

THE ASIAN AGE

TABLOID 25
Dabangg gave me clarity: Sonakshi

NEW DELHI SATURDAY 7 DECEMBER 2019



NATION Controversy
Ecuador denies giving 'Kailaasa' land to godman Nithyananda



WORLD | America
Suspect among 3 dead in shooting by sailor at Florida US naval airbase



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Actress Priyanka Chopra attends the 18th Marrakech International Film Festival on Thursday

Six pleas filed in SC seeking review of Ayodhya verdict

New Delhi: Six petitions were filed in the Supreme Court on Friday seeking review of its November 9 judgement which cleared the way for construction of a Ram Temple at Ayodhya. While five pleas have been filed by Maulana Mufti Hasbullah, Moulaana Mahfoozur Rehman, Mishbahuddin, Mohd Umar and Haji Nahboob, the sixth one has been filed by Muhammad Ayub. Full report on Page 2

Delhi air quality again turns severe

New Delhi: The air quality in the national capital turned 'severe' on Friday, the first time in 20 days, with cold weather and calm winds allowing accumulation of pollutants. The city recorded its overall air quality index at 404, as smog covered the city. Full report on Page 15

Abe, Modi meet in Guwahati soon

New Delhi: The Annual Summit between India and Japan — for which Japanese PM Shinzo Abe will be visiting India — will be held from December 15 to 17. The summit is expected to be held in Guwahati, Assam.

COUNTERPOINT



DELHI TO GET FREE 15G DATA

We would be happy if you had given 1.5 kg onion free, instead!

WEATHER
Max: 24°C
Min: 8.2°C
RH: 78%
Rainfall: Nil
Forecast: Cloudy sky

ASTROGUIDE

Vikari: Dakshinayana
Tithi: Margasira Suddha
Ekadasi all day long
Star: Revati till 1.25 am (Sunday)
Varyam: 12.10 pm to 1.56 pm
Durmuhurtham: 6.37 am to 8.05 am
Rahukalham: 9 am to 10.30 am
SUNSET TODAY 5.24 PM
SUNRISE TOMORROW 7.00 AM
MOONRISE TOMORROW 1.59 AM
MOONSET TODAY 2.13 PM

Wide popular support for police; but some ask: 'Is this how justice is done?' 4 suspects in Hyd rape-murder are shot dead in pre-dawn encounter

JAYENDRA CHATTHANYA, HYDERABAD, DEC. 6

The four accused in the case of gangrape and murder of 27-year-old veterinarian Disha were reportedly killed following a shoot-out with the Cyberabad police on the outskirts of Chattanpally village, around 30 km from the city, during early hours of Friday. Two policemen were injured in the alleged attack. The police claimed that the encounter took place after the accused snatched weapons from the police party and opened fire at the personnel.

The deceased — Mohammed (26) alias Areef of Jakkur, and J Shiva (20), J Naveen (20) and C Chennakeshavulu (20) all of Gundigandla village in Mikatthal mandal of Narayanpet district — were arrested for Disha's gangrape and murder while she was on her way home. The encounter happened in agricultural fields alongside NH 44, just about 250 metres from the spot where Disha's charred body was found.

Disha's murder took

Encounter happened in agricultural fields alongside NH 44, just about 250 metres from the spot where Disha's charred body was found

place on November 27, and the accused arrested two days later and remanded to judicial custody. On December 2, the junior first class magistrate court at Mahabubnagar granted 10 days' custody to the Cyberabad police for further investigation. Police took custody only on December 4 and questioned them at a secret place for two days. On the third day, they were reportedly taken to collect evidence from the crime scene. The accused overpowered the police, attacked them with sticks and pelted stones, snatched two pistols and opened fire. In retaliation, the police also opened fire and the four accused died on the spot.

Cyberabad police commissioner V.C. Sajjanar said the accused confessed to having buried Disha's charred body, power bank, wristwatch

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Forensic experts collect evidence from the spot where the police shot dead four accused in the rape-and-murder case of a 25-year-old woman veterinarian at Shadnagar in Ranga Reddy district on Friday. The Telangana police on Friday said its personnel resorted to "retaliatory" firing after two of the accused opened fire at police after snatching weapons from them on Friday morning.

Crowds flock to encounter site, celebrate

AGE CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, DEC. 6

Hundreds of people gathered at Chattanpally on the outskirts of the city where the accused in the Disha rape case were shot dead by Cyberabad police early Friday morning. The four were killed in an "encounter" a few metres from same spot that Disha was buried alive. As the news spread, a large number of the general public gathered at the location. They brought with them flowers to pay tribute to the victim. They placed them in large numbers at the spot under the bridge where her dead body was found.

Killings carefully planned to shield cops from blame

VIKRAM SHARMA HYDERABAD, DEC. 6

A couple of sharpshooters in the Cyberabad police shot dead the four accused Disha from a distance of about 20 to 25 yards and there is no possibility of any of them witnessing the death of any other, as all were shot dead away from each other. Had they been shot from close range, the gunshot residue would have been visible on their bodies — something that would have suggested foul play.

A week after this newspaper reported how investigators were reportedly "looking at other options" in the backdrop of growing public anger soon after the four were brought to the scene in different vehicles around 4.30 am — while it



Onlookers gather near the encounter site on Friday.

skirts in the early hours of Friday. Sources associated with the investigation of the Disha case and privy to the details of the "encounter", told this newspaper that all four were taken into custody in different vehicles around 4.30 am — while it

was still dark. "They hardly slept last night and were still sleepy when they were brought for reconstruction of the crime scene," sources said. In fact, ever since they were taken into custody on November 4, the four

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Disha's family hail death of suspects

ADITYA CHUNDURU HYDERABAD, DEC. 6

The family of the veterinarian who was brutally raped and murdered on November 27 have hailed the "encounter" killing of Mohd Arif, Jollu Shiva, Jollu Naveen and Ch. Chennakeshavulu, the four men who had been arrested for the crimes. Her father told this newspaper at his residence on Friday: "True

justice is impossible for us — our daughter will never come back alive. But today's incident (the encounter) has alleviated some of our pain." The sister too had similar views. Speaking to the media, she said, "I did not expect there would be an encounter. I thought a trial would go on for a few months and (perpetrators) would be sentenced to death."

More on Page 3

Sparks fly, Cong MPs, Smriti in Unnao tussle

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, DEC. 6

As an emotionally charged discussion on the burning of Unnao rape victim turned into a political row leading to an aggressive face-off between Union minister Smriti Irani and two Congress MPs in the Lok Sabha on Friday, the notice to the adjournment of the House without doing

much business. The BJP, which had earlier sought their unconditional apology, gave a notice to Speaker Om Birla seeking the suspension of the two Opposition lawmakers. The BJP is learnt to have complained that two Congress members should be suspended for their alleged unruly behaviour against Irani in the Lower House. The notice to move a

LOK SABHA

The BJP, which had earlier sought their unconditional apology, gave a notice to the Speaker seeking the suspension of the two Opp. lawmakers

motion to suspend the Congress MPs for the

remaining period of the Winter Session was given by parliamentary affairs minister Prahlaad Joshi, official sources said. The motion will be pressed if by the two members — T.N. Prathapan and Deen Kariakose — do not tender an unconditional apology to the minister in the House, they said. Earlier, during a heated debate in the Lok

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UP rape survivor

on ventilator: Doc

New Delhi: The rape survivor from Unnao, who was airlifted to Delhi and admitted to the Safdarjung Hospital here, is extremely critical and on ventilator. Doctors attending to her said on Friday. The rape survivor suffered 90 per cent burns.

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Centre rejects mercy plea in Nirbhaya case

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, DEC. 6

The Union home minister has rejected the mercy plea of one of the main accused in the Nirbhaya gangrape case and has also forwarded the file to President Ram Nath Kovind. Sources said the MHA had received the file two days ago from the Delhi lieutenant-governor Anil Bajjal, who had also rejected the mercy plea of accused Vinay Sharma. The home ministry, while forwarding the file to the President, has also in its "file notings" recommended that the mercy petition be rejected. However, MHA officials said it was difficult to set a timeframe on when the entire process would be completed since the final decision was now at the discretion of the President.

"Once the President returns the file, the home ministry with his opinion, we can inform the prison authorities as to what action is to be taken against the accused. But no deadline can be fixed for this as the decision is entirely at the discretion of the President," a senior official said. The incident which shocked the entire nation took place in Delhi on December 16, 2012, when the 23-year-old paramedic student was brutally raped and assaulted by a group of men inside a moving bus. The incident had triggered nationwide protests, leading to changes in the criminal laws dealing with rape and other sexual offences against women. A Nirbhaya fund was also constituted for states to deal with the cases of sexual offences against women.

The MHA had received the file two days ago from the Delhi L-G Anil Bajjal

Enforce Inner Line Permit in Assam before CAB: AGP

MANOJ ANAND GUWAHATI, DEC. 6

Bogged down by excessive criticism, the regional Assam Gana Parishad (AGP) on Friday said they have written a letter to Union home minister Amit Shah demanding that the Centre ensure constitutional safeguards for the indigenous people of Assam before bringing in the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill. The regional party's stand on CAB has led to a divide among its rank

Northeast bandh call on Dec. 10

Guwahati: The influential North East Students' Union (Nesu) on Friday called for a 11-hour Northeast bandh on December 10 to protest against the Central govt's move to introduce the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill. PAGE 2 and file as senior leaders Pratulla Kumar Mahanta, Brindaban Goswami and

Ramendra Narayan Kalita were absent from the emergency meeting of the party. Three AGP legislators — Anil Bora, Keshab Mahanta and Phani Bhusan Choudhury, ministers in the BJP-led state government — have been accused of maintaining a "dubious" stand on the bill while the party's seniors are opposing it. Mr Bora, also the party chief, called an emergency meeting of AGP leaders on Thursday and

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NOBEL TRADITION



Nobel laureates in economics Abhijit Banerjee and Esther Duflo hold up a signed chair as part of the traditional Nobel Chair Signing ceremony at the Nobel Museum in Stockholm on Friday.

We are not criminals, says Farooq Abdullah in a letter to Shashi Tharoor on his personal letterhead which mentions his residence as 'sub-jail'

6 pleas filed in SC seeking review of Ayodhya verdict

Term judgment contrary to law, self-contradictory

PARMOM KUMAR NEW DELHI, DEC. 6

The All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB) on Friday said it has filed six pleas against the Ayodhya verdict, which stated that the entire disputed site must be handed over to a trust for the construction of Lord Rama's temple...

Ayodhya judgment appears to have rewarded Hindu parties for illegalities carried out in 1932, 1949 and 1992, claim pleas

The petitioners have emphasised on peace in the wake of a statement by Muslim intelligentsia appealing against seeking the reconsideration of the verdict in the larger interest of peace and tranquility...

The AIMPLB-backed petitions would see senior counsel Rajeev Dhavan and Anshu Jhansi arguing their case if they are heard in open court. Normally review petitions are decided by judges in their chambers by circulation. However, in some cases, the petition seeking reconsideration of a verdict are heard in the open court.

BJP's move to form govt with Ajit Pawar's support was 'misadventure' - Sushil Modi, Bihar deputy CM

SHORT TAKES

SC stays conviction of MP BJP MLA

Bhopal: In a setback to Madhya Pradesh government, Supreme Court on Friday dismissed its conviction and sentence of a BJP MLA in an assault case...

Certified copies to be available online

Bhopal: Indore bench of Madhya Pradesh high court has become the first in the country to make certified copies available to advocates and litigants online...

Speaker censures Babul for chatting

New Delhi: Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Friday censured Union minister Babul Supriyo for chatting during the Question Hour...

RLYS RETIRES 32 EMPLOYEES PREMATURELY

New Delhi: Indian Railways has given premature retirement to 32 officers belonging to different categories of services. All these officers are above the age of 50 years...



Trinamul Congress MPs protest against the price hike of onions at Parliament House in New Delhi on Friday. - PRITAM BANDYOPADHYAY

Govt says imported variety to arrive by Jan. 20

Onion prices touch ₹165/kg, leave consumers in tears

New Delhi, Dec. 6: Showing no signs of cooling down, retail onion prices have continued to spiral, touching as high as ₹165/kg on Friday even as the government grapples to boost the supplies through imports...

Thieves loot onion from shop in Odisha, leave other veggies

AKSHAYA KUMAR SAHOO BHUBANESWAR, DEC. 6

Salpur police station alleging that onions weighing around 10 kg were stolen from his shop on Thursday night. The miscreants broke into the shop late in the night...

and asked MMTTC to import onions and it should arrive by January 20, minister of state for consumer affairs Raseelab Datta said during Question Hour in the Rajya Sabha. The government has approved import of up to 1.2 lakh tonnes of onions to check the ongoing price rise...

'Ayurvedic drug helps those with diabetes'

New Delhi, Dec. 6: Independent clinical trials conducted at the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) revealed that ayurvedic drug BGR-34 has therapeutic efficacy for treating newly diagnosed type-2 diabetes...

Fadnavis slams clean chit to Ajit

AGE CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI, DEC. 6

In the wake of the clean chit given to NCP leader Ajit Pawar in the Vidarbha irrigation scam by the Maharashtra anti-corruption Bureau (ACB), former chief minister and BJP leader Devendra Fadnavis said that he hadn't approved the clean chit...

Northeast student body calls for bandh over CAB

Guwahati, Dec. 6: The influential Northeast Students' Union (NESU) on Friday called for an 11-hour Northeast bandh on December 10 to protest against the Central Government's move to provide Indian citizenship to non-tribe migrants coming from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan...

Hold TN panchayat elections except in 9 districts, says SC

New Delhi, Dec. 6: The Supreme Court on Friday cleared the deck for the holding of panchayat elections in Tamil Nadu as it directed that the elections would take place at village, intermediate and district levels for rest of the districts...

Akki: Have applied for Indian passport

New Delhi, Dec. 6: Declaring that he never denied or denied a document to prove his Indianness, Bollywood superstar Akshay Kumar on Friday said he has applied for a Canadian passport...

● The NESU has exempted Nagaland from the bandh due to the ongoing Hornbill Festival

● The CAB was an election promise of the BJP in 2014 and 2019 Lok Sabha elections interests of the indigenous people of the region and facilitate the permanent settlement of those who have entered the country...

As state goes to polls today, voters rue lack of jobs Unemployment haunts Jkhand

YOUNA GUSAI ARKI/TAMAR/KHUNTI, DEC. 6

Time stands still in this hilly stretch of hills in Jharkhand: Ulihatu village, the birthplace of "Birsas" across the country, state politicians visit, eulogise Birsa Munda, and seek votes in his name. But when it comes to development and infrastructure, things have moved at a snail's pace...

Preparations are in place to hold peaceful and transparent polling, Jharkhand CEO Vinay Kumar

intended to snatch from "prakarti (nature)" for sale to "outsiders". These efforts triggered the Citizen's Movement of the Pothohar region. Ulihatu is one of many villages where my government has not made any announcement to have the two Acts, but no one has pointed out anything...



Security personnel conduct a route march on the eve of the second phase of the Jharkhand Assembly election at Tamar constituency near Ranchi on Friday. According to the police, more than 42,000 security personnel, including Central forces, have been deployed in the 20 seats spread across seven districts.

