

THE ASIAN AGE

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NEW DELHI SUNDAY 8 DECEMBER 2019



NATION | Politics

Maha governor: Hindi will become national language without its imposition

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SUNDAY AGE | Cover

A community potluck: Small communities keep their traditions alive through food

33

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WINDOWS



Actor Robert Redford poses after he received a career tribute at the 18th edition of the Marrakech International Film Festival on Friday. — AFP

Income tax rate cut soon, hints Sitharaman

New Delhi: Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Saturday indicated that the government may soon relax the personal income tax burden to provide relief to individuals and boost consumption by putting more money in the hands of people. The relief, if provided, will come amid a downturn in the economy led by tepid demand and sluggish private investment. The Union Budget for fiscal 2021 will be presented in February. Full report on Page 2

London attacker buried in PoK village

Srinagar: Uman Khan, suspected of killing two people in a terror attack near London Bridge on November 29, was buried in ancestral village in Kotli district of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) on Friday night. Reports received here from across the Line of Control (LoC) said that the corpse of the 28-year-old was earlier flown to Pakistan from Britain by his parents after his namaz-e-janaaza was offered in a mosque in Birmingham. Full report on Page 4

COUNTERPOINT



No sweater! There is heated debate on burning issues!

WEATHER

Max: 24°C
Min: 9.3°C
RH: 73%
Rainfall: Nil
Forecast: Mist

ASTROGUIDE

Vikari: Dakshinayana
Tithi: Margasira Shuddha Ekadasi till 8.27 am
Star: Ashwini till 3.28 am
Varjyam: 11.08 pm to 12.52 am (Monday)
Durmuhurtam: 4.09 pm to 4.53 pm
Rahukalam: 4.30 pm to 6 pm

SUNSET TODAY 5.25 PM
SUNRISE TOMORROW 7.01 AM
MOONRISE TOMORROW 2.29 PM
MOONSET TODAY 3.06 AM

Unnao victim's family for 'Hyd-like justice'

Rape victim died on Friday night after battling for life for almost 40 hours; body taken to her native village by road | 'Unnao woman's death extremely saddening, case will be taken to fast-track court,' says UP CM Yogi Adityanath

AGE CORRESPONDENT WITH SPECIAL INPUTS

NEW DELHI/UNNAO, DEC. 7 As Opposition parties attacked the government of Uttar Pradesh of failing to provide security to those brutalised by sexual violence, chief minister Yogi Adityanath assured the grieving family of justice, saying a fast-track court would decide the case. He later announced an ex-gratia of ₹25 lakh for the family.

The body of the 23-year-old victim was taken to her village in Uttar Pradesh's Unnao district by road on Saturday.

Mother douses girl with petrol

New Delhi: A woman poured suspected inflammable liquid on her minor daughter outside Delhi's Safdarjung Hospital on Saturday afternoon while demanding justice for the Unnao victim, the police said. PAGE 13

As news came that the Unnao gangrape victim had succumbed to her injuries, Opposition parties launched a massive attack on the UP government, including a general strike in the state.

I do not want money or any other kind of help. I want to see that the accused are chased and shot dead like the Hyderabad encounter or hanged to death

— Unnao victim's father

BJP MP Sakshi Maharaj, 2 mantras hekked

Unnao, Dec. 7: Protests were held on Saturday evening as UP ministers Swami Prasad Maurya and Kamal Rani Varun along with local BJP MP Sakshi Maharaj reached the village of the Unnao gangrape victim and met her family.

A number of protesters, including some local Congress leaders, sustained injuries as police used force to disperse the crowd which gathered outside the residence of the victim, shouted 'Vapas Jao, Vapas Jao' and raised slogans against the state government and Sakshi Maharaj. Police used force to drive away the protesters after which the 3 VIPs were taken to the victim's home. —PTI



The mortal remains of the rape victim, who succumbed to severe burns in Delhi's Safdarjung Hospital, reaches her native village in Unnao district of Uttar Pradesh on Saturday. —PTI

Akhilesh on dharna, Priyanka visits kin

Lucknow/New Delhi, Dec. 7: The BJP government in Uttar Pradesh led by Yogi Adityanath faced flak from all quarters on Saturday as tragic news of the Unnao victim's death sank in.

While Samajwadi Party president and former UP Pradesh chief minister Akhilesh Yadav sat on a dharna outside the Vidhan Bhavan, demanding that the BJP government in the state be removed, Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra visited the family of the young victim in Unnao.

SP chief Akhilesh Yadav along with party leaders staged a dharna in front of Vidhan Bhavan in Lucknow on Saturday. —PTI

NHRC committee visits encounter site in Telangana

JAYENDRA CHATTANPALLY HYDERABAD, DEC. 7 An investigative committee of the National Human Rights Commission arrived in Hyderabad on Saturday and began its inquiry into the killing of the rape-victim of Disha on the outskirts of Chattanpally village in Telangana.

The seven-member team was led by senior superintendent of police Manzil Saini and included a forensic expert. After the death of Mohammed Alias Areef, J Shiva, J Naveen, and C

Chennakeshavalu, in an alleged exchange of fire with the Cyberabad police party on Friday, their bodies were shifted to the Mahabubnagar government hospital mortuary and a post-mortem was conducted by forensic doctors from Gandhi Hospital.

The NHRC took suo moto cognizance of the incident and issued notices to the Telangana police. It decided to visit the mortuary and inspect the crime scenes where Disha was killed, set ablaze and the alleged encounter took place. The committee first

snatching their weapons and tried to escape from the site where they had been taken for a reconstruction of events as part of the investigation. Addressing the event here, law minister Ravi Shankar Prasad urged the CJJ and other senior justice leaders to take revenge, the CJJ said during the inauguration of a new building of the Rajasthan high court here.

"I would urge the CJJ and other senior judge that now there must be a mechanism to monitor the disposal of these cases so that India's stature as a proud country

Team examines bullet injuries

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CJI: Justice loses character when it becomes revenge

Jodhpur, Dec. 7: In the backdrop of the Hyderabad rape-murder incident and gunning down of the four accused in an alleged encounter, Chief Justice of India S.A. Bobde on Saturday said justice can never be instant and loses its character when it becomes revenge.

At the same time, he admitted that the recent events in the country have sparked off an old debate with new vigour, where there is no doubt that the criminal justice system must reconsider its position and attitude towards the time it takes to dispose of a case.

"But I don't think justice can ever be or ought to be instant, and justice must never ever take the form of revenge. I believe justice loses its character if it becomes revenge."

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JHARKHAND POLLS

Jharkhand CM Raghubar Das shows his inked finger after casting his vote in Jamshedpur on Saturday. — PTI

63.36% polling, man killed in police firing

Ranchi, Dec. 7: An estimated 63.36 per cent votes were cast on Saturday in the second phase of election for the Assembly in Jharkhand where one person was killed in firing by security personnel near a polling booth.

The voting figure is likely to go up as reports from remote places are awaited.

Falling in the 20 constituencies had begun at 7 am amid tight security. It ended at 3 pm in 18 of them while in the rest two — Jamshedpur (East) and Jamshedpur (West) — the polling ended at 5 pm, sources said. Jharkhand additional director general of police Murali Lal Meena said the man was killed when personnel of the Rapid Action Force fired on the assailants near Bhoi number 36 in Sisi constituency for trying to snatch the ballot. —PTI

Govt: Airlines must pay 400% refund if passenger offloaded

NEW DELHI, DEC. 7 Shankar Katheria sought to know what protection passengers have when despite having confirmed tickets airlines deny them seat in the flight due to overbooking. There is a common grievance against the airlines that they book tickets more than the number of seats available to make profits.

In October this year, a total of 1,102 passengers were denied boarding by various airlines. The highest was by Air India (822), followed by Spicejet (226), IndiGo (85), Air Asia (14) and least was by Vistara (5). The total amount compensated by the airlines to all these passengers

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A key LS post in search of allies

LS dy speaker post lies vacant as BJD refuses to bite bait

ANIMESH SINGH NEW DELHI, DEC. 7 ally. However, with the Shiv Sena having cut off ties with the ruling party, it was learnt to be seriously thinking of nominating somebody from the Biju Janata Dal (BJD), which has made friendly overtures towards the safelists ever since the BJD dispensation came back to power at the Centre in May this year.

However, the BJD has refused to take the bait, as doing so would make the Naveen Patnaik-led party carry the burden of obligation against the BJD.

"Though there have been efforts by some senior BJD leaders to lobby for the coveted post, the shrewd politician that he is, Mr Patnaik has vetoed all such moves. At the same time though, the BJD has clearly indicated its support for the government by supporting all the bills that have been passed in the Lok Sabha ever since the NDA returned to power.

During the previous 16th Lok Sabha, the NDA government had nominated M. Thambidurai from the AIADMK for the post of Deputy Speaker.

Prez seeks review of water-saving regulations for bathrooms

People flushing toilet 10, 15 times: Trump

Washington, Dec. 7: President Donald Trump told a White House gathering Friday that he's taking aim at the problem of US toilets that require flushing "10 times, 15 times."

Speaking in a voice and with a level of detail that suggested the importance he was giving the issue, Trump told the high-level gathering that the government is "looking very strongly" at water pressure troubles in the nation's bathrooms.

"The President, who has spent most of his life in senior officials and invited entrepreneurs about the plumbing issues.

"You turn on the faucet and you don't get any water. People are flushing toilets 10 times, 15 times."

Painting an even more unusual picture for his audience, Mr Trump then declared that "people are flushing toilets 10 times, 15 times, as opposed to once."

"You can't wash your hands practically, there's so little water on the dripping out of the faucet," Mr Trump said. The President said

Trump

— US Prez Donald Trump

We have a situation where we're looking very strongly at sinks and showers, and other elements of bathrooms... You turn on the faucet and you don't get any water... People are flushing toilets 10 times, 15 times.

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Defence minister Rajnath Singh on Saturday said 'Swachh Bharat Abhiyan' has become a people's movement in the country.



Useless to talk of ending corruption as black money flows to parties

— Ashok Gehlot, Rajasthan chief minister

SHORT TAKES
Portability of ration card in Tripura soon

Agartala: The Tripura government is planning to introduce inter-state portability of ration cards by the end of next year, a state minister said on Saturday. Ration cards which are portable with the state have already been introduced and this enables a beneficiary of the public distribution system to get his or her quota of ration from any fair price shop in the state, food and civil supplies minister Manoj Kanti Deb said. "We have already introduced the intra-state portability of ration cards from this month. The government plans to roll out the plan by January," he said.

Protests at Jantar Mantar against NRC

New Delhi: Several people from different states were gathered at the Jantar Mantar on Saturday to protest against the Citizenship Amendment Bill (CAB) and the NRC. Organised by an NGO named United Against Hate, the protesters were carrying placards with slogans like, 'Reject CAB! Boycott NRC!', 'India need jobs, education and health care, not nationwide NRC!' Students from different universities, including JNU, Jamia Millia Islamia and the Aligarh Muslim University, as well as members of the All India Students' Association, joined the protest.

Village head's husband shot dead

Bihar: Unidentified gunmen shot dead a village head's husband and injured another person in Bihar's Khagaria district on Saturday. The incident happened at Phango village under the jurisdiction of Mansi police station when some unidentified gunmen shot at the man who was campaigning for Abdul Kalam, a candidate for Sarawaha Panchayat's Primary Agricultural Credit Society election. The deceased has been identified as Nandan Yadav (30), husband of the village head (mukhya) of Sarawaha panchayat, Nandini Devi, the additional superintendent of police said.

BSP LEADER SAYS CITIZENSHIP BILL AGAINST EQUALITY

Aligarh: BSP MP Kunwar Danish Ali on Saturday said the Citizenship Amendment Bill violated foundational principles of the Constitution and was against the concept of equality. The BSP leader said this during a programme held to mark his election to the AMU court-governing body of the university — from the parliament quota. "The proposed Bill violates fundamental principles of the Constitution of India and is an attack on the concept of equality as enshrined in its preamble," the leader said, adding that his party would oppose the legislation. He said his party shared the unanimous view that the Bill was being introduced simply to "divide people of India and divert their attention from real issues". Addressing the meeting, noted historian and author Habib said, "The proposed Bill is an opportunity for opposition parties to join hands and stand up to ongoing attempts to trample democracy in India." Habib said Maharashtra developments had shown the way to the rest of the country as well as the ongoing assault on the concept of equality taken up by the opposition. Habib said by failing to take the moral high ground on the assault on democracy in Kashmir, most opposition parties had let down the people of Kashmir.



A Jawan stands guard as women wait in a queue during the second phase of Jharkhand Assembly elections, at Karge village in Naxal-hit Mandar constituency on Saturday.

63% votes cast in J'khand Phase 2

1 killed, 2 injured in firing by security personnel near polling booth

Jharkhand, Dec. 7: An estimated 63.36 per cent votes were cast on Saturday in the second phase of election for the Assembly in Jharkhand where one person was killed in firing by security personnel near a polling booth. The voting figure is likely to go up as reports from remote places are awaited. Polling in the 20 constituencies had begun at 7 am amid tight security. It ended at 3 pm in 19 of them while in the rest two — Jamshedpur (East) and Jamshedpur (West) — the polling continued at 5 pm. Election Commission sources said, Chief minister Jharkhand Nitya Chandra Choudhary said the man was killed when personnel of the Rapid

Action Force (RAF) fired on the assailants near both number 36 in Sisi constituency for trying to snatch their arms. Two persons who were injured in the incident were admitted to hospital, said Meena, who is also the nodal officer for assembly election-related security measures. Jharkhand chief electoral officer Vinay Kumar Choudhary said the incident is being probed and cooling in the booth had been suspended. A police officer also suffered injuries when angry villagers resorted to stone pelting after the incident, police sources said. In West Singhbhum district, Naxals torched an empty bus near Jhato Hat village in Chhabra constituency, superintendent of police Inderjeet Mahata said. Assembly Speaker

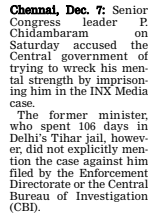
POLL BOL

- A total 48,25,038 voters, including 23,83,437 female and 90 third gender voters, were eligible to exercise their franchise
The voting figure is likely to go up as reports from remote places are awaited
A police officer also suffered injuries when angry villagers resorted to stone pelting

dinesh Oraon (Sisair), rural development minister Neelkanth Singh Munda (Khunti) and BJP's state unit president Laxman Gilua (Chakradharpur), whose fates were decided in this phase of polling, were among the early voters in their respective constituencies. A large number of people were seen waiting in long queues braving cold conditions to cast their votes in Baharagora and Chhabra constituencies, the officials said. Prime Minister Narendra Modi tweeted urging voters to come out in large numbers to exercise their franchise. A total 48,25,038 voters, including 23,83,437 female and 90 third gender voters, were eligible to exercise their franchise to decide the fate of 280 candidates, including 29 women nominees and 73 independents. According to the police, more than 42,000 security personnel, including central forces, have been deployed in the 20 constituencies spread across seven districts. —PTI

Govt wanted to wreck my mental strength: PC

Claims that economy is moving towards worst phase



Congress leader P. Chidambaram waves at party workers as he arrives at Chennai airport on Saturday.

Chennai, Dec. 7: Senior Congress leader P. Chidambaram on Saturday accused the Central government of trying to wreck his mental strength by imprisoning him in the INX Media case. The former minister, who spent 106 days in Delhi Tihar jail, and dubbed the Central government "retrograde", did not explicitly mention the case against him filed by the Enforcement Directorate with the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). "I am not going to talk about the case. Why I was imprisoned? They thought of wrecking my mental strength and it will not happen any day if anybody had thought that I will fall, I will never fall as the Congress party and the Indian people's thirst for freedom are behind me... it is going to be a fight continuously," he told reporters on his arrival from Delhi. Chidambaram also accused the government of trying to wreck his physical health, adding they succeeded for about 10 days. After the court's intervention and examination by doctors, "today (my) health has more or less improved fully," he said. Chidambaram said the economy was moving towards the worst phase and cautioned the people to be on guard. In the coming days, he would continuously "speak and write," he said. On women's safety, Chidambaram said after he assumed charge as finance minister during the UPA regime, ₹3,100 crore was allotted for the Nirbhaya fund and alleged that several states, including Tamil Nadu had not utilised it, which was regrettable.

Chidambaram on Saturday alleged freedom was being denied to 75 lakh people in the Kashmir valley and chided the government "retrograde". The former Union minister, who arrived for the first time after being in a Delhi prison for 106 days in the INX Media case, said he was very happy to breathe the air of freedom. "In several parts of the nation, freedom is being snatched away and voices of freedom are being choked... and you should not forget it at all," he said. Chidambaram alleged "as we speak now, freedom is denied to 75 lakh people in the Kashmir valley," adding if freedom of one person was denied, it meant denying it for all. "In this country, a right wing, retrograde is moving towards a fascist type of government that usurped freedom," he said. The country will become truly independent only when the people in the rest of the nation showed offices that are not in particular Tamil Nadu's BJP in opposing the BJP, he claimed. —PTI

PC dubs Centre 'retrograde', says freedom denied to Kashmiris

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The Nirbhaya fund should be used and women's safety should be ensured. Alleging that the entire country was turning into a killing field for the women, he said Uttar Pradesh, in particular, was becoming one. "Assuring that this must not happen, he said the onus of halting the trend hence lay not only on the government and women, but also men. "Every man should protect women," he said. Asked about Union minister Prakash Javadekar's remark that he had violated his bail conditions, he said, "Prakash Javadekar does not know about the (Supreme Court) verdict and he also does not know about what I had spoken." —PTI

'Will look for options if humiliation continues'



Jagaon (Mahab), Dec. 7: BJP leader Ek Nath Khadse said on Saturday that he would look at other options if his 'humiliation' continued. He also said that he had submitted to the party leadership "evidence" of anti-party activities. Speaking in the October 21 Maharashtra Assembly polls. Mr Khadse met Maharashtra BJP chief Chandrakant Patil after a meeting of the party's North Maharashtra core committee. Speaking to reporters later, he said over the years, he has been kept out of the core committee's meetings and decision-making process of the state BJP. "I am not God. I am a human being and have emotions. I don't want to leave the party for whose growth I worked hard for more than four decades. I am still ready to work for the party," the former minister said. "But if I continue to face humiliation of being kept away from decision-making, I will have to think differently," he said. To a question about his statement that OBC leaders in the BJP are being neglected, Mr Khadse said, "It is not me but party workers feel so. OBC and Bahujan Samaj (a term generally used to denote non-Brahmin communities) leaders have toiled hard, giving blood and sweat for the party's growth. "I have been maligned and I am of the kind of injuries we set up. If I am guilty, take action. But I have been deliberately maligned and insulted so that I am not in contention for any party job," he alleged. —PTI

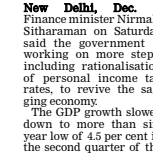
All attempts to reach Mamata exhausted: Govt



Kolkata, Dec. 7: West Bengal Governor Jageed Dhanekar, who is at loggerheads with the TMC government in the state, said on Saturday that all attempts to reach out to chief minister Mamata Banerjee were exhausted as there was no response from her office to his requests for a dialogue. Stating that a chief minister should be in regular communication with the governor of the state, Dhanekar said he is still hopeful of a positive response from Banerjee. "@MamataOfficial As Governor after exhausting back channels, I engaged in outreach to CM by publicly inviting her to Discussions and Dialogue at her chosen place, time date as this the only constitutional way," Dhanekar said in a tweet. "CM sd (should) not be communicated to Gov. Am sure there wd (would) b +ve (positive) response," he added. Dhanekar is being blamed by TMC for delaying clearance of pending bills which had led to an abrupt two-day adjournment of the state assembly earlier this week, opening a new front for hostilities. Later speaking at the India Today Conclave

Nirmala says tax cuts under consideration

'Govt working on more measures to boost economy'



New Delhi, Dec. 7: Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Saturday said the government is working on more steps, including rationalisation of personal income tax rates, to revive the sagging economy. The GDP growth slowed down to more than six-year low of 4.5 per cent in the second quarter of the current fiscal from five per cent recorded in the first quarter. The government has taken several measures during August and September to boost the economy, she said at the IIP Leadership Summit. Besides, she said, the public sector banks have disbursed nearly ₹5 lakh crore without compromising on prudential norms in the last two months to boost consumption in the hinterland. "So there are ways in which for giving stimulus for consumption. We are adopting a direct method and also the method through which we are spending on infrastructure, whose spillover can go to core industries labour and so on," she said. Asked if there could be more measures to boost economic activity, she said,



"If I say yes, it will be when and if I say yes it's also going to be back to me saying are you not too close to the budget. So I don't want to say yes although I am wishing I can say yes at the same time I will not say no, because we are working on more." When asked if the government is considering rationalisation of the personal income tax rate for putting more money in the hands of people, the finance minister said, "One among many things that we are thinking of." Following the reduction in corporate tax in September, there has been a growing demand for a slash in the personal income tax to buttress consumption. In the biggest reduction in 28 years, the government in September slashed corporate rates up to 10 percentage

We are adopting a direct method and also a method through which we are spending on infrastructure, whose spillover can go to core industries labour

— NIRMALA SITHARAMAN points as it looked to pull the economy out of a six-year low growth with a ₹1.45 lakh crore tax break. Base corporate tax for existing companies has been reduced to 25 per cent from 30 per cent and to 15 per cent from 22 per cent for new manufacturing firms incorporated after October 1, 2019, and starting operations before March 31, 2020. Assuring that there will be no harassment of taxpayers, Sitharaman said the intent of the government is to further simplify taxation systems including removal of exemption. Citing the example of corporate tax, she said, "From now on, they're moving towards a greater simplification and exemption free. Therefore, has harassment-free therefore subjective interpretation free taxation regime." —PTI

Uddhav's Cabinet expansion on Monday

AGE CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI, DEC. 7 With less than 10 days left for the commencement of the Winter Session of the Assembly, the allocation of portfolios, as well as the expansion of the Maharashtra Cabinet, is likely to be carried out on Monday. Uddhav Thakre's ceremony is likely to take place at the Raj Bhavan. The Winter Session of the state legislature will begin from December 16 in Nagpur. "Meaning, contrary to earlier reports, the home department is likely to go to the Shiv Sena instead of the NCP," according to sources, the CM has demanded the home department and is willing to part ways with the urban development department, which Sena had sought earlier. This would be the first time that Sena will control the home department. The sources also said that senior NCP leader Ajit Pawar, who had rebelled and joined hands with the Shiv Sena to form a short-lived government, will also be inducted into the cabinet. Through the six ministers, including the chief minister, took the oath of office on Saturday on November 28. —PTI

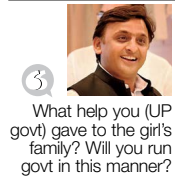
Kolkata couple rides over 36,000 km for tiger awareness

Kolkata, Dec. 7: A city couple has travelled over 36,000 km on their hike, covering 50 tiger reserves in the country to spread awareness about the conservation of big cats. Rathin Das and his wife Gitanjali, residents of Kolkata, completed their journey on February 15 and visited 29 states. Rathin said his journey was aimed at spreading awareness about the need to preserve and protect



Dudhwa, Ranthambhor and Bandipur: Rathin said 643 awareness campaigns were conducted in schools located near the tiger reserves to sensitise the

younger generation about the need to ensure that wild animals and humans do not stray into each other's territory in search of food. "We also talked to villagers and they said some tourists flout basic guidelines to prevent such forest zones playing loud music. We told them to coordinate with forest personnel to prevent such incidents," he said. The couple was backed by NGOs Exploring Nature, South Asian Forests and Environment and the Asian Wildlife Photographer Club of the UK during the expedition. "We will try to save the habitat of tigers. We will be again hitting the road in January and plan to visit seven countries having tiger population," he said. —PTI



What help you (UP govt) gave to the girl's family? Will you run govt in this manner?

— Akhilesh Yadav, SP chief

SHORT TAKES

MP: Rape accused thrashed in court

Bhopal: An accused in the rape and murder of a four-year-old girl was thrashed by some people while being produced in a local court in Mhow in Indore district in Madhya Pradesh. A group of people chased and thrashed Ankit Vijayargya while he was being escorted by police for production in a local court in Mhow in the afternoon. The police, however, saved him from the angry mob. The accused was produced in the court as his two-day police remand expired on Saturday. The 40-year-old was accused of abducting, raping and then strangulating the girl.

Jilted lover attacks woman, is critical

Bhopal: A man, a jilted lover, brutally attacked a woman with a sharp weapon. Chhattisgarh town for filing FIR against him alleging circulation of her nude pictures in social media by leaving her grievously wounded, police said on Saturday. The 40-year-old victim was battling for life in a local hospital, the investigating officer said. According to the police, one Indraprastha Singh (40) was arrested in October, 2019 on charges of taking pictures of the woman when she was in a bath and then circulating them in social media. He allegedly had made advances towards her in the past too.

