Word SPY **TELEDENSITY** ANCHOR STORE

The number of telephones A major retailer in a shopping mall, particularly per 100 people in a region | one that attracts many customers to the mall



As 2020 nears, challenges mount for Xi's China



he year 2019 was to be an incredible one for China: lavish events were organised to celebrate 70 years of the founding of the People's Republic of China (PRC), that Chairman Mao, after winning a

against forces, war bloody Nationalist had announced from the rostrum of Tiananmen Square. On October 1, 2019, President Xi

Jinping was on the same wave-Jinping was on the same wave-length as his predecessor: "No force can ever undermine China's status, or stop the Chinese people and nation from marching forward." Those who watched some 15,000

troops from 59 units, 47 belonging to the ground forces and a dozen airborne squadrons, could not doubt say that China has arisen. Also on display that day was the DF-17 hypersonic ballistic missile (a hypersonic glide vehicle that can deliver both nuclear and conventional payloads) or a new-generation road-mobile DF-41, intercontinental missiles, which can reach the US, and several other futuristic gadg-

Many examples could be given to show that China is doing well. In terms of defence for example: the website Aerospace & Defence reported: "While the US Navy launches a handful of destroyers each year, the single image of a Shanghai shipyard shows nine newly constructed Chinese warships. China's Navy is modernising at an impressive rate. A key ingredient is the construction of a fleet of large destroyers, amphibious warships and aircraft carriers." Not far away, China, which already has two carriers, works on the next-generation carrier (known as Type-003), with electromagnetic catapults similar to the latest US ones.

It is believed that in the same shipyard, a "sailless" submarine is being built; according to *Forbes*: "This submarine is a unique design that has no sail to speak of. All other submarines have this fin-like structure rising up from the middle of the deck

where the periscope goes." Examples could be multiplied: quantum communication, super-computers, artificial intelli-gence, new warning and reconnaissance abilities and so on.

That's for the bright side. But all is not well in the Middle Kingdom. In October, the BBC commented: "Modern China has since developed at an extraordinary pace, but it is also one of the world's most restrictive states. The celebrations were overshadowed as thousands took to Hong Kong's streets, with some violent clashes breaking out."

Take the fourth plenary session of the 19th CPC Central Committee finally held in Beijing from October 28 to 31; it took place after a delay of more than a year to discuss the Chinese economy — this long postponement is not a healthy sign. During the plenum, it was openly admitted that China faces many challenges, the communique men-tioned: "the complicated situation of increasing risk challenges at home and abroad." The gathering upheld the prin-

ciple of "one country, two systems", and of "maintaining lasting prosperity and stability in Hong Kong and Macao, and promoting the peaceful reunifica-tion of China". At that time, China was certain-

ly not expecting a "tsunami" in favour of the pro-democracy movement, which won 392 out of 452 seats in Hong Kong's local

On December 14, Adm. Hideaki Kaneda, a retired officer from Japan's maritime self-defence force, openly called for a strategic partnership between Japan, the US and Taiwan to counter China's growing influence in the region

elections: the anti-Beijing candidates took control of 17 out of 18

district councils. Beijing was left speechless. According to the *South China Morning Post* (SCMP): "Xinhua waited [a day] to release a two-paragraph power copert on the paragraph news report on the polls, stating only that the elec-tions took place and '18 districts produced results'". The *People's Daily* just mentioned the history of US intervention in foreign elections.

To make things worse for Mr Xi, on November 16, the *New York Times* published excerpts of 403 pages of internal classified documents with dreadful new details on China's crackdown on Xinjiang. The documents provide an

unprecedented insider's view on the clampdown and particularly the internment camps, where more than one million Muslims are kept. According to the *New York Times*: "Senior party leaders are recorded ordering drastic and urgent action against extremist violence, including the mass detentions, and discussing the consequences with cool detachment

At the end of August 2016, Chen Quanguo, the then party secre-Kinjiang to "pacify" the restive Muslim region. Mr Chen had "managed" well on the Roof of the World. Three years later, Mr Chen has transformed Xinjiang into a vast camp (either called "concentration" by the West or "vocational" by China).

In Tibet, Mr Chen had imple-mented powerful slogans such as "Social Management", "Comprehensive Rectification", "Preventive Control", "Eliminate-Unseen-Threats", "Nets-in-the-Sky-Traps-on-the-Ground" or "Copper-Ramparts-Iron Walls"; the latter one for example, translates into "an impenetrable public security defence network consisting of citizen patrols, border security posts, police checkposts, surveillance systems, Internet controls, identity card monitoring, travel restrictions, informant networks and other mechanisms"

China seems today to be caught in a vicious circle of repression and does not have a solution to

come out of it. Though China and the United States have now reached an agreement in their trade negotiations, which should temporarily stop the trade war, many issues remain unsolved, simply because China's economy is not in good shape, though Wang Shouwen, the Chinese vice-minister of commerce, announced that the agreement would cover a wide range of issues, including intel-lectual property protection, tech-nology transfer or purchase of agricultural products.