Expedite returning of land in Ooty to TN govt for setting up medical college, says DMK MP A. Raja

Will support CAB if citizenship given to each and every refugee

— Mamata Banerjee, West Bengal CM

MEAs confirms death of Indians in Sudan

New Delhi: The ministry of external affairs on Friday said that six Indians had been confirmed to be dead so far in a reported LPG tanker blast that took place earlier this week in a ceramic factory in Sudan...

14 coal-laden bogies catch fire

Bhubaneswar: A major fire broke out in as many as 14 bogies of a coal-laden train at Singapur Road station of Rayagada district...

Indian sprinter Dutee opens hotels

Bhubaneswar: India's fastest woman Dutee Chand, who has made multiple international records in 100-metre races and won for the country several international accolades...

Cong MPs, Smriti in tussle

Continued from Page 1
Smriti on the brink of a rape victim in Unnao, of the two MPs left their seats and entered the aisle near the Well, when Ms Irani was speaking...

2 steal rifles from Army Camp

Suspected terrorists identified from CCTV footage; high alert sounded across state, rail stations

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY BHOPAL, DEC 6

Two unidentified men, attired in black tracksuits, early on Friday, intruded into an Army camp at Pachmarhi in Madhya Pradesh's Hoshangabad district and decamped with two automatic weapons...

M.L. Charji, preliminary investigations suggested that two men landed in Piparia railway station by a train in the midnight of Thursday and headed to Pachmarhi Army camp in a taxi.

They then returned to Piparia railway station in the same taxi and might have caught a train. Sources said police identified the taxi driver and detained him for interrogation.

They approached the sentries posted at the check post near the Army camp, identifying them as military personnel, and took away two rifles and some live cartridges after diverting their attention.

The duo had carried something in two huge bags when they returned from the Army camp to piparia railway station...

CBI books HC judge in college scam case

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, DEC 5

The CBI on Friday booked Allahabad high court judge Justice S.N. Shukla in a corruption case for allegedly favouring a private medical college in 2017.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi greets former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh at a function to mark the death anniversary of B.R. Ambedkar at the Parliament House in New Delhi on Friday.

MEA to decide on Jadhav case after detailed report

Pakistan must act against 26/11 perpetrators: India

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, DEC 6

India had placed a request earlier to Pakistan for "immediate, effective and unhindered consular access" to imprisoned Indian former naval officer Kulbhusan Jadhav...

The MEA said it was Pakistan's responsibility to take action in the 26/11 trial case against the perpetrators of that terror attack.

Meanwhile, on the Jadhav matter, New Delhi said it was in touch with Islamabad through diplomatic channels. It may be recalled that Pakistan had allowed Indian Charge d'Affaires (CdA) Gaurav Ahluwalia to gain consular access to Mr. Jadhav on September 2, this year.

Decide TN editor's issue in 4 weeks, SC tells HC

PARMOOD KUMAR NEW DELHI, DEC 6

The Supreme Court on Friday asked Madras high court to decide within four weeks a matter related to a challenge against Tamil magazine Nakkheeran editor R. Gopal...

The top court had on July 12, 2019, had stayed further proceedings against the magazine until the high court decides to decide the matter pending before it within four weeks given its urgency...

Nithyananda was here, but denied asylum: Ecuador

SRIDHAR KUMARASWAMI NEW DELHI, DEC 6

South American nation Ecuador on Friday confirmed that controversial "godman" Nithyananda visited Ecuador recently but denied that he was given asylum or that an island had been sold to him. India, meanwhile, on Friday said it had cancelled his passport over a year ago...



Nithyananda left Ecuador on Friday on his way to Haiti. All the information published ... in India, is based on the information which allegedly has been sourced from ... a website which is supposedly maintained by Nityananda or by his people.

On reports that the "godman" had through his website declared a separate "nation" on an island purchased by his followers, the MEA spokesperson Raveesh Kumar said: "Setting up a website is different from creating a nation. He (Nithyananda) has opened a website."

In an official statement from New Delhi, Ecuador said: "The embassy of Ecuador categorically denies ... that self styled Guru Nithyananda was given asylum by Ecuador or has been helped by the government of Ecuador in purchasing any land or island in South America near or far from Ecuador."

Net blockade: JK NPP calls for Jammu 'bandh' Dec. 7

Jammu, Dec. 6: The Jammu and Kashmir National Panthers Party (JKNPP) on Friday called for a 'Jammu bandh' on December 7 to protest the internet blockade following the abrogation of certain provisions of Article 370 and the setting up of a toll plaza at Sarans.

The government. Over 34 organisations, including traders, transporters and students, are supporting the 'bandh' call. JK NPP chairman Harsh Dev said, "We called the government to abstain from repressing the genuine aspirations of the people of the Jammu region."

Another PMC Bank depositor dies

Mumbai, Dec. 6: A 71-year-old depositor of fraud-hit PMC Bank died of a heart attack at his residence here, his relative said on Friday.

The relative said Jhandani had an account in Punjab & Maharashtra Cooperative Bank (PMC Bank), which was put under restrictions by the RBI in September after a alleged ₹4,355 crore scam at the bank. He said that his death was nothing to do with the bank scam...

Enforce Inner Line Permit in Assam: AGP

Continued from Page 1
AGP leader told the meeting, AGP legislator and state water resources minister Keshab Mahanta said their letter had asked for constitutional safeguards for the indigenous people of Assam before bringing in the CAB...

Many civil society leaders, including singer Zubeen Garg, JNU and DU students extended support to protest against CAB

The regional party's demands also include reserving 100 out of 126 Assembly seats for representatives belonging to the indigenous communities of the state. Party insiders, however, feel that the move has come very late.

The speakers in the rally also clarified: "This is not a war against the Bengali immigrants. This is a war to protect our motherland from illegal immigrants."

Activists from various fields including Tarali Sarma, Manas Robin, Amrita Gogoi, senior journalist Ajit Bhuyan and social activist Udayaditya Chharal participated the protest rally.

The CAB seeks to amend a 1955 law to grant citizenship to persecuted Hindus, Buddhists, Sikhs, Muslims, Parsis and Christians from Bangladesh, Afghanistan and Pakistan.

4 suspects in Hyd rape shot dead in encounter

Continued from Page 1
at the crime spot before the shoot-out happened. "A team of 10 took the accused in two police vans to the crime spot," he said. "The four tried to mislead the police about where they buried Disha's belongings and gathered together. They snatched pistols from two police men and attacked with stones and sticks."

Injured in their head and arm, respectively. They were admitted to Care Hospital and are out of danger, he said. "The police party warned them to not open fire," the commissioner said. "But, Mohammed and Chennakeshavaulu, who grabbed the pistols, fired at the police and police returned fire. After a lull, the police team found the accused dead."

Killings carefully planned

Continued from Page 1
men had been kept apart from one another. It was only when they were trying to conceal infamy that they were confronted with each other. "From the day they were arrested all were wrapped after being told about the public's rage," sources said.

When asked whether all were scared, sources replied in the positive. One even pleaded that they had "committed a big mistake." Interestingly, there are different versions doing the rounds about the discovery of Disha's mobile phone, power bank and watch. While sources indicated that it became known on Thursday itself where it was hidden, for some time it was reported to be found only on Friday after the encounter.

NHRC plans to investigate

Continued from Page 1
for any unexplained activity by the accused on the spot", which led to the death of all four. "Pointing out that the deceased were arrested by the police during investigations and a judgment was yet to be pronounced, the rights body said if the arrested persons were actually guilty, they must be punished in accordance with the law."

A man of honour should never forget what he is because he sees what others are is a tear

THE ASIAN AGE

7 DECEMBER 2019

Encounter in Hyderabad sets dangerous example

The gangrape-murder of a young veterinarian in Hyderabad earlier this week had stunned and angered India. Women becoming prey in public spaces was becoming a national nightmare...

This is due to the deplorable working of the judicial system. Instead of working to repair this fundamental aspect of our democracy, even MPs were seized by bloodlust and urged people to take the law into their own hands after the gruesome Hyderabad incident...

The prayers of those seeking instant justice were swiftly answered. At around 3 am Friday, Hyderabad's policemen seem to have shot dead the four accused in cold blood. The official version claims the accused were taken to the scene of the crime and executed there...

The people have largely approved of the cold-blooded 'encounter'. They showered flower petals on the police. KCR has apparently given his best political capital...

This is how the Taliban rendered justice. They dispensed with the idea of due process. They were initially applauded, just as the government and police have been in Hyderabad...

Key BJP leaders who approve the disturbing recent 'justice-delivery' in Hyderabad must know this can trigger demands for instant death (without trial) for an MLA of their party in Uttar Pradesh accused of rape...

PM bested by Ajit Pawar!

Poor Prime Minister Narendra Modi: Bested by a Maratha named Ajit Pawar of the NCP. The Maharashtra government's Chief Minister... Bureau filed an affidavit before the Nagpur bench of Bombay high court...

Ironically, the BJP rode to power in Maharashtra in 2014 by campaigning against Ajitdada's alleged misdeeds. The same party, in power for just three days last month, decided it needed to continue in government at any price...

THE ASIAN AGE

T. VENKATREDDY Editor in Chief

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Subhani



HYDERABAD RAPE-MURDER: THE AFTERMATH

Not in my name! Some questions on shooting



Ashley Tellis

Hyderabadis woke up to a terrifying morning. In the early hours, the four rapists and murderers of a veterinarian doctor going home were shot dead in the same area. It was an 'encounter' killing...

No, this was mob justice. The undivided state of Andhra Pradesh has a long history of it. They have killed many people, from acid throwers to rapists to Naxalites to other dissenters in this fashion...

The police and the media have been incompetent throughout. The name of the victim, according to Section 229A of the Indian Penal Code and a directive by the Union home ministry of January 2019, should not have been disclosed...

rape, the system collapses to prove that it was not rape at all. It lets the victim to burn the victim in within inches of her life. When lower caste, lower class men rape, they become good fodder in which to produce a fake catharsis and call it a demand from 'angry citizens'...

Why does it make us feel better? Will all rapes stop today? Is this how justice works? So, all we need to do to people who commit crimes is to get them out on the roads and lynch them?

Is this how one calms a temper? By killing four men in cold blood? By breaking with law and order, due process and any semblance of democracy? If the police do this in our names, what are we legitimising here? Handcuffs for thousands of men rape and do much worse every day...

Why does it make us feel better? Is this a catharsis? Is celebrating the murders of four stupid, disenfranchised and dehumanised men who did something terribly wrong a catharsis?

Why does it make us feel better? Is this how justice works? So, all we need to do to people who commit any crimes is to get them out on the roads and lynch them, shoot them down? Is this really what we want?

This is a deeply juvenile, masculinist idea of justice and solves none of the structural conditions that produce rape. How does this make us any different from Saudi Arabia?

LETTERS

I CONDEMN CAB!

The Union Cabinet cleared the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill 2019 on Wednesday, paving the way for its introduction in Parliament. The bill seeks to amend the Citizenship Act 1955 by seeking to grant citizenship to undocumented Hindus, Christians, Sikhs, Parsis, Jains and Buddhists from Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan who came to India on or before December 31, 2014...

M. Hasan Bengaluru

NO IMPLEMENTATION

THE GOVERNMENT'S slogan Beti Bachao Beti Padhao seems to be a superficial one when on a daily basis women are being treated worse than animals. The recent horrific incident in Telangana did not 'stir the nation's soul' as with in a few days two more incidents have shocked the nation. We have been speaking about stringent punishment (capital punishment) but then there is a lack of implementation in reality.

Syed Abul Momin Navi Mumbai

FM'S NONSENSE

THE RISING onion prices are making Indians cry under the present government. Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman made a shameful and disgraceful statement that she does not eat onions. This is nothing but a great insult to Indians, for whom onion prices are more than oil prices and the minister does not seem to be bothered about it. The fact of the matter is that the people of India actually do not bother about whether ministers eat onions or not but they must bring down prices. It is high time politicians stopped talking nonsense on the onion crisis in the country.

Bhagwan Thadani Pune

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



A. Rauf K. Khattak

Is there a real chance of a return to peace in Afghanistan?

Afghans love their country like no other and call it 'Gran' (the most precious) Afghanistan. Today it is going through a dire existential period, perhaps its last. It is estimated that, since the war in Afghanistan began in 2001, over 111,000 Afghans (including civilians, soldiers and militants) have been killed, and about 30,000 civilians wounded so far; the price paid in the hope to bag the bigdest trophy. If it keeps its boundaries intact, then the sacrifices may not have been entirely in vain.

In this final round, great dangers are lurking for the unity of the country. As we know, linguistically and culturally, Afghanistan is not one nation. War, despite its horrors, is sometimes referred to as 'creative destruction'.

The First Afghan War did much to define the modern boundaries of the Afghan state. But if war can be creative in one instance, it can be destructive in another. The First World War completely destroyed the Austro-Hungarian Empire and gave birth to several states based

on nationalism. The Second World War reduced Great Britain to a small island - notwithstanding having won the war by saving the way for the liberation of many colonies.

Boundaries have been appearing and disappearing, but ethnicities are more or less occupying the same spaces. In a move bordering on insanity, President Trump tweeted away the agreement reached in Doha last September on a very flimsy pretext. Now, faced with the possibility of an impeachment, he is in search of some action to lift the gloom in his camp. He has activated his team to restart the Doha process. Though he had promised the American people he would bring their troops home, particularly from Afghanistan and the Middle East, this campaign pledge has been largely unmet. Troop deployment

has only increased since he took office as President, with about 200,000 American forces currently overseas.

President Trump's diplomatic move to restart the negotiations stands sharply in contrast with what the Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Mark Milley told ABC News in a recent interview, who said that the clear objective set by the US for Afghanistan had not been achieved. American forces would stay for many more years in Afghanistan. It is largely deemed a threat to the US mainland.

Did he mean the total defeat of the Taliban? Is that a realistic objective after 19 years of conflict and an ascendant Taliban? It is possible that the US President may, in characteristic fashion, withdraw a major portion of his forces via tweet, leaving the Doha process. Though a pyrrhic victory for the Taliban, Pakistan's efforts are directed towards facilitating the US withdrawal in order to elicit a 'do or die' cheer from it. It is a myopic policy. Pakistan

should work for comprehensive peace in that country. Pakistan has been playing above its weight in its new posture, and has lent its shoulders to others to fire their guns from.

It has chosen sides in the conflict under a policy driven by fear of encirclement. As a result, it is disliked by many (not all) Afghans. If the Taliban continue to pursue their objective through military conquests, it will be by wading through the sea of blood.

One part of Afghanistan has spiritedly embraced the zeitgeist or spirit of the times. The other is pursuing a caliphate. This is a powerful mix for a supernova taking shape across Pakistan's west and bordering on many dangers for Pakistan. Seismic shocks travel through borders, when a star collapses, it gives rise to the formation of others. It is thus important for Pakistan in particular and other neighbours such as China, Russia and Iran to work for comprehensive peace in Afghanistan. The Taliban need to heed the

words of the Greek poet Hesiod: 'observe due measure, for right timing is in all things the most important factor'. The Afghans need a break. They have been through so many tragedies and horrors of war. I recount one if the mystery of dreams is believed in. Jets bombed Zarmina's house in Nawza Kaley in Logar province. The corpses could not be distinguished from one another.