Man rapes minor daughter, kills her

Chandigarh: The Haryana police has arrested a man who allegedly raped his daughter and killed her by administering rat poison. He bid to conceal his crime, an official said on Saturday. The accused was arrested on Friday from Indore, deputy superintendent of police (headquarters) Gorakhpal told reporters in Chandigarh. The accused, a factory worker, had a strained relationship with his wife and the couple had been living separately at Rohatk for the past six months. The couple had four children, including a two-year-old daughter. — PTI

'RAPE VICTIM' IN KANPUR HANGS SELF

Kanpur, UP: A 17-year-old girl, who had complained to police last month that she was gangraped by her neighbours, allegedly committed suicide by hanging herself from the ceiling of her cousin's house in Kanpur, the police said on Saturday. The girl had hanged herself on Friday night when her family members had gone outside, superintendent of police (Kanpur Dehat) Anurag Vats said. She was abducted allegedly by Sunny Balmiki (19) and his uncle Lala Balmiki (26) on November 13, following which her parents complained to police. An FIR under sections 363 (kidnapping) and 366 (kidnaping and abducting or inducing woman to compel her marriage) was registered, with the officer said. The girl returned home just a day after the police complaint was filed and told her parents that she was raped by Sunny and Lala. Her statement was also recorded by a court. — PTI

Mohammad Abbas said. Following the girl's statement, police altered the case into that of gangrape and slapped regional sections of POCSO Act against the accused. The police nabbed them, the SHO said. The police officer further said the girl was sent to her cousin's house in Indore for proper counselling, where she took the extreme step on Friday night. — PTI

Gandhi scion slams Modi, says his entire career based on hatred, division & violence
India now known as 'rape capital', Rahul

Wayanad, Dec. 7: Citing the increasing number of rape cases, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Saturday said the international community was ridiculing the country and the rise in violence as the "rape capital" of the world. Winding up a three-day tour of the Wayanad Lok Sabha constituency, the Congress MP also lashed out at Prime Minister Narendra Modi and said his (Modi's) entire political career was based on hatred and division and violence.

"The girls, sisters and mothers must be shocked when they read newspapers that every day a girl is raped or killed... The international community today ridicules India. India is known as the rape capital of the world," Mr Gandhi said. In an apparent reference to the rape case against UP BJP MLA Kuldip Singh Sengar, he alleged that the Prime Minister had failed to react when the girl's car was hit by a truck.

"UP BJP MLA is involved in rape and PM hasn't said a word. Her car is hit by a truck and PM doesn't say a word... Foreign nations are asking this question why the nation can't take care of its daughters," Mr Gandhi said. Directly attacking the Prime Minister, Mr Gandhi said Modi represents the worst aspects of the country. "We have a PM who believes in the ideology of hatred and violence in his entire political career is based on hatred and division and violence. He divides religions communities and lan-

guages, he insults culture. He doesn't understand economics. Our people live in fear and discomfort," Mr Gandhi said and urged the people of the country not to "underestimate their (peoples) strength to change the narrative of the nation."

The Wayanad MP had earlier in the day attacked the BJP led government for the alleged rise in violence across the country, particularly against women. "You hear about the increase in violence across the country. Lawlessness, atrocities against women. Every day we read about a girl getting raped and molested. Violence against minority communities and dalits is also increasing," Mr Gandhi said.

According to the Opposition Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF) convention here, Mr Gandhi comes a day after Unnao rape victim, who was set against BJP women in Delhi and the recent incident of a young veterinarian being raped, killed and set on fire in Hyderabad by four people. — PTI



Activists during a candlelight march in solidarity with rape victims and to highlight the issue of violence against women in the country in New Delhi on Saturday.

5-yr-old abducted, raped by auto driver in Bihar

NAYEAR AZAD PATNA, DEC. 7

Amid public outrage over rising crime against women in the country, a five-year-old child was kidnapped and allegedly raped by an auto-rickshaw driver in Bihar's Darbhanga. According to the police, the accused had abducted the girl while she was playing outside her home on Friday. Later, the kid was recovered and was sent to Darbhanga Medical College Hospital for treatment. The accused was arrested a few hours after the incident. "The accused has been arrested and a process to file a charge-sheet against him will be completed within the next 24 hours," the police said. As per an assessment, more than 1,183 rape cases have been lodged between January and October 2019.

Tejashwi Yadav and former CM Rabri Devi have been blaming the state government for its failure in dealing with the situation.

Figures show that 85 cases have been reported in Patna, which is the highest in the state. In Kathar, 79 cases were recorded between January and October this year followed by Purina, where 72 cases of rapes were lodged, Araria 67, Muzaffarpur 66, Gaya 59 and Darbhanga 42. Earlier, this week charged bodies of two women were recovered by the police from Buxar and Samastipur districts. The police have 90 per cent burnt bodies of the victims in both cases. Concerned over rising crime against women in

Bihar, the state government has asked the police and administration to ensure speedy trial of the accused. According to ADG (headquarters) Jagendra Kumar, "Police officials have been directed to arrest the accused involved in rape cases and file a charge-sheet against them in order to ensure speedy trial."

Meanwhile, the Opposition parties, especially RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav and former chief minister Rabri Devi have been blaming the state government for its failure in dealing with the situation. On Saturday, after the Darbhanga incident surfaced, Tejashwi Yadav in a tweet slammed chief minister Nitish Kumar and his deputy Sushil Kumar Modi for avoiding questions on rising incidents of crime against women in the state.

Mob thrashes rape accused in Kerala

Palakkad, Dec. 7: An accused in the Walayar rape and death case of two minor dalit sisters was on Saturday thrashed by a group of people following an altercation, the police said. The accused, M. Madhu, the third accused in the case, who was arrested recently by a lower court, allegedly got into an argument with the group near his house, the police said. "The group allegedly called him (Madhu) a rapist after they were sexually exploited at Walayar in Palakkad district. The older child (18) was being held at a hospital house on January 13, 2017, while her nine-year-old sister died 52 days later in a similar manner. The police had arrested four people, one of whom was acquitted in March, September this year, and the three others on October 25. The POCSO court in Palakkad is now acquitting the accused, had pulled up the investigation team, saying it did not register enough scientific evidence.

While questions are being raised over such illegal stay of the husband at the Sevashram, the family members of the minor girl demanded stringent action against the headmistress. The state government has recently ordered a judicial probe into the death of siblings by suicide after they were sexually exploited at Walayar in Palakkad district. The older child (18) was being held at a hospital house on January 13, 2017, while her nine-year-old sister died 52 days later in a similar manner. The police had arrested four people, one of whom was acquitted in March, September this year, and the three others on October 25. The POCSO court in Palakkad is now acquitting the accused, had pulled up the investigation team, saying it did not register enough scientific evidence.

Husband of headmistress impregnates student held

AKSHAYA KUMAR SAHOO BHUBANESHWAR, DEC. 7

Odisha police on Saturday arrested husband of a school headmistress on the charges of raping and impregnating a Class 7th girl student. The accused, Rajendra Rath, was arrested and produced before court. Jeypore sub-divisional police officer (SDPO) Varun Guntupalli said. According to the SDPO Mr Guntupalli, the accused had been illegally staying at Phangpuri Upgraded Upper Primary Sevashram School in Koraput district. During his frequent stays at the Sevashram, the accused developed physical relations with the girl. "The girl was found three-month pregnant during medical examination. Child welfare committee (CWC) members and district child protection officer (DCPO) counselled the girl. Later, the DCPO reported the matter to Jeypore Sadar police station in this connection."

"Probe revealed that the accused had kept physical relations with the girl for the last five to six months and threatened her not to disclose the matter to anyone," he added. While questions are being raised over such illegal stay of the husband at the Sevashram, the family members of the minor girl demanded stringent action against the headmistress.

BJP MP, mantris heckled in Unnao

Unnao, Dec. 7: Protests were held on Saturday evening as ministers Swami Prasad Maurya and Kamal Ranjiv Varma along with local BJP MP Sakshi Maharaj reached the village of the Unnao gangrape victim and met her family.

A number of protesters including some local school leaders sustained injuries as police used force to disperse the crowd which gathered outside the residence of the victim, shouted "Vapaas Jaao, Vapaas Jaao" (Go Back) and raised slogans against the state government and Sakshi Maharaj. The sloganeering continued for 15 minutes. The police used force to drive away the protesters after which the two ministers and the MP were taken to the victim's home, villagers said. The 23-year-old rape victim, who was airlifted to Delhi and admitted to Safdarjung Hospital with multiple injuries, was being set afire by the accused died following a cardiac arrest at 11.40 pm on Friday. "A criminal is in my hands (naut humlog ke ba kahiin hai)," said the victim. "The state government is standing with the aggrieved family. Criminals have been arrested..."

"Today we have come to offer condolences to the aggrieved family members. Chief minister Yogi Adityanath did his best to save the life of this daughter, and she was airlifted to Delhi, and admitted to Safdarjung Hospital. Controlling death is not in our hands (naut humlog ke ba kahiin hai)," said the victim. "The SP leader raising slogans were held by police but as soon as Maurya left the village, they were let off. Cabinet minister for Technical Education Kamala Ranjiv Varma also accompanied Mr Maurya. — PTI

'Gandhipedia', Bapu's messages to counter social media hatred, hostility

B.R. SRIRAKANTH BENGALURU, DEC. 7
Mahatma Gandhi's messages as an antidote against communal hatred and religious aggression on social media? These messages in all Indian languages along with the National Council of Science Museums to develop "Gandhipedia", a one-stop portal on the Father of the Nation. Rare, for it involves convergence of the yore and cutting edge technology like artificial intelligence (AI). Also rare, for the effort aims to address the issue of trauma and stress among victims of natural and man-made disasters as well.

And, "Gandhipedia", scheduled for completion by March 2020, will be the beginning. As researchers at IIT, Kharagpur and IIT, Gandhinagar plan to work on digitised works of other freedom fighters—Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Lala Lajpat Rai, Bhagat Singh and Chandrashekhar Azad to coincide with the 75th year of independence. Prof. Animesh Mukherjee, who is leading the project, explained that techniques of natural language processing (NLP) and AI-enabled tools would be used to extract relevant texts in Mahatma Gandhi's books, letters, speeches, and other published material in the form of audio and excerpts on social media. The tools would be employed for high quality translation as well. "We will use Gandhian thoughts to make the social media a better place and stop communal hatred and bitterness which we are witnessing today in the event of a crisis, we will try to check whether the social bots are able to reduce the spread of hatred, fear and trauma among people by projecting positive and motivating thoughts from the writings of Mahatma Gandhi," he told this newspaper. He said to start with,

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The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of Can Fin Homes Ltd. under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of the powers under the said Act and Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued thereunder, hereby gives notice calling upon the following borrower(s) to pay the amount due to the lender within the time mentioned in the notice with further interest at contractual rates till date of realization within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the property will be subject to the charge of CFCR for the amount guaranteed by each party along with further interest thereon till the date of realisation.
The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets. The borrowers in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property without the consent of CFCR for the amount guaranteed by each party along with further interest thereon till the date of realisation.
Date: 07.12.2019 Authorised Officer
Place: Faridabad Can Fin Homes Ltd.

People in the land of Gautam Buddha, and Mahatma Gandhi are 'living in fear', says Chhattisgarh CM Bhupesh Baghel

'Hindi will become national language'

It is penetrating all spheres of society, even southern states getting familiar with Hindi: Maha gov

BHAGWAN PARAB
MUMBAI, DEC. 7

"Hindi will eventually become the national language of the country without any formal imposition," said Union Minister Bhagat Singh Koshiyari. Home minister Amit Shah's plans calling for Hindi as the common language for India had recently courted controversy. The southern states had categorically rejected the idea, saying it is a plan to impose Hindi over regional languages. However, Koshiyari has a different

take on this. "There are no plans to impose Hindi. But, it's only a matter of time before Hindi becomes the national language in the natural course even without any formal imposition. The language is penetrating all spheres of society. Even the southern states are getting familiar with the language," he said. "The reach of Hindi is far greater. Even in surrounding countries like Pakistan, Bangladesh and Nepal, Hindi is widely spoken," said Mr Koshiyari. The politician from



It's only matter of time before Hindi becomes the national language in the natural course even without its imposition.
— Bhagat Singh Koshiyari
Governor

legislature. "I do not know how to speak the Marathi language, but I do understand its essence. After coming here (Maharashtra), I have started reading Marathi newspapers," Mr Koshiyari said speaking exclusively to The Asian Age. The governor said he is passionate about the language and hence, he gave a shot at speaking it. "I had sought drafts of my speech in Hindi and English as well. But, after going through them, I thought it is better to speak in Marathi. Of

course, it helped me a lot that Marathi has the same script as that of Hindi," he said. Apart from Hindi, Mr Koshiyari, an avid lover of languages, knows languages like Sanskrit, Bangla and Nepali. He also has a working knowledge of Urdu and German languages. The scriptogarian feels that it is paramount for the governor to understand the local culture and language of the state, where he has been appointed. "It gives you an added advantage to comprehend the local issues," he said.

Judicial process has gone beyond the reach of the common man
— Ram Nath Kovind, President

SHORT TAKES

MP honeytrap case: Action under PMLA

Bhopal: In a new twist to the infamous honey-trapping and blackmailing scandal that rocked Madhya Pradesh, Enforcement Directorate (ED) initiated a move to book victims of the scam under PMLA Act, 2012. "The ED has earlier sought files relating to financial transactions made by the scammer, find out if there was violation of PMLA Act by them. We handed over the relevant files to them on Saturday," sources said. Earlier, the victims were under the impression that they may not be booked for having physical relations with the alleged members of the honey-trap gang since it had happened with mutual consents.

All flights cancel in Srinagar due to fog

Srinagar: The air traffic was badly affected in the Kashmir Valley on Saturday as dense fog forced cancellation of all flights to and from Srinagar airport, leaving hundreds of passengers stranded, officials said. "All the scheduled flights were cancelled due to poor visibility at the airport," the official of airports authority of India said. He said the visibility at the airport was around 600 metres during morning but since there was no improvement in the situation, the air traffic was suspended for the day. — PTI

Hoteller shot at Ambala city

Ambala: A hoteller was shot at allegedly by two unidentified motorcycle-borne persons at Ambala City, the police said on Saturday. Hoteller Rajesh Ahluwalia sustained a bullet injury on the upper part of his forehead and was rushed to PGIMER in Chandigarh after the incident on Friday night, they said. Police said that Rajesh was returning home after closing his hotel around 11.30 pm on Friday, when the accused shot his car near City Plaza in the area. When he came out of the car, they fired at him and escaped. — PTI

Airlines must pay refund: govt

Continued from Page 1
was over ₹47 lakhs. The DGCA receives details of passengers affected due to denied boarding from the scheduled domestic airlines as part of monthly submission of traffic data. In order to ensure appropriate protection of the air travellers in case of denied boarding, the DGCA had in February this year issued specific guidelines under Civil Aviation Requirements (CAR) for refunds. However, DGCA primarily being a safety the regulatory body does not regulate the commercial activities of the airlines, the minister added. As per CAR, if the boarding is denied to passengers against their will, the airline shall not be liable for any compensation if it arranges an alternate flight that is scheduled to depart within an hour of the original schedule departure time of the initial reservation. Failing to do so, the airlines will need to compensate an amount equal to 200% of booked one-way basic airfare plus fuel charge subject to maximum ₹1,00,000 in case the airlines arranges for an alternate flight that leaves within 24 hours of the booked scheduled departure. This compensation is 400% if the alternative flight departs after more than 24 hours of original departure time. Similarly passengers are to be compensated through refund or adjusting in other flights if a flight is delayed or cancelled. In May this year, 3851 passengers were denied boarding by various airlines, highest among them was again Air India (2563 denied).

London Bridge terrorist is buried in PoK village

YUSUF JAMEEL
SRINAGAR, DEC. 7

Usman Khan, suspected of killing two people in a terror attack near London Bridge on November 29 was buried in a village in Kotli district of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) on Friday night. Khan, who went on the rampage, targeting people at Fishmongers' Hall near London Bridge in the heart of the city's financial district, had been convicted of terrorism offences in 2012 but was released from jail in December 2018 on an ankle monitor.

The locals said that they attended Khan's last rites out of sympathy with the family and not because they endorsed the attack. The London's metropolitan police said that Khan, who went on the rampage, targeting people at Fishmongers' Hall near London Bridge in the heart of the city's financial district, had been convicted of terrorism offences in 2012 but was released from jail in December 2018 on an ankle monitor. A man and a woman were killed and two women were injured in the November 29 London Bridge attack.

Uttarakhand was surrounded in controversy a couple after he administered the oath to Devendra Fadnis as a chief minister on December 23. He, however, won many hearts, including that of chief minister Uddhav Thackeray by giving a speech in Marathi in a joint sitting of the state

Over 400 J&K youth join Army



New Army recruits with their families after passing out parade at Jammu and Kashmir Light Infantry Regimental Centre at Ranaghat, near Srinagar, on Saturday. As many as 400 recruits joined the ranks of Indian Army after their passing out parade. This was the first such parade after the erstwhile state was split up into two Union Territories on August 5. Separately, nearly 23,000 youth appeared in the recruitment rally conducted by the J&K police to fill up about 100 posts of special police officers, the officials said.

The British authorities had alleged that Khan, a resident of Kottli in central England, had before his killing by police planned to strike an Islamist military training facility. "He was among nine persons, who were earlier arrested in 2010 to set up a major counter-terrorism operation and accused of terror charges over an alleged Al Qaeda inspired plot to bomb the London Stock Exchange.

Foreign firms provide 85-90% maintenance, overhaul services

Aircraft repairs facilities yet to pick up in India

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, DEC. 7

Despite having a thriving aviation industry that has 625 aircrafts flying passengers daily, India has 60% of the potential for attaining self sufficiency in MRO sector, attracting business from overseas AMOs. India as a hub for MRO services, various certifications have been made from time to time under National Civil Aviation Policy 2016. There has been renewed focus on development of engine shops, component and airframe repair shops by aviation original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) and logistics serv-

plished by overseas AMOs. "Given the technical and skill base and the availability of the potential for attaining self sufficiency in MRO sector, attracting business from overseas AMOs. India as a hub for MRO services, various certifications have been made from time to time under National Civil Aviation Policy 2016. There has been renewed focus on development of engine shops, component and airframe repair shops by aviation original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) and logistics serv-

ices providers," minister of state for civil aviation Hardeep Singh Puri told Lok Sabha recently in a question answer session. He added that several steps have been taken for creation of a congenial atmosphere for broad-

based development of MRO in the country. These include, exemption of customs duty on tools and tool kits; reduced GST on various spare parts, accessories and consumables; relaxed restriction on utilization of duty-free parts from one year to three years. In addition, 100% foreign direct investment is permitted via automatic route for MRO along with liberalised policy for borrowing and lending in foreign currency and Rupee. There are also prescribed modalities for concessional temporary imports of

spare parts by foreign airlines for repair of their aircraft in transit, the minister added. Line maintenance requirements of aircraft are met by domestic airlines through self-handling or third party domestic sourcing. In view of its growing aviation industry, the Indian government had sanctioned ₹48 billion alone AMOs. At present, only Air India and now Indigo Jet Airways have in-house MRO facilities in India though sometimes, they too use service of foreign MROs.

Police cover for Kerala HC ex-judge withdrawn

Kochi, Dec. 7: A retired judge of the Kerala high court, Justice Kemal Pasha, on Saturday said the police in the state have abruptly withdrawn security but police denied any role in the decision, which, they said, was taken at the home secretary-level.

Four armed police guards were deployed for the former judge's permanent security as he had been vocal against CPI(M)-led LDF government's alleged failure in handling various cases, sources said. He said that the decision was taken at home secretary-level. "The police personnel left me ending their service today (Saturday)," he said. Pasha said security was abruptly withdrawn at a time when he was facing threat from Islamic states terror operatives in Kerala. He also said he was given armed security after the investigating agencies found he was one of the targets of the former arrested in connection with the 2016 Kanakamala IS terror module case. He alleged that security was withdrawn after receiving his voice against policies of government over various issues. —PTI

Unnao victim's family for 'Hyd-like justice'

Continued from Page 1

which take place on a daily basis. In her statement to the magistrate, the Unnao rape survivor alleged that Shivam and Shubham Trivedi had abducted and raped her in December 2018. She had filed a case against the two in March this year. Shubham, who was in jail in connection with the rape case, was released on bail on November 30, 2019. All the five accused — Harishankar, Umesh Kishore Trivedi, Umesh Bajpai, Shivam and Shubham Trivedi — were arrested in the Unnao rape case victim after the incident. The court order has been identified as Shubham Trivedi. Alleging that the law and order situation in Uttar Pradesh had "collapsed completely," Rahul Gandhi said that India is now known as the "rape capital". "The girls, sisters and mothers must be shocked when they read newspapers that every day a girl is raped or killed... the international community today ridicules India. India is known as the rape capital of the world," Mr Gandhi said. In an apparent reference to the rape case against

UP BJP MLA Kuldeep Singh Senjar; he alleged that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had failed to react when the victim's car was hit by a truck. "UP BJP MLA is involved in rape and PM hasn't said a word. Her car is hit by a truck and PM doesn't say a word. Foreign nations are asking this question why the nation can't take care of its daughters," Mr Gandhi said. Congress spokesperson Supriya Shrinate demanded strict action against the case in the state. On the father of the Unnao victim demanding that the guilty either be chased and shot dead like the Hyderabad police encounter or hanged within 24 hours, Ms Shrinate said that she understands the "pain, anger and grief" of the father, but law and order needs to be strengthened. "He is the father. I can understand his pain and his disappointment. I empathise with the family and we solidly stand with them in this hour of grief... But law and order is the basis of any civil society. Law and order needs to be strengthened to an extent where perpetrators of crime against women don't have the courage to do anything. Police needs to be sensi-

tized to first make it safe for women, and in case of a crime lodge FIRs and offer protection instead of shielding the accused," she added. In the evening, when Uttar Pradesh ministers Swami Prasad Maurya and Kamal Ranj Varun along with local BJP MP Sakshi Maharaj went to meet the victim's family, they were met with protesters shouting "Vaapas jao, vappaas jao" (Go back) and raising slogans against the state government and Maharaj. Former Uttar Pradesh chief minister and Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav sat on a dharna outside the Vidhan Sabha in Lucknow, accusing the Yogi government of failing to protect women in the state, and demanded that it be removed. Mr Yadav termed the incident as a "Black Day" and blamed the government for the death of the woman. "What help you are giving to the family of the girl? Will you run your government in this manner?" he asked the ruling party. "This government is giving sorrow and creating difficulties. Hence our demand is that this government be removed. The party will agitate for people.

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'Justice loses character'

Continued from Page 1

by rule of law. He said, "The earliest," Mr Prasad said, and assured government funding for it. The Hyderabad incident had sparked demands of swift punishment to rape convicts. The news of the 'encounter' killing led to celebrations in some quarters and concern in others. The four accused were arrested on November 29 and charged with murder, killing the 25-year-old veterinary doctor by smothering her and later burning her body, an incident that led to widespread outrage and brought back memories of the 2012 Nirbhaya case. "The women of the country are under pain and distress. They are crying for justice," Mr Prasad said. The minister said there are 704 fast-track courts for heinous offences and others and the government is in the process of setting up 1,123 dedicated courts for PCOSO and other offences. "In the law relating to women violence, we have already laid down capital punishment and other severe punishment including completion of trial in two months time,"

NHRC visits encounter site in Telangana

Continued from Page 1

visited by the Mahabubnagar government hospital mortuary. Over four hours, the team examined the bodies and studied the bullet injuries. The team interacted with doctors and also scrutinized the medical records. Late Saturday, DCP N. Prakash Reddy accompanied the team to the outskirts of Chhattampally village in Shadnagar mandal to examine the crime scenes. NHRC members visited the spot where Disha was set ablaze by the encounter. "We have to devise methods for not only the investigation but also together preventing it. There are laws which provide for pre-litigation mediation," he said, adding that there was a need to consider compulsory pre-litigation mediation. Surprisingly, no courses were available for conferring a degree or diploma in mediation, he said. He also said the press conference held by four senior magistrates of the apex court last year was just a self-corrective measure. —PTI

Harassed by teacher, girl attempts to kill herself

AKSHAYA KUMAR
BHUBANESHWAR, DEC. 7

A Class 11th girl student of Kendriya Vidyalaya in Mancheswar area of Bhubaneswar allegedly attempted suicide by jumping off the school building on Friday. The matter came to light on Saturday after family members of the girl lodged a police complaint alleging that she was harassed by a PE teacher of the school. The injured girl is now undergoing treatment at private hospital and her condition is stated to be critical. Alleging harassment of students, members of Parents' Association on Saturday staged a dharna outside KV Sangaria's deputy commissioner's office demanding action against the PE teacher.

The PE teacher misbehaved with the girl and verbally abused her which drove her to attempt suicide. "The attempted suicide from the rooftop after being harassed by the teacher. The lady teacher has been frequent misbehaving with other students. She had also forcibly cut hair of students and made them to kneel down," said the president of Parents' Association. She had earlier reported the matter to the school authorities. However, no action was taken in this regard. "We demand immediate suspension of the accused teacher," he said.

However, school principal Preeti Roy refused to accept the allegations and claimed that the girl student fell off a staircase accidentally.

Girls, sisters and mothers must be shocked when they read newspapers that every day a girl is raped or killed... The international community today ridicules India, it is known as the rape capital of the world. Foreign nations are asking this question why can't our nation take care of its daughters.
— **Rahul Gandhi**, Congress leader

HAS INDIA FAILED ITS WOMEN?

On Saturday, a Kerala man who had been acquitted in the death of two sisters, was beaten and left for dead on the road. A day before this, the four accused in the Hyderabad vet rape and murder case were shot dead in an alleged police encounter - soon after, a video of a group of young women erupting in cheers at the news went viral. The police's actions in Hyderabad were met with widespread approval, from celebrities and politicians, too. This is not justice, a few voices said, but they were quickly drowned out. In the last week alone, a 'sex maniac and necrophile' was arrested in Azamgarh after he murdered a couple, raped the woman's corpse and turned on the 10 year old daughter. Another 13 year old was raped in Kerala. Trigger-happy cops and mob justice are not things to celebrate, but when society and due process are so rooted in misogyny... Police still dither over registering complaints, as was the case with the Hyderabad vet, the immediate response seems to be, 'What was the woman doing?' Rape victims are still subject to the barbaric one-finger test to ascertain rape, instead of the sexual assault forensic evidence kit used in other parts of the world. Fast-track courts have totally failed their purpose. The question isn't whether celebrating the encounter is right or wrong—it's definitely not the norm. The question is, why are lynch mobs and fatal encounters the only avenues of justice for women, while the men so inclined continue to rape and murder without fear, asks our eminent panel?