In the meantime, Beijing's propaganda has become more hyperactive than ever. The *South China Morning Post* observed: "While more Chinese diplomats and embassies have activated Twitter accounts, they have entered a cold new world." But this does not help as most of China's neighbours are getting tired of Beijing's bullying tactics.

During а forum on Strengthening National Security for Taiwan and Japan held in Taipei on December 14, Adm. Hideaki Kaneda, a retired officer from Japan's maritime self-defence force, openly called for a strategic partnership between Japan, the US and Taiwan to

counter China's growing influ-ence in the region. The admiral noted that the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) had long been preparing for military action against Taiwan, simulating attacks on the presidential office, strategic Taiwan ports, and even streets.

Mr Kaneda suggested that, to start with, Taiwan should be included in the humanitarian assistance and disaster relief training (HADR) of the Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC), an international maritime warfare exer-cise. Emmanuel Lenain, the French ambassador to India, has recounted in an article that before taking his post in September, President Emmanuel Macron briefed him, and his first task was "to consolidate Indo-Pacific ties based on shared values and principles". Obviously, China is not always "sharing" international recognised values on the ground (or on the seas). Last month, French Navy Chief Adm. Christophe Prazuck asserted: "There are different behaviours in the South China Sea... We go there, we will still go there, and we will continue to go there and we continue to, and by our

action, support freedom of navi-gation." This trend of other nations asserting their "core" interests will not stop next year, and China will have to learn to live with it. And if President Xi does not want a coalition of nations against China to emerge, in his own words: "we will continue to work with people from all coun-tries to push for jointly building a community with a shared future for humanity," will need to be more than mere propaganda words. This is the challenge for

China in 2020.

The writer is based in South India for the past 42 years. He writes on India, China, Tibet and Indo-French relations.

Work on Soviet cultural centre in Kerala stopped

NEW DELHI, Dec. 18. THE External Affairs Minister, Mr. Dinesh Singh today assured Parliament that the Government had no intention to allow any foreign mission to open cultural centres outside the location of the embassy or trade or consular office.

Replying to a series of supplementaries in both

the Houses on calling atten-

tion motion on the reported

unauthorised construction

of a cultural centre

Trivandrum by the Soviet



PAGE

Embassy, Mr Dinesh Singh said the Government had informed the Embassy that it should not proceed with the construction of the cen-tre as no permission had been given to it. Mr. Dinesh Singh said the Soviet Ambassador had informed that he had stopped further construction.

Government of India Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying **Department of Animal Husbandry** and Dairying

No. K-12052-7/3/2019-LH Dated: 18.12.2019

Information related to VCI Elections The Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairving

Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Government of India has notified the Indian Veterinary Council (Amendment) Rules, 2019 in the Gazette of India Accordingly, it is mandatory for veterinary practitioners who are registered in Indian Veterinary Practitioners Register to Register their mobile number and email address with the State Veterinary Council concerned or Veterinary Council of India (VCI) to participate in the online voting to the posts of 11 members of the council to be elected under section 3(3)(g) of the Indian Veterinary Council Act, 1984.

Registered Veterinary Practitioners who have not yet updated their mobile number and email address shall provide their mobile number and e-mail id for updation within 15 days of publication of this notice in person or via email to the Veterinary Council of India or to their respective State Veterinary Councils.

Only such veterinarians registered with the State Veterinary Councils concerned and whose mobile number and email address are available with VCI would be eligible to participate in the ensuring elections to the post of 11 members in VCI.

> Sd/- (Upamanyu Basu) Joint Secretary Government of India

davp 01201/11/0007/1920



Under US pressure, North Korea back to brinkmanship



n a rambling press conference in London earlier this month during the Nato sum-mit, US President Donald Trump made a long comment on the current status of US-North Korea talks. Mr Trump stressed that he had a "good relationship" with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un and pointed out that in the joint statement issued at leir iirst ever summit Singapore on June 12, 2018, Mr Kim had committed to "denu-clearisation". Realistically assessing the current impasse in their negotiations, he said, "We'll see what happens. It may work out, it may not". But Mr Trump went further and after extolling the might of US forces under his command, he threatened that if required the US "would use it (force)". Mr Korea, but the context made it clear that the warning was addressed to that country.