They were all buried together, near where they died. Zarmina kept appearing in the dreams of her half brother, asking him to make her whole. Bewildered, he searched every nook and cranny of her house, until he found, in the smallest pocket of his waistcoat, the tip of a woman's finger still etched in henna. He had left it there in the confusion of the funeral. He wrapped it in a clean cloth, and buried it where the others were - after which, Zarmina's soul rested in peace. By arrangement with Dawn

Kia set to shake up SUV market

Overleaf

Countries eye tariffs on internet economy

quick BITES

INDICATORS % Sensex 40445.15 -0.82 Nifty 50 11921.50 -0.81 S&P 500 3,147.47 +0.96 Dollar (€) 71.21 -0.15 Pound Sterling (£) 93.73 -0.17 Euro (€) 78.76 -0.08 Gold (10gm) (₹) 37,707.378 -0.99 Brent crude (\$/bbl) \$64.05 +0.66 IN 10-Yr bond yield +6.661 +0.052 US 10-Yr T-bill yield +1.862 +0.067

₹36,000 crore disbursed under PM-Kisan

The Centre has so far disbursed around ₹ 36,000 crore to beneficiaries under PM-Kisan programme that aims to boost farmers' income, Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar said in the Rajya Sabha...

NEFT will be available 24x7 from Dec. 16



In a bid to promote digital transactions, the RBI said round-the-clock transactions will be allowed under the National Electronic Funds Transfer (NEFT) system from December 16...

Forex kitty swells above \$451-bn mark

Foreign exchange reserves gained \$2.484 bn to touch a new high of \$451.08 bn in the week to Nov. 29, RBI data showed. In the previous week, the reserves had increased by \$347 mn to \$448.6 bn...

E-com cos to file FDI compliance report annually

The Centre has made it mandatory for e-commerce companies like Amazon and Flipkart to submit FDI policy compliance report by statutory auditor by Sept. 30 every year...

Breather for public sector banks post-amalgamation PSBs may get nod to hold over 10% in two insurers

FALAKNAAZ SYED MUMBAI, DEC. 6

Public sector banks that are merger candidates may be allowed to hold more than 10 per cent stake in two insurance companies after their merger comes into effect provided they give up management control in one of them...

An entity holding over 10 per cent in an insurance company is categorised as a promoter while one holding below that limit is termed as an investor. Under existing rules, one bank cannot be a promoter in multiple insurance companies of the same segment...

Write off DHFL exposure

FALAKNAAZ SYED MUMBAI, DEC. 6

The exposure of insurance companies to the debt-laden DHFL will have to be written off using due process, said Union Finance Minister Chandra Khuntia...

Development Authority of India (rdai) said that the regulator is considering several proposals and one of them could be a relaxation of the existing rules on promoter holding...

Consumer confidence dips to 5-year low

SANGEETHA G CHENNAI, DEC. 6

Consumer confidence in the country continued to weaken in November and dipped to the lowest level since Narendra Modi came to power in 2014. The Current Situation Index and the Future Expectations Index in RBI's consumer confidence survey was seen declining...

optimism and that above 100 cities. The index remained pessimistic, barring a brief relief in March 2018. However, this was the lowest level since March 2014. RBI's index is available from that month...

Jaipur, Kolkata, Lucknow, Mumbai, Patna and Thiruvananthapuram. Perceptions and expectations on the general economic situation were also pessimistic. Perceptions on employment scenario, the price situation, income and spending are obtained from 5,334 households across these cities...

Further rise in prices in the year ahead. The net response on prices was 84 per cent pessimistic. The net response on the current perception of employment was 33 per cent pessimistic. On a net basis, around 69 per cent respondents found that spending has increased and 80 per cent thought it will further increase...

Netflix to spend ₹3,000 cr on Indian content

ARI ALSTEDTER, RAGINI SAXENA & SAM NAGARAJA DEC. 6

Netflix Inc. is plowing Rs 3,000 crore (\$420 million) this year and next to produce more local content in India, one of the biggest and most-crowded markets for the world's largest paid streaming service provider...

"You'll start to see a lot of content on the screen big investment," Chief Executive Officer Reed Hastings said at an event in New Delhi on Friday. "We're really trying to invest in that becoming more Indian in the content offering."

Hastings has said Netflix's goal is to attract 100 million customers in India—almost 25 times its estimated base there with one year.

popular country is a priority for company, which is effectively blocked in China. Disney's Hotstar, which is already the leader in India, will get a boost when the entertainment giant eventually introduces Disney+, a new streaming service it started last month in some markets.

With a market that could hit almost 850 million smartphone users by 2022, compared with about half a billion now, India is drawing all the major global players as well as a slew of local streaming firms backed by Bollywood production houses. The \$500 million Indian video-streaming market could grow to 10 by 2024...

Highlighting the competition, Apple Inc. jumped into the market in September with its Apple TV+, while Walmart Inc.'s local asset, Flipkart Online Services, unveiled its plans in August to start a free Indian video streaming service. "We got one eye to being very competitive and one eye to what will be shared around the world," he said.

Most weavers earn less than ₹10,000

SANGEETHA G CHENNAI, DEC. 6

The decades-old declining trend in the number of looms and weavers has been arrested, as per the handloom census conducted after a gap of 12 years. But the sorry part is that 67 per cent of the weaver households earn less than Rs 10,000 per month and 67 per cent earn less than Rs 5,000. As per the fourth handloom census, 31.44 lakh households are engaged in weaving and allied activities in India...



According to him, many of the weavers are actually labourers of master weavers. They get wages for weaving and they are given. Only a small percentage of weavers independently buy yarn and sell fabric. About 78 per cent of these households live in 'kucha' or 'semi-pucca' houses, which indicate their level of poverty.

Further, there are 28.2 lakh looms, which include 28.3 lakh weavers. Around 37 per cent of these handloom workers have either not attended school or have schooling below the primary level. Women constitute 72 per cent of these workers.

India is snacking nation, finds global survey

RITVIK MUJHERJEE KOLKATA, DEC. 6

Lexically, snack means a small service of food, generally eaten between meals, but in India, snacks are increasingly being swapped for meals, finds a survey by Deloitte and international firm Mondelez. The study is conducted online by The Harris Poll on behalf of the Nasdaq-listed food giant Mondelez International Inc. between September 16 and September 27, 2019, among 6,068 global adults with ages of 18 years and above. Hold your breath. The Mondelez study has many

more interesting things to report. Indians are more likely than those in other countries to participate in cultural snacking rituals that are often enjoyed compared to a global average of +15 per cent, with three in four, or 75 per cent, Indian adults saying that food is a major part of their identity. Seven out of 10 Indians agree that snacking is a part of their culture through the snacks they eat—68 per cent versus the global average of +10 per cent. Snacking also triggers nostalgia and a sense of belonging. As high as 77

per cent millennials say that their fondest childhood memories include sharing a snack with their parents. Indian snacking seems to be a priority for Indian snackers. "Moments of indulgence continue to have an important place in daily routines. 80 per cent of consumers agree there is no time and no place for a healthy snack, and a time and a place for an indulgent one," the study says.

Deepak Iyer, President, Mondelez India, on his parts, said, "With this study, we've examined the relationship people have with snacking, the functional and emotional role it plays in day-to-day life, and how the future of food is changing. In India, snacking is more than just what we eat. It is a tradition and an important part of our cultural identity."

The Mondelez survey spans 12 markets including the US (504), Canada (506), Mexico (505), Brazil (515), France (501), Germany (502), India (503), Russia (515), China (503), and 508), and 504).

Other key groups analysed include: centenarians ages 18-22 (602), Millennials ages 23-38 (2,404), Gen Xers ages 39-54 (1,702), Boomers ages 55-73 (1,236), and the Silent Generation ages 75- (124). "This survey is another strong pedestal to show, case that our vision to lead the future of snacking is perfectly aligned with the growing demand for snacks," said Siddhartha Mukherjee, Senior Director-Strategy, Insights & Analytics at Mondelez India.

Voda Idea to shut down if no relief comes: Birla

MADHUSUDAN SAHOO NEW DELHI, DEC. 6

Anticipating a 'bailout option' from the government to save the company from closure, Vodafone Idea Chairman Kumar Mangalam Birla said on Friday there is no sense that good money should follow bad money. Birla said the company would face a shutdown, rather than a forced closure, if the government doesn't provide relief to the telecom service providers.

He said the Aditya Birla Group will not invest money in the company in the absence of relief from the government. "If we are not getting anything then I think it is end of the story for Vodafone Idea, which will shutdown if the government does not provide relief on the liability it faces in past statutory dues following a Supreme Court order," Birla said at an event here.

Vodafone Idea Ltd, India's second largest mobile service provider by subscriber base, is facing pressure from the government on payment dues of a staggering Rs 53,000 crore. Birla has called for a dialogue between government

officials and the judiciary to agree to a settlement for the troubled operators, but he warned that "if these came to naught, I think it is the end of the story for Vodafone Idea, which is the telecom sector is key to India's digital goals, more relief" from the government should be forthcoming.

On the massive dues to the government over adjusted gross revenues (AGR), Birla said, "The big elephant in the room is AGR. Which is actually I think, something which lies in the court of judiciary. I believe government can have a dialogue. This was a suit filed by the government against telecom service providers. Vodafone Idea shares fell over 5 per cent on Friday, spiked by Birla's comments. The stock slumped 5.34 per cent at Rs 6.92. The Supreme Court had upheld the government position that non-telecom revenues have to be included in the AGR for calculating AGR. Since the government has won, it gives them headroom to talk to judiciary and try to find some way out. I don't know which form or shape it takes," he added.

Sebi asks LIC, SBI, BoB to cut UTI AMC stake

New Delhi, Dec. 6

Market regulator Sebi on Friday directed three public sector financial institutions—LIC, SBI and BoB—to dilute their stakes in UTI Asset Management Company (AMC) by December next year.

In the case of non-compliance with the directions, the shareholding and voting rights of the companies in UTI AMC and UTI Trustee in excess of 9.99 per cent and corporate benificiaries will be frozen all the time they comply with the orders. UTI AMC is promoted by four public sector financial institutions as sponsors—State Bank of India (SBI), Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), Bank of Baroda (BoB) and Punjab National Bank (PNB)—with each of them presently holding 18.24 per cent stake in the fund house, while private equity firm T Rowe Price International holds 26 per cent stake in UTI AMC.

The Sebi observed that LIC, SBI and BoB are the sponsors of LIC Mutual Fund, SBI Mutual Fund and Baroda Mutual Fund, respectively, and they also hold more than 10 per cent stake each in these mutual funds.

In addition, LIC, SBI and BoB are also sponsors of UTI AMC and hold more than 10 per cent stake individually in LIC Mutual Fund, SBI Mutual Fund and Baroda Mutual Fund, respectively. The Sebi amended the mutual fund regulations in July 2018, whereby a shareholder or a sponsor owning at least 10 per cent stake in an equity mutual fund is not allowed to have 10 per cent or more stake in another mutual fund which is operating in the country. In addition, such entities are not allowed to have a representation on the board of another mutual fund house. —PTI

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RBL Bank raises ₹2,025 cr

Mumbai, Dec. 6: Private sector lender RBL Bank has raised ₹2,025 crore from 40 investors, including non-banking lender Bajaj Finance, to bolster its capital base.

The bank's performance has been under pressure in the past few quarters due to its exposure to a few stressed accounts. The fund was raised through institutional placement at ₹351 a share, the bank said in a statement on Friday.

Bajaj Finance, which has had a partnership with RBL to sell co-branded credit cards, has invested ₹150 crore to get a 0.87 per cent stake, and is among the largest investors in the issue.

The bank's overall capital adequacy will move up to 15.3 per cent with the core tier 1 buffer at 14.3 per cent, as against 12.3 per cent and 11.3 per cent, respectively, in September. It said in the statement. The bank is now growing to lift the ban on more books and movies, become digital, potentially reducing revenues further.

India and South Africa

document, reviewed by Reuters this week, saying that rising digitalisation could have a major role of the temporary moratorium last year, citing the potential of 3D printing to manufacture

Maruti recalls 63,493 units of Ciaz, Ertiga

New Delhi, Dec. 6: Maruti Suzuki India (MSI) on Friday said it is recalling 63,493 units of petrol smart hybrid (SHVS) variants of Ciaz, Ertiga and XL6 for a possible defect in the motor generator unit (MGU).

The company will inspect 63,493 vehicles of petrol SHVS of Ciaz, Ertiga and XL6 for a possible issue with the Motor Generator Unit (MGU), MSI said in a statement.

A possible defect may have occurred in the MGU during manufacturing by an overseas global part supplier, it added.

The vehicles were manufactured between January 1, 2019 to November 21, 2019.

"In the interest of its customers, the company has decided to proactively recall the vehicles for inspection and those found ok will be released immediately," MSI said.

Vehicles requiring replacement of engine part will be retained for part replacement free of cost. Starting December 6, 2019 owners of affected vehicles will be contacted. —PTI

15.86 L cancer patients in 2018: Govt

New Delhi, Dec. 6: There were 15.86 lakh cancer cases in the country in 2018, Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan said in Lok Sabha on Friday.

The minister said cancer is diagnosed and treated at various levels in the health care system and the treatment of cancer is by surgery, radiotherapy, chemotherapy and palliative care.

Trade war in digital space: 20-year duty freeze ends next week

Countries ever-tariff on internet economy

**EMMA FARGE
GENEVA, DEC. 6**

A 20-year global moratorium on imposing tariffs on digital trade could end next week if India or South Africa makes good on threats, according to trade officials and documents, potentially forcing people to pay duties on software and most digital goods.

Since 1998, World Trade Organization (WTO) members have renewed a ban on import duties on so-called "electronic transmissions", worth up to \$255 billion a year by one estimate.

Some think this favoured rich countries, given it received strong backing from Washington at the outset and most of the loss custom revenues are thought to be born by developing countries.

Pressure is now growing to lift the ban as more books and movies, become digital, potentially reducing revenues further. India and South Africa are the two countries that document, reviewed by Reuters this week, saying that rising digitalisation could have a major role of the temporary moratorium last year, citing the potential of 3D printing to manufacture

Kotak sees Sensex at 45K

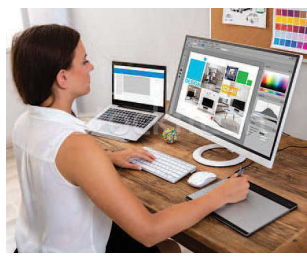
**FC BUREAU
MUMBAI, DEC. 6**

Kotak Securities market outlook for 2020 sees Sensex crossing 45,000 in 2020. A handful of key stocks to watch are likely to move up to levels by December 2020.

The brokerage house expects mid-caps in cement and pharma as they have good investment bets along with stocks from sectors like corporate banks, NBFCs (larger ones backed by strong parentage), oil & gas, capital goods, consumer healthcare & agrochemicals.