Not time to celebrate, it's murder of our conscience



The public shouldn't cheer the encounter death of the rapists and killers of Disha. In 2012, the country erupted in anger at the ghastly Nirbhaya rape and murder in New Delhi. We made a host of changes to our penal laws and wanted our women to feel secure on the streets and in our homes. Last week brought a grim reminder that barely anything has changed on the ground and that whatever severe punishment we brought in our rape laws in 2012 was practically useless and ineffective. Dr. Disha was brutally raped and murdered in Hyderabad. Within the next few days, India witnessed, as usual, many more ghastly cases of rape coupled with torture, burning or murder.

Unlike 2012, this time, the public got to see and hear the last few moments of Dr. Disha and so, the public anguish, rage and helplessness only intensified. Before the 2012 Nirbhaya incident, the maximum punishment for rape was life imprisonment; that is, life in prison for the remainder of one's natural life. After the Nirbhaya incident, we enhanced that punishment to death of the rapist in cases where the victim falls into a persistent vegetative state or dies as a result of rape. The most stringent punishment that could be awarded under our system is a death penalty and we already have it for rapists in some circumstances. So, we had reached a tipping point in so far as punishment for rape is concerned. And, the barbaric manner of inflicting punishment of death on rapists is a death penalty for rape is concerned. And, the barbaric manner of inflicting punishment of death on rapists is a death penalty for rape is concerned.

Still, whatever be our law or judicial procedure, one has to acknowledge the public impatience with our legal processes; so many people had publicly protested to ask the police to shoot and kill the rapists and killers in the Dr. Disha case without waiting for a trial or due process. Also, our parliamentarians who make our laws, expressed a similar preference for lynching the rape accused - and thereby, displaying their dangerous ignorance of our system of laws in respect of the rapists and killers of Dr. Disha deserved the death penalty and one would have expected them to receive just that from the judicial system.

Nevertheless, what the public apparently wanted was granted by the police on Friday. The Cyberabad police claim that all the four accused were killed in the early hours of Friday at the same spot where they were alleged to have raped and murdered Dr. Disha. It is fair to say that large sections of the population have expressed gratitude to the police for eliminating those alleged rapists and killers of Dr. Disha. However, I hate to say that the public is seriously misguided here. Still, I must say it

— **K. V. DHANANJAY**

that the police here did not want to visit the scene of crime during the day in the fear of angry mob gathering at the scene and possibly resorting to public lynching of the accused. It was a police officer who cared enough about the life of the accused. If so, why could he not make it possible that in the dead of the night, the accused would try to beat up the police and force the police to fire at them? You see, things do not connect well here. And, such spot incidents are invariably video recorded. Where is the video, then? If the police chose not to record this specific spot mahazar, who decided or directed that way and why? This was a case of the accused to national attention and outrage. Also, a large and open area cannot be satisfactorily inspected in the night for the purpose of a mahazar unless it is substantially illuminated and if it were so illuminated, it would have drawn the attention of people close by and defeat the very purpose of taking the accused there in the night.

Similarly, an illuminated surrounding which was so essential to investigate the theory of the police that they had to shoot at the vitals of the accused and could not aim at their legs or lower part of the body of the accused; there should have been enough light beams directed at the accused. And, if the accused had any weapon or dangerous object with him as they were already in police custody and their possessions were removed from them. If you think about it, four accused - whether separated or standing together - simultaneously delivering mortal fear to the police in such a scenario as to create gross fear in the gun-toting policemen to fire at those accused appears suspect. This incident deserves an expeditious investigation.

Generally, I thought that in nearly 2% of serious crimes, the police misidentify the accused and put them on trial. In this encounter, the public has already decided that the police had nabbed the true suspects. Even in countries that claim to conduct their judicial trials with extraordinary care, nearly 2% of the convicts in murder cases are released several decades after serving in prison on evidence emerging that the police had caught and that the judicial system had convicted the wrong person.

We are aware that the most stringent punishment for rape has not deterred rapists. On average, the police commence the investigation of nearly 100 rape cases every year in India. The conviction in rape cases stands at a mere 32%. Let's take another metric here: Encounter killings and torture killings by the police. Experts appointed by the United Nations and our own National Human Rights Commission have frequently expressed shock through their reports about our police force and the extremely low rate of conviction for such extrajudicial killings. We cannot possibly theorise that when rapists have no fear of such severe punishment, our policemen would somehow fear severe punishment in the lawbook for extrajudicial killings



when the conviction thereof is practically non-existent. In our pursuit of swift justice, we should not lose sight of the bigger picture about what needs to be done to curb the rape and death of our womenfolk. Wanting to reform the rape scenario in our country while remaining indifferent to whom we elect our politicians is to let them do it for us. Still, so many of us cast our vote and elect our lawmakers with barely any thought about whether they even possess a minimal degree of integrity and honesty to be in public service. Countries like Saudi Arabia and North Korea swiftly and publicly execute persons they claim to have committed various crimes. If you really think about it, you will see that such executions, had they only been a deterrent, should have been noticed less often. However, that's not the case at all. Those countries frequently showcase such public executions and thereby, themselves dispel the myth that such executions even serve the purpose of being a deterrent. Frequently, butchering people publicly on the pretext that it deters crime is a self-contradiction; had there been enough of a deterrent, such executions would not be so frequent.

In the end, it is important for us to remember what Mahatma Gandhi and Swami Vivekananda emphasised a great deal during their lives - we should take moral responsibility for what happens around us as even though we might not bear any legal responsibility for it. The broader society cannot make any meaningful progress to protect our womenfolk unless we recognise that we are morally responsible through our individual and unexamined choices - for the continuing and unabated rape and murder of our womenfolk. Asking the police to summarily execute suspects is an irrevocable invitation to a disaster.

— **K. V. DHANANJAY** is an Advocate, Supreme Court

Let it be a deterrent, castrate the guilty

As expected, the whole country is livid and agitated over the number and nature of rape cases - one more horrifying than the other.

Supercharged emotions impel irrational demands all the way upto public lynching, because the levels of fury and revenge invariably blind. That this is an offence which deserves zero mercy is undoubtedly accepted and the punishment just has to be deterrent, quick and certain when facts are fresh in the public mind as our Supreme Court said as early as in 1954. Unfortunately, the conviction rate in rape cases is exceedingly low (30%) because our centuries old legal system wants crude evidence such as eye witnesses etc. which will never be available. The Indian Evidence Act, Criminal Procedure Code and the Indian Penal Code require scientific amendments and not knee jerk changes.

In this category of cases forensic evidence is paramount right up to DNA matching. For this what we need is a new generation investigation which today's police force is incapable of. Specialised units will have to be imparted to a rapid action investigative unit specially set up all over the country to handle this class of offences and the moment the conditions will automatically bring down the incidents of rape and molestation cases because the force will have to concentrate more on prevention rather than on investigation. For over a decade now I have advocated cyber surveillance which can cover every inch of the continent, but it is not available. My recommendation is to set up design response units which will act within minutes.

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— **JUSTICE MICHAEL F. SALDANHA**



take longer than in the regular Courts. We have specialist Courts in other fields and there is no difficulty in setting up designated Courts to specially deal with this class of offences. I would strongly recommend that the Judges and Prosecutors will have to be handpicked not only for their knowledge and integrity factors but more importantly for their mental makeup. To quote two examples, one of my colleagues in the High Court professed that rape was a big joke and that females engaged in an encounter told me that he could never agree to a death sentence because it would haunt him for the rest of his life. The attitude of the judges in these Courts will have to be carefully screened. When the Green Tribunals were set up, I recommended to the Government that only dedicated environmentalists should be put there - this was not done and the results have been pathetic. In Mumbai a large number of trees have been axed after the construction of the Green Tribunal and in Mangalore a whole forest has been cleared because the Green Tribunal allowed it. We cannot afford this to happen.

Lastly, the vexed question arises with regard to the sentence. To my mind, capital punishments must be awarded with only one Appeal to the High Court with a mandate that the Appeal must be disposed of in not less than 30 days and if a Petition is permitted, there should be only one and that too must be disposed of within a period of 30 days. Keeping this class of human beings alive at the expense of the tax payers for long periods of time is contra indicia. They are perversely, incapable of any form of reform and dangerous to Society and to the legal process. It takes years and decades, delay is pleaded as a ground for commutation of sentence which reverses the entire purpose. There will still be a certain number of acquittals and as is the case in other parts of the world extreme caution will have to be exercised by Society - in the West there is total ostracism of paedophiles and sexual offenders because they are a lethal danger to Society. In Russia such persons are sent to Siberia where the temperature is minus 100 celsius of any repetition of the offence.!!!

I now come to the most controversial recommendation which is gaining ground internationally - castration. In certain parts of the world where the doctrine of eye for an eye, tooth for a tooth still rules, this class of offenders are castrated. This can be a very effective deterrent. It will have to be at the hands of a butcher. The reasoning is that such human beings have forfeited the right to be in our society and are too dangerous to allow them to do so, but it will also take care of the possibility of any repetition of the offence in the event of acquittal. In the event of acquittal, the offender should be sent to a very large attended Seminar in Bengaluru over which I had presided a leading lady lawyer strongly justified this on the grounds that the law justifies the offender being deprived of the weapon of offence.!!!

— **Justice Michael F. Saldanha** is a retired Karnataka High Court Judge

WHY SHOULD WE BE ON OUR GUARD, ALWAYS?



In our country, despite laws that are reformative in nature, we only talk of capital punishment in the rarest of rare cases. But the large sections of the population and children being raped, tortured and murdered, I think it's time we considered capital punishment in these cases too. That said, the action by the Hyderabad police in shooting down the four accused (in the rape and murder of a 27-year-old veterinarian last week) is unacceptable because it was their job to bring them to justice. But they did not care for the law and have failed in their duties.

There is a thing called a police manual. They could have shot in the air, or in the leg and not killed the accused. We have the right to make laws and make provision for capital punishment, for a reason. It can act as deterrent and create fear. But the action of the Hyderabad police on one day to reduce fear of the law in society. Currently, we don't have the mechanism, system or institution for any kind of term reform in India. In fact, although the law allows solitary confinement, none of our jails extend this kind of punishment to anyone who has committed heinous crimes. I think it is important that capital punishment is considered for rape and murder as it sends a strong message and act as a deterrent. Knowing that punishment will be swift and certain, people will fear the law more and perhaps keep away from doing such crime.

I DON'T SUBSCRIBE TO THE PHILOSOPHY THAT A WOMAN HAS TO BE TOLD TO KEEP HERSELF SAFE. INSTEAD, I BELIEVE THE STATE SHOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SAFETY OF ITS CITIZENS, ESPECIALLY WOMEN... WHEN SOMEONE KNOWS HE WILL BE PUNISHED, HE WILL NOT COMMIT THE CRIME.

Research has shown that recidivism (the tendency for the perpetrator to keep committing a crime over and over again) is high in cases of rape and murder and that is why capital punishment should be introduced for these crimes. Presently, the courts, the prosecution

and the police operate in silos, when they need to converge, debate and discuss every case together. They could say they cannot spare the time and the courts believe they must be reformatory, giving the perpetrator of a crime the chance to reform. But the question is who is to do the reforming? While you have the departments of social welfare and prisons, there is no convergence between them. There is also a women and child welfare department, but where is the convergence? Everybody does what they want to do and follows whatever policy is in place. But when we are talking of increasing the fear of law and deterrence, the courts have the primary responsibility along with the prosecution and the police to see that these are put in place. And it has to happen now. Which means that the politicians need to work

on this immediately. I don't subscribe to the philosophy that a woman has to be told to keep herself safe. Instead, I believe the state should be responsible for the safety of its citizens, especially women. So, light up the streets, make public transport available, introduce modern mechanisms and systems that can respond immediately and speedily when crimes of this nature happen. You claim to have CCTV cameras everywhere. But if they are not there, please install them and enhance your monitoring and response time. As for the judiciary, it must ensure speedy, certain punishment. Because when someone knows he will be punished, he will not commit the crime. But when he knows he can get bail and be let off, he will continue to commit the crime with impunity. It's a pity that we need to push par-

Perpetrators who prey on women deserve the kind of punishment that they received at the hand of police in Hyderabad
— **JUSTICE MICHAEL F. SALDANHA**

— **Brinda Adige** is a social worker and woman activist

THE ASIAN AGE

8 DECEMBER 2019

Nilofar Suhrawardy

Off the beaten track

In India, men are the more fashionable sex

Who takes the lead here talk of fashion idols is concerned? Ah, instantly, one tends to turn to Bollywood, and female actors. Of course, there is no denying that the film industry is flooded with people being extremely conscious about their looks...

Whether it is cricket, tennis or any other field of human endeavour, the irony of men being ahead in more ways than one cannot be ignored. Perhaps, tennis is one of the few where Sania Mirza holds herself ahead of her male colleagues...

Give another thought to the film industry. There is nothing new about men being more fashion-conscious as women. This has always been the rule of the game...

The Kohli cut has men of all ages and classes swooning over it. No, this term is not a neologism. Nor does it refer to any stylish cut from the bat of the swashbuckler. It refers to Virat Kohli's hairstyle.



The Kohli cut has men of all ages and classes swooning over it. No, this term is not a neologism. Nor does it refer to any stylish cut from the bat of the swashbuckler. It refers to Virat Kohli's hairstyle.

Ladies' hairstyles varied from being plaited, tied in a bun, left loose to a ponytail. A hero's hairstyle varied rarely. Perhaps if they had to display a bald pate, it did.

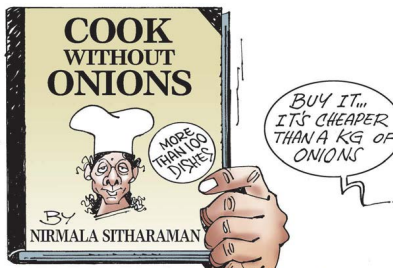
What was Hitler and Mussolini's playbook? Emphasising the otherness of the other, leading out a community to make it the object of xenophobia. How does this project commence? By conducting a census.

In Germany, the census process began in the first few weeks of Adolf Hitler seizing power on April 12, 1933. From 1871 onwards in the German fatherland of united Germany...

What we observe from the craze about the Kohli cut, Bollywood's fashion standards and the heroes of the political arena is that it is the last variety of individuals who take the lead, numerically as well as cosmetically. Thanks to the communication boom, they are continuously in the public eye.

Nilofar Suhrawardy is a senior journalist and writer with specialisation in communication studies and nuclear diplomacy. Modi's Victory, A Lesson for the Congress... (2019) is her latest book.

Subhani



Is othering a people the object of NRC?



Manish Tewari State of the Union

Fascism is a political ideology that promotes the idea of a uniform and a regimented nation under the control of a totalitarian ruler. Fascists inherently abhor a free-thinking civil society, political opponents, brave journalists, fearless academics and an independent judiciary.

What was Hitler and Mussolini's playbook? Emphasising the otherness of the other, leading out a community to make it the object of xenophobia. How does this project commence? By conducting a census.

In Germany, the census process began in the first few weeks of Adolf Hitler seizing power on April 12, 1933. From 1871 onwards in the German fatherland of united Germany...

The gameplan was simple: Germany could only be "cleansed" of Jews if they were pinpointed. Identifying them was not an easy undertaking as it was the German fatherland of 67 million Jews were less than one per cent of the population and integrated into the social milieu.

In those days the cataloguing of census data was a protracted affair that would normally take three to five years of manual categorisation. That rendered it redundant for

instantaneous use. The Nazis mandated that data from their major prefecture of Prussia be processed and the product made available in 120 days. A leading computer company of our times undertook the project. They recruited over 500,000 "nationally minded" census takers who went door-to-door collecting data. They further trained hundreds of personnel to process the data further tallying and grading citizens. A census army was formed. It was headed by SS officers supported by squads of stormtroopers in addition to the headcounters.

Such was the trepidation that this exercise produced that Jews stopped identifying themselves as Jewish. A few of them even renounced their Jewish ancestry attempting to undergo conversion to Germanism. However, the Nazis were not impressed. A number of bigoted policies were operationalised post the census. The Citizenship and Denaturalisation Law of July 1933 gave to the Nazi Reich powers to strip the citizenship of those it considered "undesirable". Among the first to come under the cleaver were 150,000 Eastern Jews. The Nuremberg Laws then gave added form to the "cleansing" of Jews. Many, these edicts delineated people's creed not by how they perceived themselves but by the religious beliefs of their grandparents. All Jews in professional services, law or medicine, were debarred from their professions and their physical possessions were seized.

In May 1939, Germany was again besieged by the census army. Much larger in size, it now consisted of 750,000 census takers. The National Register of Citizenship phenomena, therefore, looks different, smells different and feels different. It, therefore, begs a fundamental question — should a country not count its citizens? Those who are not able to prove their citizenship — what should then be done with them? The answer to the first may be in the affirmative though sovereignty itself is a complex issue these days. However, most important is the fact there has been no discussion much less consensus on what to do with people who come up short in the process. Do you detain them in internment/concentration camps? Do you deport them? Do you introduce a racial census which will accept them? Do you disenfranchise them? If so for how long? Do you make them stateless people whereby making them amenable to the protection of the international covenants that India is a signatory to? There are answers, much less easy ones. It is not as if the government would not be cognisant of these conundrums. What then possibly is the purpose of exporting the failed Assam NRC model to the rest of the country?

The answer is simple. Create anxiety among the 24 crore people about their very status as Indians. This mass disquiet insulates the government from any scrutiny of their failures while also amplifying the otherness of the other by labelling them as infiltrators who have monopolised social and economic opportunities that should have gone to the "Indians". However, Assam has exposed the inherent limitations of such a myopic endeavour. As the proverb goes, when you sow the wind you shall reap the whirlwind.

The author is a lawyer, Member of Parliament and former Union information and broadcasting minister. The views expressed are personal.

LETTERS

UNNAO GIRL'S FIGHT

The 23-year-old gang-rape victim from Unnao in Uttar Pradesh, who was airlifted to Delhi and admitted to Safdarjung Hospital after she was set on fire by five people, including two father-son duos, and ran for one kilometre in the direction of the police station while ablaze, died on Friday night. Why is it that social media feminists are silent about her tragedy? She had mustered the courage to get a case lodged against her rapists. Why is the government, too, silent on this matter? As Congressman Rahul Gandhi has suggested, perhaps it is time for the Prime Minister to hold out some assurance of justice to her family.

Mahmoodul Hasan Bengaluru

NOT ABOUT RIGHTS

This refers to the editorial, "Encounter in Hyderabad sets dangerous example" (Dec 7). Spontaneous lynching and premeditated fake encounters are both signatures of a might-is-right machismo. They are the symptoms of a people's lack of faith in the rule of law. But they also show that the people concerned are more fond of violence than the government is in women's rights. Or else, they would not have issued rare threats against role models like Vrinda and for criticising the occurrence.

Sujit De Kolkata

BOOK THE POLICE

Apropos the editorial, "Encounter in Hyderabad sets dangerous example" (Dec 7), the police in Hyderabad, whose duty is only to investigate, has become the judge, jury and executioner in the case. Even the worst criminal has the right to a fair trial. Cyberabad police chief V. S. Sajjanar had dealt with an acid-throwing case in 2008 in a similar manner. He was also aggressed, much less persuaded them to conceal it. Cops should not be spared for acting like lynch mobs.

S.S. Paul Chakdaha, West Bengal

SCAPEGOAT FEAR

This has reference to your editorial on "Encounter in Hyderabad sets a dangerous precedent" (Dec 7). The question is, did the Cyberabad police catch the culprits? Or did they just find scapegoats and shoot them down to propitiate the public wrath? The men who died were dirt-poor and their families seem to defend themselves. This is another reason why due process is key in the delivery of justice in a civilised polity.

Seraj Ali Bengaluru

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

Clear-headed journalists

The new Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Act 2019, initiated by Union transport minister Nitin Gadkari, has been put on hold in several states but in the national capital Delhi, it is directly affecting sales and attendance at the Press Club of India. The new act stipulates a hefty fine for drunk driving. Increased penalties have been implemented in states such as Delhi, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar whereas others such as Gujarat and Kerala have slashed the penalties imposed on erring drivers. Punjab, Madhya Pradesh and several other states have dragged their feet over the new law's implementation.

"Workaholic" scribes at the Raisina Road-Rajendra Prasad Road junction face a piquant situation when they leave for home. As many journalists live in east Delhi or Noida, and agile breath-taking cops at the Mandi House roundabout have been imposing hefty challans on the "tipsy drivers". As a result, many law-abiding scribes have started skipping going home via the Press Club and sales figures at the club bear testimony to a steep fall. For once, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman are spared and Mr

Why reporters are mad at Gadkari

Gadkari is the target of media criticism.

Rajnath's stock rising

Suddenly the political stock of defence minister Rajnath Singh is rising. First, close aide Sudhanshu Trivedi made it to the Rajya Sabha. Now, another associate Arun Singh took oath as a member of the Upper House due to a vacancy caused by Samajwadi Party member Tazeen Fatma (wife of Azam Khan) who is now the MLA from Rampur.

In political circles, Rajnath's rise is seen as a consequence of Arun Jaitley's absence. Rajnath seems making best use of his proximity to Amit Shah to get loyalists rewarded.

Sabbatical over

Rahul Gandhi dhabara? Senior Congress leaders are getting jittery with deliberations inside the Congress party to crown Rahul Gandhi as AICC chief once more. Rahul has also been asked to campaign in the Jharkhand Assembly poll even though

state party leaders wanted Sonia or Priyanka Gandhi to address public meetings in the poll-bound states.

By WAQYANAWIS

state party leaders wanted Sonia or Priyanka Gandhi to address public meetings in the poll-bound states. The 87th AICC chief from December 2017 to July 2019, 24 Akbar Road insiders say Sonia has set February 2020 as her deadline to relinquish the post of interim party chief.



Peremptory Mahua

Another TMC star Mahua Moitra is giving the party anxious moments. Why? Ms Moitra is not inclined towards the BJP, she apparently doesn't answer calls or texts from party leaders and gets in touch only when she needs to. Her frequent absence from social, literary meets and TV news interviews seems to be taking a toll of her time.

Nirmala's banana recipe

Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman is drawing flak for saying that her family did not eat onions in the context of spiralling prices. Old-timers recall many other politicians making a "Let them eat cake" remark. Let us attribute it to Marie Antoinette, the Queen of France during the French Revolution. As the story goes, it was the Queen's response upon being told that her starving peasant subjects had no bread. Prafulla Chandra Sen, Congress CM of West Bengal in 1962-67, famously told Bengalis they need to eat rice instead of fish. "Why don't you eat kachua kela instead?"

The writer is a keen observer of the goings-on in backrooms of power.

The easiest task or the most readily achievable goal | The neurological study of a person's mental state and reactions while being exposed to different film styles

SUNDAY INTERVIEW

'Doubts waver whether the four men were indeed guilty of the crime'

When he headed the investigation into the sensational Bilikis Bano case, senior IPS officer VIVEK DUBE, then a joint director in CBI, along with his 15-member team conducted a meticulous investigation "within the framework of law" that led to the court awarding life imprisonment to all the accused.

Having probed the sensational murder of Madhumita Shukla, the Satyendra Dubey murder case, the 2008 Khairlanji massacre, Dube, who also witnessed 29 exchanges of fire while he was SP of Naxal-infested Adilabad district, explains why he would not have chosen "instant justice".

"Doubts always remain over whether the accused killed in encounters were indeed the perpetrators or innocent and the same can be said about the encounter in Telangana (in Disha's case)," says the 1981 batch IPS officer and adds that the reason for the appeal of "instant justice" lies in the fact that India's criminal justice system is failing people.

In an exclusive interview with VIKRAM SHARMA, Dube cautions that unless urgent steps are taken to improve the criminal justice system, "jungle raj" will become the order of the day. Excerpts:

People now want instant justice and the police appears to be delivering it.

The criminal justice system is to be shaken. Take the 2012 Nirbhaya case: the accused have not been hanged yet and the public is in no mood to tolerate any more and therefore want instant justice. But that does not in any way justify the need to pick up the accused and kill them. So far, what appears to have happened in Telangana, going by the reports, seem to be an act of self-defence. But one has to avoid enquiry by judicial magistrate. However, doubts will remain whether the four men were indeed guilty in the gangrape and murder of Disha or were innocents. Instant justice can lead to jungle raj.

What can be done to improve the criminal justice system?

The population is increasing and there are a limited number of courts who have to give bail to the accused so that jails do not get overcrowded. The police get hundreds of cases while there is no increase in manpower. There are one crore cases pending in different courts in the country. What are the courts doing? Policemen are under tremendous pressure as they get hundreds of cases while there are only a few men. This is one of the reasons why the police is always hesitant to register cases wondering who will investigate them. The respectability of the police is at stake. I think of increasing manpower and view it as wasteful expenditure. Even the laws

Governments do not think of increasing manpower and view it as wasteful expenditure... From lower courts to appeal in higher courts to mercy appeals, the legal process is taking its own sweet time.

are not being reviewed. From lower courts to appeal in higher courts to mercy appeals, the entire legal process is taking its own sweet time.

Does that justify the need for more encounter killings?

No way. People are getting frustrated with the delay in justice and the police is under pressure to act. Therefore, the performance of the courts has to improve. The number of police stations has to increase. In the CBI, we were able to investigate cases in a professional manner as per year — there is a norm that not more than eight cases will be investigated per year, which ensures quality of investigation. That is the reason the CBI's work is different from the work of the police. The conviction rate is 8 per cent in our country. In China, it is 98 per cent. The reason the crime in the justice system is at its best there. In India, the authorities should ensure that the



Senior IPS officer Vivek Dube

entire legal process in a case is completed within a time frame of six months, which will ensure justice.

