officials said Thursday...

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Sydney smoke crisis 'longest on record'

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US cop under investigation for fondling dead woman

Los Angeles: An officer with the Los Angeles police department is under investigation after his body camera allegedly caught him fondling a deceased woman's breasts...

US cop under investigation for fondling dead woman

Los Angeles: An officer with the Los Angeles police department is under investigation after his body camera allegedly caught him fondling a deceased woman's breasts...

INSPIRING CHILDREN'S LIVES WITH DR. BHIMRAO AMBEDKAR'S PRINCIPLES



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**6th December 2019
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**INTRODUCING A BOOK ON THE LIFE AND
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**Come, let us inspire our children to imbibe the ideals of
Baba Saheb and make India of his dream**

Chief Guest:

Arvind Kejriwal, Chief Minister, Delhi

In August presence of

Manish Sisodia, Dy. Chief Minister, Delhi

**Rajendra Pal Gautam, SC,ST,OBC
Welfare Minister, Delhi**



NEW DELHI FRIDAY 6 DECEMBER 2019



SPORT | Cricket
Lakshmi set to be first woman referee in a men's ODI

14



SPORT | Basketball
Antetokounmpo guides Milwaukee to 13th straight win

15



GUIDE TO FORTUNE

Tick the answer and check them below.

1 Which of these is the world's largest inland lake?

- Caspian Sea
- Black Sea
- Aral Sea

2 The toxin of which plant was once used by women to dilate their pupils for cosmetic purposes?

- Belladonna
- Hosta
- Belladonna

3 What is the alternative name for the Sea of Cortez?

- Caribbean Sea
- Gulf of Mexico
- Gulf of California

SHORT TAKES

Auto driver held for molesting woman

New Delhi: A 22-year-old woman was allegedly molested by an auto-rickshaw driver in northwest Delhi's Mukherjee Nagar area, police said on Thursday. The 45-year-old auto driver, identified as Bhanu, who had fled with the woman's mobile phone has been arrested, they said. The incident took place on December 2. In her complaint, the woman, a resident of northeast Delhi's Gokulpuri, stated that at about 10 pm, she hired an auto-rickshaw from Rajendra Place. On the way, the driver stopped the auto at an isolated location and tried to molest her. When the woman resisted, the driver fled with her mobile phone, the officer said. The victim reported the matter to the police and a case was registered at the Mukherjee Nagar police station, said deputy commissioner of police (Northwest) Vijayanta Arya. Both the auto and the victim's mobile phone has been recovered, she added.

Minor boy reunited with his mother

New Delhi: A nine-year-old boy was reunited with his family by the Delhi Police. On Thursday afternoon, the MIV staff comprising of ASI Bijender and ASI Subhash received a call regarding a boy near Saket court. The staff started searching for his parents in nearby localities and also announced through public address system. Further, in Hauz Rani area, a woman approached the police and told them that the boy is her son. After proper verification, the child was handed over to his mother and further used evidence of local police, DCP (PCR) Sharat Kumar Sinha said.

Auto-lifter held, vehicles seized

New Delhi: The Delhi Police arrested a 26-year-old armed auto-lifter and recovered robbed articles from his possession. DCP (Northwest) Vijayanta Arya said that the accused was identified as Rahul Kumar (26). Two stolen two-wheeler, four mobiles, eight laptops and a button actuated knife was recovered from him. Following a tip-off, the staff of police post Sangam Park nabbed Rahul who used to steal vehicles and further used the vehicles to commit crimes. The police has claimed to solve four cases with his arrest. He was previously arrested in a theft case, the police added.

THE ANSWER TO TODAY'S GUIDE TO FORTUNE

- Belladonna
- Gulf of California
- Caspian sea

In Greater Kailash, woman dies as husband dozes off daily-wager loses daughter to mishap, donates her eyes

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, DEC. 5

Two fatal accidents were reported in South Delhi in the last 24 hours. In the first incident, an eight-year-old girl was killed after she was allegedly hit by a speeding car. The incident occurred on Wednesday afternoon at South Delhi's Mandi Road. Police said that they have arrested the accused driver. The girl is identified as Komal, a resident of village Janapur, while the accused has been identified as Joga Mohalla Mandi. Komal was on way home from her school.

The driver of the car took her to a trauma centre where she was declared brought dead. In another incident, a 59-year-old woman died while three others were injured after they met with an accident near Kohinoor Mall in South Delhi's Greater Kailash area. The deceased has been identified as Krishna Singla, a resident of Dwarka. Police said that

her husband Mahavir Prasad was driving the car when he dozed off which led to the accident. According to a senior police official, at late night on December 3, Krishna, her husband and a relative were on way back home after attending a wedding. No police control room (PCR) call was received regarding the accident. Injured occupants of the car reached the hospital themselves where Krishna was declared brought dead while others were discharged after the treatment," said the senior police official.

A case under section 279/304A of Indian Penal Code (IPC) has been registered at CR Park police station. The body has handed over to her family after autopsy," said the police official.

Centre refused to let us use Nirbhaya fund for CCTVs: CM

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, DEC. 5

The Centre has rejected Delhi government's proposal to use the Nirbhaya Fund to install CCTV cameras and panic buttons in 5,500 DTC and cluster buses. Chief minister Arvind Kejriwal said on Thursday. He also denied a statement issued by the women and child development ministry which said that Delhi managed to spend only ₹19 crore out of the ₹300 crore in the Nirbhaya Fund. "We have not received ₹300 crore. Recently, we have perhaps got around ₹65 crore for setting up One Stop Centres. We have already set up one centre for rape victims. We are setting up more of these centres in the districts," the chief minister said. Earlier on Thursday, he said that his government will install CCTV cameras, panic buttons, and GPS in 5,500 DTC and cluster buses. Addressing reporters, the chief minister said that his government will install panic buttons in each bus, adding that the move is aimed at ensuring the safety of women in the city. Mr Kejriwal said the new buses, which are being procured, already have CCTV cameras, panic buttons, and global positioning system (GPS). Further, the Delhi government has also approved the extension of Ashram flyover up to DN2 flyway, said Mr Kejriwal.



BJP MP Parvesh Verma offers sweet to Union minister Prakash Javadekar on Thursday after the Parliament on Wednesday passed the bill to grant citizens rights to residents living in unauthorised colonies in Delhi. — PRITAM BANDYOPADHYAY

Smog returns to choke city, NCR; air quality 'very poor'

New Delhi, Dec. 6: When rains and high-velocity winds washed away hazardous smog from the national capital around 10 days ago, many believed that the bad air days were over for this season. But, that was not the case.