"We would prefer mid-cap companies in sectors like cement and pharma as they have better RoE (return on equity) profile and trade at far lower valuations than their larger peers," Kotak Securities said.

"Broad recovery in economy and incentives to taxpayers in the forthcoming Union Budget were key to mid-cap and small-caps out-



performance in future," Kotak Securities said. "For the mid & small caps to outperform the large caps we need a broad recovery in the economy with improved credit offtake, better print of IP & GDP growth. Hopefully, if the forthcoming Union Budget provides some incentives to taxpayers and investors then we could see a broader rally in the market which could then revive interest



in the mid & small-cap space," Kotak Securities said. The Year gone-by has seen Nifty delivering double-digit returns mainly led by a handful of key stocks. The broader market is still reeling under pressure with both Mid Cap and Small Cap Index showing negative returns in this calendar year to third of the year. Market mood is more pessimistic than what is reflected in the real economy. This is mainly because of improvement in corporate tax rate and strong FPI & SIP flows. The disconnect between equity markets and economy could stay for some time as high-frequency indicators are not showing any signs of improvement whereas markets could remain at elevated levels on hopes of certain sops likely to come in the forthcoming Union Budget.

Brokers willing to spend on new tech

**FC BUREAU
MUMBAI, DEC. 6**

Technology will be an important factor for broking business from 2020 and more brokers are going to invest in digital tech trading, according to a survey by brokers' body Association of National Exchange Members of India (ANM).

The survey of 900 brokers found that almost 86 per cent of brokers view technology as an important criterion for their businesses in 2020.

Besides front-office and back-office software, the other technology software that most brokers view around 58 per cent—would invest in would be the "Algos," as part of their technology spend in 2020, indicating precision and speed in execution of

quantity, timing, and other mathematical models. Also 78.1 per cent of the member organisations of ANM were active investors in technology. Another fact that came out of the survey was that 62.8 per cent brokers have faced technology(IT) related issues in the last two years. However, the survey revealed that despite a larger number of brokers facing such technology related setbacks over the last two years, most still didn't have a fixed annual budget earmarked as technology expenditure.

Ashishkumar Chauhan, MD & CEO, BSE speaking during Stock Tech Annual symposium here, "The Indian capital market and stock broking space is at a transformative juncture with a lot of emphasis on

particular clothes sellers, Fashion Institute of Technology. Professor Dawn Karen said, "I feel like we're moving towards a new era."

trades will continue to be the focus areas for brokers, according to the survey. Algorithms (Algos) are a set of instructions that are introduced to carry out a specific task. Algorithms are introduced to automate trading to generate profits at a frequency impossible to a human trader. The process is referred to as algorithmic trading, and it sets rules based on pricing,

safe, responsive, cost effective and dynamic stock broking. The rapid expansion of networks and technologies has led to the emergence of cyber crime due to which it has become more important for firms to counter it. Cyber threats and invest in technological infrastructure for ensuring performance and cyber security."

Kamlesh Shroff, Chairman, Western Region, ANM, said, "technology has played a key role in the transformation of India's broking landscape.

"It'll continue to play a significant role in determining the competitive-ness among the industry players in terms of costs, speed and ease of service, widening reach as well as providing personalised solutions to meet specific customer requirements."

The two suitors, J submitted

Kia set to shake up SUV market

**MICHAEL GONSALVES
PUNE, DEC. 6**

At a time India's carmakers are grappling with the worst auto slowdown in two decades, Kia Motors Corporation is having a dream run in India.

The Korean car maker is literally shaking up the growing sports utility vehicle or SUV market in Asia's third biggest economy.

After emerging as a leader in the crowded and fiercely competitive SUV segment, selling more than 14,000 units of Kia Seltos, the compact SUV in November (it had sold 6,000 units in the last week of August when it was launched), it has now announced to roll out premium multi-purpose vehicle called Carnival and a sub-compact SUV next year.

The Kia Carnival is a rival of the popular Toyota Innova Crysta in the country. In fact, Kia Motor aims to launch one new product every six months in India to keep ahead of crowded competition.

"After the success of Seltos, our next car for the Indian market will be Kia Niro, a sub-compact SUV, which will be launched in early 2020 and the sub-compact SUV later that year," Han-Woo Park, President and CEO at Kia Motors Corporation, announced soon after officially opening its \$1.1 billion factory at Anantapur in Andhra

Pradesh.

He said the manufacturing plant is now fully operational. It has the capacity to produce 3 lakh cars per annum in three shifts. At present it runs on two shifts to meet rising demand for Seltos.

With these launches Kia is strengthening its sports utility vehicle brand image in India to remain ahead of competition from market leader Maruti Suzuki, Hyundai and Mahindra.

"This is just the beginning. Please wait for our next 'Power to Surprise' with models cars," he said without divulging details, but hinted that its global products would be introduced in the country.

"As we move into our expansion mode, we will not only consolidate our position in India but also cater to markets outside India," Park said.

He said Kia Seltos which sold 6,000 units in one day, has now become the fourth largest car maker in India in 100 days.

Auto component industry sheds 1 lakh temp jobs

New Delhi, Dec 6: The auto component industry's turnover witnessed worst ever decline in the first half of the current fiscal leading to a job loss of around 1 lakh temporary workers.

On job losses, Jain said retrenchment has taken place from October last year till July 2019.

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Opening BELL PROTECTION FOR TODAY



Momentum indicators are weakening

MUMBAI, DEC. 6

The market came under heavy selling for the second straight day on Friday as sentiment was hit by slowing growth outlook and disappointment over the RBI not cutting rates.

Concerns over the fiscal deficit and a weakening rupee also dampened the mood.

The Sensex fell 334.44 points or 0.82 per cent to 40,828.91, while the Nifty lost 134.55 points or 1.11 per cent.

Investors were taken aback by RBI's decision to put a support rate on the rate cut spread. In the past, RBI had cut interest rates for 5 consecutive times and this could have been the sixth, but cut did not happen. This indicates that there is little room for monetary easing after full year of rate cuts. Going forward

RBI too has moved to wait and watch more to see how the economy moves," Jimeet Modi, Founder & CEO, Samco Securities.

Yes Bank was the biggest laggard in the Sensex pack on Friday falling 9.82 per cent after Moody's Investors Service downgraded the lender's ratings. Other major losers were Kotak Securities and Bank of India.

Telecom index was the sole gainer on the chart. It moved up 2.27 per cent to 20,698.96.

On the upside, one can look for immediate levels of support for the index in the next important session," said Manav Chopra, Head Research-Equity, Indiabulls Securities Ltd.

Market View

"Clouds over economic growth outlook and premium valuation influenced investors to stay away from rate-sensitive stocks," while rising 10-year yield due to spike in inflation and potential shift in Fed policy may result in near term consolidation," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services.

—Ashwin J Punnen

Someday there might not be a menswear department

**ALEXIS BENVENISTE
DEC. 6**

While gender-free clothing has been on runways and fashion magazines for years, building a retail space around the concept was a recent development. In Manhattan's SoHo neighbourhood, it is part of this nascent segment. The space is a combination of cafe and event space geared toward the LGBTIQ community.

Phluid Project founder Rob Smith, 54, spent 30 years as a retail executive before opening the store. While

On a visit to the Phluid Project earlier this year, there were none of the traditional signs to send you to men's or women's departments. Non-gendered mannequins stood atop tables, sporting dresses, pants, shirts and graphic tees, he said. "They Power," a reference to the pronoun preference of many non-binary individuals, was prominent.

The company said that, after spending its first year building a reputation with the brand and a unique open sales floor experience, it's now looking to better develop its social media and e-commerce platforms, as well as strategic partnerships.

This summer, Phluid part-



nered with HBO and its series 'Euphoria,' a drama about growing up in Gen Z America, and set up several pop-ups across the country, offering shoppers a capsule collection and panel discussions. Phluid also has a partnership with French clothing label Equipment on a gender fluid collection.

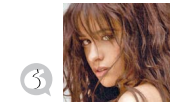
Big clothing retailers like H&M are starting to incorporate gender fluidity into a larger retail strategy. The launching collections, such as Denim United and last year's collaboration with Eytys. Still, H&M doesn't plan to completely eliminate gendered clothing or gendered clothing sections.

—Bloomberg



Tampering

Harvey Weinstein violated his bail conditions by mishandling his electronic ankle monitor, which left his whereabouts unrecorded for hours at a time, a NY prosecutor said



I didn't really have normal upbringing of being in school and going on dates
— **Camila Cabello, Singer**

SHORT TAKES

Disney ship worker charged with rape

Orlando: A Florida man who works for a Disney cruise line has been accused of repeatedly raping a 13-year-old girl at his home. Orange County deputies arrested 33-year-old Keith Seitz on Nov. 25, the Orlando Sentinel reported on Thursday. The girl told her mother Seitz raped her multiple times between late 2016 and 2019, beginning when she was 10 years old, according to testimony in an arrest affidavit. The victim told sheriff's officials Seitz also took photos of her while she was naked and stored them on his phone "for when he's on the cruise ship," a deputy wrote. — AFP

Bulgarian theatre legend dies at 97

Sofia, Bulgaria: Bulgarian "comedy queen" Stoyanka Mutafova, who was also one of the world's alleged performing actresses, has died aged 97, her family announced Friday. Mutafova's career — in various Bulgarian theatres and in a number of movies and TV series — spanned more than 60 years. At the age of 94, she embarked on a tour of theatres in North America and Europe. She regularly performed on stage up until July 2019 in her signature *Madam Disaster* play, making spectators laugh with her liveliness, sense of humour and undaunted spirit. — AFP



Playing Hulk was humiliating: Ruffalo

Los Angeles: Actor Mark Ruffalo says it was embarrassing for him to play the superhero Hulk in the Marvel Cinematic Universe, as he had to wear a "man-cannelling suit" in order to play the part. Ruffalo has essayed the fan-favourite character and its alter ego Bruce Banner in seven MCU movies, including the cameos in *Iron Man 3*. Talking to GQ, he recalled the process for playing the Green rage monster: "I have to wear what I call the man-cannelling suit, which is this really tight bodysuit that makes you look big where you want to look small and small where you want to look big," Ruffalo said. — PTI

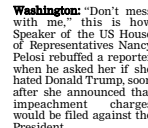
CELEBRITIES PAY TRIBUTE TO AVICHI AT A CONCERT

Stockholm: Stars including Rita Ora, Adam Lambert and David Guetta have played a charity tribute concert in honour of the late Swedish DJ Avicii. Avicii, whose real name was Tim Bergling, was found dead in Oman in April 2018, at the age of 28. His family said at the time he was a perfectionist who struggled with stress and "could not go on any longer". BBC reported, "Proceeds from the concert will go to mental health and suicide prevention charities. It opened on an emotional note, with thousands of fans lighting up Stockholm's Friends Arena with their phones; as Swedish singer Cavazzo performed his Avicii collaboration, *Don't Leave Without Me*. The song's poignant lyrics — "I've gotta learn to love without you" — have become a eulogy for the DJ in wake of his death. — Agencies

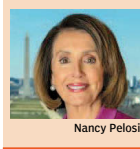
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Don't mess with me: Pelosi brutally shuts down journo

Slams Trump, says he has failed to curb gun violence & protect children



Washington: "Don't mess with me," this is how Speaker of the US House of Representatives Nancy Pelosi rebuffed a reporter when he asked her if she hated Donald Trump, soon after she announced that impeachment charges would be filed against the President. The 79-year-old veteran California Democrat was responding to questions from reporters on the news that the House of Representatives will soon file impeachment charges against Trump for alleged abuse of power for electoral gains. Pelosi on Thursday said she hates the House to begin drafting articles of impeachment against President Trump after she rebuffed his political positions. "I think this President is a coward when it comes to helping our kids who are afraid of gun violence," she said. "I think that he is cruel when he doesn't deal with helping our dreamers, of which we are very proud of. I think he is in denial about the climate crisis. However, that's about the



weekly press conference, a reporter from Sinclair asked her if she hates President Trump. Pelosi stopped and said, "I don't hate anybody." She then walked back to the microphone and said that while she believes President Trump is a "coward," that's only about his political positions. "So don't mess with me when it comes to words like that," she chided the reporter. When asked about her comments at a CNN town hall later Thursday, Pelosi again invoked her Catholic faith to explain her response. "We were raised in the Catholic faith and the word 'hate a person' was

just — that just didn't happen," she said. "The word 'hate' is a terrible word... So for him to say that was really disgusting to me," Pelosi said. The top Democrat said it was heartbreaking that the House has to impeach the President, but added that Trump gave them no choice. "I'm really sorry the President made this necessary," she added. Meanwhile, in a statement, Sinclair spokesperson Ron Torossian said the reporter meant "no disrespect" and that the organisation does not "dictate to our reporters what they can and cannot ask." Sinclair Broadcast Group, Inc. is one of the largest and most diversified television broadcasting companies in the United States. "We have reviewed the incident and based on the facts, the transcript did not mean to be an inflammatory question and, further, gave Pelosi the opportunity to clarify her own views, Torossian said in the statement. — PTI

NEWS NUGGETS

HOW MAMMALS BECAME GOOD LISTENERS DECIPHERED
Washington: Modern mammals, including humans, owe their keen sense of hearing to three tiny bones in the middle ear that were absent in their reptilian ancestors, but the point at which this transformation occurred has remained unclear. Scientists have now identified the transitional stages in the remains of a newly discovered species that lived 125 million years ago in what is now northeastern China: effectively a missing link in the evolutionary chain. Their findings were published in *Science* and welcomed as a landmark moment in paleontology by peers. "It's a fantastic set of evidence," Guillermo Rougier, an evolutionary biologist at University of Louisville who was not involved in the research, said. — AFP



Tribal brides and grooms arrive to take part in a mass marriage ceremony in Muni Tea Garden, near Bagdogra, on the outskirts of Siliguri on Friday. — AFP



Donald Trump with First Lady Melania Trump speaks during the National Christmas Tree lighting ceremony near the White House in Washington on Thursday. — AP



Actresses Abigail Spencer (left) and Madison Davenport at the premiere of Hulu's *Reprisal* in Hollywood, California, on Thursday. — AFP



People look at the illuminated Lyon's town hall and the Place Des Terreaux square during the Festival of Lights in Lyon, France, on Thursday. — AFP

Nepal makes 1st arrest over 'menstruation hut' death

Kathmandu: Nepali police have detained the brother-in-law of a woman who died in a "menstruation hut" in what is believed to be the first arrest over the outlawed tradition, officials said Friday. Many communities in Nepal view menstruating women as impure and in some remote areas they are forced to sleep in a hut away from the home, following a centuries-old tradition known as "chhaupadi". The practice leads to the death of women every year due to smoke inhalation, snake bites and even attack by animals. Parbati Buda Rawat, 21, was found dead on Sunday morning in the western Achham district in a smoke-filled

hut because of a fire she had lit to keep warm. "We arrested the brother-in-law of the victim yesterday for investigation after suspecting his involvement in forcing the deceased to stay in chhaupadi shed," local police official Jnan Bahadur Shahi told AFP. "I believe this is the first arrest in such a case." If convicted, the man will serve a three-month

jail sentence and be fined 3,000 Rupees (\$37) under a law introduced last year against anyone caught imposing chhaupadi. It is positive to see the police act proactively and it will help discourage people from following the tradition. But there is a long way to go to end it," said Radha Poudel, an activist working against chhaupadi. Rawa's death is at least the third this year. Two more women have died of smoke inhalation in menstruation huts in neighbouring districts. However, Poudel said that many deaths go unreported and authorities often sympathise with family members in reported cases. — AFP