North Korea is not accustomed to digest any challenge from any quarter without a robust response. Immediately, North Korean Army chief Pak Jong Chon was quoted by the North Korean central news agency to say that Mr Kim was "dis-pleased" with Mr Trump's "undesirable remarks" and warned that North Korea and the US were "still technically at war and the state of truce can turn into an all out armed conflict any moment." Not known for any restraint in his speech or tweets, Trump provoked Korea when he said that Mr Kim "likes sending rockets that's why I call him a Rocket Man". Mr Trump had insulted Mr Kim with this nickname way back in 2017 when the two mercurial leaders were engaged in an abusive verbal duel. The North Korean establishment, true to past form, reacted angrilv and first vice foreign minister Chae Son Hu reportedly warned that

Trump did not name North Mr Trump's remarks "show the senility of a dotard". The resumption in the war of words underlines the troubling fact that since the Hanoi summit in February 2019, US-North Korea negotiations have stalled despite a brief meeting on June 30, 2019 when Mr Trump met Mr Kim at the DMZ dividing the Korean peninsula. The continuing dis-trust between the US and North Korea has cast its shadow on the growing detente between North

and South Korea. The crux of the differences between the two sides is around the sequence of steps and reciprocity when denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula takes place along with normalisation of rela tions between the US and North Korea. Hawks on the US side want North Korea to commit to complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearisation first before offering an end to the armistice and a peace treaty. South Korean President Moon Jae-in has been advocating a "Small Deal" where the process of denuclearisation as well as the peace process on the Korean

peninsula would be broken down into a series of steps which would be reciprocally taken by the two sides.

Mr Trump's implied threat of the possible option of use of force against North Korea would do little to bolster the confidence of Mr Kim in trusting the promises of the US and ever give up North Korea's nuclear shield. The paramount objective of North Korea is the survival and continuation of the present regime and the capacity for nuclear retaliation is its only effective deterrent against any possible future US misadventure. The single country that has

some leverage over North Korea Unina. But in the current state of increasing mistrust between the US and the Chinese establishments, China would be in no mood to pressure Mr Kim to be more accommodating to the US approach In April 2019, North Korea had cautioned that it would give the US till the end of 2019 to be more flexible in the negotiations. North Korean officials have accused the US of being "gangster-like" in its unilateral demands from North Korea. In an ominous statement, first vice minister of North Korea Ri Thae Song accused US policymakers of leveraging talks with Mr Kim for domestic political gain and warned that "it is entirely up to the US what Christmas gift it will select to get".

The clouds are darkening again over the Korean peninsula. There is urgent need of intervention by the calm, sober and sagacious President Moon Jae-in of South Korea to activate all the back channels to bridge the deepening chasm between the US and the North Korean positions. Mr Kim does not have many options linding a modus vivenc with Mr Trump. A return to belligerence and nuclear or missile tests would only exacerbate its economic woes, invite stronger sanctions and deepen its global isolation



Clearly, Mr Kim has resumed the game of brinkmanship at which North Korea is a master.

The writer has served as India's ambassador to South Korea

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ay, 31st January, 2020. CCRT will not be
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Bhai Mani Singh: A martyr for Sikh faith

ikhism, with its core values of humanity and justice, regards martyrdom as an integral part of the faith. It is a duty of the Sikh to fight for the right cause and protect the oppressed. The list of such Sikhs, true martyrs who laid down their lives for truth, is long. Bhai Mani Singh, a con-temporary of Guru Gobind Singh, was such martyr.

Bhai Mani Singh, executed at Nakhas, Lahore in December 1737, was a rare example of perfect saintsoldier. It was a time of test and struggle for the Sikh community. The Sikhs were persecuted and were not even allowed to celebrate their festivals. Bhai Mani Singh was arrested for non-payment of a stipulated sum and for his refusal to forsake his Sikh faith, he was awarded a death sentence. The martyr's executioner was ordered to chop Bhai Mani Singh's body to pieces, joint by joint, starting from the smallest part. When the executioner started

with Bhai Mani Singh's wrist, Bhai Mani Singh gestured to his fingers, telling the executioner that he should follow the orders of his commander with strictness.

The executioner had a puzzled look on his face and hence asked Bhai Mani Singh to explain what he meant. Bhai Mani Singh replied, "You have been ordered to execute me by chopping my joints. Have you forgotten that my joints start with my fingers?" And with his words he upheld the spirit of sacrifice and right conduct.