With Delhi registering the season's lowest minimum temperature at 7.6 degrees Celsius on Thursday, smog returned to choke Delhi-NCR again, with pollution levels entering the "severe" zone. An AQI between 0-50 is considered "good", 51-100 "satisfactory", 101-200 "moderate", 201-300 "poor", 301-400 "very poor", and 401-500 "severe". An AQI above 500 falls in the "severe plus" category. The levels of PM2.5 (particulate matter) so

small that they can enter the lungs and even the bloodstream — shot up to 245 micrograms per cubic metre, six times the safe limit of 0-60 by 8 pm. The last time such levels were reported was on November 16. Weather experts said though stable burning period had almost ended, a dip in the air quality was expected due to slow wind speed and falling temperatures. "It shows that meteorological conditions play a very important role in keeping the air clean. Farm fires have come to an end."

The smog that shrouded the city on Thursday was mostly local pollutants and moisture," said Mahesh Palwat, a scientist at private forecaster SkyMet Weather.

JNU students to boycott exams over hostel fee hike

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, DEC. 5

According to a resolution adopted by the representatives of various schools and centres of the varsity Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) students have decided to boycott exams in protest over the hostel fee hike. A general body meeting was held on Wednesday among the students' representatives of various schools and centres and it decided on Thursday morning to boycott all academic activities. Later, HRD minister Ramesh Pokhriyal "Nishank" told the Parliament on Thursday that the fee hike in JNU was effected in order to meet the increased expenditure on maintenance of hostels and to run those on a "no-profit-no-loss" basis. In a written reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha over the JNU hostel fee hike, which has led to an agitation by students, the minister said the university has increased the room rents after around five years. "JNU has informed that in order to meet the increased expenditure on the maintenance of hostels and to run them on a no profit no loss basis, it has increased room rents after about 40 years," he said. Earlier, the rent was ₹10 and ₹20 for double and single occupancy rooms respectively.

Professor develops Braille model to teach chemistry

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, DEC. 5

A professor of Jawaharlal Nehru University has developed a Braille model to teach chemistry to visually-challenged students. Talking about his research, Professor B.S. Balaji said he had developed a simple lock-and-key model to teach chemistry concepts to visually-impaired students. He added that owing to the current limitations in science education for blind students, he had designed the model to address these shortcomings. In the model, Balaji has included both Braille and alphanumeric letters in our model. The model cards are like puzzle cards. We have six categories to represent various chemical notations. In the model, Balaji has included normal letters along with Braille so that students with a normal eyesight can also learn from it while teachers are not required to be experts in Braille. The lock-and-key model for teaching chemistry was created using 3D printing technology with biodegradable polymers. "We have included both Braille and alphanumeric letters in our model. The model cards are like puzzle cards. We have six categories to represent various chemical notations," the professor said.

Earlier, there was no utility and service charge but now the university will charge BPL students Rs 1,000 and other students Rs 1,500 for the same. The research fellow, who also asked whether other universities were witnessing an increase in the fee structure. Central universities, including JNU, are autonomous institutions and governed by respective acts, statutes, and ordinances. There, the minister said.

HRD ministry officials meet Duta delegates

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, DEC. 5

The office-bearers of the Delhi University Teachers' Association (Duta) met officials from the Human Resource Development (HRD) Ministry on Thursday over the issue of absorption of ad-hoc teachers. According to Duta, the meeting was attended by its office-bearers and officials from the ministry as well as the University Academic Commission (UAC), "We discussed with the officials and demanded that there be a one-time regularisation of ad-hoc teachers, but there was no assurance. However, they told us that the August 28 circular for appointment of guest teachers against substantive posts will be drafted again to replace the words 'guest teachers' with 'ad-hoc teachers'," Duta vice-president Ajok Ranjan Pandey said. He said almost 400 teachers, who were appointed after July 20 this year, have lost their jobs due to the August 28 circular, but the ministry assured them that their jobs would not be lost. Before the ministry officials met the Duta office-bearers they also held a meeting with DU vice-chancellor Yogesh Tyagi. The varsity administration on Thursday directed the teachers to end the unlawful strike of VC office immediately. Almost 5,000 teachers entered a building housing the VC's office on Wednesday after breaking three gates and allegedly painted graffiti on the historic structure, protesting against a circular mandating appointment of guest teachers. In a letter written to Delhi University Teachers' Association (Duta) president Rajib Ray, Director of the varsity, Neeta Sehgal, said that he along with other colleagues has "forcibly" passed into the Vice-regal Lodge by breaking the main gate and various doors of the heritage building. "This has caused considerable damage and defacement of the heritage building. You are still continuing to illegally occupy the premises," she said.

Arjuna awardee's car stolen in Rohini

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, DEC. 5

A 30-year-old Arjuna awardee and income tax officer's car was stolen by unidentified robbers in Delhi's Rohini area on Wednesday. Police said that they have registered a first information report against the robbers. Teams are scanning CCTV footage to trace and nabbed the culprits. In a case, the victim, Abhishek Verma, a resident of Model Town area, won the gold medal in the men's compound archery team event along with Rajat Chauhan and the silver medal in the men's compound archery team event along with the silver medal in the men's compound event. On 15 August 2015, he had won a gold medal in the compound men's individual section at the Archery World Cup Stage 3 in Wrocław, Poland. According to the FIR, on December 4, Verma had gone to a relative's house in Rohini's Sector 3 area and had parked his Toyota Fortuner car in front of the main gate of the house at around 10:18 pm. "On Thursday morning, I went to look for my car, it was not there where I had parked. Trying to find my car, I saw local residents if they had seen my car but no one saw it," Verma stated in his complaint. "When I checked for CCTV, I found that my car was stolen at around 11 am on Thursday following which I informed police about the incident," said Verma. The common case section 379 of Indian Penal Code (IPC) has been registered against the robbers at police station. Police teams have been formed which are scanning CCTV footage in the area of the house at around 10:18 pm. "On Thursday morning, I went to look for my car, it was not there where I had parked. Trying to find my car, I saw local residents if they had seen my car but no one saw it," Verma stated in his complaint. "When I checked for CCTV, I found that my car was stolen at around 11 am on Thursday following which I informed police about the incident," said Verma. The common case section 379 of Indian Penal Code (IPC) has been registered against the robbers at police station. 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Tribute

Kapil Dev paid a rich tribute to Bob Willis, who has died aged 70, saying that the former England pacer was a "terror to face"

Days of change

With different mindsets, India and West Indies kick off their T20 series today

MOSES KONDETY
HYDERABAD, DEC. 5

One team are looking at the World Cup 10 months away. The other, at least more than half of the side, have their eyes on the IPL auction two weeks later. India and West Indies will have different mindsets as they kick off their three-match Twenty20 series at the Rajiv Gandhi International Cricket Stadium on Friday.