Talia Storm (left) and Jack Black at the premiere of the film *Jumanji The Next Level* in London on Thursday. — AP

DHANUSH STARRER ROWDY BABY AMONG TOP TEN MOST VIEWED VIDEOS GLOBALLY

New Delhi: *Rowdy Baby*, an instant hit from Dhanush's Suvi Starrer *Maari 2*, has broken into YouTube's top 10 list of the most viewed videos globally. The video, which ranks first on the YouTube's "most trending" music videos in India, is placed seventh in the top 10 most viewed videos globally. It is topped by Daddy Yankee's smashing hit *Con Calma*. *Rowdy Baby*, crowned by Dhanush and Dhee, is a addictive song from 2018 Tamil language action comedy *Maari 2*. It is composed and choreographed by Yuva Shankar Kja and Prabhdeva, respectively. — PTI

WEAK ARCTIC ICE WITNESSES 56 POLAR BEARS DESCEND ON RUSSIAN VILLAGE

Moscow: More than 50 polar bears have gathered on the edge of a village in Russia's far north, environmentalists and residents said, as weak Arctic ice leaves them unable to roam. There were concerns they could enter village, home to fewer than 1,000 people, and patrols had been set up to monitor their movements. — AFP

R. Kelly faces bribery charge over 1994 marriage to Aaliyah

Los Angeles: R. Kelly has been charged with bribery by a government official in order to get a fraudulent certification document to marry an underage girl in 1994. The girl, named only as Jane Doe, said she and his entourage headed up a racketeering operation, across two decades, which recruited women and underage girls for illegal sexual activity. R. Kelly, real name Robert Kelly, is accused of paying a bribe to an unnamed Illinois government employee to obtain a fake ID that identification was then used to obtain a marriage licence. — Agencies



Sawettee (left), Julia Fox at GQ's Men of the Year event in West Hollywood, California, on Thursday. — AP

Star Wars' Kathleen to receive Bafta Fellowship

London: Kathleen Kennedy, the highest accolade by the British Academy Film Awards. Given annually, the fellowship recognises an individual's outstanding and exceptional contribution to film, games or television. Kennedy, who is gearing up for the release of *Star Wars: Rise of Skywalker*, said British filmmakers Tom Stoppard, David Lean, *War Horse*, Nolan, Stephen Daldry and Peter Morgan continue to inspire her. "The recent *Star Wars* movies — all shot on sound stages and locations across the UK — are just the latest opportunities that I've had the privilege to work with that children will remember for years. I'm just the latest opportunity that I've had the privilege to work with that children will remember for years. I'm just the latest opportunity that I've had the privilege to work with that children will remember for years. I'm just the latest opportunity that I've had the privilege to work with that children will remember for years. — PTI

China's 'affluent' single women seek sperm donors overseas

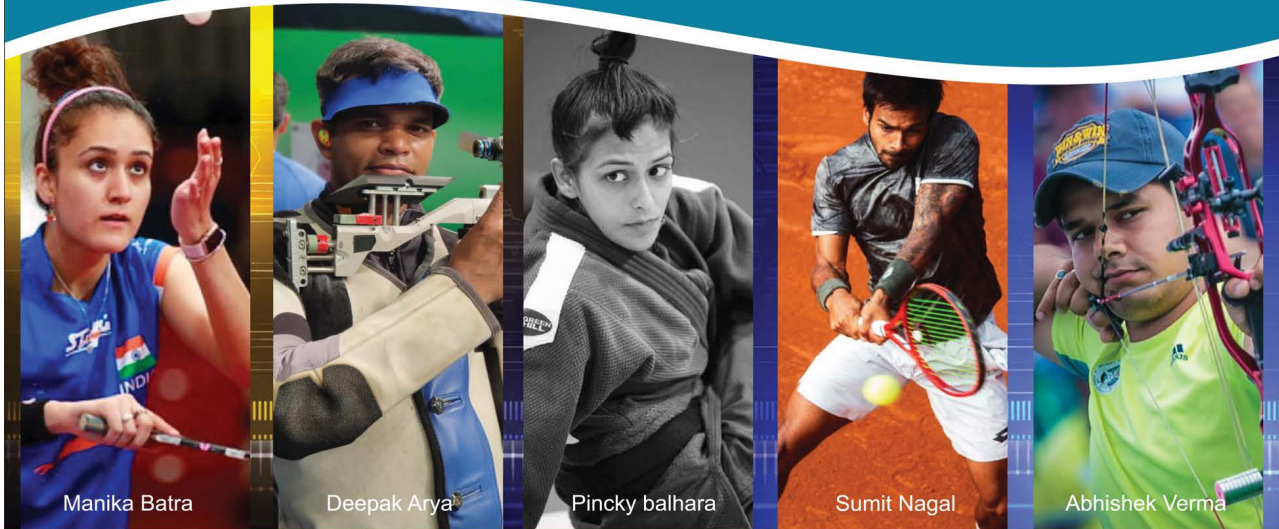
Beijing: Looking at page after page of childhood photos, Xiaogunzhu was drawn to an image of a French boy with smiling dark blue eyes. But she was not admiring her lover's family album, she was browsing a catalogue of potential sperm donors — the 38-year-old is one of an increasing number of affluent single women in China that are seeking a child, but not a husband. Unmarried women in China are largely barred from accessing sperm banks and in-vitro fertilisation (IVF) treatment, forcing them to seek options abroad. Her choice made

donor #14471 on the website of a Californian sperm bank — Xiaogunzhu flew to the US to begin the first rounds of treatment. "There are many women who won't get married, so they might not fulfil this fundamental biological mission," Xiaogunzhu told AFP, using the name she had opened up, "she added. "But I felt another path had opened up," she added. Her baby, now nine months old, is called Oscar after a character in a comic about the French revolution — a nod to the donor's ancestry. The marriage rate in

Seoul: "I'm a straight woman who is no longer interested in having relationships with men," Bonnie Lee doesn't care about finding a boyfriend or a fairytale wedding, and will decide her own happily-ever-after. And she is not alone. A growing number of South Korean women are banding together to reject rigid patriarchal norms and vowing never to wed, have children or even date and have sex. "I've always felt that as a woman there are more disadvantages than advantages to being married," she said. Educated professional women face "discrimination" when seeking spouses, explained sociologist Sandy Tu, as their

Single till death: S. Korea's #NoMarriage women
"Nos": no dating, no sex, no marriage, and no child-rearing. Marriage rates are plummeting in South Korea where wives are often expected to work, raise children, and care for ageing in-laws with little help. "In the marriage market, your previous life and work experience counts," said Lee, who has two masters degrees. — AFP
male partners have "difficulty accepting their higher educational or economic accomplishments." But many feel that strug-

GREAT OPPORTUNITY FOR DELHI SPORTSPERSONS TO SOAR HIGH



Manika Batra

Deepak Arya

Pincky balhara

Sumit Nagal

Abhishek Verma

DELHI GOVERNMENT'S REVOLUTIONARY STEPS TO ENCOURAGE SPORTS IN DELHI

Dip/Shabdarm/D/02688/19-20

MISSION EXCELLENCE

A scheme to support sportspersons
for making Delhi proud

Highlights of the scheme

- It will support top level sportspersons for receiving training and coaching to prepare themselves to compete in International tournaments and Championships.
- Financial assistance upto Rs.16.00 lakhs per annum will be provided.
- This amount will be given for Food/Nutrition, sports equipments, sports kits, training and travel (within the Country as well as outside the Country) and medical insurance.
- Top level Sports Injuries Centres will be co-opted for the players.

Obligations of the player

- During this period, the player has to represent Delhi in all the competitions.
- The Player can be engaged as Brand Ambassador of Delhi.

PLAY & PROGRESS

A scheme for promoting sports talent
in the students of Delhi

Highlights of the scheme

- Providing assistance to Delhi school students for Training and coaching to prepare themselves to compete in National and International tournaments.
- Players below 14 years, will be provided assistance of Rs. 2.00 lakhs.
- Players above 14 years and upto 17 years, will be provided assistance of Rs. 3.00 lakhs.
- This amount will be given for Food/Nutrition, sports equipments, sports kits, training & travel and medical insurance.
- Prominent games like athletics, badminton, swimming, football, wrestling, kabbadi etc. are part of the scheme.

Obligations of the player

- During this period, the player has to represent Delhi in all the competitions.

Note: This assistance will be given to those who are bonafide residents of Delhi for the last 3 years.

For more information, log on to:

www.edudel.nic.in

Last date for online submission of application: 13.12.2019

दिल्ली सरकार
आप की सरकार

DIRECTORATE OF EDUCATION: SPORTS BRANCH
GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL CAPITAL TERRITORY OF DELHI





SPORT | Cricket
14
Ganguly rubbishes strained relation with coach Shastri



SPORT | Athletics
15
Shuttlers shine as Siril, Ashmita bag gold



GUIDE TO FORTUNE

Tick the answer and check them below.

1 Backward-directed spinners located on the tongue indicate what?

- Canine
- Feline
- Don't know

2 Which of these forces slows motion?

- Friction
- Spin
- Gravity

3 What is the name for a speed greater than that of sound?

- Mach
- Munch
- Max

SHORT TAKES

Rang of 7 train robbers arrested

New Delhi: A gang of seven robbers and a receiver of stolen properties, who used to visit Delhi from Bihar and committed crime in moving trains, were nabbed by the railways unit of Delhi Police. Looted property worth ₹120 lakh has been recovered from them. The accused were identified as Subodh Kumar (24), Mukesh (27), Chandan Singh (33), Neeraj Kumar (29), Rajesh (42), Satender (22) and Chetan Kumar (30). All are natives of Bihar, said DCP (Railways) Harendra Kumar Singh. During interrogation, they stated that they belong to Begusarai in Bihar and used to come to Delhi for committing thefts in trains and stayed at hotels in Paharganj, Delhi. They targeted long-distance trains passing through New Delhi Railway Station, police said.

JGU inks MoU with 7 Oz universities

New Delhi: O.P. Jindal Global University (JGU), one of India's rising stars of eminence, signed MoUs with seven leading universities of Australia in Sydney recently. Governor of New South Wales Margaret Beazley presided over the signing of MoUs with Macquarie University, University of New South Wales, University of New England, University of Newcastle, University of Sydney, University of Technology Sydney and Western Sydney University. Two of these universities are among the top 50 in the world. "This is a historic moment for us. We have signed agreements with some of the world class universities in Australia, which will provide unique opportunities for the faculty and students of JGU," said JGU's founding vice-chancellor Professor (Dr.) C. Raj Kumar.

Man gets life for killing stepfather

New Delhi: A court here has sentenced a man to life imprisonment for murdering his stepfather in 2012 in connivance with his minor wife. Additional sessions judge Sumana Sharma convicted the man and imposed a fine of ₹25,000 on him. The court also sent his wife to the juvenile Justice Board (JJB) to face inquiry for allegedly abetting the convict in the crime. The prosecution said the accused saw his father misbehaving with his wife and forcibly trying to outrage her modesty. The accused got enraged over the incident and in connivance with his wife decided to kill him. The accused had denied the charges and claimed trial.

THE ANSWER TO TODAY'S GUIDE TO FORTUNE

- Mach
- Friction
- Feline

HYDERABAD ENCOUNTER

Nirbhaya kin hail cops, say justice delivered

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, DEC. 6

Supporting the police encounter of the four accused in the Hyderabad gangrape and murder case in the early hours on Friday, the family of Nirbhaya said that the Telangana police has set an example and urged authorities not to punish the policemen responsible for the action.

Nirbhaya's mother said that the court, the government and the Delhi police should see what example the Hyderabad police has set. In December 2012, Nirbhaya, a 23-year-old paramedic student, was gang raped in the national capital and later died due to her injuries. Her rapists, who were sentenced to death, are still awaiting their fate.

"The police has done a great job and I demand that no action should be taken against the police personnel. Now I request

the judiciary and the Central government to support Nirbhaya's accused as soon as possible and set an example before the society," said Nirbhaya's mother.

Justifying the encounter, Nirbhaya's father said that had the police not acted promptly and shot the accused, they would have fled. "The family of the Hyderabad doctor will not have to wait for seven years for justice like us. We can understand the efficiency of the doctor. At least they got justice early," he said.

"It is good that the police showed prompt response and acted, otherwise the accused would have fled and it would have been difficult to catch them. The escape would also have raised questions on the efficiency of the police," he said.

Her father said that the family has been awaiting justice for seven years now.

Nirbhaya's grandfather also welcomed the step, saying actions like these will deter those involved in heinous crimes.

"I appreciate the killing of rapists by the police in an encounter. Such steps will create fear among rapists and deter them from committing such heinous acts," he told reporters at his ancestral village in Ballia.

"The way in which rapists are using loopholes in the judicial system, such encounters are necessary. The Parliament should enact a law enabling the police to kill such persons in encounters," he said, adding that no one should question the police's action.

"My granddaughter was raped seven years ago and the accused have still not been given capital punishment. Had they (accused) been given capital punishment, the case would not have been in such anger," he added.



Akali Dal activists demonstrate in support of killing of Hyderabad vet's rapists on Friday.

'Worrisome that people have lost faith in justice system'

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, DEC. 6

Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal on Friday said while the people of the country are rejoicing the encounter deaths of those accused of raping and murdering a veterinarian in Hyderabad, it is also worrisome that they have lost faith in the criminal justice system.

"The rape cases that have come to light of late, the entire country is in anger whether it is Unnao or Hyderabad, so people are expressing happiness over the encounter. It is also something to be worried about, the way people have lost their faith in the criminal justice system. Together all governments and agencies have to discuss and take action to strengthen the criminal justice system," he told reporters here.

Replying to a question on those convicted in the Nirbhaya gangrape case, Mr Kejriwal said: "I am also sad that seven years have passed. We reject the mercy plea within 24 hours. I hope the President also rejects the plea soon and the convicts are sent to the gallows."

Vinay Sharma, one of the convicts facing the charges for the gang rape and murder of a 23-year-old paramedic student, and had the mercy plea before the President.

Man kills daughter-in-law, wife suspecting illicit affair

Retired teacher stabs both victims in sleep, younger son saves nephew, niece

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, DEC. 6

A 64-year-old retired teacher was arrested on Friday for allegedly killing his wife and daughter-in-law in Rohini here over suspicion of illicit relationships, the police said. The accused, identified as Satish Chaudhary, is a resident of Shiv Apartments in Rohini Sector 4, it said.

On Friday, at around 5.55 am, Satish's younger son Saurabh Chaudhary (30) informed the police about the incident. He also got injured while a trying to rescue her. He also attacked her. Sheelata received one stab wound, he added.