In Telangana's encounter the accused were without handcuffs and there are many who are not buying the police version.

It completely depends on the officers associated with the investigation whether they want to handcuff the accused or not. If they feel that the accused might not run away or harm them, they take it easy. Going by the reports, the police acted in self-defence when they came under attack. But the truth

will come out in the enquiry by the judicial magistrate. Though people are hailing it as justice and there are a lot of claims being made, going by reports, it appears to be an act of self-defence.

There have been many instances when police officers have gone to jail for fake encounters.

Since 1993, as many as 2,560 cases of extra-judicial killings have taken place in the country, of which the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) found that 224 were fake. This means that on an average, one of the two encounters was fake.

Therefore, the need to wait and watch what the NHRC finds and what the enquiry by the judicial magistrate brings out.

Can the four accused attack policemen and snatch their weapons? Had they been terrorists, there could have been a possibility? Do you think instant justice was meted out to cover up for police failure?

There may be many theories floating around but none can say anything till an enquiry is conducted. As per law, everyone has the right to defend themselves. If a person slaps someone, the person can proportionately retaliate with a slap. If someone is trying to shoot you dead, you have every right to retaliate the same way.

If instant justice continues, then policemen can kill anyone. Should the police act under pressure from the public?

I agree that if this kind of justice continues, policemen can pick up anyone and shoot them dead and no one will ever know whether the person was indeed the accused or was killed due to some rivalry. Though the police should not act under pressure from anyone, the circumstances that are actually building pressure on policemen must be reviewed, which brings us back to the question of the failing criminal justice system.



MODI SARKAR'S 'DOUBLE FAULTS'

Among the more notable reforms wrought by the Modi sarkar since 2014 are evident in the way the government functions. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's preference for bureaucrats over netas in running the government is well known. He has also pushed through many policies to improve governance and reform the bureaucracy. However, the government seems to be shirking from it as just missed out on taking steps to remove caste and gender imbalance in the bureaucracy. Parliament was recently informed that out of 82 secretaries to the government, a mere four are from Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe categories. They are posted in the department of empowerment of persons with disabilities, the department of land, the department of pharmaceuticals and the ministry of labour and employment. Similarly, the number of women appointed as secretaries in the government is just 12 out of 700. While the health secretary Preeti Sudan and secretary (east) Vijay Thakur Singh hold important portfolios, most of the policemen are posted in such departments and ministries as fisheries, official languages, disability or youth affairs. The recent ouster of school education secretary Rina Ray from the human resource development ministry is still fresh in the minds of women babus. Sources also say that out of the 700 officials working as joint secretaries at the Centre, only 134 are women.

However, this is to be addressed, there's a job that needs to be tackled sensitively rather than merely statistically.

N-E COPS IN THE CAPITAL

The Northeast has been marked out for special attention by the Modi sarkar. There is an emphasis on infrastructure development to improve connectivity and efforts to create employment opportunities. But this prying into the working of the police is not apparently reflected within the capital's bureaucracy. Though at least 10 senior UT cadre IPS officers are present serving in Delhi Police, they are usually on assignments such as road traffic, security or Delhi Armed Police, which are considerably lower down in the pecking order. In Delhi Police, the law and order, economic offence wing, licensing and traffic are considered more "prestigious". To cite an example, P.N. Khirmey, a 2004 batch UT cadre officer, is DIG of Delhi Armed Police; Michi Paku, also from the same batch, is in the Police Training College; and Apurva Bithin is DIG, training.

TROUBLE IN GUJARAT

It appears all is not well in Gujarat. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's home state, despite being run by BJP chief minister Vijay Rupani. Clearly, the situation there it seems merits sending Mr Modi's trusted bureaucrat Amil Mukhi back to Gujarat as his new chief secretary. That was the reaction of most observers at Mr Modi's sudden move Mr Mukhi to Gujarat. The appointment has also excited the chances of Arvind Agarwal, the senior-most minister in Gujarat who was the frontrunner to succeed J.N. Singh for the top post in the state. The buzz is that Mr Agarwal was close to chief minister Rupani, who had recommended his name to the Prime Minister's office. His long seniority and efficiency. But clearly, that did not cut much ice with the PMO. Sources say that by snubbing Mr Rupani's choice for chief secretary, the PMO has shown that it is not happy with the Gujarat government being handled. There is talk of a "Rajkot coterie" (read: Mr Rupani and his favoured Mukhi) back to Gujarat in the state, which seems to have irked the PMO. Mr Mukhi is obviously meant to set "things" right in a manner acceptable to the PMO. But this clearly has become a space that's worth watching.

Encounter in Hyderabad was a lynching



Aakar Patel

Most policemen do not want to participate in encounters. This has resulted in India producing a category of men called encounter specialists or sharpshooters. This second word is wrongly applied and we will see why. First let us see what an encounter is. It is the act of government taking individuals into custody and then killing them. Usually, this happens in a secluded area and often at night. In Hyderabad it happened at 3 am when the police said they were taking the four suspects to "recreate" the crime scene. The shooting happens at close quarters and this is what the post-mortem usually shows. Handguns, which is what police officers carry, are not good for distance shooting because their barrels are short and aim is ineffective beyond about 30 feet or so. This is why the word "sharpshooter" is wrong. Usually, the policeman fires with the barrel pushed into the vic-

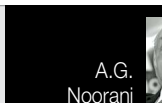
tim's body or when the person has been beaten and is lying down. Aim is not needed at this distance, only the willingness to take a life. The encounter specialist is the policeman who is willing to do the murder at close quarters of unarmed human beings. In Mumbai, where the encounter culture took root in the 1980s, there developed a small group of men who did the killing. Daya Nayak (on whom the film *Ab Tak Chhappan* was based) killed 90 people. Vishw Salaskar, who was himself killed in the 26/11 attacks also had a similar number of murders to his name. Pradeep Sharma had more than 150. All three men were accused of wrongdoing because once such activity by police is conceived, then it becomes difficult to stop other activity. The question is why most policemen do not do this if there is a reward available (see how the Hyderabad police have been treated like heroes). It is because most of us do not want to kill and this is what most of our readers but it is a fact. The American soldier S.L.A. Marshall studied this phenomenon in a book called *Men Against Fire*. He found that soldiers usually fired into the air or into the ground because they were not neutral killers and did not want to harm the "enemy" even if he was being fired upon. Marshall was writing about World

War II, but this experience was similar in Vietnam, where American soldiers fired 50,000 bullets for each Vietnamese casualty. Studies by the Prussians during the Napoleonic wars were similar. When a line of riflemen were asked to shoot into a sheet of fabric at the same distance as the enemy line, their aim was more than 100 times better than when they were shooting at real people. Most humans are sheep and it is only the rare wolves among us who are willing to kill. Most human beings do not want to take lives and our policemen are not different from the rest of us. This is fortunate because India has a conviction rate of about 25 per cent for serious crimes. This means that 75 per cent of the time the police probably get the wrong suspect, and this makes murdering them in an encounter more morally problematic for the officers concerned. The other reason why policemen do not want to participate directly in encounters is that it is a crime and can get them into trouble. That is why we have encounter specialists. No civilised country has encounter specialists. India has functioned as democracies don't have encounters at all. It is not possible for police to do this and get away without scrutiny and punishment in developed nations. Americans like to say that they are a nation of laws and not a nation of men.

India is similar to nations like the Philippines where the police is encouraged to break the law, and a criminal act of murder is celebrated as some demonstration of heroism and justice. Executing people without a trial is not justice. And it is harmful for the cause of justice. It gives elements of the state less incentive to be lawful. Why do all the work of detection, investigation, interrogation and forensics if we can just round up a few people and shoot them? And it makes the world see our justice system in a particular way. One of the defence reasons cited by Mehul Choksi, accused in the Punjab National Bank scam, against extradition to India was that he could be killed. Whether or not this is accepted as an argument in the case, it is difficult to say that it is false. One of the accused in the Nirbhaya case was found hanging in jail and his lawyer says he was murdered, and he probably was. Activists have described what the police did in Hyderabad as a lynching (and in fact Jaya Bachchan demanded this lynching in Parliament). That is indeed what it is. What has happened is a reflection on our culture, our politicians, our judges, our media and our population in general.

Activists have described what the police did in Hyderabad as a lynching (and in fact Jaya Bachchan demanded this lynching in Parliament). That is indeed what it is. What has happened is a reflection on our culture, our politicians, our judges, our media and our population in general.

Aakar Patel is a writer and columnist



A.G. Noorani

India needs laws to protect press from govt

Ever since the Modi government assumed power, it has been persecuting dissent. Latterly, its wrath fell on Amnesty International India and other NGOs whose premises were raided. Sadly, there has been little protest against such acts. The NGO has acquired a recognised role in all democracies akin to that of the press. Both express voices independently and critically of the regime of the day. The NGO is truly the fifth estate in a democracy. It is the other four — the legislature, the executive, the judiciary and the press. The Criminal Procedure Code empowers search on the police. Section 165 empowers an investigating police officer to raid the premises if he has "reasonable grounds". It is a subjective opinion. But when the police enter the premises they observe no limits. In 1987, the Rajiv Gandhi regime, afraid of reports on the Bofors scandal, ordered a raid on the premises of the Indian Express in Mumbai. Ahmedabad, Cochin and other places on the pretext that the income tax and the customs acts had been violated. The officials tried to censor the news copy flow in the teletypewriter department. The teletypewriter room — before the Internet arrived — was the very hub of a newspaper office. It was from there that news

was disseminated. Worse, the officials assaulted the photographers who shot their conduct, removing films from cameras. Clearly, some safeguard for privacy must be woven into the law. The press does not claim to be above the law, but the law must protect it in the discharge of its duties. The privacy of sources needs to be protected from random searches. One case illustrates the problem. In the Zurcher vs Stanford Daily, the university police had evidence of a crime and threatened openly to destroy it if it knew that the police would come for it. Four police officers entered its offices to search for photographs of a clash between the police and demonstrators at the university hospital. On May 31, 1978, the US Supreme Court ruled against the daily. Earlier in 1985, it had ruled in Stanford vs Texas that unrestricted power of search and seizure could also be an instrument for stifling the free press. Hence the need for checks. It "invalidated a warrant authorising the search of a private home for all books, records and other materials relating to the Communist Party, on the ground that whether or not the warrant would have been sufficient in other contexts." "Where presumptively protected

materials are sought to be seized, the warrant requirement should be administered to leave as little as possible to the discretion or whim of the officer in the field," said the judgement. In 1978, the court spoke of "neutral materials" — "Does the species flourish in India? It held against "rummaging at large in newspaper files or to intrude into or to deter normal editorial and publication decisions". This logic applies also to NGOs surely. Concurring Justice Powell said: "This is not to say that a warrant which would be sufficient to support the search of an apartment or an automobile necessarily would be reasonable in supporting the search of a newspaper office." Therefore the press does need special protection. Justice Potter Stewart dissented: "Policemen occupying a newsroom and searching it thoroughly for what may be an extended period of time will inevitably interrupt its normal operations, and thus impair or even temporarily prevent the processes of news-gathering, writing, editing and publishing." "A search warrant allows police officers to ransack the files of a newspaper, reading each and every document until they have found the one named in the warrant, while a subpoena would per-

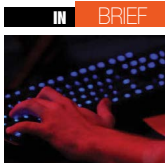
mit the newspaper itself to produce only the specific documents requested. A search, unlike a subpoena, will therefore lead to the needless exposure of confidential information completely unrelated to the purpose of the investigation." "There was an uproar: "Politically appointed" magistrates are no safeguard. News reporters preserve source material unused in their reports. "The compelled production of a reporter's source materials can constitute a significant intrusion into the news-gathering and editorial process," a judge points out. Like the compelled disclosure of confidential sources, it may substantially undercut the public policy favouring the free flow of information to the public that is the foundation for the (First Amendment) privilege."

In 1980 the US Congress passed the Privacy Protection Act. India needs such a law. It must substitute a sessions judge, if not, indeed, a high court judge, as the authority for a specific search warrant. The warrant must not only specify what is wanted but lay down a ban on rummaging search. An official which violates the ban must be ordered personally to pay the fine.

By arrangement with Dawn



Samoa says almost 90% of people vaccinated against measles after deadly outbreak



IN BRIEF

Trade war goes digital: World eye Internet economy

Geneva: A 20-year-old 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 diplomats, potentially forcing people to pay duties on software and movie downloads. 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 favours rich countries, given it received strong backing from Washington at the outset and most of the customs revenues are thought to be born by developing countries. Pressure is growing to lift the ban as more books and movies become digital, potentially reducing revenues further. India and South Africa circulated an internal WTO document, reviewed by Reuters this week, saying that rising digitalisation compelled "a rethink of the role of the temporary moratorium on duties, citing the potential of 3D printing to manufacture products. It will be decided on next week and renewal requires full consensus. Asked about its position, South Africa's WTO Ambassador Kolewa Mumbi-Peter said in an emailed response this week that it was "still undecided on this important decision." India did not respond to a request for comment. "At the moment there are a number of countries that feel confident they can stand aside from the global consensus," said the International Chamber of Commerce's (ICC) Secretary General John Ruggie, who could break the internet. — Reuters

Volcanic rocks may trigger global warming effects'
London: Greenhouse gas emissions directly from the movement of volcanic rocks can create massive global warming effects — more than previously believed — according to a study published in the journal *Nature Communications*, noted that changes in the planet's geology caused the largest temporary global warming of the past 65 million years, based on scientists' calculation of how carbon-based greenhouse gas levels linked to movements of magma below the Earth's surface. The researchers, including those from the University of Birmingham in the UK, said one such role in climate change could be played by Large Igneous Provinces (LIPs) — extremely large accumulations of rocks forming when magma travelled through the crust towards the surface. They created a model of changes in carbon emissions during the Paleocene-Eocene Thermal Maximum (PETM) — a short interval of maximum temperature lasting around 100,000 years some 55 million years ago. As part of the study, the researchers calculated the greenhouse gas fluxes associated with the North Atlantic Igneous Province (NAIP) — one of Earth's largest LIPs that spans Britain, Ireland, Norway and Greenland. They calculated carbon-based greenhouse gas fluxes associated with the PETM, and found that the volcanic activity during that period was 10 times greater than that of the NAIP. The study also found that volcanic activity during the PETM was 10 times greater than that of the NAIP. — PTT

Weight-loss surgery between pregnancies tied to better results
OBESSE WOMEN who have weight-loss surgery between pregnancies may be less likely to experience complications like high blood pressure and preterm births in their second pregnancy, a study suggests. Researchers examined hospital records from 2002 to 2014 for more than 1.6 million women 15 to 45 years old in New South Wales, Australia. The study focused on 326 women who had bariatric surgery between their first and second pregnancies, and 461,917 women who had two pregnancies without a weight-loss operation in between. The study found that for obese women who had bariatric surgery between pregnancies, the risk of complications dropped markedly from the first pregnancy to the second, although it didn't reach the level seen in the general population of women. "The odds of adverse pregnancy outcomes among women who have bariatric surgery do not



Weight-loss surgery between pregnancies tied to better results

decrease to the level observed in the general birthing population; however, there was substantial improvement," lead study author Dr. I. Ibiebele of Royal North Shore Hospital in New South Wales and colleagues write in *BJOG*. "Although body mass index (BMI) was not directly associated in this study, bariatric surgery performed for the management of obesity, in accordance with current clinical criteria, is likely to result in improved pregnancy outcomes for women who have a subsequent pregnancy," Ibiebele and colleagues write. During the study period, there was a 13-fold increase in bariatric operations for women having bariatric surgery for the first time, the analysis found. Compared with women in the general population, those who had bariatric surgery had higher rates of high blood pressure, diabetes and preterm deliveries overall. — Reuters

Brushing your teeth may be good for your heart
PEOPLE WHO brush their teeth three times a day are less likely to develop atrial fibrillation or heart failure than those with less consistent oral hygiene habits, a Korean study suggests. Researchers examined data on 101,296 people with national health coverage and no history of atrial fibrillation, heart failure or other cardiovascular diseases. After following at least half for study for 10 years, a total of 4,911 people, or 3% of the study population, developed atrial fibrillation and 7,971 people, or 4%, developed heart failure. Individuals who brushed their teeth three times a day were 10% less likely to develop atrial fibrillation and 12% less likely to develop heart failure compared to those who brushed less frequently, the study found. Getting regular professional dental cleanings was also tied to a 7% reduction in heart failure, while having 22 or more missing teeth was linked to a 32% higher heart failure risk. "Healthier oral hygiene by frequent tooth brushing and professional dental cleaning may reduce risk of atrial fibrillation and heart failure," senior study author Dr. Tae-jin Song of Ewha Women's University College of Medicine in Seoul and colleagues write in the *European Journal of Preventive Cardiology*. In a study of electrical impulses in the upper chambers of the heart are chaotic, causing the heart to pump enough blood through the body. Heart failure happens when the heart muscle is too weak to pump enough blood through the body. Heart failure symptoms can include

Oceans are running out of oxygen

Marine life under major threat ■ Around 700 sites identified globally with low levels — up from 45 in 1960s

Madrid, Dec. 7: The loss of oxygen from the ocean due to climate change risks "dire effects" on sea life, fisheries and coastal communities, a global conservation body said Saturday. The International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) said that around 700 sites had been identified globally with low oxygen levels — up from only 45 in the 1960s. In the same period, the group warned, the volume of anoxic waters — areas totally devoid of oxygen — have quadrupled. The ocean absorbs around a quarter of all fossil fuel emissions, but as global energy demand continues to grow, there are fears that the world's seas will eventually reach saturation point. Oceans are expected on

current trends to lose 3.0-4.0 percent of their oxygen globally by 2100. However, most of that loss is predicted to be in the upper 1,000 metres, that is the richest part of the ocean for biodiversity. "With this report, the scale of damage climate change is wreaking globally is clear," said IUCN acting director Gretel Aguilar. "As the warming ocean loses oxygen, the delicate balance of marine life is thrown into jeopardy." The largest peer-reviewed study to date on ocean oxygen loss concluded that deoxygenation is already altering the balance of marine life to the detriment of species that need more of the life-giving gas. Species such as tuna, marlin and sharks — many



of which are already endangered, are particularly sensitive to low oxygen levels due to their large size and energy demands. But loss of oxygen is affecting species across the food chain. The blooms that support around a fifth of the world's current fish catch are formed by ocean currents that bring oxygen-poor water in to coastlines. These areas are especially vulnerable to even tiny variations in oxygen levels. "Impacts here will ultimately ripple out and affect hundreds of millions of people," the IUCN said. The group this year issued a landmark assessment of the world's natural habitats, concluding starkly that human activity was threatening up to one million species with extinction. Ocean life is already battling warmer temperatures, rampant overfishing and plastic pollution. The World Meteorological Organization this week said that due to man-made emissions growth, the ocean is now 26 percent more acidic than before the Industrial Revolution. "Ocean oxygen depletion is menacing marine ecosystems already under stress from ocean warming and acidification," said Dan Laffoley, a senior marine science adviser at the IUCN. "To stop the worrying expansion of oxygen-poor areas, we need to decisively curb greenhouse gas emissions as well as nutrient pollution from agriculture and other sources." The IUCN report also found that pollution around coastlines was

having a significant effect on oxygen levels, with fertiliser "drift" agricultural run off promoting more algae growth, which in turn depletes oxygen as it decomposes. World leaders will gather in Marseille in June for the IUCN's World Conservation Congress. Policymakers are currently in negotiations at the COP25 climate summit in Madrid charged with ratifying a comprehensive rulebook for the 2015 Paris accord. "Decisions taken at the ongoing climate conference will determine whether our ocean continues to sustain a rich variety of life, or whether habitable, oxygen-rich marine areas are increasingly and irrevocably lost," said IUCN global marine and polar programme director Minna Epps. — AFP

Bats may be well-adapted to forest fires

Los Angeles, Dec. 7: Bats may be well adapted to wildfire, according to a study which surveyed the effects of burn severity of 17 species of the flying mammal in forests that experienced fires. The researchers, including those from the University of California (UC) Davis in the US, said while many forest bats are adapted to dense spaces, an others with open habitats, they found that species from both groups preferred burned forests to unburned or minimally burned forests. "To understand how wildfire was affecting bat habi-

tat, the researchers used an acoustic surveying technology with microphones that emitted very high frequency sound, and tracked patterns in the way bats communicated. The recordings were converted into visualisations of bat calls, using which the researchers identified the species present, and compare their occurrence rates to habitat conditions. The study, published in the journal *Scientific Reports*, noted that while individual species responded to wildfire differently, the overall richness of bats increased



from about eight species in unburned forests to 11 in forests that experienced moderate- to high-severity burns. "Bats rely on forests for a number of resources. The key is recognising that natural fire is useful to them because it creates a variety of habitat condi-

While individual species responded to wildfire differently, overall richness of bats increased from about eight species in unburned forests to 11 in forests that experienced moderate- to high-severity burns
tions," said study lead author Zack Steel, a post-doctoral researcher with UC Davis. "They are adapted to it. Many species seem to actually benefit from fire," Steel said. Steel believes this could be because decades of fire suppression created dense forests. "Our forests are now so dense that even clutter-tolerant bats are preferring burned areas," he said. There are big areas of forest that haven't seen fire in a century. When fires do occur, they create openings for these species," he explained. The researchers say these openings are entry ways for bats to better access insects to eat, along with dead trees that provided a roosting habitat for some of them. — PTT

'Pedo guy' tweet: Elon Musk wins defamation trial

NICHOLA GROOM, RACHEL PARSONS LOS ANGELES, DEC. 7

Tesla Inc boss Elon Musk emerged victorious on Friday from a closely watched defamation trial as a federal court jury swiftly rejected the \$10 million claim brought against him by a British cave explorer who Musk had branded a "pedo guy" on Twitter. The unanimous verdict by a panel of five women and three men was returned after roughly 45 minutes of deliberation on the fourth day of Musk's trial. Legal experts believe it was the first major defamation lawsuit brought by private individual over remarks on Twitter to be decided by a jury. The outcome was a triumph for Musk, whose mercurial behavior in a number of instances last year came under close scrutiny from federal regulators and shareholders of Tesla, his Silicon Valley-based electric car manufacturer.



The case stems from a public quarrel between Musk and an unwelcome British diver who lives part-time in Thailand and gained fame for his leading role in coordinating the successful rescue of 12 boys and their soccer coach from a flooded cave in Thailand in July 2018.

hyperbole protected as free speech. Musk, 48, who had testified during the first two days of the trial in his own defense and returned to court on Friday to hear closing arguments, exited the courtroom after the verdict. "My faith in humanity is restored." Outside the courtroom, Musk said he was resigned to his defeat. "I accept the jury's verdict, take it on the chin and get on with my life." Wood said his client threatened to challenge potentially libelous Twitter comments, said Lin Wood, the high-profile lawyer who led the legal team for the plaintiff, Vernon Unsworth. "This verdict puts everyone's reputation at risk," Wood told reporters after the verdict was announced. Other lawyers specializing in defamation agreed the verdict reflects how the free-wheeling nature of social media has altered understandings of what distinguishes libel punishable in court from casual rhetoric and

Emotion-sensing robot heads to space to assist astronauts

JOEY ROULETTE WASHINGTON, DEC. 7

An intelligent robot equipped with emotion-sensing voice detectors was headed to the International Space Station after launching from Florida on Thursday, becoming the latest artificial intelligence-powered astronaut workmate in orbit. The Crew Interactive Mobile Companion 2, or CIMON 2, is a spherical droid with microphones, cameras and a slew of software to enable emotion recognition. The droid was among 2,885 kg of supplies and experiments aboard Space's Falcon 9 rocket, whose midday launch had been delayed from Wednesday due to high winds. "The overall goal is to really create a companion. The relationship between an astronaut and CIMON is really important," Matthias Biniok, the lead architect for CIMON 2, told Reuters. "It's trying to understand if the astronaut is sad, is he angry, joyful and so on." Based on algorithms built by information tech-



nology giant IBM Corp and data from CIMON 1, a nearly identical prototype that launched in 2018, CIMON 2 will be more sociable with crew members. It will test technologies that could prove crucial for future crewed missions in deep space, where long-term isolation and communication lags to Earth pose risks to astronauts' mental health. "While designed to help astronauts conduct scientific experiments, the English-speaking robot is also being trained to help mitigate groupthink — a behavioral phenomenon in which isolated groups of humans can be driven to make irrational decisions." "Group-thinking is real-

ly dangerous," Biniok said. In times of conflict or disagreement among astronauts, one of CIMON's most important purposes would be to serve as "an objective outlet that you can talk to if you're alone, or could actually help let the group collaborate again," he said. Engineers have said CIMON's concept was inspired by a 1948 sci-fi novel, the sentient computer in Stanley Kubrick's 2001: A Space Odyssey film. — Reuters

Brushing your teeth may be good for your heart

PEOPLE WHO brush their teeth three times a day are less likely to develop atrial fibrillation or heart failure than those with less consistent oral hygiene habits, a Korean study suggests. Researchers examined data on 101,296 people with national health coverage and no history of atrial fibrillation, heart failure or other cardiovascular diseases. After following at least half for study for 10 years, a total of 4,911 people, or 3% of the study population, developed atrial fibrillation and 7,971 people, or 4%, developed heart failure. Individuals who brushed their teeth three times a day were 10% less likely to develop atrial fibrillation and 12% less likely to develop heart failure compared to those who brushed less frequently, the study found. Getting regular professional dental cleanings was also tied to a 7% reduction in heart failure, while having 22 or more missing teeth was linked to a 32% higher heart failure risk. "Healthier oral hygiene by frequent tooth brushing and professional dental cleaning may reduce risk of atrial fibrillation and heart failure," senior study author Dr. Tae-jin Song of Ewha Women's University College of Medicine in Seoul and colleagues write in the *European Journal of Preventive Cardiology*. In a study of electrical impulses in the upper chambers of the heart are chaotic, causing the heart to pump enough blood through the body. Heart failure happens when the heart muscle is too weak to pump enough blood through the body. Heart failure symptoms can include

fatigue, weight gain from fluid retention, shortness of breath and coughing or wheezing. Some previous research suggests that poor oral hygiene may cause bacteria to seep into the bloodstream, provoking inflammation throughout the body. The study team writes. Inflammation can



increase the risk of both atrial fibrillation and heart failure, some previous studies have also found. It's possible that frequent tooth brushing reduces bacteria in the so-called "subgingival biofilm," the pocket between the teeth and gums, the study team writes. This might help prevent bacteria from entering the bloodstream. In the current study, participants had at least one routine medical exam between 2003 and 2004. Among other things, researchers gathered data on height, weight, lifestyle habits, any chronic medical issues, and oral health and hygiene habits. The connection between tooth brushing and atrial fibrillation and heart fail-

ure persisted even after researchers accounted for other factors that can influence risk for these heart problems, like age, sex, socioeconomic status, exercise habits, alcohol consumption, obesity and high blood pressure. The study, the first designed to prove whether or how oral health or tooth brushing habits might directly impact heart health. One limitation of the study is that the results in the Korean population might not represent what would occur with people from other countries of different racial and ethnic groups, the study notes. Researchers also lacked lab studies to confirm whether patients had atrial fibrillation or heart failure, and they didn't

have X-rays to determine whether participants had periodontal disease. Even so, the results add to evidence linking poor oral hygiene to cardiovascular diseases, Dr. Pascal Meyre of University Hospital Basel in Switzerland and Dr. David Conen of McMaster University in Canada write in an editorial accompanying the study. "It is certainly too early to recommend tooth brushing for the prevention of atrial fibrillation and congestive heart failure," Meyre and Conen write in the editorial. "We also call for more and more evidence, intervention studies are needed to define strategies for the heart health importance." — Reuters

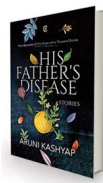


Much of the impact of Bohumil Hrabal's works (*Closely Observed Trains, I Served the King of England*) derives from his juxtaposition of the beauty and cruelty found in everyday life. He is often cited as the last century's best Czech writer. He died after falling from a window feeding pigeons.