The hosts have begun casting the side for the big job to be held in Australia in October-November next year and have an abundance of riches to sift through before firming up the final 15 that will take on the world's Captain. First Kohli made that clear on match-day.

The focus would largely be on opener K. L. Rahul and wicketkeeper-batsman Rishabh Pant, who would view this series as another previous chance to impress the powers that be.

Pant in particular will be keen to prove that is not just a shot-circuit explosive batsman and that there is prudence behind his power play in front of the wickets. He needs to buck up behind them as well, and come good with the big gloves to cement his spot in the side, moreover with Mahendra Singh Dhoni not yet hanging his flannels and Wriddhiman Saha and Samson providing options.

Talking of comebacks, there are quite a few. Kohli is back to leading the T20 side after taking a break to sit out of the Bangladesh series. Also back in the T20 fold are Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Mohammad Shami and Krunal Pandya.

The pace battery looks charged up as Bhuvneshwar, Shami and Deepak Chahar can be a handful while spin twins Kuldeep and Yuzvendra Chahal could come up with twists.

The West Indies aren't quite the called visitors for now.

They have been in India for over a month now, having played Afghanistan in ODIs and T20 series in Lucknow. The two-time T20 World Cup winners lost the short format 1-2 to the minnows though.

Captain Kieron Pollard has a task on hand to lead the youngsters from the front in the absence of big names such as Carlos Brathwaite, Andre Russell and Dwayne Bravo. He will also need to keep their minds away from the December 19 IPL auction, at which a lot of his teammates would be vying for prized positions.

Evin Lewis and Shimron Hetmyer have been released from the Mumbai Indians and Royal Challengers Bangalore squads respectively, which Pollard and Kohli are key players. They would want to make more than a point in the series that ends on December 11, and get the cash registers ringing.

The competition is tough though — with 34 West Indians among 258 foreigners vying for the 29 overseas players' spots available across eight teams — but they couldn't have asked for a better platform, especially with Kohli's RCB having the most vacancies, at six.

And so, trust Sheldon Cottrell, Lendl Simmons, Brandon King, Khary Pierre, Keesrick Williams, Hayden Walsh and the swinging into MC's Hammer Time! That makes for a full-on Friday night party.

HIGHEST INNINGS TOTALS

India 245-6 in 20 overs at Lauderhill in 2016

Windies 244-4 in 20 overs at Lauderhill in 2016

LOWEST INNINGS TOTALS

India 153-7 in 20 overs at Lord's in 2009

Windies 95-9 in 20 overs at Lauderhill in 2019

HIGHEST INDIVIDUAL SCORES

India 111* Rohit Sharma at Lucknow in 2018

Windies 125* Evin Lewis at Kingston in 2017

BEST BOWLING IN AN INNINGS

India 3/4 Deepak Chahar at Providence in 2019

Windies 4/16 Darren Sammy at Port of Spain in 2011

HOW THEY FARED IN T20s

Team	rankings	P	W	L	T	N/R
India	(5)	123	76	43	1	3
Windies	(10)	116	50	59	3	4
India(vs WI)		14	8	5	-	1

Kohli throws his weight behind under-fire Pant

AGE CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, DEC. 5

With India lying fifth in world T20 rankings, captain Virat Kohli admitted there were problems in the shortest format. "I don't think we have been very good while batting first in T20 cricket and defending low totals as well. So those are two things we really need to focus on," he said on Thursday eve of the three-match series opener against West Indies.

"Having said that T20 is a format where you experiment a lot more than ODI and Test cricket. I think from that point of view you take a lot more risk in terms of what you want. As a team you give a lot of chances to youngsters. So you can't really pinpoint where the problem is. Ranking is actually the reflection of the strongest eleven but we haven't really played the strongest eleven together for many games," he added.

However, the Indian captain did not make much of the numbers. "Now heading into the World Cup rankings are going to be irrelevant because in T20 anyone can win on the day. We will probably be nervous on the field. If you want him to do well and regard to the World Cup, we collectively should make him feel like he belongs and we are here to do things for him rather than against him."

"As Rohit (Sharma) said recently, he (Pant) needs to be left alone. He is a match-winner. Once he comes good, you will see a very different version of him, which we have seen in the IPL already because he is free and relaxed there," Kohli said.

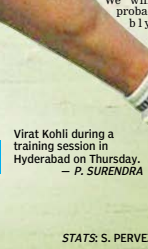
Kohli also hinted that India's pace pack was almost settled with Jasprit Bumrah, Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Mohammed Shami in. "The fight obviously is for one spot and I think more or less three guys have made a place for themselves. It's going to be a healthy competition and it will be interesting to see how it pans out," he said.

The captain had words of encouragement for Kuldeep Yadav and Yuzvendra Chahal with regard to the World Cup. "Having two right spinners is big advantage when you are playing in Australia in the winter. There might be some games where both might play together. But in T20 cricket, you need to have a healthy competition and balance and predominantly we see one guy playing with (Ravindra) Jadeja and Wasly (Washington Sander) because it gives us all kinds of variety in the bowling attack. You need to have six bowling options in T20 cricket. That's the basic rule. You can't go with five expecting everyone to bowl four good overs. I think that is the balance we need to create," he said.



Rishabh Pant is all ears to former India captain Mohammad Azharuddin in Hyderabad on Thursday. — P. SURENDRA

Virat Kohli during a training session in Hyderabad on Thursday. — P. SURENDRA



STATS: S. PERVEZ QAISSER

SHORT TAKES

Dada has plans for T20 Cup campaign

Kolkata: BCCI President Sourav Ganguly on Thursday said he has "some thoughts" with regards to the Indian team going in to next year's T20 World Cup which will soon discuss with captain Virat Kohli and coach Rahul Shrivastava. "If you are chasing very well in T20 cricket, we need to do the same when batting first. I have some thoughts which I will share with Virat, Ravi and the management. We haven't played many T20 internationals and I am confident by the World Cup we will be absolutely ready," Ganguly said.