The police said the incident took place at around 5.30 am. The accused, a retired private teacher, has been arrested and the weapon

The incident took place at around 5.30 am on Friday. The accused, a retired teacher, has been arrested and the weapon of offence, a kitchen knife, has been recovered

The accused, Satish Chaudhary, is a resident of Shiv Apartments in Rohini Sector 4. His younger son Saurabh informed the police about the incident

of offence, a kitchen knife, has been recovered from the room, the police said. According to the officer, Satish woke up and entered the room where his wife and daughter-in-law were sleeping. He first stabbed Pragya multiple times and when Sheelata came to rescue her, he also attacked her. Sheelata received one stab wound, he added.

"When the police reached the spot, it found Pragy Chaudhary (35), an air hostess, and her mother-in-law. Sheelata

The accused, Satish Chaudhary, is a resident of Shiv Apartments in Rohini Sector 4. His younger son Saurabh informed the police about the incident

Chaudhary (62), a retired DTC employee, in a pool of blood," said DCP (Rohini) S.D. Mishra.

Saurabh said that when he was sleeping, he heard the cries of the victims. He tried to save them from his father, but was unsuccessful and got injured in his left hand. However, when he saw the neighbours' gate opened, he pushed his five-year-old niece and one-year-old nephew into their house and later called the police. The police rushed the

victims to the hospital where they were declared brought dead, it said.

Their bodies have been preserved at Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hospital for post-mortem, which will be conducted on Saturday, the police said. Pragy's husband, Gaurav Chaudhary, is a software engineer and is currently living in Singapore.

One of Pragy's family members said she was an air hostess and was planning to move to Gurgaon. Saurabh is unmarried and works as a software engineer in Bengaluru, the police said.

Duta to continue stir in support of ad-hoc teachers

New Delhi, Dec. 6: The Delhi University Teachers' Association decided on Friday to continue its indefinite strike demanding absorption of ad-hoc teachers, even as the university appealed them to end their agitation. Duta officer-bearers had a meeting with HRD ministry officials on Thursday and there was a consensus on modification of the August 29 circular one of the issues which had prompted the strike. But other issues remained unresolved, the teachers' association said.

A student council member had directed appointment of guest teachers against substantive teachers, but the DUTA had demanded that ad-hoc teachers be appointed against those guest teachers.

On Friday, Duta held a meeting and it was decided to continue their primary demand of UGC regulation for the one-time absorption of ad-hoc teachers. Temporary teachers still remains unfulfilled, the agitation would continue. Formerly ousted teachers, who were laying a siege to the council Hall from the 29th lodge. A general body meeting will be held on Saturday to decide on the future course of the agitation. —PTI



Specially abled children from Gujarat hold each other as they enter the Parliament House in New Delhi on Friday.

Toddler among 3 injured as acid spills from tanker

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, DEC. 6

Three persons of a family including a toddler, were injured after nitric acid allegedly fell on them in Northwest Delhi's Ashok Vihar area, police said on Friday.

According to police, they received an information on Thursday around 8.20 pm from Deep Chand Bandhu Hospital that one Govinda, a resident of Ulham Singh Park, along with his wife and toddler, has been admitted in the hospital due to acid burns.

During preliminary investigation, it was found that nitric acid was being unloaded from a tanker at a factory in Wazirpur Industrial area. While the acid was being

Naresh Gupta (66), the owner of the factory, Puraan Chand (44), Munshi of the factory and Shiv Kumar (38), the driver of the tanker, have been arrested

unloaded, it fell on the scooter-borne family due to negligent handling of pipe of tanker by its driver. The victims have been referred to Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital.

"On the statement of Govinda, a case under sections 285 (negligent conduct with respect to fire or combustible matter) and 387 (causing hurt by act endangering life or per-

sonal safety of others) of the IPC has been registered at Ashok Vihar police station," deputy commissioner of police (northwest) Vijayanath Arya said.

Naresh Gupta (66), the owner of the factory, Puraan Chand (44), Munshi of the factory and Shiv Kumar (38), the driver of the tanker, have been arrested, she said. Gupta deals in acids. He has MCD as well as Delhi Pollution Control Committee licences, police said.

SDM of Saraswati Vihar has been informed about the incident and further correspondence is being made with that office to seek information regarding violation, if any, on the part of the factory owner, they added.

Criminal wanted in murder case arrested

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, DEC. 6

Delhi Police have arrested a wanted criminal who was absconding since last one-and-a-half year. The accused was wanted in murder case and he was also declared a 'Proclaimed Offender' by local court.

Police said that a reward of ₹50,000 was also declared on information leading to his arrest. The accused has been identified as Manish Choudhary, a resident of Tuglaqabad. According to Pramod Kumar Singh Kushwaha, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Special Cell,

On June 6, 2018, Manish along with his father and other family members attacked Jitender, who suffered serious injuries and succumbed to death

Southern range, on December 5, specific inputs were received that a wanted accused and declared proclaimed offender in murder case would come to meet his associate outside Ace Platinum in Greater Noida.

Acting on the tip-off, a trap was laid and Manish Choudhary was apprehended by police team after a brief scuffle.

During interrogation, the accused revealed that he along with his father and other family members reside in village Kanagar Mohalla, Tuglaqabad.

This four uncles also reside in the same village with their family members. Their father is the head of the joint family, said the DCP.

On June 6, 2018, Manish along with his father and other family members attacked Jitender with wooden sticks and iron rods.

Jitender suffered serious injuries and succumbed to death, said the DCP. Three uncles of Manish namely Gyandender, Jagat and Kartar along with three other relatives have already been arrested in this case. The accused Manish and his father Subhash were absconding in the case and declared proclaimed offender in the case by the court, said the DCP, adding that further investigation is going on.

Man launches campaign to educate poor children

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, DEC. 6

A Sangam Vihar resident is all set to launch a major campaign to help poor children complete their education in South Delhi. The 27-year-old Akhlesh Kant Jha launched the initiative by sponsoring the education of the son of Geeta Mishra, a single mother.

Mr Jha paid ₹7,000 from his pocket to get the boy clear all his school dues. Not only this, he has now decided to support his education till the boy completes his graduation.

Mr Jha, a social activist and businessman, said that he decided to bear the expenses of the boy after it was brought to his notice by a person known to him that Ms Mishra's son was facing difficulties in continuing his education owing to financial hardships.

"After hearing the hardship faced by Ms. Mishra, I decided to help her by clearing the school dues. Knowing her financial condition, I also decided to finance the educational expenses of the young boy till he completes his graduation."

Mr Jha added, "Even a I am able to help just 10 more children, who are in financial stress, continue their studies, my life will be made. Soon I will start a door-to-door campaign," Mr Jha said.

Australia's Glenn Maxwell is moving closer to a comeback from his mental health break after he was seen training with his state side

Kohli cracks the whip

Career-best T20 knock from Virat helps India pull off their highest run chase



MOSES KONDETY HYDERABAD, DEC. 6
The Caribbean were leading in the first half of the game, they then hit an iceberg in Virat Kohli... and sank without a trace. Thanks to their captain, India won a high-scoring opener on a canter to take a 1-0 lead in the three-match T20 series on Friday night.

King and Lewis together. The two scored at a quick pace to build a decent platform for their teammates before Lewis fell leg before to Sunder. Windies 64 for 2 in the sixth over.

They landed some big punches — four sixes and a boundary to rattle a 19-ball 37 and Holder helped himself to two sixes and a four in his 24 that came off just 9 balls as the Windies tallied 11 fours and 15 sixes in their impressive innings.

SCORE CARD
West Indies: L. Simmons c Sharma b Chahar 2, E. Lewis lbw b Sundar 40, B. King st Pant b Jadeja 31, S. Hetmyer c Sharma b Chahal 56, K. Pollard b Chahal 37, J. Holder not out 24, D. Ramdin not out 17. Total (for five wickets in 20 overs) 207.

West Indies: L. Simmons c Sharma b Chahar 2, E. Lewis lbw b Sundar 40, B. King st Pant b Jadeja 31, S. Hetmyer c Sharma b Chahal 56, K. Pollard b Chahal 37, J. Holder not out 24, D. Ramdin not out 17. Total (for five wickets in 20 overs) 207.

MOST 50+ SCORES IN T20I

Batsman	I	Runs	50+
Virat Kohli (India)	68	2544	23
Rohit Sharma (India)	94	2547	22
Martin Gupthill (NZ)	80	2436	17
Paul Stirling (Ireland)	71	1929	16
David Warner (Aus)	76	2079	16

STATS: S. PERVEZ QAISER
Tests and 334 One-Dayers and scored a combined 15,589 runs including 200 centuries and 79 fifties, looked content as he was accompanied by the Hyderabad international, Laxman, S. L. Venkatpathi Raju, Noel Hira and a host of smartly dressed HCA officials during the inauguration of the stand.

SHORT TAKES

Cricket South Africa boss suspended

Johannesburg: Cricket South Africa (CSA) announced on Friday that chief executive Thabang Moreo had been suspended on allegations of misconduct as the body faces a mounting crisis. Shortly before it was announced that Moreo had been suspended, the South African Cricketers' Association (SACA) called for the resignation of Moreo and the entire CSA board, while a major sponsor announced it would not renew its agreement, linking their withdrawal directly to events which have engulfed the governing body. It also followed a call by the Gauteng Lions, one of CSA's major provincial affiliates, for the resignation of Moreo and the board. Gauteng claimed the support of seven other affiliates, which would give those calling for change a majority on the 14-strong Members' Council, which in turn elects the board. CSA's social ethics committee and the audit and risk committee. An independent forensic audit would take place. — AFP

SA's Shamsi brings magic to cricket

Johannesburg: Before he became a full-time cricketer, South African spin bowler Tabriz Shamsi wanted to become a professional magician. Now Shamsi has brought his old passion to the cricket field. His extravagant celebrations after taking a wicket have attracted social media interest across the cricket-playing world. The left-arm wrist spinner's latest trick is to take a large red handkerchief out of his pocket and, with a flick of his wrist, turn it into a metre-long wand. "I have always wanted to enjoy myself on the cricket field," Shamsi said on Friday. "There's a lot of pressure playing professional cricket and sometimes you forget why you started playing cricket in the first place. It's a bit of fun, not everyone likes it but my intentions are all good. I want to get more kids to enjoy the game. Playing for the Paarl Rocks in South Africa's Mzansi Super League Twenty20 competition, Shamsi is the joint second-highest wicket-taker with 12 wickets in seven matches at an average of 18.00. — PTI

AZHAR TAKES A STAND AT RGICS

Hyderabad: The South block was christened N. Shivlal Yadav Pavilion, after former Test player, HCA secretary and BCCI in-charge president, BCCI President Sourav Ganguly. The 28-year-old Pant has been under intense scrutiny for his underwhelming performance in white-ball cricket but has got the firm backing of both skipper Virat Kohli and deputy Rohit Sharma. Kohli on Thursday said Pant can't be isolated to such an extent that he starts feeling nervous on the field and found it "disrespectful" that fans chanted Mahendra Singh Dhoni's name when the youngster made mistakes during a recent home series. "It's good for him (Pant). He should get used to it. Let him hear it and let him find a way to succeed. He will be under pressure and let him go through it and figure out on his own," Ganguly said on Friday. Ganguly also refused to



Ganguly rubbishes strained relation with coach Shastri

Kolkata, Dec. 6: BCCI President Sourav Ganguly on Friday rubbished, as pure speculation, allegations that he would be vindictive towards chief coach Ravi Shastri, saying that performance alone will be the parameter of judging individuals during his tenure. Shastri and Ganguly had a public fallout in 2017 when the former reapplied for coach's job and the latter was a part of the Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC), which selected Anil Kumble for the position. In 2017, Shastri got back the job after Kumble resigned following his much-publicised difference of opinion with skipper Virat Kohli. Ganguly was asked about conjecture that he has an axe to grind with Shastri because of past differences. "That's why these are called speculations. I don't have an answer to these questions," said Ganguly, dismissing the supposition. For Ganguly, it all boils down to performance on the field. "You perform and you continue, you don't, someone else takes over. That was also the case when I played," he asserted. "There will be talks, leaks, rumours but concentration should be on what happens on 22 yards," he said. He

then cited examples of Virat Kohli, who has 70 international hundreds and Sachin Tendulkar (100 tons) to make his point. "Life is about performance and nothing can substitute that," he said. As he stated during his first press interaction after taking over, Ganguly reiterated that, "Kohli remains the most important man in Indian cricket as he leads the team on the field." "Virat is a fantastic role model as to how he conducts himself on and off the field. He (Kohli) will get all the support required to succeed. Virat, Virat, Virat, every one will get everything required. But at the end of the day we will demand performance," he said. After the 2011 World Cup triumph, the Indian side faltered at the semifinal and final hurdle of most ICC tournaments save the 2013 Champions Trophy. "It's not an ability issue but mind issue. They need to cross the mental barrier in big games," he said. Talking about the 2020 World T20, the former skipper has one piece of advice for his men out there. "T20 is about playing fearless cricket with freedom. Don't walk out there in the middle, playing for your place in the team," he said. Ganguly has made a smooth transition from a player to an administrator. He also battled conflict of interest charge for his multiple commitments. Ganguly said the clause is coming in the way of getting former cricketers on board for administrative roles. "I am unable to get ex-cricketers on board because of conflict of interest. We need to deal with (Conflic of Interest with a lot of common sense

Pant should get used to 'Dhoni' chants and figure his own mechanism: Dada

Kolkata, Dec. 6: Young wicket-keeper batsman Rishabh Pant should get used to hearing chants of "Dhoni, Dhoni" and figure his own mechanism to deal with the extreme pressure that comes with being an Indian cricketer, feels BCCI President Sourav Ganguly. The 28-year-old Pant has been under intense scrutiny for his underwhelming performance in white-ball cricket but has got the firm backing of both skipper Virat Kohli and deputy Rohit Sharma. Kohli on Thursday said Pant can't be isolated to such an extent that he starts feeling nervous on the field and found it "disrespectful" that fans chanted Mahendra Singh Dhoni's name when the youngster made mistakes during a recent home series. "It's good for him (Pant). He should get used to it. Let him hear it and let him find a way to succeed. He will be under pressure and let him go through it and figure out on his own," Ganguly said on Friday. Ganguly also refused to



Brian Lara with Aji Agarkar at a promotional event in Mumbai. — PTI

Windies should improve: Lara

Mumbai, Dec. 6: West Indies batting icon Brian Lara on Friday said the Kieron Pollard-led side should target becoming an improved outfit by the end of their limited-overs series against India here even if they fail to win much in the rubber. West Indies and India are playing a three-match T20 international and three-match ODI series, starting Friday in Hyderabad. India are overwhelming favourites to emerge winners. "...he (Pollard) will have to build a team, playing against India here. He's always a tough proposition and he must leave here not necessarily winning but he must leave here a better team after this tournament," Lara said. Lara batted in Pollard's appointment as the team's skipper for the limited-overs format. "Over a period of time, his representation for West Indies may not be a lot but he has played all around the world in different leagues. He has gained a lot of respect from the opposition. I didn't see it as a bad decision to (appoint him as a captain)," Lara said. "He (Pollard) has easily gained the respect of his team-mates and he can move forward. There is a (T20) World Cup in under 12 months and you are looking for the right person, someone who can keep the ground running. He has that experience to do so. It is a good decision, but it is still going to be an uphill battle," he explained the 50-year-old. "The stylish left-handed batsman inaugurated the second edition of the "Habibat for Humanity India chapter golf tournament" on Wednesday in Mahalaxmi here. "The West Indies are twice (T20 world) champions and a lot of opposition around the world are scared of West

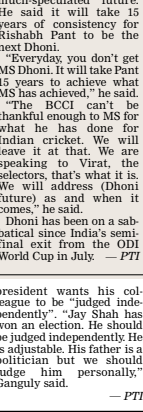
Playing against India in India is always a tough proposition and Pollard must leave here not necessarily winning but he must leave here a better team after this tournament.