Of trauma and unsaid truths, real and magical



Neha Bhatt review



HIS FATHER'S DISEASE: STORIES By Arun Kashyap Context, ₹499

Does a writer suffer a burden of expectations when he or she is from a certain place, a place of violence and conflict? It's a question often posed to authors these days. Arun Kashyap's second book, *His Father's Disease: Stories*, answers this question in a variety of ways.

With an assured hand, the book begins on a high note with the story 'Skylark Girl', in which an Assamese writer, Sanjib, is invited to read one of his stories at an international conference in Delhi. His moderator believes it is the most amazing thing to have happened to him. Sanjib's story is a retelling of a popular folk tale, translated to English in order to be presented at the conference. Why doesn't he write on more topical themes, about the "real" rather than the "magical," an audience member at a panel discussion asks Sanjib. Sanjib finds it funny — no one in Assam would ever ask him such a question. The English-language literati, however, operates in its own bubble.

In a cool, dispassionate tone that mines intimate, sometimes inci-

Why doesn't he write on more topical themes, about the 'real' rather than the 'magical,' someone at a panel discussion asks Sanjib. Sanjib finds it funny — no one in Assam would ever ask him such a question. The English-language literati, however, operates in its own bubble.

dental situations, Kashyap's stories are quietly affecting, often sparking with valuable insight. The 10 stories are wrapped in cross-cultural winds, between the chaos and grief of turmoil at home in Assam, and the sanitised aloofness and know-it-allness of life in America. Kashyap explores love and sex, desire and myth, violence and conflict, at an easy, page-turning pace. It reminded me very much of Chinamanda Ngozi Adichie's unforgettable collection of stories, *The Thing Around Your Neck*, which drew out quietly devastating moments in the lives of Nigerian men and women, many of them living away from their homeland in

America, caught in an unending abyss between two disparate worlds.

Kashyap achieves something similar with 'His Father's Disease'. In 'Before the Bullet', Kashyap weaves a tense story of a PhD scholar returning from Indiana to his village in Kamrup district in Assam who has a tragic run-in with a pair of army officers, even as his family awaits his arrival. Kashyap's eye for unusual and telling situations works wonderfully in 'The Love Lives of People Who Look Like Kal Penn', which is one of the more hopeful and warm stories in this collection. Some of the tales are interconnected. One of my favourites, and also the story I happened to read first — 'Like the Thread in a Garland' — reads like scenes from a marriage between Rubul and Anuradha sprinkled with some old-fashioned drama topped with a nice twist, narrated with amusing candour by Rubul's best friend, Nishad. It's interesting how two gay love stories — one unfolding in a cloud of myth deep in Assam (in the titular story 'His Father's Disease'), and another in America against the backdrop of Marriage Equality Act in

Minnesota ('After Anthropology'), play out in completely different contexts and circumstances, but with a similar heaviness.

Even as the stories tear at the heart of social and political themes of our times, reaping unsaid truths, what pulls the collection down a notch are some of the overdone, clichéd bits — such as the brown man experience abroad, the patronising white man with the exotic Indian girlfriend who disapproves of the Indian curry smell, the Bollywood loving NRIs and so on — that take up residence in the stories, 'The Umricans' and 'Minnesota Nice'. But when he writes of Assam, as he did in his debut novel, 'The House With a Thousand Stories', Kashyap's prose is altogether more perceptive and powerful, without, it appears, any burden of expectation, in a fine place between the real and the magical.

Neha Bhatt is an independent journalist and book critic based in Delhi. She tweets @nehabhatter and @bookishbadish on insta

Ruminations on echo chambers and writing



Ranjana Banerji review

White is a collection of essays or what I call 'essays' really, about growing up, nostalgia, the act of writing, today's world and culture, and a whole lot about Hollywood and how it affects the writer. By extension possibly, those who are deeply connected to the world of movies, wherever they may live.

Brett Easton Ellis is a well-known American writer, novels, television scripts. His best-known work is *American Psycho* which was also made into a film. I have not read any of his novels nor do I think I have watched their movie versions.

However, I must hasten to add that this lack of knowledge makes no difference in the enjoyment of this book. Ellis has a very easy style which makes reading him a pleasure. The subjects and his opinions may not always match those of the reader and indeed, why should they? He challenges commonly held assumptions and ideas and explains lucidly why he disagrees. Even if you don't agree, he makes you think.

Ellis delves plenty into nostalgia, his youth and how life was so different for children in the 1960s and 70s. From that nostalgia, from the usual clichés of how our parents left us to fend for ourselves when it comes to entertainment and learning about life, Ellis moves on to social media and how it invaded and conquered our days and nights.

Nostalgia is a funny one: we pick and choose what we liked about the past and then build stories around that. Ellis's stories may not be mine but readers who are pre-millennials, pre-GenXers, will understand what he's talking about. Those younger may be in awe of how we managed to live minus technology or scoff at our innocence.

But what Ellis does is to make us challenge the sentiment of this past because it was not all Steven Spielberg's children from *E.T.* There were darker shades and to combat those, Ellis talks about his fascination with horror films as well as changing moralities. It is fun to read about his interactions with Tina Brown when she took over *New Yorker* or interviews with Judd Nelson. Or his analysis of Tom Cruise, which leads to insights into stardom, how it changes and how it manipulates the star as well as his or her audience.

For my money, it is when he analyses social media, the quick share of information and with that formation of instant opinions, that Ellis comes into his own. He makes us confront at how we live in this world where we run from total condemnation to total glorification every other moment, leaving no space for introspection, nuance, grey areas and sometimes even simple comprehension. Social media has made this of us, and we are all guilty of falling into this brook-to-arguments X versus Y trap, regardless of our politics and our leanings.

Ellis's breakdown of the demands of sites like Twitter and our reactions to it are an eye-opening look at those of us who count ourselves as aware and thinking. He examines the gay community's reactions to his tweets, even as a gay man, he examines how rap star Kanye West's support for US President Donald Trump was not seen in the context of a pop star but of a political analyst. Ellis walks into the uncomfortable, with ease and good navigational skills.

He seems to relish the opposition and the controversies his views might engender. In many ways, that's the fun of it for him and that rubs off on the reader. He can be the child holding up the mirror, or the child looking at himself or the adult looking back at his inner or imaginary self as a child.

All in all, an engaging read.

The writer is a senior journalist who writes on media affairs, politics and social trends. She tweets at @ranjana

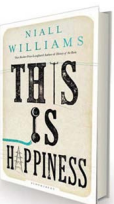


WHITE By Brett Easton Ellis Knopf, ₹799

As coming-of-age meets nostalgia, life is synonymous with happiness



Kushal Gulab review



THIS IS HAPPINESS by Niall Williams Bloomsbury, ₹550

Usually, a book with a cheerful-sounding title turns out to be the very opposite of what the title promises. So even though I had adored Niall Williams's *History of the Rain*, I was a bit wary of beginning his new book, *This is Happiness*, in case it turned out to be emotional torture.

To my surprise, the book lived up to its name. Reading it was happiness. The book is set in an Irish village just before electricity is introduced and since its narrator is an elderly man telling the story of his own youth, it combines nostalgia with a coming of age tale in such a way that I was utterly enchanted.

This is Happiness is about Noel, better known as Noe, who had promised his dying mother that he would be a priest but suffered a crisis of faith while at the seminary and is now in Faha to figure out what he is to do in life. Faha is so remote that it's practically a country by itself, with its own ways of life and own sense of time,

completely free from the tyranny of the clock not only in hours and minutes and hours, but also in terms of years.

But now electricity is finally about to reach Faha, so Noe finds himself sharing the attic room at his grandparents' home with Christy, a man working for the electricity board.

Noe accompanies Christy as he heads off every day to ensure every villager has signed up for electricity. The two become friends and Noe learns why Christy is in Faha. Working for the electricity board is just an excuse. Christy has been working his way around the world to apologise to everyone he's ever hurt or offended in the last 50 years of his life. Here in Faha is Annie Mooney, the woman a young Christy loved but nevertheless left at the altar.

Noe, falling in love himself with the out of reach Sophie, daughter of Faha's doctor, is romantically inclined. He will get Annie and Christy together

again. And this is the frame of *This is Happiness*, a frame that holds stories of Faha villagers, stories of Noe's family, the story of Noel's mother's death, the story of Christy, stories of music so much part of the land of Ireland that the music is Ireland itself, and the story of Annie Mooney.

The book is so beautifully written that I found myself operating on Faha time — I had absolutely no intention of finishing it in a hurry. Sentences and paragraphs stayed with me whenever I put down the book to do something else and even though I've read every page of it now, I'm still in Faha's world. It's a world that deals with incessant rain, dreadful inconveniences, terrible mistakes and even the curses of fate as each arrives, but still remembers to write us this stuff of life, life itself is happiness.

Kushal Gulab is a freelance editor and writer who dreams of being a sanaysi by the sea

ISHA SINGH teaches at Lucknow University and specialises in writing short stories in the genre of horror. *Where Do You Go in the Dark, My Love* is her first book.



Q Why do you write?

For that elusive feeling that a writer gets upon writing a really good story or a poem. It is a rush but short-lived because then you have other deadlines etc. I think I am always trying to replicate that rush, trying to write something that makes me feel satisfied after writing it.

Q Do you have a writing schedule?

Not really. Even if I make one, I rarely follow it. I am not a stickler for schedules. If I love the idea, I will continue to write till I get bored otherwise I delay the process.

Q Best piece of advice you've ever got?

Someone told me to try not to control things, be if things turn out as I had to, I would definitely ban Chetan Bhagat. I don't think the ban would deprive us of any literary genius. I would also ban his columns along with the books, as reading them in

Q Describe your favourite writing space.

I can write anywhere and mostly I use my writing desk but my favourite writing space is any space with a view of the mountains. Possibly a small desk on a balcony, at some place in Kasol, with a gorgeous view of the Parvati valley.

Q Who are your favourite authors?

Raymond Chandler, James M. Cain, Barbara Kingsolver, Joyce Carol Oates.

Q Which book/author should be banned on grounds of bad taste?

I don't believe in banning things but if I had to, I would definitely ban Chetan Bhagat. I don't think the ban would deprive us of any literary genius. I would also ban his columns along with the books, as reading them in



Q Which classics do you want to read?

I want to re-read *The Grapes of Wrath* by John Steinbeck. I would also like to complete reading *Tess of the D'Urbervilles* by Thomas Hardy. I picked it up during college for a class but couldn't plod through it.

Q Your favourite literary character.

My all-time favourite is Holden Caulfield from *Catcher in the Rye* by J.D. Salinger but currently I am also in love with Ishan Faudzdar from *Baaz* by Anuja Chauhan. I have read it for a long time but my favourites actually.

Q Which is the funniest book you have read?

The Diary of a Nobody by George and Weedon Grossmith. It is a wonderfully funny book.

Q Which is the most erotic book you have read?

I find *Wittgenstein on the Body* by Jeanette Wittgenstein to be a wonderfully balanced book with beautiful imagery. The prose is almost luscious.

Q Your favourite word?

Both Sunday and Sundaes these days.

We stand vindicated: Nithyananda victims

AGE CORRESPONDENTS
CHENNAI/BENGALURU,
DEC 6

Lenin Karuppannan and Aarshi Rao must be relieved now, if not quite on cloud nine. The two former disciples of Nithyananda have been running from one court to another after he filed "multiple foisted cases" in various courts in India and the US "in retaliation to the leaking of the (sex) video" showing him with an actress in his bedroom at the Siddhi ashram in Karnataka. Now with the various official agencies getting 'sensitized' to all these charges of rape, sodomy and financial frauds popping up against the self-proclaimed Lord Shiva and his two victims should be sighting the end of their dark tunnel.

"We feel vindicated," said Lenin, taking some time off from his discussions with lawyers at Bengaluru to speak to ICA. "We (he and Ms Rao) were the first to expose his evil doings in the ashram in early 2010 (his video was in the media in March that year) and for that we were hounded by Nithyananda with cases all over. Hardly anyone helped us. At least now, let there be justice."

The "ending justice" might happen, after all, when the Third Additional Sessions Court in Ramanagar takes up Lenin's complaint, filed before the Chennai Police Commissioner way back in March 2010 and transferred to Bengaluru for probe by the Karnataka CID. The court had granted bail to the godman in this case but subsequent proceedings have been rather slow.

Nithyananda had ignored summons to be present during the last 43 hearings. Sources said the prosecution would seek cancellation of the bail and issuance of warrant of arrest. The execution of such an order from the court should not be difficult considering that the godman allegedly fled the country despite his passport being cancelled by the Foreign Ministry and obviously used illegal means to avoid the authorised land, air and sea exit points. Also, the statement from the Ecuadorian consul in Delhi must help the



Lenin Karuppannan

authorities - that is, if they are willing to crack the whip at least now. Besides, the fugitive's saffron umbrella appears fractured now; his lies-ridden petition to the UN Commission for Human Rights accusing a whole lot of people and parties had named the BJP, RSS and Bharang Dal.

Reflecting on the decade-long misery that the godman had subjected her through his false cases in various courts - he had accused her of attempting to blackmail him, besides other charges - Aarshi Rao told ICA: "I have spent all my financial resources on these cases. I spent money that I did not have by borrowing. My entire life has crumbled because of this one man. However, I am now regaining my long-lost hope."

In Lenin's case filed against Nithyananda soon after the sex video was shot by him with help

from her inside the godman's bedroom secretly, Ms Rao became a prosecution witness after she pleaded before the Bengaluru CID in August 2010. The charge sheet in this case was filed in November (2010) and that made Nithyananda aware of his role in the exposure. The hounding began after that", she recalled.

According to Lenin, many 'followers' are now in touch with him after the recent outbreak of scams, particularly the crackdown on the ashram by the Gujarat police and the arrest of two prominent women inmates following a complaint from a parent that his two daughters have been taken away by the godman to Ecuador.

"The complainant, a former disciple himself, has been meeting various political leaders and officials while seeking help to get back the girls, one aged 21 and the other aged 18."

"The very same people who, under the influence of Nithyananda, had earlier called us dirty names and accused us of being anti-Hindu, are now coming out in our support. Once some decisive action is taken against the fugitive rape-accused, these persons will start speaking openly about the atrocities done in the ashrams," said Lenin.

Comedian by day, sex offender by night

YAMUNA R
CHENNAI, DEC 6

Nithyananda, the self-proclaimed 'god-man', also a 'noir' sought-after, is accused as being at the centre of social media storm recently. His presence, though unwelcome, cannot be ignored for it remains splattered like persistent stain all over social media, not to forget his no-brainer 'enlightening' videos which trend every now and then.

His 'spiritually uplifting' videos, released by the man himself on his youtube channel with the 'noble' intention of offering words to not to forget his no-brainer 'enlightening' videos which trend every now and then. His 'spiritually uplifting' videos, released by the man himself on his youtube channel with the 'noble' intention of offering words to not to forget his no-brainer 'enlightening' videos which trend every now and then.

The 'godman' has been accused of sexually harassing several disciples in his ashram, including three minor children (one boy and two girls). He is also facing trial under Sections 376 (rape), 377 (unnatural sex), 420 (cheating), 114 (criminal abetment), 301 (disappearance of evidence, giving false information), 120B (criminal conspiracy), and



Yamuna R

other charges under the Indian Penal Code (IPC). Amidst the charges levelled against him, the man has managed to flee the nation for good, only to set up his own 'cosmic' micro-nation Kailaasa. While the police have launched a manhunt to nab him, he manages to pop up on our screens with new sermons almost every other day, operating from his 'Hindi' nation 'without borders' from some god forsaken part of the world. In a recent video, he is even seen telling his followers, "Nobody can touch me. I will show my integrity to you by revealing the reality and truth to you. No nobody can touch me. I can tell you the truth! am Param Shiva."

Barring the die-hard, presumably brick-headed 'devotees', there is hardly anyone who takes him seriously, and even the Indian government for that matter, who seem to be putting in little effort to nab this delusional 'god-man' sarnam comedian by day and repeat law offender by the night. Meanwhile, his videos remain out for us to watch and laugh on his youtube channel 'Nithyananda'.

Silent victims: The advocate who defends the voiceless

A.D. Ramananda is a beacon of hope and kindness in a twisted world. A world where those who want to do good are mocked for choosing service over fame and wealth. A world where rape victims are afraid to speak and those who do are either not believed, or kicked around by the system. Where teachers work for free because their funds are misappropriated by the very government that should see to their interests. These are the people 55-year-old Ramananda, an advocate, chooses to represent and defend. "Rape victims should be bold, as should their families," he says. Fighting for what is right is a thankless job but Ramananda, who recalls some of his most disturbing cases, tells M.K. ASHOKA that serving people is the only thing he wants to do.

"People call me a joker," A.D. Ramananda, a senior advocate here in Bengaluru, has had to face the brunt of his peers' scorn. After all, not many lawyers would choose to spend their time working as an advocate in the field of rape. That's what this elderly advocate does, speaking up for victims of rape in a country where they are ostracised, where "don't tell anyone, it will spoil the girl's image and ruin the reputation of her family" is still the mantra in the face of sexual crimes.

"Marry the rapist" sounds dreadful but it was as recently as 2012 when Ramananda was approached by a Muslim man, whose daughter, a minor, had been raped and married to a man from their community. He was asked to marry the man who raped her. Her school principal was lodged with the police and he booked a false case. Justice Chinappa had presided over the hearings and quashed the case. "That's when newspapers first turned their attention onto me and I began to gain fame."

"I had to prove that pregnancy was possible without any noticeable symptoms," he recalls. "The girl used great pains to educate his daughter, was the biggest blow to her. I had to prove that pregnancy was possible without any noticeable symptoms," he recalls. "The girl used great pains to educate his daughter, was the biggest blow to her. I had to prove that pregnancy was possible without any noticeable symptoms," he recalls. "The girl used great pains to educate his daughter, was the biggest blow to her."

HOW HE BEGAN Ramananda grew up in Bengaluru, studying in Rajajinagar Parents' Association School. He wanted to be an engineer, but missed the admission by 1 percent. He then joined the Government Science College, part of the first batch of B.Sc students to study 'Instrumentation' after the school started teaching, he says. "Even as a student, however, I was always a bookworm of notes in Physics and Chemistry and conducted a nature club as a hobby course. I was making an income as I studied," he says. His first encounter with law was almost by chance. He happened to be in the room teaching at the Indian Mission School, where the Government Science Law College conducted classes in the evenings. "I joined the law course as a lawyer but I am still good at science - I teach Mathematics even at the engineering level."

Helping other people, clearly, was always in his nature and he would always reach out to those who struggled, though he failed or didn't have the



A.D. Ramananda

same things as their peers. "My students went on to become doctors and engineers," he says, proudly. "Even as a lawyer, I always put myself in the shoes of my clients. I saw their pain and worked with honesty. I never let anyone judge me. In the 26 years of my practice, I have stood up for what is right."

DEFENDING RAPE VICTIMS "I had taken up a case detailing the details of the victim to my family." The victims belonged to an Indian origin family living in the United States. It began when the 14-year-old victim started screaming during the night, and wetting herself. She was the one who gathered the courage to tell her story. "The girl's father wanted to sue the man who was abusing her. Their three-year-old daughter was a rape victim and nobody had known. I gave them accommodation and assured them that we were not going to disclose the case. The 14-year-old's admission of having been raped didn't motivate the family to sue the man who was abusing her, but they were afraid to make it public. I convinced them to do so."

A case was registered with the US Federal Police, who acted immediately. The perpetrator turned out to be a sex maniac and made many videos. "I got a message that he had admitted his guilt and he was tracked because he was part of a paedophile ring, which made videos of child sex abuse and selling them for huge amounts of money. A big mafia was brought to book and a lot of young girls were rescued. He recounts another case, describing the victim as having been a "very thin" girl. Again, she refused to speak. Ramananda made detailed notes of her mother sit together and meditate on the cause of her daughter's behaviour. The girl, who was eight years old, was clearly very smart but also disturbed. She was rolling around in the room screaming and crying. R a m a n a n d a recalls. "The mother was a sex slave and the girl had been witnessing all sorts of horrors."

ONE-YEAR-OLD VICTIM "Recently, I took up a case where the victim was only one-year-old," he says. "I had to defend the baby girl being put through extreme torture." It is difficult to detect the nature and he would always reach out to those who struggled, though he failed or didn't have the

Foreign ex-devotees raise banner of revolt against godman

AGE CORRESPONDENTS
CHENNAI, DEC 6

While the criminal cases against him meander at an indifferent pace in the Karnataka court, godman Nithyananda continued to recruit followers from the globe and building up his huge financial empire. All his wealth came from donations from devotees, and within India, who attended his satsangs and related classes at various ashrams. Some hardcore believers had also donated

high-valued properties. But now after the scams broke out relating to sexual crimes including allegations of male devotees/ashram inmates being subjected to sodomy, young girls and women being sexually exploited, some staunch followers are dropping their oaths to raise the banner of revolt. Some of them are foreigners.

The French government has launched investigation against Nithyananda after a French ex-devotee complained that the 'guru'

cheated him out of \$400,000. Another westerner has shaken off her devotion for Nithyananda and is a hard



Sarah Landry, Former devotee of Nithyananda, who also raised her voice not just against the misdeeds but the entire 'cult' ecology. She took to Twitter with a hashtag #ArrestNithyananda

campaigner but not just against the entire 'cult' ecology. "I used to be the top

recruiter for the Nithyananda Cult, now I'm speaking out against this highly controlling and abusive group," says Sarah Landry on her busy twitter page where she has been opening up about the abuses and crimes allegedly done by the godman.

Of course, Sarah has been subjected to much abuse on social media from the hardcore N-followers, many of them accusing her of being a Yatican plan to deride Hinduism.

with murder while a commoner could be jailed double-quick for 'just picking a pocket for 40 rupees to buy medicine for his ailing kid? And would that explain in some way the public jubilation at the encounter shooting-down of the four rape accused in Hyderabad on Friday?

Lenin's hope has a painful corollary. Does it have to get really loud and murky on multiple public forums for the justice delivery system in our great country to wake up to its Constitutional responsibilities? Is it not true that the rich and powerful could get away

Land of the Hornbill festival and Kachari monoliths

REKHA SURESH KUMAR

Nagaland, bordered by Myanmar on the East, Arunachal Pradesh on the North, Assam on the West, and Manipur on the South, is blessed with an abundance of natural beauty and is home to a variety of flora and fauna. That fascinating bird, the Great Indian Hornbill plays a prominent role in Nagaland culture and in fact, the annual tourism festival of Nagaland is called the Hornbill Festival, and is held from December 1 to 10 every year. The Hornbill Festival is a showcase of dances, performances, crafts, parades, games, sports, food fairs and religious ceremonies of the different Naga people, and is a riot of colour and pageantry and celebration. More importantly for the Naga people, the Hornbill Festival leads to a revival, preservation and assimilation of their culture, with the different Naga tribes interacting with one another, as well as the rest of the country, not to speak of visi-



Ceremonial traditional attire

tors from abroad. The Hornbill Festival is held at the Naga Heritage Village, Kisama, near Kohima and all the people of Nagaland proudly and enthusiastically participate, in projecting the rich culture of Nagaland and the display of its colourful costumes and its traditions.