The former captain, however, did not elaborate on the plans he has on his mind. The T20 World Cup will be held in October-November next year in Australia. Speaking on India topping the charts in the Test rankings Ganguly hoped progress on the team and said it has the potential to consistently win overseas. "That's the ultimate ambition. We have done well in Australia last year. We have the team to do well in NZ and again in Australia. That's what our aim is at the worlds best test team." — PTI

CSA crisis grows, AFI asks Moreo to quit

Johannesburg: The crisis in South African cricket deepened on Thursday as former chief executive Ali Bacher called on incumbent Thabang Moreo to quit, while a second independent director resigned from the board of Cricket South Africa. Bacher, a former Test captain, said Moreo was out of his depth, while independent board member Iqbal Khan, the chairman of CSA's finance committee, said he could no longer be a part of an organisation that was "ruining the game". Khan blamed Moreo for the majority of issues besetting CSA, including failing to adhere to terms of an agreement with the SA Cricketers' Association, the banning of five journalists last weekend and "widespread credit card abuse". In his letter to CSA president Chris Nenzani, Khan wrote: "Unfortunately, my fingers point at the CEO. But, having said that, I am not aware of the many issues that have caused this malaise and to that extent you are also complicit and perhaps even a part of the board." — AFP



Bhuvneshwar Kumar during a training session in Hyderabad. — AA

Captain Pollard trains young guns

AGE CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, DEC. 5

The West Indies could be the underdogs going into the T20 series with India but captain Kieron Pollard says his young side are up for the challenge.

"We play a lot of cricket in India. It's just a matter of using our experience and hopefully that experience can be a good step for us. At the end of the day we are here to play some good cricket. We have prepared well and from tomorrow we will hit the ground and start running," he said on Thursday.

"It's about putting the pieces of puzzle together. There are instances where we knew we faltered in the

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India vs West Indies
1st T20I
on STAR Sports 1, HD
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want to continue doing that and continue scoring runs for the team. I hope my contribution put the team in a winning position," he said.

The seasoned player also backed youngsters in his side. "They (Brandon King, Khary Pierre, Hayden Walsh and Keesrick Williams) have been pretty good. It's good that we have young guys coming in from the CPL (Caribbean Premier League). They are excited to represent West Indies. But the problem is, we as individuals try to judge people too quickly. We need to have patience. At the end of the day we need results but sometimes you have to be honest with yourself. We look forward to these talents showing the

world what they can do. Sometimes you need to have umbrella over them and protect them from the vulnerabilities to put them about. It's just a matter of trying to teach them and ease them into the world of international cricket which we know is a very tough place," he said.

The West Indies are without big names such as Sunil Narine, Andre Russell, Dwayne Bravo and Carlos Brathwaite.

"You do not want to have players trying to fill in the gaps of senior players. For us, Russell, Narine and Bravo are big guys, but as a team, we have selected 15 players to do a job here and we back each and every one of them," Pollard said.

Referee Lakshmi set to create history TV umpire to monitor front-foot no-balls: ICC

Dubai, Dec. 5: Former India cricketer GS Lakshmi is set to become the first woman match referee to oversee a women's ODI when she officiates the opening match of the third series of the World Cup League 2 in the United Arab Emirates on Sunday. Lakshmi will oversee the match between the United Arab Emirates and the United States of America at the Sharjah Cricket Stadium. The competition aims to provide development opportunities for officials.

This is the second significant achievement for Lakshmi this year, following her appointment as the first woman onto the ICC International Panel of Match Referees in May.

The 51-year-old, who first officiated as a match referee in domestic women's cricket

matches in 2009-08, has now overseen three women's ODI matches, 16 men's T20 Internationals and seven women's T20 Internationals. "It feels great, having anything assigned first to your name gives me a sense of pride. This being a big event (ICC Men's Cricket World Cup League 2) it feels great to be officiating at this level," Lakshmi said in an ICC media release.

Speaking of how she first got into cricket and her time as a player, Lakshmi recounted how cricket secured her place at college. "I played cricket with my brothers and friends, when they (the college) saw my skills, I had a natural bowling action, they immediately accepted me to the college and I then played for my state in domestic cricket for 18 years."

Lakshmi is hopeful that other women can follow in her footsteps of officiating in the game. "These qualifications are a great platform to prepare officials and provide them opportunities to gain valuable experience."

"I hope my promotion to the ICC International Panel of Match Referees and records like this can inspire many females. — GS LAKSHMI

"Congratulations to GS Lakshmi. It is a thorough and deserved and highlights the wonderful opportunities there are for females in cricket officiating." — PTI



Panel of Match Referees and records like this can inspire many females. — GS LAKSHMI

● The On-Field Umpire will not call a front-foot no ball without the advice of the Third Umpire.

"If there has been an infringement on the front foot, the Third Umpire will commentate this to the On-Field Umpire who will subsequently call a no ball. As a result, the On-Field Umpire will not call a front-foot no ball without the advice of the Third Umpire," it added.

The ICC said the benefit of doubt in close calls will lie with the bowler. "... and if a late no ball call is communicated, then the On-Field Umpire will rescind a dismissal (if applicable) and call no ball. The On-Field Umpire will remain responsible for other in-game decisions in the usual way," the ICC said.

"The outcomes of the trial will be used to gauge whether the system has a beneficial impact on the accuracy of no ball decisions and whether it can be implemented while minimising disruption to the flow of the game," it added.

The decision to make third umpire the adjudicator of front-foot no balls was taken in August this year. The system was first trialled in the ODI series between England and Pakistan back in 2016. — PTI



Doubles delight

Men's doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty nominated for the 'Most Improved Player of the Year' award by the Badminton World Federation



I'm happy they (Neymar and Mbappe) scored, but there is a lot of potential (for them to improve).

— Thomas Tuchel, PSG manager

SHORT TAKES

Hosszu swims to 60th gold medal

Glasgow Hungary's Katinka Hosszu swam to her 50th international medal and 60th gold on Wednesday at the European Short Course championships before revealing she's happy to train without a coach in the run-up to the 2020 Olympics. The 30-year-old 'Iron Lady' reached her landmark on Wednesday with victory in the 400m medley, 15 years after her first podium in the championships in Vienna in 2004. Hosszu won in 4min 25.10sec, adding another title to a haul which is now made up of three Olympic golds, 25 world and 31 European triumphs. Just seven months out from the Tokyo Olympics, however, she is happy to prepare for the Games without a coach. In 2018, she split with husband and coach Shane Tusup before announcing last week that she was ending her collaboration with Arpad Petrov. "I have decided to train alone for Tokyo," she said. "I prepare my own programmes and practice for a long time. I know what preparation is. "I train eight-10 hours a day, almost to the point of fainting."