Lara pays tribute to Late Willis

West Indies batting great Brian Lara on Friday paid glowing tribute to the legend Bob Willis, saying many cricketers look up to the former England pacer as a father figure. Willis, who represented England in 90 Tests and had 325 wickets, died aged 60 on Wednesday after battling prolonged illness in England. "Bob Willis is former great in my opinion. He was before my time, but I have listened to the intimate remarks from people like Ian Botham, Michael Atherton that he was pivotal in England moving forward, especially in the fast bowling department. And that he laid the foundation and a lot look at him as sort of a father figure in that department," Lara said. "Ian Botham told me that there was only one fast bowler in my test team and that was Bob Willis; there were lot of medium pacers, but Willis was the fast bowler." Lara holds the record for the highest individual score in Test and coincidentally Willis was the commentator when he took that single to reach 400 not out against England in Antigua in 2004. — PTI

Aussies eye more than one D/N Test

Melbourne/Kolkata, Dec. 6: Cricket Australia (CA) is set to request the BCCI to agree for more than one day-night Test during India's 2021 tour Down Under but Indian Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) on Friday said such a proposal would be a "bit too much". A CA delegation, led by its Chairman Earl Eddings, is expected to meet BCCI top brass during the pre-match ODI series in India starting January 14 next year. "As you build that trust and build that relationship you have that chat," Eddings told ESPNcricinfo. "Pleasings they've played their first day-night Test and won easily. Now they've got through that it might give him more than one day-night Test series play. Ideally we want to be playing the Tests against India, hopefully in the future we can do that as we are playing one and maybe even more day-night Test matches. But that's down the track when we catch up with them in January," he added. However, Ganguly didn't seem keen on the idea. "I have not heard anything officially from Cricket Australia. Two out of four day-night Tests is not much. It can't replace traditional Test matches. But we can have a bit more of that," he said. "CA Chief Executive Kevin Roberts also spoke about having more than one day-night Test during what is meant to be a four-match Test series. "I'm not sure if they are down to play in my head we'd love to play one of the four as a day-night Test," he said. Eddings said CA also wants the BCCI to consider playing one more Test to the traditional four-match series that the two countries play. "Ideally we want to be playing the Tests against India, hopefully in the future we can do that as we are playing one and maybe even more day-night Test matches. But that's down the track when we catch up with them in January," he added. However, Ganguly didn't





New role

Former Fifa head of football James Johnson appointed to steer Football Federation Australia into a new era after a month-long search to replace retired chief executive David Gallop



It feels like I should shove a bit of salt water up my nose

— Adam Scott, Australian golfer complains his always felt dirty as toxic smoke from bushfires blighted the Australian Sydney Open tournament

SHORT TAKES

Pele's jersey sells for 30,000 euros

Milan: The jersey worn by Brazilian football legend Pele during his final match for the five-time world champions has sold for 30,000 euros in an auction in Rio de Janeiro in July 1971, the last time he played for Brazil. Pele, 79, regarded as among the greatest footballers of all-time, scored 77 goals for Brazil in 92 appearances. The shirt was the highlight of objects being sold under the hammer at the Bolaffi auction house in Turin on Thursday. Other sporting memorabilia included the yellow jersey won by Italian cycling star Fausto Coppi on his way to victory in the 1952 Tour de France, which sold for 25,000 euros. A rare blue Juventus jersey worn by Italian defender Luciano Sainosi in the final of the 1971 UEFA Cup sold for 9,400 euros. Another shirt worn by Argentina legend Diego Maradona during his time playing for Napoli in the 1989-90 season sold for 7,500 euros. — AFP

HONG KONG GOLF GETS JANUARY SLOTT

Hong Kong: Golf's Hong Kong Open has been rescheduled for January after its postponement over violent anti-government protests, organisers said on Friday — although it will not be sanctioned by the European Tour. The tournament, one of Asia's oldest and most prestigious competitions, was originally slated for November 28-December 1, but was postponed as the city wrestled with months of pro-democracy protests. The \$1 million event will now be held from January 9-12, and will be sanctioned by the Asian Tour but not the European Tour which has the South African Open in the same week. "We are pleased to announce the 61st Hong Kong Open will now be the curtain-raiser for our 2020 season," Asian Tour commissioner and CEO Cho Min Thant said in a statement. "As our season-opening event, there will be an undoubtedly strong Asian Tour field with players eager to get their seasons off to a fast start." European Tour chief Keith Pelley said his organisation would return to sanction the Hong Kong Open when it resumes its November time slot later in the year. "While we are unable to sanction the opening of the Hong Kong Open due to our tournament commitments... we very much look forward to returning next November when the 62nd Hong Kong Open will kick off our 2021 European Tour season," he said in the statement. The Hong Kong Open has been won by luminaries from Peter Thomson to Rory McIlroy, and has been an annual fixture at the colonial-era Fanling course for 60 editions since 1959 until its postponement this year. — AFP

Russen mania

Westbrook triple-double fuels Rockets over Raptors

Los Angeles, Dec. 6: The Toronto Raptors clamped down on Houston's NBA scoring leader James Harden on Thursday, but his Rockets teammates filled the void in a 119-109 win over the reigning champions. Forward Ben McLemore led Houston with a season-high 28 points and Russell Westbrook contributed a triple-double of 19 points, 13 rebounds and 11 assists as the Rockets bounced back from a controversial double-overtime loss to the San Antonio Spurs on Tuesday. Harden, who is averaging more than 39 points per game this season, connected on seven of just 11 shots from the field, finishing with 23 points in the face of a determined defensive effort from the Raptors. Harden took just three shots in the first half, and most of his attempts in the second were off broken plays or fast breaks as he found himself relentlessly double-teamed. "James, to his credit, didn't force anything," Rockets coach Mike D'Antoni said. "He said 'OK, double me and my teammates will score tonight.' And they did." While Harden scored just six points in the first half, the Rockets led by as many as 16 in the second quarter before reaching halftime with a 63-55 advantage. The Raptors briefly

edged ahead in the third, but the Rockets responded and never trailed in the fourth. "It's just dedication, just going out there knowing what we have to do to get a win tonight after a tough loss," said McLemore, who made a career-high eight three-pointers. Pascal Siakam led the Raptors with 24 points and Fred VanVleet added 20 for Toronto, who won their first nine home games of the season but have now lost two straight on their home floor. They fell in overtime to the visiting Miami Heat on Tuesday.

Suns hang on
There was drama in New Orleans, where Phoenix's Devin Booker scored 21 of his season-high 44 points in the third quarter and the Suns held on for a 139-132 overtime victory over the Pelicans. Brandon Ingram — who needed stitches near his right eye after he fell and

was then fallen on by Phoenix's Daric Saric — missed at the buzzer. Suns center Frank Kaminsky scored six points and Ricky Rubio added four in overtime as Phoenix pulled away for the win. In Washington, Japanese rookie Rui Hachimura scored 27 points and Bradley Beal added 29 as the Wizards shook off a sluggish start to beat the Philadelphia 76ers 113-113. The road was continued for a 76ers team that is unbeaten in 10 home games, with 21 Philadelphia turnovers leading to 30 Wizards points. Joel Embiid and Ben Simmons combined for 15 of the turnovers. — AFP



Houston Rockets guard Russell Westbrook controls the ball during an NBA match on Friday. Rockets won 119-109. — AP

AUSTRALIAN OPEN GOLF



English golfer Paul Casey hits a shot on the fairway of the sixth hole on day two of the Australian Open golf in Sydney. — AFP

Jones is on top in smoke-hit Sydney

Sydney, Dec. 6: Leader Matt Jones complained of stinging eyes and trouble breathing as smoke from raging bushfires descended on the Australian Open golf competition for the second day running on Friday. Jones birdied the final hole for a one-stroke lead over England's Paul Casey as the players struggled through another day of smoke haze. World number 14 Casey, the highest-ranked player in the field, led for much of the day after a sparkling six-under-par 65. But Jones, who won the tournament in 2015, dropped a tricky putt on the last to be 10-under for the tournament after his first-round 67. Another Australian, Dimitrios Papadatos, was alongside Casey one shot back. Five others, including South Africa's Louis Oosthuizen and Japanese amateur Takumi Kanaya, the joint overnight leader, were two behind Jones. "I'm really glad to know I was fully in the zone but it was really nice stuff and it felt really good," he said, some of the toxic smoke from bushfires blazing across New South Wales in the morning before beginning to return as the day wore on. "As you can tell by the voice the smoke has got to me a little bit," croaked Jones. "It's not the easiest to breathe, our eyes have definitely been stinging quite a bit. "But any time you get to lead is fantastic. It would have been better to be more than one in front, but I'll take one." World number 15 Adam Scott, who will be playing the Presidents Cup against Tiger Woods' US team next week, missed the cut despite firing a 67 as his first round of 75 cost him dearly. His Presidents Cup international team skipper Ernie Els shot a 77 and will also miss the final two days, allowing him to focus on the task ahead next week at Royal Melbourne. Former Masters champion Sergio Garcia was another to fall short of the cut. Casey, who has won twice this year, at the PGA Tour's Valspar Championship and the European Open, said he was finally finding his range. "I don't know if I was really nice stuff and it felt really good," he said, some of the toxic smoke from bushfires blazing across New South Wales in the morning before beginning to return as the day wore on. "As you can tell by the

PSG searching for best form

Paris, Dec. 6: With Neymar and Kylian Mbappe finally both in and playing in the same team, the pressure is on Paris Saint-Germain coach Thomas Tuchel to get his all-star attack firing on all cylinders going into the second half of the season. Injuries and off-field issues had prevented the two most expensive players on the planet from starting a game together this season until PSG's 2-0 midweek over Nantes which kept the reigning champions five points clear at the top of Ligue 1. Both players duly scored, with Mbappe's backheel opener being followed by a Neymar penalty, but PSG were sluggish, and not for the first time in recent weeks. "Maybe it's just in our heads — because we are afraid of losing the ball, we end up losing the ball," admitted Tuchel. "We need to think about winning, about building attacks, creating chances.



Paris Saint-Germain's Neymar greets supporters. — AFP

It is clear that we intend to improve, get our intensity back." In the meantime PSG are winning games. They are top of Ligue 1 and have won their Champions League group before next week's final

game at home to Galatasaray. However, they have often been reliant on goalkeepers of similar stature to the former Bayern Munich goalkeeper Manuel Neuer. "We had to bring in hard, rough sparring partners," Joshua said. "I brought in the toughest and roughest." Joshua is also believed to have shed considerable bodyweight for the fight. In June, Joshua weighed in at 247.8 pounds (112.4 kg) but has said this week he expects to tip the scales significantly lighter, having cut muscle bulk in order to improve his mobility around the ring. "I may be less than 17 stone (238 pounds)," Joshua said of his expected weight. — AFP

REAL MADRID FIND THEIR POGBA WITHIN

Madrid, Dec. 6: Zinedine Zidane pursued Paul Pogba but found Fede Valverde and his emergence as Real Madrid's most important midfielder may yet prove the turning point in their season. He paid for Pogba last summer. As well as saving the club money, he might have saved their coach too. Zidane, starting down the barrel in September, is flying high three months later. Madrid sit level on points with Barcelona at the top of La Liga and have secured qualification to the Champions League's last 16. They face Espanyol at home on Saturday ahead of a European rubber against Club Brugge, the kind of fixture Valverde would once have viewed as a rare opportunity to play in the team. Instead, the 21-year-old has become a key figure in Zidane's second era and, between Karim Benzema up front and Sergio Ramos at the back, the central cog in a newly-former spine. When Zidane talks about Pogba, he invariably refers to the English description, "box-to-box," a phrase he clearly feels best suits the energy and dynamism the Uruguayan has brought. Luka Modric and Toni Kroos had been the mainstays ahead of the more defensively-minded Casemiro, but their ponderous performances came to characterise a Madrid side that lacked spark. — AFP

Defeat is unthinkable for Bayern at Borussia

Berlin, Dec. 6: Manuel Neuer says a second consecutive defeat is unthinkable for Bayern Munich on Saturday at Bundesliga leaders Borussia Mönchengladbach, who quietly harbour aspirations of a first German title since 1977. Bayern have lifted the trophy each of the past seven seasons but their Bundesliga reign is under threat as they trail four points behind Borussia. Gladbach, a third of the season played, interim Bayern coach Hansi Flick, who replaced the sacked Niko Kovac last month, suffered his first defeat in five games a week ago with a shock 2-1 loss at home to Bayer Leverkusen. Neuer has called for a response by Bayern at Borussia Park. "We simply must not lose, that's out of the question — we're going there to win," the Germany goalkeeper told Kicker magazine. — AFP

Reed moves clear as Woods surges

Miami, Dec. 6: Patrick Reed edged into a three-shot lead at the Hero World Challenge in the Bahamas on Thursday as Tiger Woods bounced back into contention after a lacklustre opening round. Former Masters champion Reed carded a second consecutive six-under-par 66 to finish the second round at 12 under for the tournament at Albany Golf Club. "I feel good," Reed said afterwards. "I feel like the game's a lot more clearer than it was earlier this year. I'm giving myself opportunities and the putter's working." US Open champion Gary Woodland, who had shared the first round lead on Wednesday, posted a three-under-par 68 to finish the day alone in second place at nine under. Sweden's Henrik Stenson and Spain's Jon Rahm shared third spot on eight under, four off the lead. Stenson moved up the leaderboard after a five-under-par 67 while Rahm shot a six-under-par 68. — AFP

Joshua, Ruiz ready for 'Clash on the Dunes'



Mexican-American heavyweight boxing champion Andy Ruiz Jr (left) and British heavyweight boxing challenger Anthony Joshua face each other during their press conference in Riyadh. — AFP

Riyadh, Dec. 6: Anthony Joshua faces the biggest test of his boxing career on Saturday as he attempts to reclaim his world heavyweight crown from Andy Ruiz in a controversial rematch in Saudi Arabia. Six months after suffering a shock knockout defeat to Ruiz at Madison Square Garden, Joshua will climb back into the ring with Ruiz seeking to win back the IBF, WBA, and WBO titles. A leaner, meaner Joshua told reporters this week he is "hungry, determined and focused" for a bout that is expected to get under way at around midnight local time. The stakes could not be higher for Joshua, who

would face a long road back to the pinnacle of the heavy-weight division if he loses a fight being hyped as "Clash on the Dunes." Victory, by contrast, would re-establish his credentials in the division, opening the door to money-spinning fights against WBC champion Deontay Wilder or fellow Briton Tyson Fury. "I am not here to put on a show, I am here to win," Joshua (22-1 knockouts) said. Joshua has blamed a "lack of experience" for his defeat to Ruiz in June, when he was knocked down four times en route to a seventh-round stoppage. For the rematch, the 6ft 6in (1.98m) Joshua has

invested heavily in quality sparring partners, hiring boxers of similar stature to the 6ft Ruiz to prepare for the fast-handed Mexican-American. "We had to bring in hard, rough sparring partners," Joshua said. "I brought in the toughest and roughest." Joshua is also believed to have shed considerable bodyweight for the fight. In June, Joshua weighed in at 247.8 pounds (112.4 kg) but has said this week he expects to tip the scales significantly lighter, having cut muscle bulk in order to improve his mobility around the ring. "I may be less than 17 stone (238 pounds)," Joshua said of his expected weight. — AFP



Time to go
Former world number one Caroline Wozniacki announces on Friday that she will retire from tennis after next month's Australian Open

VAR is becoming too difficult for everyone. I don't think anyone knows where they are with it.
— Chris Wilder, Sheffield United boss

SHORT TAKES

Manpreet in line for FIH award

Lausanne: Indian men's hockey captain Manpreet Singh was on Friday nominated for the Player of the Year award by the International Hockey Federation after he led the country to a Tokyo Olympics berth. Two other Indian players, Vivek Prasad and Lalchand Bhoirane, were also nominated for the men's and women's FIH Rising Star of the Year award respectively. The 27-year-old Manpreet, a veteran of 242 international caps, is the midfield pivot of the Indian team. Under his leadership, India beat Russia 11-3 on aggregate in Bhubaneswar last month to qualify for the Tokyo Olympics.