A tribal chief's home at Kisama Heritage Village. At the Diezphe craft village

music groups from all over the world. The Diezphe Craft Village in Dimapur is another initiative, which has been created for the purpose of preservation of ethnic Naga art and craft and is home to many skilled weavers and craftsmen of Nagaland. The splendid shawls, scarves, mats and garments woven in authentic Naga patterns are an ode to the craftsmanship of the weavers. The language diversity existing in Nagaland is truly unique. Besides the common Nagamese, (which is a creole language comprising words from Assamese, Hindi and English), there are 36 different tribal languages and dialects, which the Naga people speak. Naga languages dif-

fer from tribe to tribe, and even from one village to another. The Naga people mostly belong to 16 different tribes, namely, Angami, Ao, Chakhesang, Chang, Khiamnungan, Kachari, Konyak, Lotha, Mizo, Pochury, Nengma, Sangtam, Sumi, Yimchungru and Zeliang. Each tribe is unique in character with its own distinct customs, language and dress. In addition to the Hornbill Festival, each of these tribes also celebrate their own specific distinct festivals at a particular month each year. English is the official language as well as the language of education in Nagaland. Historically, little is known of any significant interaction of the Naga people with the rest of India in the 12th and 13th centuries. Nagas seem to have established some contact with the Ahoms of present day Assam, but this does not seem to have had any significant impact on the traditional Naga way of life. Naga tribes seem to have

migrated at different times, settling in the northeast of India and establishing their respective sovereign boundaries and village-states. They also seem to have suffered repeated attacks from the Burmese. However, with the arrival of the British, the Burmese aggression ended since the whole of South Asia, including the Nagas, came under the British Raj. Post-independence, Nagaland, initially a district of the state of Assam, became an independent state, attained statehood and became the 16th state of the Indian Union in December 1963. As regards the architectural legacy of the Nagas, the pride of Nagaland is the historic Dimasa Kachari ruins in Dimapur, maintained by ASI. These are pre-colonial monoliths, domed columns, each about 8 to 10 feet tall, which date back to the 10th century during the Dimasa Kachari Civilisation. The whole site situated in a park, houses the ruins of several monoliths, mushroom domed pillars, which from the air, would

look like a massive chess board with rows of gigantic chess pawns, one of which is even 20 feet high! The stone pillars are elaborately carved with motifs of birds, animals, flowers, spearheads and other motifs. The columns were created by the Dimasa Kachari kingdom, which ruled here before the Ahom invasion into the territory during 13th Century CE. The origin and true purpose of these monoliths have not been deciphered as yet, and while a few pillars still stand in all their glory, others are slowly crumbling. While some theories do state that a game similar to chess was played there with these mushroom domed columns, others suggest that they were erected as victory towers, celebrating a victory of the Dimasa Kachari over other tribes. However, none of these theories has been proven. It is a marvel and feel awestruck, but ponder and remain in awe, puzzlement about these magnificent monoliths.

British Opposition leader Jeremy Corbyn said PM Boris Johnson needs to answer about Russian donations to the Tory party or the report about Russian interference in British politics



Cops will use 'hard' and 'soft' approaches when dealing with protests — Chris Tang Hong Kong police commissioner

BRIEF

25 killed in Iraq gunmen attack

Baghdad: Iraqi officials have raised Saturday's death toll to 25 protesters killed and over 150 wounded, after a bloody night of attacks by unknown gunmen that targeted anti-government demonstrators in the capital city. The attack was among the deadliest since October 1, when thousands of Iraqis took to the streets to demand sweeping political reforms and the end of Iran's influence in Iraqi affairs...

Pak men cut off 10-year-old's nose

Islamabad: Three Pakistani men cut off the nose of a 10-year-old child in Rajanpur's Rojhan after storming into his school on Saturday. The school is located in the Dera Dildar area. The suspects attacked the child in the presence of a rivalry with his father, according to the police. The child was rushed to hospital. The police have registered a case against the three suspects. Two suspects, identified as Saifullah and Shah, have been arrested.

US not to assign cartels 'terror' tag

Washington: US President Donald Trump said on Saturday he would not proceed with his stated plans to designate Mexican drug cartels as terror groups following a request from his counterpart Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador. Trump said on his war on the cartels last month after the killings of nine women and children from a US-Mexican Mormon community. The case brought fresh attention to cartel violence and Obrador's struggles to rein in bloodshed.

US-Taliban resume talks in Doha

Doha: Washington resumed talks with the Taliban in Qatar on Saturday, a US source said, three months after President Donald Trump abruptly halted diplomatic efforts that could end the US' longest war. In September, the US and the Taliban had appeared on the verge of signing a deal that would have seen Washington begin withdrawing thousands of troops in return for security guarantees. But, Trump abruptly halted the effort 'dead' and withdrew an invitation for secret talks after a US soldier was killed.

US MOVE TO HONOUR SLAIN SIKH COP

Washington, Dec. 7: A US lawmaker on Saturday introduced a legislation to honor a slain Sikh police officer Sandeep Singh Dhalwal after Dhalwal was killed in the line of duty on September 27. The bill, tabled by congresswoman, Lizzie Fletcher, in the house of representatives, provides that the post office located at 615 Addicks Howell road in Houston be named the 'Deputy Sandeep Singh Dhalwal Post Office'.

"Deputy Dhalwal represented the very best of our community: he worked for equality, connection, and community through his life of service to others," said congresswoman Fletcher. "The Deputy Sandeep Singh Dhalwal Post Office will serve as a permanent reminder of his service, his sacrifice, and his example for us all," she said. "I am honoured to be able to recognize Deputy Dhalwal in this way and look forward to working with all of my Texas colleagues to pass this legislation quickly," she said.

Clouds of smoke choke Sydney



Firefighters conduct back burning measures to secure residential areas from encroaching bushfires near Sydney on Saturday. Smoke from the bushfire is causing respiratory illnesses while outdoor sports have been cancelled. Firefighters say it will take weeks to control the fire but will not be extinguished without heavy rains. So far, six people have been killed, nearly 700 houses burned down and millions of hectares of land has been razed.

Nobel winners caution about climate change

Say protests by youth an encouraging sign, will push leaders

Stockholm, Dec. 7: Nobel Prize laureates gathered in Stockholm to receive their awards took the opportunity on Saturday to stress the importance of addressing climate change. Winners of the prizes in physics, chemistry and economics made the assessment on Saturday ahead of next week's presentation of the prizes. The remarks come as a global summit on climate change takes place in Madrid.

Didier Queloz, who shared the physics prize for discovering of an exoplanet orbiting a sunlike star, took issue with people who shrug off climate change on the grounds that people will eventually leave Earth. "I think this is just irresponsible because the stars are so far away I think we should not have any serious hope to escape the planet," he said. "Also keeping in mind that we are a species that has evolved and developed for this planet. We are not built to survive on any other planet than this one. We'd better spend our time and energy trying to fix it."

ESTHER DUFOLO Economics laureate



Climate change will require a change in behavior, particularly in the rich countries that are heavy consumers of goods and energy

ESTHER DUFOLO Economics laureate



We are not built to survive on any other planet than the Earth

DIDIER QUELOZ Nobel prize winner

World leaders betraying us with climate change, says Greta

Madrid, Dec. 7: Teen activist Greta Thunberg took her call for bold action to tackle climate change to a UN summit in Spain on Saturday warning world leaders that a growing youth-led protest movement meant they could no longer hide. "Accorded rock star status by young environmental activists, the 16-year-old had crossed the Atlantic by boat to drop in on the climate talks in Madrid then join one of the Saturday afternoon marches she has inspired around the world. "The current world leaders are betraying us and we will not let that happen anymore," Thunberg said in a brief speech to the protesters, some of whom had chanted "We Love You Greta."



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Dhaka razes brick kilns to fight smog

Saturia (Bangladesh), Dec. 7: Excavators flanked by Bangladesh riot police are at work demolishing illegal soot-burning brick kilns around the smog-choked capital Dhaka, forcing migrant labourers out of work and back to their villages. Every autumn, following the monsoon rains, Dhaka's brick kilns make use of coal and wood to fire bricks from clay — start up again, adding to the emissions pumped out by other heavy industries and the thousands of vehicles on the streets of the capital.

On November 25, an independent air quality monitor pegged Dhaka as the most polluted in the world. The next day, the high court ordered the hundreds of illegal brick factories that surround the city to be closed within two weeks. Many were built in the past five years as heavy industry and construction fuelled a booming economy. While authorities say tearing them down will make Dhaka air more breathable, thousands of kiln workers — who hail from poor rural regions or coastal areas hit by climate change — have been left without a job.

The kiln's owner Nazmul Islam Nabin pleaded tearfully for the excavator to be stopped, but to no avail.

Reddit bans accounts, suspects possible UK vote interference

London, Dec. 7: The ban of Russian interference in Britain's election flared anew Saturday after the social media platform said it had identified a family of three, including an eight-year-old girl. But the Supreme Court declined to allow federal executions to go forward for the moment, saying, "In light of what is at stake," the block on executions should be reviewed by the appeals court. It added that while the application was denied for now, another could be filed if the matter had not been resolved by the lower courts within 60 days.

Reddit investigated the leak after the documents became public during the campaign for Thursday's election, which will determine the country's future relationship with the European Union. All 650 seats in the House of Commons are up for grabs. Reddit said it believed the documents were leaked as "part of a campaign to influence the election" and reported as originating from Russia. "We were able to confirm that they did indeed show a pattern of coordination," Reddit said.

US top court retains hold on capital punishment

Washington, Dec. 7: The US Supreme Court on Saturday refused to lift a stay on federal executions, temporarily thwarting plans by Donald Trump's justice department to immediately resume capital punishment. There have been just three federal executions since the death penalty was reinstated by the US government in 1988, the last one in 2011.

The justice department wants to resume the use of the death penalty for federal crimes, and the next execution could have taken place as soon as Monday. Daniel Lewis Lee, an avowed white supremacist, was scheduled to be put to death by the state of Missouri for the murder of a family of three, including an eight-year-old girl. But the Supreme Court declined to allow federal executions to go forward for the moment, saying, "In light of what is at stake," the block on executions should be reviewed by the appeals court.

Won't participate in impeachment: WH

Washington, Dec. 7: The White House on Saturday informed the US House Democrats that it would not participate in the impeachment proceedings against President Donald Trump. In a letter to House Judiciary Committee chairman, Jerrold Nadler, White House counsel Pat Cipolone said it would be a "reckless abuse of power" for them to adopt the articles of impeachment. This "would constitute the most unjust, highly partisan, and unconstitutional attempt at impeachment in our nation's history," he said in a one-page letter. "As the President

has recently stated: 'if you are going to impeach me, do it now, fast, so we can have a fair trial in the Senate,'" he wrote and slammed the ongoing impeachment inquiry as "completely baseless." Expressing disappointment over the White House response, Nadler said that people deserve answers from Trump. "The House invited, and then subpoenaed, his top advisors," the President ordered them not to show and continues to block key witnesses from Congress," he said. —PTI

SAUDI SHOOTER ASSAILS U.S. AS 'NATION OF EVIL'

Riyadh, Dec. 7: Saudi Arabia sought to distance itself on Saturday from a student who carried out a fatal shooting at a US naval base, as it "seeks to repair its image of being an exporter of Islamic extremism. The Saudi military student reported that he condemned the US as a "nation of evil" before going on a rampage on Friday at the Marine Corps Air Station Ponscola, killing three people. The shooting marks a setback in the kingdom's efforts to shrug off its reputation for promoting religious extremism.

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All set for electronic H-1B filing

Washington, Dec. 7: The US has completed implementation of the H-1B electronic registration process for the 2021 cap season and petitions for the most sought after work visa among Indian IT professionals will be accepted from April 1 next year, the country's immigration agency has announced. The US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), the federal agency mandated with task of approving H-1B applications, on Saturday announced that it had completed the work steps accepting the process to implement the H-1B electronic registration process for the 2021 cap season. The companies applying for H-1B visas for foreign workers for the fiscal year 2021 would have to register online and pay a processing fee of \$10. The federal agency would start accepting the H-1B petitions from April 1, 2020 for the next fiscal year.

Hafiz gets relief in terror finance trial

Mumbai terror attack mastermind and chief of the banned JuD Hafiz Saeed could not be indicted by Lahore's anti-terrorism court for terror financing charges as the authorities strangely failed to produce the other co-accused at the high profile hearing on Saturday. The development came a day after India said it was aware that the mastermind of the Mumbai terror attack was "roaming freely" and enjoying "Pakistan's hospitality." Ministry of external affairs

spokesperson Raveesh Kumar said on Friday that India had shared all the evidence with Pakistan and it was Islamabad's responsibility "to take action" against the perpetrators. The Anti-Terrorism Court here has now fixed December 11 as date for framing the charges against the founder of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and other co-accused Malik Zafar Iqbal. Saeed was brought to the court amidst tight security.

U.S.-IRAN MAKE PRISONER SWAP AMID TENSIONS

Tehran, Dec. 7: An Iranian held in the US and an American held in Iran have been freed, the two sides said on Saturday, in an apparent prisoner swap at a time of heightened tensions. Tehran announced the release of its scientist, Massoud Soleimani, from the US shortly before Washington declared US researcher Xiyue Wang was returning home. "Iran, Xiyue Wang is returning to the US." —AFP

3 main rail unions call for strike to be stepped up on Mon.

Travel chaos in France, unions warn of fresh turmoil

Paris, Dec. 7: The most serious nationwide strike to hit France in years caused new misery for weekend travellers on Saturday with unions dismissing proposals by the government and warning walkouts would last well into next week. The challenge thrown down to President Emmanuel Macron over his plans for radical pension reform has prompted hundreds of thousands to take to the streets and brought key transport services to a standstill. The strikes, which began on Thursday over the plans for a single point-based pension scheme, recall the winter of 1995, when three weeks of huge stoppages forced a social policy U-turn by the then-government. Unions have vowed a second series of mass demonstrations nationwide on Tuesday after Thursday's big rallies that were expected to be little easing of the transport freeze over the coming days. The strikes could prove to be the biggest domestic challenge yet for Mr Macron, who came to power in 2017 on the back of promises to radically reform France and has sought a prominent place on the international stage as Europe's number one statesman. Mr Macron was widely believed to have ridden out the challenge posed by the "yellow vests" whose weekly Saturday protests against inequality in France had shaken the government over the last year. But the yellow vests have also sought to use the momentum of the movement to hold a fresh protest in Paris on Saturday and others in several cities across France. "When we see the extent to which Macron is carrying this unfair pension reform through right to the end... We think we must not let up," warned Sophie Tisser, co-organiser of the protest. Prime Minister Edouard Philippe insisted on Friday that the govern-

ment would not abandon the plan. But while he said he did not want "confusing" the unions are determined to keep the current pensions system of special regimes for public servants and others in place. In a joint statement, the three main rail unions called for the strike to be stepped up on Monday. To the question of how long the action would last, Laurent Buzet, head of the CGT railworkers branch, said, "The railworkers are not fixing any limits." —AFP

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NORTH DELHI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (M-I) KPZ SHAKTI NAGAR EXTN DELHI-110052 NIT No. E.E./M-I/KPZ/2019-20/67 Dated: 03.12.2019 Date of start for sale of tender document : 03.12.19 at 18:00 PM Last date of download of tender document : 24.12.19 at 12:00 PM. Last date of bid submission : 24.12.19 at 12:15 PM. Opening of financial bid : 24.12.19 at 12:30 PM. S.No. 1 Name to Work: Imp./Dev. of roads and drainage system of road joining L.V. Workshop Mubarak Bagh to Model Town PS by providing L.V. in Ward Model Town PS. Tenders to be invited under VII-(5) Tender Amount : 4304154 Estimate Value: 86100 T.M. Time of completion: 3 months Retes hold good for: 6 months Tender Code: 19/2019-19-19-19-19-19-19 Note: This tender is also available on the website http://medetenders.com for bidding by approved and eligible contractor with MCD. The validity of rates hold good for 6 months E.E./M-I/KPZ has the right to cancel any or all the tenders without any reason. R.O.No. 180/DN/PHN DMC/19-20 Ex. Engineer,(M-I)KPZ

Buh-bye
Pinterest to remove wedding pictures of power couple Blake Lively and Ryan Reynolds

3
It (new album) is going to be pretty much a rock and will have a lot of guitar.
— Cody Simpson, Australian musician

BRIEF

Simpson hints at music with Miley
Washington: Seems like musician Cody Simpson is planning to collaborate on new music with girlfriend and singer Miley Cyrus' two-year-old Simpson weighed in on the possibility at the 2019 "GO Men of the Year" party in West Hollywood, California. The crooner was asked about the possibility while talking the red carpet. "Yeah definitely. We're looking at it," he told *El News*. The *Golden Thing* singer added, "We're getting all the songs done and then seeing who would make sense for what." — ANI

DiCaprio to present award to De Niro
Los Angeles: Hollywood star Leonardo DiCaprio will be presenting the Sagalife Achievement Award to veteran actor Robert De Niro. The actor will present the honour to the 76-year-old Niro during the annual award ceremony which will be held on January 19 next year, the organisers announced in a statement. The two stars shared screen space in films such as *This Boy's Life* (2010) and *Marvin's Room* (1996). They are frequent collaborators of veteran filmmaker Martin Scorsese. — PTI

Miller defends superhero movies
Los Angeles: Filmmaker George Miller is the latest Hollywood veteran to weigh in on Martin Scorsese's criticism of Marvel movies, saying cinema as a broad field has room for every kind of film. In an interview with *Deadline*, the *Mad Max: Fury Road* helmer said he wished existence of superhero and franchise cinema. "I watch all of them. To be honest, in terms of this debate, cinema is cinema and it's a very broad church. The test, ultimately, is what it means to the audience. He said it is a "mistake" and "a kind of hubris" to dismiss a blockbuster film as "cliche-marketting". — PTI

FRIENDS ACTOR RON LEIBMAN DIES AT 82

Los Angeles: Award-winning American actor Ron Leibman, famed for playing Rachel Green's overbearing dad in the sitcom *Friends*, has died at the age of 82. His agent said the cause was pneumonia. While best known for his role in the US sitcom, Leibman had a decorated career in TV and film spanning six decades. "Ron was an incredibly talented actor with a distinguished career in film, TV and the theatre. Our thoughts go out to his wife, Jessica (Walter), and his family," his agent said in a statement. Born in New York in 1937, Leibman won an Emmy award in 1979 for the series *Kaz*, which he created, and a Tony award for Tony Kushner's play *Angels in America*, BBC reported. He appeared in numerous films including *Norma Rae* and *Slaughterhouse-Five*. But his role as Dr Leonard Green in *Friends* is how he will be remembered best. Many took to social media to pay tribute to Leibman. "So many of the best memories of my career have Ron Leibman in them," said Sally Field. — Agencies

WEINSTEIN PROSECUTOR CALLS FOR HIGHER BAIL CITING FLIGHT CHANCE

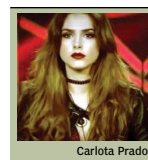
New York: New York prosecutors on Friday called for Harvey Weinstein's bail to be increased to \$5 million, arguing that the disgraced Hollywood mogul — accused of sex crimes — had violated the conditions of his release and could try to flee the country. The once-powerful film producer, whose case sparked the #MeToo movement against sexual harassment, appeared in a Manhattan court for a hearing on his bail conditions, as his trial loops on January 6. As well as the \$1 million bail already set, the 67-year-old, who faces charges of rape and forcibly performing oral sex on a woman, has had his passport confiscated and wears an electronic tracking bracelet. Weinstein, looking frail as he was helped by lawyers into the courtroom, is allowed to travel around the United States as long as he informs the authorities any time he leaves New York state, where he lives. — AFP

SPANISH BIG BROTHER TV star forced to watch her own sexual assault

Prado learnt of incident when she was shown footage

Madrid: When Carlota Prado was asked to enter the "diary room" on the Spanish version of the *Big Brother* reality TV series, it would have seemed an entirely mundane request. The room is central to the show's format, which sees a group of people living together in a house, watched at all times by television cameras. It's there that contestants hear directly from *Big Brother*, gossip about their fellow housemates, and deliver messages to the outside world, CNN reported. But Prado was called for a different reason. The previous night, after falling in love following an alcohol-fueled party put on for contestants, she was allegedly sexually abused by another contestant, José María López. López denies the allegations. his lawyer told Spanish media. With no recollection of the 2017 incident, producers asked Prado to rewatch the diary room, where she was forced to watch the alleged abuse. Her distraught reaction was also captured. The footage shows Prado being pulled apart by another contestant, and begging the *Big Brother* figure, known in Spain as Super, to stop playing the role. "Please stop, Super, please," complaining that her heart was beating quickly and asking for something to relax her. The Super figure then asks Prado not to tell the other contestants about it. Neither the footage of the alleged abuse nor the diary room was aired at the time, but two years on, both were obtained by Spanish news network *El Confidencial* following an investigation by the site. Since then, the show's handling of the situation has sparked a scandal in the country. The network behind the series has apologised for its response, but scores of major companies have nonetheless pulled advertising from the show. The episode is particularly painful in a nation that has seen a number of deeply divisive sexual assault cases in recent years. At the heart of this incident is Spain's controversial law, which specifies that non-consensual sex in which violence or intimidation is not used is charged as sexual abuse, and not the more serious charge of rape.

Protesters carry a banner during Madrid rally. "We are the wolf pack. It's not abuse, it is rape," during a demonstration in 2018. The same law is thrown under heavy scrutiny following the Wolf Pack case, which brought thousands of protesters onto the streets and prompted anger at the judiciary. Meanwhile, some critics demanded the cancellation of *Gran Hermano*, and asked if reality TV — an industry never far from provoking anger — has ever stopped so low. — Agencies



Carlota Prado

Russia bizman hit by vehicles while walking dog in UK, dies

London: A Russian billionaire was killed in a road collision while walking his dog in England last week, it has been confirmed. Surrey police released a statement on Thursday confirming that Dmitry Obretetsky, 49, died on November 30, following an incident in Oxshott, a village near London, on November 25.

Obretetsky, the latest in a series of prominent Russians to die in the UK, was taken to hospital by ambulance with serious injuries, police said, CNN reported. The collision involved three vehicles, officers confirmed. No arrests have been made and an investigation is ongoing. In the police statement, Obretetsky's family described him as a "quiet and private man."

"We have lost a most amazing person who filled our lives," the statement continued. "We would ask people not to speculate on the circumstances of the incident, as this may impact the ongoing investigation, and it causes us additional anxiety and pain at this most difficult time." — Agencies



Dmitry Obretetsky



Three square miles of volcanic rock on the edge of the East China Sea may one day be used as an unsinkable aircraft carrier for the US Navy in the event of war in Asia, CNN reported. Japan's government announced this week that it's buying Mageshima Island, an uninhabited outpost 34km from the southern-most Japanese main island of Kyushu. The island, most of which is owned by a privately held Tokyo development company, is uninhabited and hosts two intersecting unpaved runways that were abandoned under a previous development project. The Japanese government said the runways will be paved and used for US Navy and Marine Corps planes to simulate aircraft carrier landings, though it did not give a time frame in which that could be accomplished as the deal still needs to be finalised. — Agencies

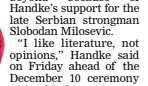
NEWS NUGGETS

FRANCE: SUSPECT SWALLOWS POISON
Paris: Suspect in the rape and murder of a young woman in France almost two decades ago was under guard in hospital Saturday after he swallowed pesticide in an apparent suicide bid following his conviction. Willy Barbon, on trial over the murder of Elodie Kullik in 2002 in a case that has attracted strong interest in France for years, ingested the substance at the courthouse in the Amiens late on Friday. — AFP

ROBBIE EQUALS ELVIS UK ALBUM CHART RECORD
London: Robbie Williams has become the joint most successful solo act in UK album chart history after scoring his 13th number one, level with Elvis Presley. The Christmas *Present* has moved to the top spot after entering at number two behind Coldplay last week, BBC reported. The Beatles hold the overall record with 15 UK number one albums. Meanwhile, *Dance Monkey* by Australian singer Tones & I equalled the record for the longest-running number one single by a female artist, on 10 weeks. That matched the streak at the singles summit achieved by Whitney Houston's *I Will Always Love You* in 1982 and Rihanna's *Umbrella* in 2007. Lewis Capaldi is at number two, but is the bookmakers' current favourite to top the chart when the Christmas number one is announced in two weeks. — Agencies

Nobel laureate Peter Handke dodges queries on Balkan wars

Stockholm: Nobel laureate Peter Handke is dodging queries about his award, but the controversial author known for his pro-Serb stance in the wars in former Yugoslavia said Friday he preferred literature to opinions. The Swedish Academy's pick for the 2019 prize, announced in October triggered outrage in the Balkans and beyond because of Handke's support for the late Serbian strongman Slobodan Milosevic. "I like literature, not opinions," Handke said on Friday ahead of the December 10 ceremony in Stockholm. "I have no strong opinions," the Austrian author said in response to a journalist's question on whether he had changed his mind about what happened in the Balkans in the 1990s. In 1997 Handke was accused of minimising Serb war crimes in his book *A Journey to the Rivers*. He also drew criticism for speaking at the 2006 funeral of Milosevic, who died while on trial for genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity. — AFP



Peter Handke

Pope meets scandal-hit Maltese PM amid uproar

Vatican City: Pope Francis held a private audience with outgoing Maltese Prime Minister Joseph Muscat on Saturday, despite a plea to cancel the meeting over a scandal-hit investigation into the murder of a journalist. The Argentine pontiff met Muscat and his family for an event the Vatican said had been scheduled months ago. Muscat said Sunday he will step down in January after mass protests over a media-criticised probe into the 2017 murder of journalist Daphne Caruana Galizia, which also led to resignations of his chief of staff and tourism minister. — AFP



Lauren Mayberry at the Intersect music festival in Las Vegas on Friday. Camila Cabello (left) and Lizzo perform at a music event in Los Angeles, California, on Friday. — AFP, AP

Robbie Williams recreates feminist choreographic performance against gender violence and patriarchy at the Guadalajara International Book Fair

Guadalajara: Robbie Williams' 'The Christmas Present' album was inspired by the feminist choreographic performance against gender violence and patriarchy at the Guadalajara International Book Fair in Guadalajara, Mexico, on Friday. — AFP



Thailand's King Maha Vajiralongkorn and Queen Suthida at a ceremony at Chinatown district of Bangkok on Friday. — AFP

End of an era: Last Pearl Harbor veteran to be interred on sunken ship USS Arizona

Los Angeles: It was an attack that shaped history, leaving more than 2,400 Americans dead and forcing the United States to enter a war it had been reluctant to join. On Saturday, the 78th anniversary of the 1941 sneak attack by Japan on Pearl Harbor, the remains of one of the survivors of the assault will be interred on his sunken ship, the USS Arizona. Lauren Bruner, who was among the last sailors rescued from the Arizona as it exploded into flames and sank in September at age 98. He had expressed in his wish to be buried alongside fellow sailors who died on that fateful day. "It's a historical event and this is the last surviving crewman of the USS Arizona," National Memorial spokesman Jay Blount told AFP. Bruner will be the 4th person to be interred on the ship. The remaining three living sailors who survived the attack have asked to be laid to rest with their family. One of them, 96-year-old Lou Center, will be attending Saturday's memorial at the USS Arizona National Memorial in Hawaii, alongside some 120 members of Bruner's family. Following the late-afternoon ceremony, National Park Service and military divers will take the art containing Bruner's ashes and lower it to his final resting place in the hull of the ship's wreckage. Bruner was among six men who had gathered at the back of the doomed battleship on December 7, 1941 as Japanese warplanes bombed the ship. Bruner was badly burned and had been short twice in the leg, managed to grab the rope that pulled him and his comrades to safety. At the time, President Roosevelt described the surprise attack as "a date which will live in infamy." — AFP



Lauren Bruner

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NEW DELHI SUNDAY 8 DECEMBER 2019

SPORT | Cricket

Captain Pollard rues bad bowling in 1st T20 vs India

14

SPORT | Basketball

Antetokounmpo shoots 25 as Milwaukee win

15

GUIDE TO FORTUNE

Tick the answer and check them below.