SANDEEP WINS HORNBILL MOTOR RALLY TITLE

Kohima: Kohima's Sandeep Mukherjee, one of the top rated TSD rallyists of the country, lived upto his reputation, successfully claiming the 10th JK Tyre Hornbill Motor Rally title that culminated in Kohima on Thursday. Competing in the open category, Sandeep (with navigator Prakash) won the title after a hard-fought 65-km TSD rally with a mere penalty of just 46 seconds to bag the top prize. The rally, held on the backdrop of the famous Hornbill Festival and organised by NAMSA, was flagged-off from the IG Stadium and saw the participants traverse through the rocky and dangerous terrains on the outskirts of Kohima and negotiate a total of 16 surprise time controls over two legs before finishing back. The second place was taken by Subir Roy and Nirav Mehta (52 seconds penalty) while Chibrolang Walhang and Nagarajan finished third with a penalty of 01:05 minutes. Two-time defending champion Gagan Sethi (along with Sabatullah Khan) had an unfortunate outing and fell by the wayside to finish sixth with a total penalty of 03:57 minutes. In the North East class, Yanger Aier and Mazharul Kadir took the first place with a penalty of 09:05 minutes. Thechachutuo Kire (with co-driver/Neiba Kire) with a total penalty of 11:03 minutes finished second while Nitoka Chopli and Phillip Lam (02:29 minutes) claimed the third place. In the two-wheeler category, Vishal Das along with Ganesh Kam emerged on top with a penalty of 02:35 minutes, while Rehman Khan and Deepak Singh claimed the second place with a penalty of 17:02 minutes.



Giannis Antetokounmpo (second from left) of the Milwaukee Bucks drives to the basket past Langston Galloway (left) of the Detroit Pistons during their NBA Game in Detroit, Michigan, on Wednesday. Milwaukee won 127-103. — AFP

Bucks pin Pistons

Antetokounmpo guides Milwaukee to 13th straight win

Los Angeles, Dec. 6: Giannis Antetokounmpo's 35 points propelled the Milwaukee Bucks to a 13th straight NBA victory on Wednesday, a hard-fought 127-103 win over the Pistons in Detroit. Antetokounmpo, the reigning NBA Most Valuable Player, powered through a contentious encounter, pulling down six rebounds and handing out nine assists as the Bucks continued their domination of the Pistons. The Bucks improved to 19-3 — tied for best record in the league with the Western Conference leading Los Angeles Lakers, who beat the Utah Jazz 121-96 in Salt Lake City. Milwaukee, whose eight wins over Detroit last season included a first-round

playoff sweep, have now notched two wins this season over the Pistons. The Bucks led by 11 at halftime, and by 20 after three quarters as the Pistons proved unable to mount a challenge. Khris Middleton added 17 points for Milwaukee and Eric Bledsoe chipped in 15. Andre Drummond led Detroit with 23 points, 14 rebounds and five assists. Antetokounmpo and Detroit's Blake Griffin clashed early and often. Midway through the second quarter, Griffin elbowed Antetokounmpo in the face and teammates hurried to intervene as the two exchanged words. Antetokounmpo answered in the third with a monster block of Griffin's layup attempt, and less

than a minute later when he hit the court after a foul by Bruce Brown. Griffin answered the Bucks by stopping over Antetokounmpo's legs. Middleton raced over and admonished Griffin and after a lengthy review Brown, Griffin and Middleton all received

technical fouls. "At that point, I was, like, 'tired,'" Antetokounmpo said. "I was like, 'They're going to do this all night.'" "At first I was trying to talk back, trying to let them know this is more than basketball. We can stop playing basketball, we can fight," he said. "At the end of the day my teammates want me in the game, my teammates want me to keep my head in the game." The tough-guy posturing didn't help the Pistons and the Bucks emerged with their longest winning streak since 1973. The Lakers put on a defensive clinic in Utah, coming up with 13 steals and blocking 12 shots as they held the Jazz to 41 percent shooting. Anthony Davis, battling

illness that saw him receive intravenous fluids at halftime of the Lakers' win at Denver on Tuesday, scored 26 points. Davis added five rebounds, six assists and three blocked shots. LeBron James added 20 points and handed out 12 assists for the Lakers, who didn't trail at all after the first quarter and led by as many as 25 in the second half. In Boston, the Celtics defeated the Miami Heat 112-89, halting their first defeat of a three-game road trip that had included wins over the Brooklyn Nets and Toronto Raptors. Miami were without coach Erik Spoelstra, who returned to Florida on Wednesday for the birth of his second son. — AFP

Neymar, Mbappe floor Nantes

Paris, Dec. 6: Neymar and Kylian Mbappe both scored as Paris Saint Germain restored their five-point cushion at the top of Ligue 1 with a 2-0 win over Nantes on Wednesday. Mbappe's smart finish shortly after half-time and Neymar's late penalty save the hosts ease to victory at the Parc des Princes. PSG, whose scheduled game against Monaco last weekend was postponed due to bad weather, also have a game in hand on second-placed Marseille as they bid for a seventh French league title in eight seasons. Marseille won 2-0 at Angers on Tuesday to briefly cut the gap to only two points. Thomas Tuchel started Neymar and Mbappe together for the first time this season, although the coach left Edinson Cavani and



Paris Saint-Germain's Neymar (left) celebrates with team mate Kylian Mbappe after scoring against Nantes in their French Ligue 1 match at the Parc des Princes in Paris on Wednesday. — AFP

Mauro Icardi on the bench. "It says a lot if in December our two key players (Mbappe and Neymar) who we want to make the difference, are starting for the first time together," said Tuchel. "Initially the doctors said that it should be fine after 15 days rest, but it didn't and when I went to practice, there was still lot of pain," he said. Bopanna launched the ASICS Limited Edition Gel-Nimbus 22 and race day t-shirt for the Tata Mumbai Marathon, which is on held on January 19 next year. India earned a spot in the 2020 Qualifiers of the Davis Cup after they thrashed arch-rivals Pakistan 4-0 in the tie held in Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan.

lacked rhythm, I'm not expecting too much from both of them. "I'm happy they scored, but there is a lot of potential (for them to improve)." — AFP