The 19-year-old Prasad, a midfielder, led the Indian team in the Youth Olympics last year where the country won a silver medal. He was also named the best young player at the FIH Series Finals this year. Lalchand, a forward, was a part of the Asian Games silver-winning women's squad. — PTI

Sonia, Meena enter Nationals semis

Kannur, Kerala: Last year's World Championships silver medalist Sonia Chatterjee and Cologne World Cup gold medalist Meenakumari Devi (54kg) confirmed medals as they stormed into the semifinals of 4th Elite Women's National Boxing Championships here on Friday.

Cahal had to fight against Himachal Pradesh's Vinakshi on her way to a gritty 3-2 win. All contenders Meenakumari Devi got closer to the defence of her 54kg title with a dominant 5-0 win over Jharkhand's Sakshi.

Fresh from winning the coveted gold medal at the 2019 World Police and Fire Games, Arjuna awardee Kavita Chatterjee brought that sterling form to the Nationals to continue her winning spree. The two-time Women's World Boxing Championships bronze medalist moved one step closer to the top podium when she landed a flurry of punches to knock out Rajasthan's Barbara Sampson 5-0. Former youth world champion Shashi Chopra (60kg), hailing from Haryana, also put up an impressive performance in her quarter-final bout against Chandigarh's Manju, winning it 5-0. — PTI

TWO VETERAN TT COACHES NO MORE

Chandigarh: Indian table tennis was left mourning after two veteran coaches Bhawani Mukherji and Tapan Bose died here on Friday. Mukherji died aged 68 due to an unspecified stomach ailment at home in Zirakpur, while Bose, 76, suffered a heart attack a little later at his residence here. Mukherji is survived by his wife and a son and Bose is survived by his wife, one son and one daughter.

"Mukherji was suffering from a stomach ailment and he passed away at his residence," TTFI secretary general, MP Singh said. The two coaches shared a good rapport with Mukherji serving as an assistant to Bose before taking over the reins as head coach at NIS, Patiala after the latter's retirement in 1974. Mukherji, who was the first Dronacharya award winner in table tennis, did his schooling and graduation from Amjer where his father was a medical practitioner. He joined the National Institute of Sports (NIS) Patiala in the mid-seventies after obtaining diplomas in coaching. He was the head coach at NIS Patiala and became the head coach of the national team for a brief period after the 2010 Commonwealth Games. Bose, who led the Uttar Pradesh team in nationals, became the state coach in the seventies. He was ranked India No. 7 in the sixties as a junior player. — PTI

Time for derby drama

City, United eye success at home after disappointing season

London, Dec. 6: Both sides of the Manchester divide will be hoping some derby delight can add impetus to disappointing seasons when City host United on Saturday, while Liverpool travel to Bournemouth aiming to surge further clear at the top of the Premier League.

Manchester United got a badly needed win for manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer on Wednesday, inflicting a first defeat as Tottenham manager Jose Mourinho as the Portuguese returned to Old Trafford. The Red Devils were again reliant on Marcus Rashford goals as the England forward struck twice to take his tally to 12 in 13 games for club and country.

There has been precious little for United fans to enjoy this season, but just a fifth Premier League victory in 16 games was enough to lift them up to sixth. That is still 11 points adrift of third-placed City, despite their own struggles at times. Pep Guardiola's men looked more like their old selves in Saturday's 4-1 on Tuesday with Gabriel Jesus stepping up in the absence of the injured Sergio Aguero to score twice.

City have lost just one of six league meetings with United since Guardiola took charge three years ago and cannot afford to slip up if they are to maintain any aspirations of catching Liverpool in the title race.

The English champions could kick-off at the Etihad 14 points behind the leaders, should Jurgen Klopp's men continue their scintillating form at Bournemouth earlier on Saturday.

Klopp could even afford the luxury of leaving Roberto Firmino and Mohamed Salah on the bench for a 5-2 thrashing of Everton in the Merseyside derby in midweek.

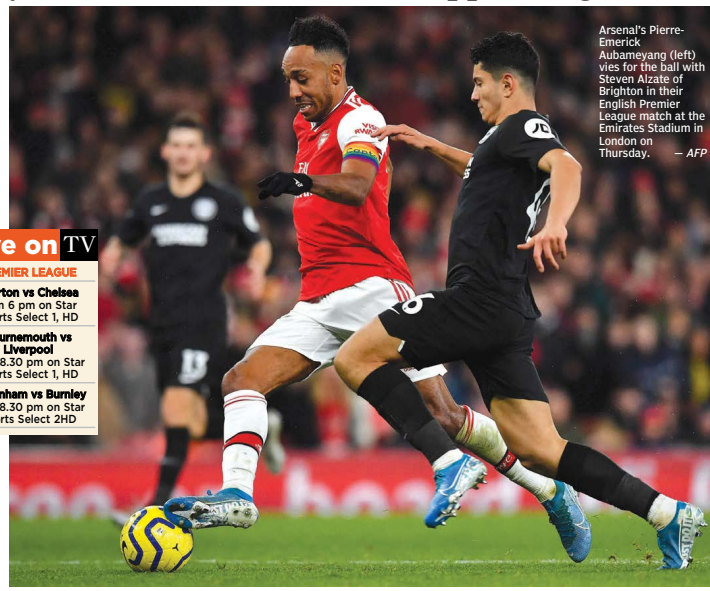
Both are expected to return for the visit to the south coast, but Klopp may rest some of his stars as they start against Everton ahead of a huge week for the European champions. Arsenal, who were held 1-1 by Salzburg in the Champions League on Tuesday, need to avoid defeat if their defence of the title is not to embarrassingly end in the group stages. — AFP

City have lost just one of six league meetings with United since Guardiola took charge three years ago and cannot afford to slip up if they are to maintain any aspirations of catching Liverpool in the title race

Live on TV

PREMIER LEAGUE

Everton vs Chelsea from 6 pm on Star Sports Select 1, HD
Bournemouth vs Liverpool from 8.30 pm on Star Sports Select 1, HD
Tottenham vs Burnley from 8.30 pm on Star Sports Select 2 HD



Arsenal's Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang (left) vies for the ball with Steven Alzate of Brighton in their English Premier League match at the Emirates Stadium in London on Thursday. — AFP

Brighton inflict more misery on Arsenal

London, Dec. 6: Caretaker manager Freddie Ljungberg said Arsenal "did not show up" for the first 45 minutes as the Gunners' winless streak reached nine games in a 2-1 home defeat to Brighton on Thursday. Neal Maupay headed in a deserved winner for the Seagulls 10 minutes from time after Alexandre Lacazette had cancelled out Adam Webster's opener for Brighton. Defeat leaves Arsenal in 10th place and 10 points adrift of fourth-placed Chelsea in the hunt for Champions League qualification next season.

On this evidence there is little chance of Ljungberg landing the job on a permanent basis as another sparse crowd at the Emirates greeted the final whistle with a chorus of boos. After a 2-2 draw at Norwich on Sunday in the first match since Unai Emery was sacked, there was again no sign of a new manager home for Ljungberg's bounce how as Brighton dominated the first 45 minutes and could have gone in at the break more than one goal to the good. "You cannot give away a whole half against any

RESULTS

Sheffield United	0
Newcastle	2
<i>(Saint-Maximin 15, Shelvey 70)</i>	
Arsenal	1
Brighton	2
<i>(Lacazette 50, Webster 36, Maupay 80)</i>	

team in the Premier League," said Ljungberg. "We did not show up in the first half, we were passive, we didn't move. We had chat at half-time, made a tactical change and all of a sudden we looked like the team we

wanted to for 20 minutes." **"VAR DIFFICULT FOR EVERYONE"** David Luiz thought he had put Arsenal in front as he turned home Donjo Mesut Ozil's free-kick only for the Brazilian to rightly be ruled offside after a VAR review. Ljungberg believes Arsenal need a win by any means to regain some confidence before they can start to look at gaining ground on the top four. Victory first Brighton takes them to within a point of Arsenal and four clear of the relegation zone. Elsewhere, Newcastle taunted Sheffield United

Paddlers Amalraj, Sutirtha win singles titles in South Asian Games

Shuttlers shine as Siril, Ashmita bag gold

Kathmandu/Pokhara, Dec. 6: Shuttlers led India's yet another stupendous show as the country widened the gap at the top by clinching 41 medals, including 19 gold, on Day 5 of the 13th South Asian Games here on Friday. India grabbed another 18 silver and 4 bronze to take the total tally to 165 medals (81 gold, silver, 25 bronze) and leave second-placed Nepal (41 gold, 27 silver, 48 bronze), who won 116 medals in aggregate, behind. Sri Lanka are third with a total of 13 medals (four — for India on Friday). They completely dominated the discipline by winning four gold and two silver in the day.

Former world junior championships silver medalist Siril Verma lived up to his top seeding as he rallied from a 0-1 deficit to win the men's singles final. In the women's singles final, Ashmita Chalhala overcame a late surge from fellow Indian Gayatri Gopichand to finish off with a 21-18, 25-23 win.

In doubles, there was double delight for Dhruv Dhanraj and Om Prakash Karhana as a distant second with a best throw of 17.31m. In women's shot put event, Abha Khathua took the gold by throwing the iron ball to a distance of 15.32m. Compatriot Kachana Chaudhary bagged the bronze with a throw of 13.66m.

GOLD FOR PADDLERS In table tennis also, the Indians won the gold and women's singles. Anthony Amalraj defeated compatriot Harmet Desai 4-3 while Sutirtha Mukherjee downed Mukherjee 4-2 in the all-Indian men's and women's singles finals respectively. India weightlifters also continued their impressive run in the regional multi-sporting event by claiming three gold and a silver.

INDIAN BADMINTON TEAM POSE WITH THEIR MEDALS AT THE 13TH SOUTH ASIAN GAMES ON FRIDAY.

Kerala ride on Kisekka strike

Vasco, Dec. 6: Ugandan forward Henry Kisekka's clinical finish helped title contenders Gokulam Kerala FC beat Indian Arrows side by a solitary goal in an I-League match at the Tilkal Maidan here on Friday. The Arrows gave the in-form Gokulam a mighty scare, particularly after the Malabarians had to play the last 15 minutes of the match with 10 men. Gokulam coach Valera played both Kisekka and Trinidadian captain Marcus Joseph upfront while Arrows' new coach Shanmugam Venkatesh also began with a regulation 4-4-2, with Vikram Partap Singh and Aman Chetri.

Gokulam Kerala have won both their opening games and now sit pretty on top of the table with six points in the I-League

Gokulam started strongly and both Joseph and Kisekka missed a couple of sitters in the opening 20 minutes of the game. The Arrows, however, found their grooves by then and Vikram Partap was impressive with his surging runs down the right. By the time the first half ended, Gokulam were left wondering what they needed to do to break down the young Arrows as their goal was being manned more than half by the young Samik Mitra, who also had a confident first 45 minutes. After the breather and against the run of play, Gokulam took the lead within five minutes of resumption. A long ball found Kisekka on the top of the Arrows box on the right. The Ugandan got away from his markers in a flash and neatly placed the ball at the left-hand corner of the Arrows net. In the 78th minute, a wonderful Gokulam move resulted in a Joseph headed deflection off an Arrows defender and going in, but Samik brought off a brilliant save. Five minutes later, Etienne brought down an onrushing Aman Chetri after the young forward had dispossessed him in front of goal and was headed towards it. With just the keeper ahead, the referee had no option but to give marching orders to the bulky Trinidadian centre-back.

BOXERS KAUSHIK, KRISHNA GIVE INDIA STRONG START

Kathmandu, Dec. 6: World Championships bronze medalist Manish Kaushik (64kg) got India's medal quest off to a glorious start as Vikas Krishan (89kg) made a winning comeback to enter the semi-finals on the first day of boxing action at the 13th South Asian Games here on Friday. While Ankit Khanana (75kg) was the third Indian to progress into the last-four. In the women's category, Sonia Lather (57 kg) had an easy outing against Bangladesh's Shamima Akter as she won via KSC in the 3rd round while young and aspiring boxer, S. Kalavani beat Pakistan's Rabia Batool, forcing the referee to stop the contest in the first round itself. Seven men boxers — Vinod (60kg), Sparsh (52kg), Sachin (57kg), Varinder (80kg), Sachin (81kg), Gaurav Chauhan (91kg) and Narender (+91kg) and four women boxers — Panki Rani (61kg), Shiksha (54kg), Parveen (60kg) and Manju Bambraya (64kg) are already in the semi-finals thus ensuring India of 16 medals. — Agencies

NEROCA NOTCH UP FIRST WIN

In Impati, Neroca FC registered their first win of this I-League season by beating former champions Ahmednagar 2-0 on Friday. Ousmane Diawara scored the all-important goal in the 28th minute to give the home side the lead. The third goal, Neroca had 1-2 to Gokulam Kerala in their campaign opener. After the breather and against the run of play, Gokulam took the lead within five minutes of resumption. A long ball found Kisekka on the top of the Arrows box on the right. The Ugandan got away from his markers in a flash and neatly placed the ball at the left-hand corner of the Arrows net. In the 78th minute, a wonderful Gokulam move resulted in a Joseph headed deflection off an Arrows defender and going in, but Samik brought off a brilliant save. Five minutes later, Etienne brought down an onrushing Aman Chetri after the young forward had dispossessed him in front of goal and was headed towards it. With just the keeper ahead, the referee had no option but to give marching orders to the bulky Trinidadian centre-back.