- Which of these is heavier than iron?
 - Gold
 - Potassium
 - Carbon
- When was the last time a third-party candidate won any electoral votes?
 - 1948
 - 1992
 - 1968
- Who was George Washington's running mate in 1789?
 - Nobody
 - Thomas Jefferson
 - Alexander Hamilton

SHORT TAKES

₹15 lakh dacoity case solved, 3 held

New Delhi: With the arrest of three persons, the Delhi Police has claimed to solve a ₹15 lakh dacoity case in Geeta Colony area. The accused trio was identified as Shubham Jain (24), Shivam (29) and Rakesh DCP (Shahdara) Amit Sharma said that in November a victim working with a private firm reported that four bike-borne persons robbed approximately ₹15 lakh at gun point after beating him with a stick. Over 150 employees of the firm were questioned and 3,900 bikes were examined. The victim was nabbed following technical and manual surveillance. Shubham worked for the firm and passed on the information to Shivam, said the police, adding that ₹8 lakh cash and a country-made pistol with four bullets has been recovered from them.

2 Thak Thak gang members arrested

New Delhi: The Delhi Police on Saturday claimed to have arrested two notorious members of infamous "Thak Thak" gang active in South Delhi area. With their arrest, the police have solved more than 10 cases of snatching and theft registered in South Delhi. Police have also recovered nine stolen mobile phones, ₹45,000 cash and a scooter, used in commission of the crime, from the possession of the accused. The accused have been identified as Prakash (20) and Praveen (22), both residents of Madangir area. During interrogation, the duo revealed that recently they had stolen one hand bag containing cash of ₹45,000 and documents from a woman opposite Majeedya Hospital on R.D. Marg after diverting the attention of the victim woman, said the police.

Criminal involved in 30 cases held

New Delhi: A 25-year-old man involved in 30 criminal cases was arrested by the Delhi Police. The accused was identified as Vikas (25) and a country-made pistol was recovered from him, said DCP (PCR) Sharat Kumar Sinha, adding that he was found previously involved in 30 cases including murder, robbery, burglary and theft. On the eve of Saturday, the MPV staff comprising ASI Pramod, HC Amandeep and Ct. Sanjay received a call regarding couple of persons standing in Bindapur area with a pistol. The staff rushed to the spot. After seeing the police, they fled, but Vikas was nabbed. He revealed that he hid the pistol in a box at a garbage dump nearby. The weapon was recovered. Vikas was handed over to the local police of PS Bindapur.

THE ANSWER TO TODAY'S GUIDE TO FORTUNE

- 1. Gold
- 2. 1896
- 3. John Adams

Nirbhaya convict seeks mercy plea withdrawal

Says petition was sent to President without his consent

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, DEC. 7

Vinay Sharma, one of the four convicts in the 2012 Nirbhaya gangrape and murder case, on Saturday sought immediate withdrawal of his mercy plea from President Ram Nath Kovind, saying it was sent without his consent. The convict wrote to the President, alleging his mercy plea, which was forwarded to him from the ministry of home affairs, had been sent by the Tihar jail authorities with a "malafide intention" and in "criminal conspiracy" with the Delhi government.

Mr Sharma said he was yet to exhaust all legal remedies available to him before filing the mercy plea as he has not filed any curative petition before the Supreme Court.

5 arrested for molesting schoolgirl in Gurgaon

Gurgaon, Dec. 7: Five men were arrested in Gurgaon for allegedly molesting a minor schoolgirl as she was returning home from school, the police said on Saturday. The incident took place at around noon on Friday under the Farukh Nagar police station area and the girl's father lodged a complaint against the accused. Gurgaon police PRO Subhash Boken said,

"In her complaint, the victim said she was returning from school with her friends. On her way, five drunk men in a car stalked and later molested her. They also tried to grab her while in the car," Mr Boken said, adding that the victim escaped to a nearby house to protect her.

"A case was registered in this regard. Upon investigation, a police team identified and arrested the five accused persons after a tip-off from a resident in Farukh Nagar area," he added. The accused have been identified as Praveen (18), Rahul (18), Dheeraj (19), Pankaj (19), and Mohit (22), who are all residents of Domu village, the police spokesperson said.

The incident occurred on Friday evening when some local residents rescued the dog from the dog-pit after it was found crying. The dog, that sustained fractures on its legs and head, was taken to a nearby veterinary hospital in the city's DLF Phase 3 where it is currently battling for life.

"On the basis of a complaint filed by animal lovers, we have registered an FIR under relevant sections of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act in Sadar police station and efforts are on to contact the RWA of the society. Further action will be taken against the alleged security guards and their supervisor," said Preet Pal Singh, chief PRO of Gurgaon police.

The convict alleged that his mercy plea had been sent by the Tihar jail authorities with a "malafide intention" and in "criminal conspiracy" with the Delhi government

his mercy plea was sent "fraudulently," without annexing to it any document detailing the mitigating circumstances of his case and by concealing various important facts so that the same is rejected. The convict also pleaded that taking any step on his mercy plea would amount to grave injustice as he is yet to exhaust all his judicial remedies.

Woman threatens to kill daughter near Safdarjung

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, DEC. 7

Demanding justice for the Umnao gangrape and murder victim, a woman poured suspected inflammable liquid on her minor daughter outside Delhi's Safdarjung Hospital on Saturday afternoon. According to a senior police official, the incident took place nearly an hour after the Umnao gang rape-and-murder victim's body was taken to her village in Uttar Pradesh from Safdarjung Hospital after post-mortem on Saturday afternoon.

Boyfriend flees after throwing chemical at woman at NDLS

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, DEC. 7

A 29-year-old woman was injured after a man threw a chemical on her while she was waiting for a train at the New Delhi railway station (NDLS) on Saturday. The police said that the accused, identified as Rudra Vishwas, who hails from West Bengal, fled from the spot after throwing a seemingly dilute chemical at the woman.

According to a senior police official, a police control room (PCR) call was made at around 1.15 pm on Saturday by a passerby, who stated that some chemical had been thrown at a woman near the deluxe toilet at Ajmeri Gate side of NDLS.

The incident was captured on CCTV cameras where the guards are clearly visible charging batons at the animal. The dog sustained multiple fractures in its legs and head.

When the dog collapsed after severe injury, the guards took it outside the complex. They dug a pit and were about to bury it when some animal lovers rescued it.

The four convicts before it on December 13 so that they can appraise the court about the status of their petitions. The court was hearing a plea by the victim's parents, who have sought a direction to the jail authorities to expedite the execution of the convicts. The victim's parents had approached the court, saying the convicts have exhausted all legal remedies.

In December last year, Nirbhaya's parents had approached the court to pour what is suspected to be an inflammable substance on her minor daughter, said a senior police official, adding that the police personnel on the spot saved the girl and took her to the hospital.

The woman said she was traumatised by her death, a senior officer said, adding that they had sent the liquid to check its property. "While people were standing outside the hospital, a woman came there shouting 'we want justice' and immediately poured what is suspected to be an inflammable substance on her minor daughter," said a senior police official, adding that the police personnel on the spot saved the girl and took her to the hospital. The woman said she was traumatised by her death, a senior officer said, adding that they had sent the liquid to check its property.



Women wearing blindfolds raise slogans in solidarity with rape victims during a protest to highlight the issue of violence against women, in New Delhi on Saturday.

'Police used water cannons to disperse protesters'

March against rapes turns violent; women, cops clash

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, DEC. 7

The Delhi Commission For Women (DCW) on Saturday said that a peaceful candlelight vigil to demand capital punishment for rapists was stopped by police who were resorted to using water cannons.

According to the police, the protesters threw a torch (mashal) towards the policemen, which led to the use of water cannons. "Police used water cannons on protesters who were holding a candlelight march from Raj Ghat to India Gate but were stopped midway," they said.

DCW chief Swati Malwal has been on a hungerstrike to demand capital punishment for rapists within six months of their conviction.



Women light candles in memory of rape victims in New Delhi on Saturday.

Supporters of Ms Malwal tried to climb barricades and were stopped by police. They lit candles on the barricades. Earlier, in the day, Ms Malwal demanded that the accused in the Umnao rape case be hanged within a month. "I appeal to the UP government and the Centre to fast track this case and ensure that the perpetrators are hanged within a month," she said. Ms Malwal, who began an indefinite hungerstrike on December 3 to press her demand that rapists be hanged within six months of their conviction. Following the death of the Umnao rape victim, the DCW chief accused the government of being "deaf" and "insensitive" and not hearing the "screams" of rape victims, adding that she was "ashamed" of the country's government.

The rape victim from Umnao, airlifted to Delhi and admitted to the Safdarjung Hospital here after she was set ablaze allegedly by five persons including two men accused of raping her, died on Friday night. Ms Malwal also received support from Nirbhaya's mother, politicians Sunjay Singh and Sharad Yadav, who visited the venue of her strike to express solidarity.

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The Delhi Waqf Board on Saturday announced financial assistance of ₹2 lakh to the family of a minor rape victim in Okhla area of South Delhi. Waqf Board Chairman Amanatullah Khan gave a cheque to the family and assured them of all help in their legal battle for justice to the victim.

₹2L Waqf Board aid for minor rape victim

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, DEC. 7

The Delhi Waqf Board on Saturday announced financial assistance of ₹2 lakh to the family of a minor rape victim in Okhla area of South Delhi. Waqf Board Chairman Amanatullah Khan gave a cheque to the family and assured them of all help in their legal battle for justice to the victim. The girl aged around 16, a student of class 9, was raped by a local and his accomplices on December 1. Based on a complaint lodged by the victim's family, police have registered a case. The accused were allegedly putting pressure on the victim and her family to withdraw the case, Mr Khan said. "When we learnt about this, we decided to help the girl whose parents are no more and she is living with her grand-mother and an aunt," he said.

Besides the financial assistance, the Waqf Board is also ready to offer the services of its lawyer to the family, he added.

The girl aged around 16, a student of class 9, was raped by a local and his accomplices on December 1

Residents of various old age homes during a Christmas get-together organised by YMCA in New Delhi on Saturday.

Thieves who turned out to be 'crorepatis'

₹27 lakh cash, 2 kg gold recovered

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, DEC. 7

With the arrest of two brothers, the Delhi police has claimed to solve 64 cases of snatching and robbery. The brother duo was identified as Kayyum (30) and Aayub (40). Police has recovered ₹27 lakh cash, over two kgs of gold and silver ornaments, 11 wrist watches, seven mobile phones, 53 master and home appliances from their possession.

The East district special staff was tasked to curb the daylight burglaries. On Friday following a tip-off regarding the accused a team was laid at Karkardooma, and they were nabbed, said DCP (East) Jasmeeet Singh. During interrogation, it was revealed that Kayyum used to commit the crime while Aayub used to cover his back. They were committing burglary for the last several years. Kayyum was last arrested in May this year and after coming out he along with his brother again started committing the crime. The accused duo have collectively amassed huge wealth out of which they had bought two houses in Kabir Nagar and Yamuna Vihar.

The latter house was bought just six months back and it was being renovated with high class home accessories.

— BIPLAB BANERJEE



Back in action!

Pakistan have recalled 34-year-old middle-order batsman Fawad Alam for the first time in 10 years for the Test series against Sri Lanka

3

The kind of show Kohli put on in Hyderabad was extraterrestrial.

— R. Ashwin hails skipper Virat Kohli's career-best T20 knock that helped India beat West Indies

SHORT TAKES

Dangerous pitch stops play at MCG

Melbourne Play was abandoned on Saturday during a domestic game due to a dangerous pitch at the Melbourne Cricket Ground, just weeks before it is due to host the traditional Boxing Day Test. A decision to call off play was made on day one of the Sheffield Shield cricket between Victoria and Western Australia after several batsmen were hit by rising deliveries. It followed links between the umpire and captains Peter Handscomb and Shaun Marsh. Marsh was among those to be battered by the times by balls from fast bowlers that rose sharply and unexpectedly on the lively pitch. One that caught Marcus Stoinis under the ribs proved the final straw. The match is the last one at the MCG before the second Test between Australia and New Zealand on December 26, giving cricket officials plenty to think about. Cricket Australia said it would work closely with MCG staff to ensure the best possible track is prepared for Boxing Day. "We're very disappointed at today's play being abandoned," said CA's head of cricket operations Peter Roach. — AFP

Anderson, Bairstone recalled by England

London: James Anderson was recalled by England on Saturday for their upcoming tour of South Africa after recovering from a calf injury, while his fellow bowler Moeen Ali and wicketkeeper Jonny Bairstow also returned to the squad. The 37-year-old Anderson, England's all-time leading wicket-taker, last played internationally in the first Ashes Test against Australia in Edgbaston in August before pulling up after bowling only four overs. Bairstow, who has played 69 Tests, was left out of the recent Test tour of New Zealand but was named in the 17-man squad for the tour. Wood is also back in the fold after sitting out of the 2-2 Ashes draw with a knee injury and side strain suffered during England's victorious World Cup campaign. "It is not predicted that Mark (Wood) will be available for selection for the earliest matches," said England national selector Ed Smith. "However, he will travel to South Africa and continue his rehab work with the medical staff on tour. There is no exact date given for his return, but the medical team is working towards him becoming fully available for selection in December." Smith confirmed that off-spinner Moeen Ali remains unavailable after asking to take a break from Test cricket following a opening match of the four-Test series starts on December 26 at Centurion. — AFP

9 MALDIVES PLAYERS OUT FOR DUCK!

Pokhara (Nepal): The Maldives women's cricket team were on Saturday bundled out for just eight runs by hosts Nepal for the second lowest T20 International total in history in the third place play-off of the 13th South Asian Games. Maldives' total of eight ranks as the second-lowest women's T20 International score in history. Mail holders reported scoring the lowest total after they could only manage six against Rwanda in an earlier match. Electing to bat, the Maldives struggled with the bat. Seven of their eight runs came from extras all of which were wides. Opener Aisha Alishah (1) got the only run from the bat, while her nine other team-mates were dismissed for ducks in an innings which lasted 13.5 overs. Captain Zoona Mariyam lasted the longest at the crease for Maldives, playing 16 deliveries before she was bowled by Nepal's Karuna Bhandari for a duck. For Nepal, Anshu Chand returned with the superb figures of 4/1. — PTI

CONTROL Team India eye yet another series win

Thiruvananthapuram, Dec. 7: India will look for an improved show in the bowling and fielding departments to match their stupendous batting performance when they face the West Indies in the second game, eyeing to wrap up yet another T20 series here on Sunday.

In the last 13 months, India has played the West Indies in six T20 Internationals with the hosts coming up trumps every single time. On Friday, India claimed their seventh straight T20I win over the visitors, beating them comfortably by six wickets in the first game to take a 1-0 lead in the three-match series.

The hosts had claimed the season's first T20 series win at home last month, beating Bangladesh 2-1. A win on Sunday will not only help India seal their second series in the shortest format but also give them a chance to test the fringe players as they continue their preparation for the T20 World Cup.

India pulled off their highest successful run chase in a T20 International on Friday night as they chased down a challenging 207 for 5, posted by the Windies, in 18.4 overs.

Rahul looked in sublime touch as he made a case for himself with his well-compiled half-century after being promoted to open in the absence of the injured Shikhar Dhawan.

The Karnataka batsman became the third fastest man to complete 1,000 runs in T20 Internationals in 26 innings on way to his half-century and he will look to continue his good run.

Rishabh Pant too produced two big sixes before being holed out at long off and poor glove work, will look to grab such opportunities more often.

While the batting led by Kohli put up a good show, the bowlers found themselves at the receiving end of some nowtasting by Evin Lewis, Shimron Hetmyer and Pollard.

Deepak Chahar, who was impressive in the preceding series against South Africa and Bangladesh, found the going tough

LIVE ON TV
India vs West Indies
2nd T20I
on STAR Sports 1, HD
@ 7 PM

as the West Indian batsman went after him. He took one wicket but gave away 54 runs. — PTI

Captain Pollard rues bad bowling

AGE CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, DEC. 7

Thrashed out of the game, thanks to Virat Kohli's murderous knock, West Indies captain rued the lack of disciplined bowling in their six-wicket loss to India in the first T20 here on Friday night.

"The visitors failed to defend an impressive 207 after Kohli went hammer and tongs to smash an unbeaten 94 in just 50 balls to engineer India's highest successful chase and pull the carpet under the Caribbean's feet."

"Discipline in bowling and execution let us down tonight. We gave 23 extras, 14 or 15 of those were wides. No balls too are non-negotiable and we bowled a couple of them tonight. It's something we need to

look on. When you give a class team like India these many extra deliveries, you are destined for trouble." Pollard said after the match.

He had no complaints with the third umpire calling front foot no balls, a rule change that is on trial in the current series. Three of his calls went against the Windies. "It is what it is, some things you can't control. I can't control what they do or what rules they bring into cricket. So to me that's not a bother and I am not going to fuss about tonight. We need to keep our foot behind the line, if we do that the umpire upstairs won't come in."

The skipper was happy to take the positives out of the match. "Defensive play is pretty well. We scored above 200 runs which more often than not you take that. I must commend the batsmen they went out and executed."

Hetmyer getting back into runs. King scoring some runs, it's exciting times for us," he said.



Kieron Pollard

Defensive play is anathema to T20 & dot balls a crime

Ayaz Memon Over The Top

India pulled off an exhilarating win over the West Indies in the first T20 match of the series. Chasing a target in excess of 200 is never easy, even with the advantage of playing in home conditions. That Virat Kohli's team did this with commendable ease was admirable.

The captain himself played a stellar knock to take the team victory. He is not renowned for big strokes, but on Friday night Kohli peppered the scorecard with half a dozen hits over the boundary, of which at least two were simply breathtaking.

Kohli's batting which was the highlight of the evening for me as his desire to win. His best form with the bat came in the latter half of his innings, but it was Kohli who overcame a somewhat stuttering start that revealed the intensity with which he plays.

The timing was a bit off for a while. Defensive play is anathema to T20 and dot balls a crime, you can't just hang in there, as in the other formats, so risks have to be taken even when the rhythm is lacking. Kohli traversed this tough period cleverly, keeping the rhythm in team ticking.

Effective 'crisis management' at this stage was important for Kohli personally, as well as the Indian innings after major donor Rohit Sharma had been dismissed cheaply. KL Rahul has had shaky stints in the Indian team in other formats recently and would have been under pressure.

Kohli covets winning. Logically all players should, else why venture into sports? Unlike many of them, however, Kohli's ambition comes without disguise.

There are no half measures in how he goes about pursuing his agenda. He does so with determination and aggression. Often, though, the first attribute is overlooked and the second highlighted to a degree of tedium.

Because he is younger, his aggression would sometimes display coarseness that could offend. But with age, he has been able to refine and sublimate this instinct. The aggression is hardly ever in your face as earlier, but no less potent, and certainly not a whit less.

Top bat Rahul isn't looking Down Under for World Cup

AGE CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, DEC. 7

Having got India off to a flyer with a fine knock in the T20 series opener against the West Indies, KL Rahul has surely got off the blocks well in terms of a place in the team for next year's T20 World Cup in Australia but the opener is keeping his feet on the ground, and taking one match at a time.

"It's T20 World Cup a long way honestly. I have got the opportunity to bat top

lot of games before that," added Rahul, who slammed 82 in 40 balls in a tough chase of 208 and was involved in a century partnership for the second wicket with captain Virat Kohli, who later stepped on the gas with a personal best unbeaten 94 to lead the side.

Speaking about the stand with the skipper Rahul said: "Our plans were very clear, you have to hit boundaries while chasing 200 runs. In the middle 2-3 overs we obviously got it harder to get the boundaries but we knew that once we get a few boundaries it will start, so we just had to stay patient. We just kept the intent going."

Virat carried on and finished the game for us," he added. The 27-year-old said batting during the opening match at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium in Hyderabad.

However, in the first innings, the Indians were far from impressive on the field as Washington Sundar and Rohit Sharma dropped a few catches. In the 16th over, Sundar dropped Shimron Hetmyer on 44, who then went on to score his maiden half-century in T20s.

In the same over, Rohit dropped West Indies skipper Kieron Pollard on 24, who went on to hit 37 off 19 balls. "India very poor on the field today! Young guns reacting a bit late on the ball. Too much cricket? Let's get these runs come on lads," Yuvraj had tweeted.

But India managed a victory despite the poor fielding display. — PTI



Virat Kohli during the first T20I against West Indies in Hyderabad on Friday.

KL Rahul

Captain Kohli yet to scale peak in fitness, says Basu

C. SANTHOSH KUMAR CHENNAI, DEC. 7

Virat Kohli is considered the embodiment of fitness in cricket, but former captain hasn't conditioned coach Shankar Basu feels the Indian skipper hasn't scaled the peak yet. "I think he can do a little more exploring (in fitness)," said Basu, whose contract ended with BCCI after the 2019 World Cup.

"As Kohli knows, the sky is the limit in fitness. I always used to tell him that Usain Bolt and Novak Djokovic should be your idols and you have miles to go," Basu added.

Basu said Kohli has an insatiable appetite for achieving excellence in whatever he does. "He is constantly

looking for that extra edge; something extra to enhance his performance," he said.

The trust between a player and trainer is important. It goes for Basu to earn Kohli's trust.

"You have to build a relationship with the player first. You can't jump the gun and force things on him. It's like raising children. You should be ready to answer their questions."

And you have to give them the right answers. Virat would ask a hundred questions before getting convinced, but once he did, he would readily go to the ends of the earth. It's difficult to get a student like him," he said.

Basu said M.S. Dhoni has his own methods when it comes to fitness. "He has an uncanny ability to keep himself fit," he said.



Shankar Basu

Yuvi slams India's sloppy fielding in Hyderabad

New Delhi, Dec. 7: Former all-rounder Yuvraj Singh has slammed India's fielding performance in the first T20I against West Indies, which the hosts won by six wickets.

On Friday, skipper Virat Kohli and opener KL Rahul put up superb batting performances to help India pull off their highest successful run chase in T20Is after West Indies posted a challenging total of 207 for five at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium in Hyderabad.

However, in the first innings, the Indians were far from impressive on the field as Washington Sundar and Rohit Sharma dropped a few catches. In the 16th over, Sundar dropped Shimron Hetmyer on 44, who then went on to score his maiden half-century in T20s.

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But India managed a victory despite the poor fielding display. — PTI

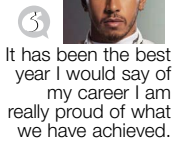


Yuvraj Singh



David out

New York Knicks fired head coach David Fizdale after back-to-back blowout defeats in this NBA season



It has been the best year I would say of my career I am really proud of what we have achieved.