BROWN STRIKES LATE AS CELTIC EDGE HAMILTON

Glasgow, Dec. 6: Scott Brown's dramatic injury-time strike gave Celtic a 2-1 win over Hamilton to move the Hoops two points clear at the top of the Scottish Premiership as Rangers let a two-goal lead slip to draw 2-2 at Aberdeen. Celtic looked on course for a routine evening when Ryan Christie pounced to score from close range in the 13th minute to put the home side in front at Celtic Park. But the Accies stayed in the game and seemed to have secured an unlikely point when Marios Olgmopoe bundled in a leveller in the 90th minute. Celtic, though, snatched what could be a vital winner in the title race when captain Brown burst into the box to fire in a winner two minutes into injury time. "It was frantic at times because mentally, we switched off towards the end and allowed Hamilton to get an equaliser, which I wasn't happy about," said Celtic manager Neil Lennon, who cited Sunday's League Cup final against Rangers as an explanation for his side's display. "It's the psychology of football. A lot of talk and a lot of 'build-up' has been put in front of us but we were a little bit flat." Rangers failed to convert their dominance into points as Aberdeen snatched a 2-2 draw in a bodyblow for Steven Gerrard's men. Goals from Scott Arfield and Ryan Jack put Rangers firmly in charge, from a goal from Jonathan Gallagher just before half time restored some belief for Aberdeen. — AFP

AUSTRALIAN OPEN GOLF

Amateurs lead after first round

Sydney, Dec. 5: Players complained of stinging eyes with one forced to wear a face mask as toxic smoke from bushfires choking Sydney blighted the opening round of golf's prestigious Australian Open on Thursday. Two young Asian amateurs upstaged a field packed with big names preparing for next week's Presidents Cup against the Tiger Woods-led US as the event was shrouded in haze from fires burning out of control throughout the state of New South Wales.

Japan's Takumi Kanaya and Taiwan's Yu Chun-an, both 21-year-old amateurs, led after day one with six under-par 66s. South Africa's Louis Oosthuizen and Smith were the highest-placed Presidents Cup players after both fired three-under 68s. Australian number one Adam Scott, one of the leading figures in Ernie Els' International team, complained his airways felt dirty after struggling to a four-over 75. "It feels like I should shove a bit of salt water up my nose or something and try and rinse myself out. Obviously not the conditions we want to be playing in," said Scott. The 2015 Australian Open champion Matt Jones was among a group of three sitting two strokes behind and said the conditions at Sydney's Australian Golf Club were some of the worst he had encountered. "I'm not sure what the forecast is, but the smoke's not good at all. It's tough to see your golf ball when

Sydney's air quality index registered levels of pollutants on a par with Beijing on Thursday, forcing New Zealand golfer Ryan Chisnall, who is asthmatic, to don a face mask

you're out there playing, where it finishes. Your eyes do burn," he said.

"MY EYES ARE STINGING!" "I've got that cough like you've got something in your lungs, phlegm in your lungs or whatever, but it's not fun. I hope my kids are inside in the hotel room." Sydney's air quality index registered levels of pollutants on a par with Beijing on Thursday, forcing New Zealand golfer Ryan Chisnall, who is asthmatic, to don a face mask. World number 14 Paul Casey of England, the highest-ranked player in the field, said his eyes were sore, though his problems were nothing compared to the suffering of people battling the fires on Sydney's outskirts.

"I must admit my eyes are stinging," he said after a 68 left him three shots off the lead. "But you know I honestly feel for the people (nearer the fires), because we're feeling it down here 100 clicks (miles) away. I'm not going to complain because there's people in a worse position than me." — AFP



Japan's Takumi Kanaya plays a shot during the opening round of the Australian Open golf tournament in Sydney on Thursday. — AP

Woodland, Reed share lead as Woods falters

Miami, Dec. 6: US Open champion Gary Woodland and Patrick Reed shared the lead Wednesday in the Hero World Challenge as tournament host Tiger Woods faltered late in the Bahamas. Woodland and former Masters champion Reed both shot six-under par 66 at wind-whipped Albany Golf Club — displaying the kind of solid golf US Presidents Cup playing partner Woods was hoping to see from the pair when he selected them for this month's matchplay showdown with Ernie Els' International squad. Woods himself had his struggles, improving from two-over through 10 holes to reach three-under before closing with a bogey and double-bogey in an even-par 72.

Woods made a run up the leaderboard with birdies at 11, 13 and 14 followed by an eagle at 15 — where his chip from off the green took two bounces and rolled into the hole. "Got it going on the back nine just a little bit, got myself kind of right there in the mix and then had shots on 17 and 18," Woods said. Woods wasn't the only player to run into trouble at Albany's closing hole — where Patrick Cantlay finished with a quadruple bogey and the Jordan Spieth a triple bogey. Dan Snee's disappointing finish, Woods wasn't discouraged about his game. "My short game was just a little bit off today, just hit a couple of poor iron shots that cost me a few shots." — AFP

Bopanna aims to play Qatar Open in Jan.



Tennis ace Rohan Bopanna (left) at a promotional event in Mumbai on Thursday.

Mumbai, Dec. 6: Forced out of India's recent Davis Cup tie due to a shoulder injury, doubles specialist Rohan Bopanna on Thursday said his recovery is on the right track and he plans to compete at the Qatar Open in January. "It (the shoulder) is getting better and I just started training, maybe 2-3 days ago. So, I have a whole week before the season starts. So it will be fine by the time the first tournament starts, which is on January 6th in Doha," Bopanna said. The Qatar ExxonMobil Open will be held in Doha from January 6 to 12. The 39-year-old had pulled out from India's Davis Cup

tie against Pakistan after sustaining a shoulder injury. "There was a small tear after I took the MRI. Initially the doctors said that it should be fine after 15 days rest, but it didn't and when I went to practice, there was still lot of pain," he said. Bopanna launched the ASICS Limited Edition Gel-Nimbus 22 and race day t-shirt for the Tata Mumbai Marathon, which is on held on January 19 next year. India earned a spot in the 2020 Qualifiers of the Davis Cup after they thrashed arch-rivals Pakistan 4-0 in the tie held in Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan.

On the Davis Cup performance, Bopanna said, "We were always favourites going into the tie (against Pakistan). If you see that 4 matches out of five were in singles and we have higher-ranked singles players, so we were always favourites, irrelevant of whom we played the tie." One of the architects of the win was 46-year-old Leander Paes, Bopanna who has played with Paes in the past, heaped praise on the veteran player. "You have to love the sport in order to be playing for this long. He has had a tremendous career from a very young age and achieved so much in the sport," he said. — PTI



Health hazard

Real Madrid's Eden Hazard set to miss Clásico against Barcelona after further tests revealed a fracture in his right ankle

3 We need to keep going. We made mistakes but it's not good to be crying about them NOW.

— Jose Mourinho, Tottenham boss after losing at Old Trafford

SHORT TAKES

Junior hockey girls hold Aussies

Canberra, Australia: The Indian junior women's hockey team rallied to hold hosts Australia to a 1-1 draw in their second match of the three-nation tournament here on Thursday. The home side took the lead through a field goal by Schoneil Courtney in the 25th minute but India found the equaliser with Gagandeep Kaur converting a penalty stroke in the 52nd minute. The Indian team started the first quarter on an aggressive note and got into leading positions to find openings. Their strikers stuck to their plans and earned a penalty corner in the 10th minute. However, the Australian defence stood tall and ensured that the two teams stayed level. The visitors continued to attack and won another penalty corner just before the break, but the home team managed to keep India at bay and ended the quarter at 0-0. — PTI

Kachari, Ankushita storm into quarters

Kannur, Kerala: India Open gold medalist Bhagyabati Kachari and former world junior champion Ankushita Boro stormed into the quarterfinals of the Women's National Boxing Championships on Thursday. Assam pugilist Kachari, representing RSPB, ended 2018 bronze medalist Jyotsna Rajput's campaign 5-0 in 81kg. Ankushita (64kg) too had it easy in her pre-quarterfinal bout against Himachal Pradesh's Erika Shekhar, whom she trounced 5-0. Last edition's silver medalist Nupur also registered a 5-0 win. The Haryana pugilist was sharp right from the beginning of her 75kg bout against Himachal Pradesh's Sandhya, who had absolutely no answer to Nupur's flurry of punches. Also breezing into the quarterfinals was All India Police's Lalakmawli Ralte, who pummeled Kerala's Seetha Shah 5-0 in 81kg. Madhya Pradesh's upcoming talent Nisha Yadav (61kg) was one of the biggest casualties on Day 4 of the tournament as Uttar Pradesh's Aradhana Patel was declared the winner of that contest in Round 2. — PTI

NEERAJ DROPPED, ARCHER DEEPIKA INCLUDED IN TOPS

New Delhi: Dope-tainted woman boxer Neeraj Phogat was on Thursday dropped from the Sports Ministry's Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) while archer Deepika Kumari was included after playing a crucial role in India sailing in a Tokyo 2020 Games quota place. Shooter Chinki Yadav, who secured an Olympic quota in the 25m pistol event earlier this year, was added to the TOPS list along with veteran Tejswini Sawant, Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar and Mairaj Ahmed Khan. Three archers have been included in the scheme, including former world number one Deepika Kumari and Anika Bhakat, both of whom combined to secure an individual Olympic quota for India in women's recurve event. Veteran L. Bombayia Devi is the other archer to make the cut. The men's and women's teams have also been included after qualifying for the Tokyo Games. "Boxer Neeraj Phogat has been excluded from the TOPS scheme due to her provisional suspension by NADA," the Sports Authority of India said in a statement. — PTI

New Entrants in TOPS: Shooting: Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar, Mairaj Ahmed Khan, Tejswini Sawant, Chinki Yadav. **Archery:** Deepika Kumari, Anika Bhakat, Bombayia Devi. **Hockey:** Men's and women's teams. **Para-Archery:** Vivek Chikara, Harvinder Singh, Rakesh Kumar and Shyam Sundar. **Para-Table Tennis:** Kumar, Ajeet Singh, Yogesh Kathuniya, T. Mariyappan. **Para-Badminton:** Nagar Krishna.

Manchester City's story at Old Trafford

Mourinho faces first Spurs loss at former club; Liverpool romp clear

London, Dec. 6: Jose Mourinho endured an unhappy return to Manchester United as Marcus Rashford struck twice in a 2-1 defeat for Tottenham while Liverpool maintained their eight-point lead at the top of the Premier League, putting five goals past Everton. Second-placed Leicester equalled their top-flight league record of seven consecutive wins with a 2-0 victory against bottom side Watford while Chelsea bounced back from two consecutive league defeats to beat Aston Villa 2-1. Mourinho's first loss since taking charge of Spurs eased the pressure on Ole Gunnar Solskjaer as United moved above Tottenham, up to sixth in the table. Rashford smashed United into an early lead with the help of some poor goalkeeping by Paulo Gazzaniga, the England international's powerful shot creeping in at the near post and he had chances to extend the lead. Yet for all United's dominance in the first 45 minutes, one moment of brilliance from Dele Alli pulled Mourinho's men level before the break. All plucked the ball out of the air and skipped beyond two United defenders with one touch before slotting home his fourth goal in as many games since Mourinho took charge. United were handed the chance to retake the lead when Rashford went down under Moussa Sissoko's challenge in the penalty area early in the second half and he put his recent spot-kick woes behind him to send Gazzaniga the wrong way. The three points are massive for us," said Solskjaer. "We've had too many draws this season and

THE RESULTS

Wolves (Dondoncker 23, Greene 86)	2
West Ham	0
Liverpool (Origi 6, 31, Shaqiri 17, Mane 45, Wijnaldum 90)	5
Everton (Keane 21, Richardson 45-3)	2
Man Utd (Rashford 6, 49-pen)	2
Tottenham (Alli 39)	1
Chelsea (Abraham 24, Mount 41)	2
Aston Villa (Trézeguet 41)	1
Southampton (Ings 22, Bertrand 43)	2
Norwich (Pukki 65)	1
Leicester (Vardy 55-pen, Madisson 90+5)	2
Watford	0

given too many points away from winning positions. It's a great lesson (Sheffield United and Aston Villa) and we came back in a great manner." Mourinho, sacked by United last December, described his reception at Old Trafford as "nice and polite". "It's a step back against a team that is playing with the same objective as us, trying to get up the table and reach the top six," he said. "We need to keep going. We made mistakes but it's not good to be crying about them now."

ORIGI DOUBLE
Liverpool emphatically restated their title credentials by thrashing their city rivals 5-2, surging eight points clear of Leicester after their 14th win in 15 games. Manchester City, in third place, are 11 behind the leaders.