— Lewis Hamilton, six-time Formula One champion

SHORT TAKES

Qatar postpones stadium unveiling

Doha: Qatar has postponed to next year the opening of Education City stadium, its second newly built venue for the 2022 football World Cup, FIFA said on Saturday. The venue was due to be inaugurated when it hosted the semifinal of the Club World Cup between Liverpool and an as yet undetermined side on December 18. But delays to the certification of the stadium by the authorities will mean that the fixture will instead be played at Khalifa International Stadium which was already due to host several Club World Cup fixtures. Education City will now be opened in 2020 although the world football governing body did not give an exact date. "Construction at Education City stadium is complete and the venue is now operational. However, the necessary certification process took longer than expected and therefore the stadium was unable to host the required test events prior to the semifinal and final of the FIFA Club World Cup at full capacity," FIFA said in a statement. — AFP

Chennai-leg of F1 set for flag off

Chennai: The stage is set for the second round of the Formula 1 race. The race will see top Indian racers and foreign competitors including three former Formula One drivers, to be held at the MMRT at nearby Sriperumbudur on Sunday. Three races in the franchise-based league being conducted by the Madras Motor Sports Club promises interesting action with three former F1 drivers—India's Narain Karthikeyan, Malaysian Alex Yoong and Italian Vitantonio Liuzzi, competing with the best of home-grown talent and some from abroad. Among those to stay are Gaurav Gill, three-time FIA Asia Pacific Rally Championship winner, WRCC participant and reigning National champion, who has also competed in single-seater races in India. The league is the brainchild of two racers—Aditya Patel and Armaan Ebrahim, and promoted by Racing Promotions Private Limited. It comprises six city-based teams. — PTI

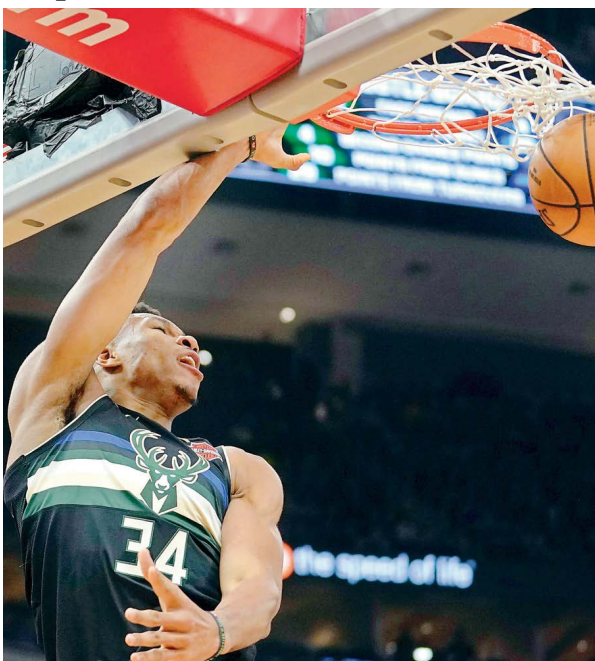
UFC FIGHT HEATS UP IN CAPITAL ONE

Mumbai: Fight fans are in for a treat this Sunday as the UFC invades Capital One Arena, Washington for an electrifying main event which showcases Alistair Overeem versus Jaizinho Rozentruik in the Heavyweight Bout category. The co-main event will feature the strongest female wrestlers as Marina Rodriguez and Cynthia Calvillo are set to punch and grapple to rise in the Women Strawweight category. This week, Alistair "The Demolition Man" Overeem will be facing off Jaizinho "Bigi Boy" Rozentruik. The former World Champion and UFC Heavyweight Champion, currently holds an unbeatable UFC record of nine wins and zero losses. The co-main event this week is a reminder of the abode of talent that exists in the Women Strawweight division as Rodriguez is all set to face Cynthia Calvillo. **THE BOUTS:** Heavyweight (Alistair Overeem vs. Jaizinho Rozentruik); Women Strawweight (Marina Rodriguez vs. Cynthia Calvillo); Heavyweight (Stefan Struve vs. Ben Rothwell); Women Bantamweight (Aspen Ladd vs. Yana Kunitskaya); Bantamweight (Geraldode Freitas Jr. vs. Song Yadong); Bantamweight (Rob Font vs. Ricky Simon). All matches will be aired on SONY ESPN & SONY ESPN HD from from 07:30 am on Sunday.

Bucks rout Clippers

Antetokounmpo shoots 25 as Milwaukee win 119-91

Los Angeles, Dec. 7: Milwaukee's Giannis Antetokounmpo celebrated his 25th birthday with 27 points Friday in the Bucks' crushing 119-91 NBA victory over the Los Angeles Clippers. Reigning NBA Most Valuable Player Antetokounmpo also pulled down 11 rebounds, but it was a superb effort by his supporting cast that made for the mammoth margin of victory.



Giannis Antetokounmpo of Milwaukee Bucks dunks during their NBA game against the Los Angeles Clippers in Milwaukee on Friday. Bucks won 119-91. — AP

Five other Bucks players scored in double figures, with starting forward Chris Middleton contributing 17 and Pat Connaughton and Erhan Ilyasova adding 13 apiece off the bench. Milwaukee led by as many as 40 points at times against a Clippers team expected to challenge for the Western Conference crown.

Kawhi Leonard led the Clippers with 17 points and Paul George added 13, but Los Angeles coach Doc Rivers said his team just wasn't up for the challenge. The victory moved the Bucks to 20-3, tied for best record in the league with the Los Angeles Lakers, who beat the Trail Blazers 126-113 in Portland.

Anthony Davis scored 39 points and grabbed nine rebounds and LeBron James added 31 points, seven rebounds and eight assists as the Lakers notched their 13th win in 14 games and completed a perfect three-game road trip that also included wins in Denver and Utah. The defeat was even more painful for the Blazers with the loss of Rodney Hood, who suffered a torn left Achilles tendon in the first quarter, almost certainly ending his season.

The Golden State Warriors battling injuries and languishing in last place in the Western Conference after reaching the last five NBA finals, grabbed their fifth victory of the season, 100-98 over the Bulls in Chicago. Meanwhile, in San Antonio, the Sacramento Kings led by nine points in the fourth quarter before the Spurs roared back with an 80 scoring run. Marco Belinelli's three-point shot as regulation ended tied it at 100-100 to force overtime and the Spurs won 105-104. — AFP

Hoopster Satnam fails dope test

New Delhi, Dec. 7: Satnam Singh Bhamara, the first Indian player to be drafted into an NBA team in 2015, has been provisionally suspended by the National Anti-Doping Agency after he failed a dope test last month. The 23-year-old Punjab cager has failed an out-of-competition test conducted in Bangalore by the National Anti-Doping Agency during the preparatory camp for the South Asian Games. He was provisionally suspended on November 19, according to the

notice concerning Adverse Analytical Finding of his/her 'A' Sample. If his 'B' sample also returns positive, his case will be heard by the NADA's Anti-Doping Disciplinary Panel which will decide whether to impose punishment or not. If Bhamara is found guilty of doping, he faces a maximum ban of four years for a first time offender. However, it is not known whether Bhamara requested for the analysis of his 'B' sample. — PTI

Racism hits big game in Italy

Milan, Dec. 7: Inter Milan were held to a goalless draw by Roma at the San Siro on Friday, leaving the way open for Italian champions Juventus to reclaim top spot in Serie A this weekend.



AS Roma's defender Chris Smalling (left) and Inter Milan's Romelu Lukaku embrace at the end of their Italian League football match at the San Siro Stadium in Milan on Friday. The match ended goalless. — AFP

Antonio Conte's side have a two-point advantage on Juventus who play Lazio at the Stadio Olimpico on Saturday. The match in the San Siro had been overshadowed by a racism storm after Italian sports daily *Corriere dello Sport* in a controversial "Black Friday" headline.

The front-page headline accompanied an article about the first Serie A meeting between former Manchester United captain Romelu Lukaku and Chris Smalling.

On the pitch, defender Smalling and Gianluca Mancini stifled Inter's prolific strike duo Lukaku and Lautaro Martinez, who together have scored 18 of their team's goals in 15 league games this season. Conte's side proved toothless in attack against a well-organised Roma, failing to find the net for the first time this season, days before their Champions League clash against Barcelona. Lukaku, Marcelo Brozovic and Matias Vecino all missed chances for the hosts as Roma snatched a precious point to move fourth and into the top four in the league places. Inter were lacking in midfield with Stefano

Instead of focusing on a battle between two teams, Corriere dello Sport comes with the most dumbest of headlines. You guys keep fuelling the negativity and the racism issue instead of talking about the beautiful game that's going to be played at San Siro between two great clubs. Education is key. You guys of Corriere dello Sport should do a better job at that.

— ROMELU LUKAKU
Inter Milan player condemning Corriere dello Sport's "Black Friday" headline

Whilst I would have liked to spend the day focusing on the big game, it is important that I acknowledged that what occurred was wrong and highly insensitive.

— CHRIS SMALLING
Roma's player reacting to the racist headline

Sensi, Nicolò Barrella and Roberto Gagliardini all out with Roma missing goalkeeper Pau Lopez while Edin Dzeko started on the bench after flu, but came on for the final 25 minutes of the all-important match. Midfielder Nicolò Zaniolo took Dzeko's place up front with Roma

dominating the first half hour although Inter had the best chances with Antonio Mirante denying Lukaku after a blundering Jordan Veretout back-pass. A similar error from the Roma goalkeeper nearly proved costly when Mirante passed the ball straight to Lukaku on the

edge of the area just before the break but Marcelo Brozovic wastefully fired over the bar. Inter held on to top spot but their advantage remains under threat from Juventus with third-placed Lazio eight points behind the leaders. — AFP

Jones in lead at Australian Open

Sydney, Dec. 7: Local knowledge paid dividends for 2015 champion Matt Jones who held a three-shot buffer from American Cameron Tringale after the third round of the Australian Open on Saturday.

Playing in far less smoke haze from bushfires surrounding Sydney than in the opening two days — where players complained of stinging eyes — overnight leader Jones held his nerve to hit a 68 to be 13-under for the tournament.

He left the Australian, who has won twice on the PGA Tour, but not since 2015, three clear of Tringale, who birdied the last for a 69 to ensure outright second place.

English world number 14 Paul Casey, exciting Japanese amateur Takumi Kanaya and South African Presidents Cup player Louis Oosthuizen were all lurking dangerously off the pace. Australian Jamie Arnold had the round of the day at the Australian Golf Club in Sydney, stroking a seven-under-par 64 to be five behind Jones.

"The pins were tough to get to today but some local knowledge helped me," said Jones, who mixed five birdies with two bogeys. "The course was playing difficult, the wind was tough. But I very calm out there. I was comfortable and excited to play. I'll draw on my experience from winning it here in 2015 tomorrow, most definitely," he added.

Four years ago, Jones won by a shot from Adam Scott, who missed the cut this year, and American Jordan Spieth, who at the time was one of the best players in the world. Oosthuizen made birdies at the third and the fifth to jump into the early lead at the event. — AFP



The pins were tough to get to today but some local knowledge helped me. The course was playing difficult, the wind was tough. But I very calm out there. I was comfortable and excited to play.

— MATT JONES after grabbing a three shot buffer at the Australian Open golf tournament

ROZNER IN 3-WAY TIE

Bel-Ombre (Mauritius), Dec. 7: Antoine Rozner of France shot a 6-under 66 Saturday to create a three-way tie for the lead after the third round of the Mauritius Open.

Rozner is level with second-round leader Calum Hill of Scotland and Thomas Detry of Belgium on 16-under 200 going into the final round. Detry shot a 67 despite two bogeys on his last six holes, while Hill birdied his last two holes for a 68. Rasmus Hojgaard (68) and American golfer Silwan Kim (67) were a two-shot off the lead. Brandon Stone started the day a shot off the lead but triple-bogeyed his first hole before recovering with six birdies on the back nine to sit two strokes back, in joint sixth place with Renato Paratore. — AP

However, it is not known whether Bhamara requested for the analysis of his 'B' sample. — PTI



Louis Oosthuizen hits a tee shot on Day Three of the Australian Open golf tournament at the Australian Golf Club in Sydney on Saturday. — AFP

Woodland in lead in Bahamas event

Nassau (Bahamas), Dec. 7: Two big birdies from Gary Woodland gave him the lead in the Hero World Challenge. A closing birdie on a hole that has vexed Tiger Woods put him in range of a third victory this year.

Patrick Reed fully expected to be right there until watching video of his club moving sand away from his golf ball in a waste area, leading to a two-shot penalty in a round that didn't go all that well.

The end of an entertaining round Friday in this holiday event in the tropics set up what figures to be a lively conclusion. Woodland's final two birdies gave him a 4-under 68 and a one-shot lead over Henrik Stenson. Six players were separated by three shots. That includes Woods, who hasn't won his event since it was in California in 2011. With one eye on being a playing captain at the Presidents Cup next week in Australia, Woods focused on birdies instead of potential pairings at Royal Melbourne and was two shots off the lead. The final round is Saturday so the American team — 11 are in the tournament. Dustin Johnson is coming to the Bahamas to join them on the charter — can get an early start across the globe. Woodland makes his Presidents Cup debut next week, and he appears to be in good form. He dropped only one shot, gave another way by failing to birdie the par-5 15th, and then finished in style. First, he holed a 36-foot putt on the par-3 17th. Then, with the wind at his back, he hit wedge to 3 feet for another birdie. — AP



Hope
Watford, who are lying bottom of table, turn to Former Leicester and Southampton coach Nigel Pearson for Premier League rescue mission

3
This was just an incredible experience for me, one no one can take away from me
— Duncan Ferguson, Everton caretaker manager after their 3-1 EPL win over Chelsea

SHORT TAKES

Indian hockey girls hammer Aussies

Canberra, Australia: Sharmila Devi struck twice as the Indian junior women's hockey team secured a superb 4-1 win over New Zealand in its third match of the 3-Nations Tournament here on Saturday. India came from a goal down to defeat their opponents after New Zealand's Olivia Shannon (4th minute) had scored for her side. It was Sharmila Devi (12th, 43rd), Beauty Dunning (27th) and Lalrindiki (48th) who scored the goals for India in their impressive victory. In a shaky start to the match, India conceded a Penalty Corner in the 4th minute, and New Zealand made the most of it as they scored through Olivia to make it 1-0 in their favour. India fought back inside the first quarter and found the equalizer when Sharmila finished off a crisp team-move to make it 1-1 in the 12th minute. India will face hosts Australia in their fourth and final match on Sunday. — PTI

Mera's late goal saves East Bengal

Ludhiana: Last season runners-up East Bengal needed a late equaliser to earn a 1-1 draw against a gritty Punjab FC side in an I-League match the Guru Nanak Stadium here on Saturday. Danilo Augusto put the home side ahead in the 15th minute and it looked like Punjab FC would run away with all the three points in the match before Juan Mera saved the day for the Kolkata giants with an 84th minute equaliser. Punjab FC coach Yan Law made a host of changes from his side that lost 0-3 to Churchill Brothers FC in their opening match of the season. Kiran Kumar Limbu started at the goal instead of Bhaskar Roy. Samuel Shadap was moved into the backline in place of the suspended Anwar Ali. Punjab captain Sanju Pradhan resumed his place in the line-up with Bali Gagandeep getting the nod upfront, starting with Aser Dipanda. East Bengal coach Alejandro Menendez Garcia named a largely unchanged line-up from his side that drew 1-1 at home against Real Kashmir FC, with the only change being Samad Ali Mallick starting in defence. Kamaljeet Singh in defence. — PTI

RAILWAYS BOXERS DOMINATE

Kannur: Defending Champions Railways dominated the proceedings as eight of their boxers, led by World Championships silver medalist Kavita Chahal (57kg) and India Open Gold medalist Bhagyabati Kachari (75kg) stormed into the final of 4th Elite Women's National Boxing Championships here on Saturday. Former national champion Sonia showed her experience and composure as she faced the challenge of young boxer Ritu from Chandigarh. The latter, a boxer from Haryana took advantage of her height and relied on counter-punches to win the bout unanimously. Youth Worlds champion Jyoti representing Railways, had an easy outing as she controlled the bout and defeated Manipuri's Soibam Devi 5-0 in the 51kg category. One of the best bouts of the day was played between two-time World Championships bronze medalist Kavita Chahal (57kg) and Himachal Pradesh's Monika with both the boxers tooth and nail battle right from the first round in a highly entertaining bout. Senior Kavita displayed her experience and reigned supreme in the end with a 3-2 split verdict in her favour. Last year's silver medalist, Bhagyabati Kachari (81kg) continued her fine run and showed her class against Lakshmi Ralte of All India Police to notch up a 5-0 win. — Agencies

Toffees too sweet
Everton bounce back from derby pain to beat Chelsea

Liverpool, Dec. 7: Chelsea slipped to their third Premier League defeat in four matches on Saturday as Everton bounced back from their Merseyside derby humiliation to win 3-1 and escape from the relegation zone. Former fans' favourite Duncan Ferguson is in central control at Goodison Park after Marco Silva was sacked on Thursday and the former forward had an instant impact. Goals early in each



THE RESULT
Everton 3
(Richardson 5, Calvert-Lewin 49, 84)
Chelsea 1
(Kovacic 52)

Live on TV
PREMIER LEAGUE
Aston Villa vs Leicester from 6 pm on Star Sports Select 2, HD
Brighton vs Wolves from 10 pm on Star Sports Select 2, HD

half from Richardson and Dominic Calvert-Lewin put the home side 2-0 up and although Mateo Kovacic nulled one back, Calvert-Lewin struck again late to seal the win. The three points for Everton lifts them to the relative comfort of 14th spot in the table. Frank Lampard's men remain in fourth place but fifth-placed Wolves could close the gap to just three points if they beat Brighton on Sunday. Ferguson, who celebrated the goals wildly, refused to talk up his chances of getting the job full-time despite the win, telling BT Sport: "I'm here for Everton, I'm here for as long as they want me here. "I'm sure they're out there looking for other candidates, and rightly so. We want the best guys in the world managing our football club. "This was just an incredible experience for me, one no one can take away from me. You saw on the touching how enthusiastic I was. It's one game, it's one result." Ferguson's reign got off to the perfect start with forward Richardson heading home Djibril Sidibe's cross from the edge of the box to make it a fifth-minute lead. Chelsea pushed for an equaliser but Tammy Abraham going close a

couple of times, but the Toffees went in at half-time 1-0 up. **CALVERT-LEWIN DOUBLE** Everton doubled their lead four minutes after the second goal as Andreas Christensen and Kurt Zouma failed to deal with high ball and Calvert-Lewin capitalised. But Chelsea responded quickly, with Kovacic striking in a volley with his right foot in the 52nd minute, beating the dive of England's goalkeeper Jordan Pickford. The visitors continued to dominate possession but Everton looked dangerous on the break. Both sides missed further chances. Theo Walcott raced down the right but shot at Kepa Arrizabalaga after ignoring Richardson alongside him while Christian Pulisic steered wide. But Chelsea set themselves in the frame when Kepa gifted possession to Walcott, who fed Calvert-Lewin. — AFP

MOURINHO SLEEPS AT TRAINING GROUND AFTER DERBY LOSS

London, Dec. 7: Jose Mourinho said he reacted to Tottenham's midweek defeat at Manchester United by sleeping at the club's training ground. Mourinho's 100 per cent record since taking over at Spurs came to an end in a 2-1 loss against his former club at Old Trafford. However, he said he refused to plan in pity and instead started preparing for Saturday's home game against Burnley. "I slept in here (the training ground), I stayed here, I didn't go home, so the next morning at eight o'clock I was here doing what? Burnley," Mourinho explained on Friday. "Analysing Burnley trying to organise the training session, trying to organise the meeting, choosing the clips to show them the most clear possible way Burnley works. "That's the way you have to do it in football. Don't accept in a passive way." Now, Mourinho has ordered his squad to respond to the midweek setback. "After a defeat you cannot be sad. You have to be more than that. You have to be raging, angry, not sad," he said. "Accept defeat as a learning process, next game, work the next day." — AFP

India cross double hundred in medal count at SAG Swimmers, wrestlers impress

Kathmandu, Dec. 7: India breached the 200-mark in total medal count, backed by a century of gold, in the South Asian Games as the country's juggernaut as undisputed leader continued with the swimmers and wrestlers producing strong performances on Day 6 here on Saturday. With a whopping 49 medals, including 29 gold, won by the Indians on Saturday, India has left hosts Nepal far behind in the second day of the medal tally stood at 214 (110 gold, 69 silver, 35 bronze) as against 142 (43 gold, 34 silver, 65 bronze) of Nepal. Sri Lanka stood at third with 170 medals (40 gold, 57 silver, 83 bronze). The swimmers led India's charge on Saturday by winning 7 gold, 1 silver and 1 bronze as they completely dominated the pool events.

Anish Bhanwala won the men's 25m rapid fire pistol gold and then teamed up with Bhabesh Shekhawat and Adarsh Singh to win the men's team event title. Mehuli Ghosh and Yas Vardhan pocketed the third shooting gold of the day for India in 10m air rifle mixed event.

again. Srihari Nataraj (100m backstroke), Richa Mishra (800m freestyle), Siva S (400 individual medley), Maana Patel (100m backstroke), Chahat Arora (50m backstroke), Likithi S.P. (50m breaststroke) and Rujka Saha (50m freestyle) all grabbed the top honours. A.V. Jayaveena (50m breaststroke) and Richima Veerendrakumar (100m backstroke) won the silver and bronze medals respectively. Indian wrestlers also began their competition with a bang as they won four gold on the opening day.

on the penultimate day of competitions. Anish Bhanwala won the men's 25m rapid fire pistol gold and then teamed up with Bhabesh Shekhawat and Adarsh Singh to win the men's team event title. Mehuli Ghosh and Yas Vardhan pocketed the third shooting gold of the day for India in 10m air rifle mixed event. The weightlifters added two gold on Saturday taking their overall medal haul to 10 medals (9 gold, 1 silver). Sharshi Singh lifted a total of 190kg to finish on top of the podium in 81kg weight category while Amrutha won gold in women's 87kg category with a total effort of 200kg. In squash, three Indians made it to the finals to ensure themselves at least a silver medal each. — PTI



Wrestlers Gurshanpreet Kaur (from left), Sarita Mor, Satyawart Kadian and Sumit Malik pose with their gold medals at the 13th South Asian Games in Kathmandu on Saturday.

SPANISH LEAGUE

Benzema heroic sends Real on top

Madrid, Dec. 7: Real Madrid were without Eden Hazard and Gareth Bale on Saturday but Karim Benzema stepped up again to ensure their best struggling Espanyol in La Liga. Benzema scored one and set up another in a 2-0 win at the Santiago Bernabeu, where Madrid wore an all-green kit to show support for this week's Climate Summit in the city. Victory means Zinedine Zidane's side move to the top of the table, for the fourth time in five weeks, but another excellent Benzema display will at least be of some consolation, after he teed up Raphael Varane before scoring his 15th goal this season to put Espanyol out of sight.

Increasingly it looks like the winner of the Clasicos will spend the Christmas break first in the table, with the top two pulling away from the likes of Atletico Madrid, who drew again away at Villarreal on Friday night. Sevilla, in third, are four points behind Real Madrid before they travel to Oussama on Sunday. The absence of Hazard and Bale meant Rodrigo came in on the right of the front three while Vini Junior was given a rare chance to stake a claim on the left. **LETICHO TITLE HOPES SUFFER ANOTHER BLOW** Atletico's title hopes look to be all-but over after a goalless draw away at Villarreal on Friday raised further doubts about their progress under coach Diego Simeone. After losing at home to Real last weekend, another slip means Atletico are now five points behind Barca and Real Madrid in La Liga, despite having played two games more. — AFP



Real Madrid's Karim Benzema celebrates after scoring against Espanyol in their Spanish League match at Santiago Bernabeu in Madrid on Saturday. — AFP

Krishna hits brace as ATK end NorthEast's winning run

Guwahati, Dec. 7: ATK reclaimed the top spot in the Hero Indian Super League with an impressive 3-0 win against NorthEast United FC here on Saturday. An early strike from David Williams (17') and a brace from Roy Krishna (35', 90+4') was enough for Antonio Habas' team to hand NorthEast their first defeat of the season. With the strikes taking his goal tally to six, Krishna also became the leading goalscorer this season. With their fourth win of the campaign, ATK have 14 points from seven matches while the Highlanders, who have 10 points, are fourth. Star striker Asamoah Gyan could have put NorthEast ahead within two minutes when he chested down a brilliant lob over the defence by Robin Prasad but his Ghanaian striker's shot was kept out well by goalkeeper Arindam Bhattacharya. Minutes after that big chance, the star striker was forced off the field due to an injury with Maximiliano Barriero coming on as the replacement. In the 11th minute, a lapse in concentration by the hosts' defence allowed two goals to pour in and give ATK the lead. Prabir Das ran down the flank unmarked to latch onto a through ball and found Williams at the far post with a cross. The in-form forward kept over his marker to head the ball into the net. Boosted by the opener, ATK threatened the hosts with quick counters and doubled their lead before the break. — Agencies



ATK players celebrate David Williams' goal against NorthEast United FC in their ISL match on Saturday.

STRUGGLING HYDERABAD LOOK TO UPSET FC GOA

Hyderabad, Dec. 7: FC Goa will be eyeing a vital win when they take on Hyderabad FC in a Hero Indian Super League clash at the GMC Balajoy Athletic Stadium here on Sunday. After picking up only one point in their previous two matches, Sergio Lobera's team have a chance to climb into the top four if they manage a victory against the bottom-placed hosts. Hyderabad FC, with just four points from six games, can leapfrog a couple of teams if they manage to upset the Goans who are currently fifth with nine points. The home side came into this fixture on the back of a 1-1 draw where Robin Singh's late equalizer helped them pick a point against defending champions Bengaluru FC. However, their midfield has looked disjointed at times, both in terms of stopping the opposition's attacks or being creative themselves. The hosts have conceded a league-high of 13 goals and that would surely concern coach Phil Brown. The good news for Brown is that he has had nine days to prepare his team for the upcoming tie where he would have addressed these impending issues. — Agencies