All but one of the goals came in a frantic first half at Anfield as Divock Origi and Xherdan Shaqiri, who replaced the rested Roberto Firmino and Mohamed Salah, put Liverpool 2-0 up inside 17 minutes. Michael Keane pulled a goal back for Everton before Origi got his second and Sadio Mane finished off a blistering counter-attack to make it 4-1. The scoring did not stop there as Richardson cut the deficit once more, but Georginio Wijnaldum hammered the final nail in the Everton coffin as an eighth defeat in 11 league games sees the Toffees slip into the bottom three. All the goals were incredible, outstanding," said Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp. "Wonderful goals, sensational passes, super pieces of football. I loved it a lot." — AFP

SON FEELS THE PAIN AFTER UNITED LOSS

London, Dec. 6: Son Heung-min said he and his Tottenham Hotspur team-mates would have to work hard because he did not like experiencing the pain he felt following Wednesday's 2-1 defeat by Manchester United. The 27-year-old Korean star gets his chance to bounce back on Saturday at home to Burnley. However, last season's Champions League finalists are nine points adrift of fourth-placed Chelsea — who occupy the final Champions League spot — and can ill afford any more slip-ups. United's victory was the first loss for Son and Spurs since Jose Mourinho replaced Mauricio Pochettino, who was sacked a fortnight ago due to Spurs' lacklustre campaign so far. "I hate to lose any single game," said Son after the match. It doesn't matter against who or which team. It doesn't feel nice. I feel hurt and pain. "This kind of game against big teams like United or City you want to win. "I feel more pain because we know we can do better so I know I can do better. That's why I feel more pain than any other games." — AFP



Manchester United's Marcus Rashford (right) scores against Tottenham Hotspur at Old Trafford on Wednesday. — AFP

India continue domination

India win 50 medals on Day 4 to consolidate top spot in SAG

Kathmandu, Dec. 6: Led by strong performances by wushu players and swimmers, India breached the 100-medal mark by winning a whopping 50 medals on the fourth day of competitions to consolidate their top position in the South Asian Games here on Thursday. India secured their best medal haul on a single day so far in the Games to lead the medal tally with 58 gold, 41 silver and 19 bronze for a total of 118 medals to leave hosts Nepal far behind in the second spot. Nepal have 36 gold, 26 silver and 34 bronze for a total of 96 medals, followed by Sri Lanka (16 gold, 31 silver, 52 bronze) at third position. India added 26 gold, 18 silver and 6 bronze on Thursday. The bulk of India's medals came from swimming, wushu, weightlifting and athletics. India's gold rush was triggered by wushu with as many as seven yellow medals coming from it. Suraj Singh fetched the first wushu gold of the day in men's gusshu all-round event before Y. Sanathoi Devi (women's 52kg), Punam (women's 75kg), Deepika (women's 70kg), Sushila (women's 65kg), Roshibina Devi (women's 60kg) and Sunil Singh (men's 52kg) also clinched top spots in their respective events. Swimming accounted for the most medals for India on Thursday with 11, of which four were gold, six silver and one bronze. Likith Selvaraj Prema



Gayatri Gopichand en route to her 21-17, 21-14 win over Dilmi Dias of Sri Lanka in their women's singles badminton semifinal at the South Asian Games on Thursday.

clocked 2 minute 14.67 seconds to win the men's 200m breaststroke (short course) gold while compatriot Danush Suresh won the silver in 2:19.27. India's second gold from swimming came from Appeksha Chahal Fernandes who won the men's 200m breaststroke (short course) with a time of 2:38.05. Divya Satija clinched a gold in women's 100m butterfly (short course), clocking 1:02.78, before the women's 400m freestyle relay team finished on top of the podium with a time of 3:55.17. Indians bagged four gold medals on the first day of weightlifting competitions. Jhilli Dalabehra lifted a total of 151 kg (66kg in snatch and 85kg in clean & jerk) to win the yellow metal in women's under 45 kg category.

SHUTTLEERS IN FINALS
Meanwhile, Indian shuttlers Ashmita Chalia and Gayatri Gopichand registered convincing victories in their respective semi-finals on Thursday to set up an all-Indian summit clash in the women's singles category. While top-seed Ashmita thrashed her Sri Lankan opponent Achini Ratnasiri 21-5, 21-7, Gayatri also had an easy task against Dilmi Dias of Sri Lanka during a 21-17, 21-14 win. The men's singles semi-finals also saw India's dominance as Aryanam Tondon and Sriyal Verma set up final

MARY LEADS PUNJAB TO SECOND WIN

Greater Noida, Dec. 6: Punjab Panthers carried too many guns for the Mumbai Bullets and raked up their second successive 5-2 victory in the Big Boat Indian Boxing League at the Gautam Buddha University Indoor Stadium here on Thursday. The icing on the cake was skipper M.C. Mary Kom's unanimous points win against 2016 Olympic bronze medalist Ingrid Lorena Valencia. Manoj Kumar's defeat at the hands of Bombay Blasters FC played out a 1-1 draw in the Hero Indian Super League encounter at the Mumbai Football Arena here on Thursday. Raphael Messi Boulis (75) put Kerala in the lead but Mumbai hit back with an Amine Chermiti strike (77) to share the spoils. Mumbai and Kerala are without a win in six matches and find themselves at sixth and eighth spot on the table, with one point separating them. Chasing their second win of the season, Kerala Blasters showed plenty of intent but lacked an end product as they dominated the early stages. A 12th minute Raju Galavadi throw-in found its way towards Seityassen Singh who shot wide from a one-on-one with Mumbai goalkeeper Amrinder Singh. — Agencies

Mumbai, Kerala play out draw

Mumbai, Dec. 6: Mumbai City FC and Kerala Blasters FC played out a 1-1 draw in the Hero Indian Super League encounter at the Mumbai Football Arena here on Thursday. Raphael Messi Boulis (75) put Kerala in the lead but Mumbai hit back with an Amine Chermiti strike (77) to share the spoils. Mumbai and Kerala are without a win in six matches and find themselves at sixth and eighth spot on the table, with one point separating them. Chasing their second win of the season, Kerala Blasters showed plenty of intent but lacked an end product as they dominated the early stages. A 12th minute Raju Galavadi throw-in found its way towards Seityassen Singh who shot wide from a one-on-one with Mumbai goalkeeper Amrinder Singh. — Agencies

Bouli, who led the Kerala attack in the absence of Bartholomew Obgeche, was a handoff for the Mumbai defence. Midway through the half, the Cameroonian striker pulled off a brilliant overhead effort from inside the box off Jessel Carneiro's cross from the left, but was denied a goal-of-the-season contender by Amrinder, who kept the shot out. Mumbai slowly regained control in midfield and threatened before the break with Rohan Borges and Moudou Sougou combining to carve out two good chances. Borges did well to find Sougou out wide and the forward's cross for Chermiti was punched away by P. Rehenesh, before a similar cross from Mohammed Larbi headed over the bar. — Agencies



Mumbai City's Mohamed Larbi (left) and Mohamad Rakip of Kerala Blaster vie for the ball in their ISL match at the Mumbai Football Arena on Thursday. — Agencies