The Guru ordains: "Let man through sacrifice sail in the ship of glory, and thereby swim across the ocean of the world: His body the home of spiritual poise, his mind aglow like a lamp lit; with the light of God-realisation. Should he sweep away the dust-heap of cowardice".

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M.P. STATE MINOR FOREST PRODUCE (TRADING & **DEVELOPMENT) CO-OPERATIVE FEDERATION LIMITED** Sports Complex, Indira Nikunj, 74 Bungalows, Bhopal - 462003 (M.P.) Tel. : 2674349, 2760858, Fax : 0755 - 2552628, E-mail : mdmfpfed@bsnl.in

Website : www.mfpfederation.com Notification No. T.P.(2020)-I

Bhopal, Dated : 13.12.2019

SUMMARY OF ONLINE TENDER NOTICE FOR THE ADVANCE SALE **OF TENDU LEAVES FOR COLLECTION SEASON 2020**

(1) Online Submission and Opening of e-Tender : e-Tenders can be submitted Online till the last dates mentioned below till 3.00 P.M. in the e-Procurement portal https:// mfpfederation.abcprocure.com only, the tenders will be opened online from 3.30 P.M. on the last day of submission.

Round of Tender	Opening Date of Online Tender	Last Date of Online Tender		
Ι.	01.01.2020	06.01.2020		
П.	28.01.2020	03.02.2020		
III.	26.02.2020	02.03.2020		

(2) Earnest Money Deposit : Only online payment of 8% of the purchase Capacity through e-Procurement portal https://mfpfederation.abcprocure.com

(3) Registration :

(i) The tenderer must be registered as the Manufacturer/Trader of the tendu leaves in any division of Madhya Pradesh for the year 2020.

(ii) The intending tenderers are required to get registered for participation in e-Tender according to procedure specified in e-Procurement portal https://mfpfederation.abcprocure.com

(4) Digital Certificate : The tenderer will have to obtain Digital Signature Certificate from above portal or any other vendor for online registration on e-Procurement portal as well as for submission of online Tender.

The tender notice along with tender form, tenderer's agreement, lot list and other Annexure may be downloaded from 27.12.2019 from Federation's above mentioned website and e-Procurement portal https://mfpfederation.abcprocure.com only. Amendments/Notices will be available on above website and e-Procurement portal.

For any assistance in e-tendering please contact our service provider

E-Procurement Technologies Ltd., Ahmedabad

On following contact details

Phone No.: 079-681368713, 6854, 6848, 6849, 6850

Fax No.: 079-4001-6816

M.P. Madhyam/96175/2019

E-mail : nandan.v@eptl.in, info@abcprocure.com & support@abcprocure.com Mr. Nandan Valera (Mobile : 09374519729)

MANAGING DIRECTOR









(Deemed To Be University) NAIR campus, Lalbaug, Vadodara 390004 (India) **RECRUITMENT NOTICE FOR FACULTY POSITIONS** Advertisement No. NRTI/01/2019 National Rail and Transportation Institute (NRTI), established in 2018 in Vadodara, Gujarat, is India's first university offering multi disciplinary education, research and training focused exclusively on the transportation sector. It is setup with the vision to become one of the leading Institutions in India offering high quality learning to young students and driving relevant research to solve the biggest problems in the Transportation sector.

NATIONAL RAIL AND TRANSPORTATION INSTITUTE

NRTI invites applications from committed academics and practitioners with quality teaching experience, publications and research expertise who are excited about the opportunity to build a world class higher education institution in India for faculty positions at the University.

Faculty positions across all levels (Professors, Associate Professors and Assistant Professors) with expertise in any of the following areas:

School of Engineering & Applied Science:

Data Analytics and Representation • Information Systems • Business Analytics • Mathematical Modelling • Civil Infrastructure Systems • Design Thinking • Systems Thinking • Six Sigma and Quality Control • Programming Languages

2. School of Transportation Planning & Design:

Transportation Management • Transportation Networks • Transportation Models and Quantitative Methods • Urban Traffic Management and Control • Dynamics of the Transportation Ecosystem • Transportation Technologies • Transportation Systems Design • Operations Management • Supply Chain Planning and Control • Supply Chain Decision Modelling • Purchase and Materials Management • Green Logistics • Vehicle Systems Design • Hybrid Electric Vehicle Design

3. School of Management & Leadership Marketing:

Marketing • Accounting and Finance • Economics/Managerial & Urban Economics • Research Design • Leadership • Entrepreneurship & Innovation • Project Management

4. School of Humanities, Arts & Social Sciences:

Sociological Contexts • Environmental Sciences and Sustainability • Ethics • Business Communication • Critical Thinking & Writing

5. School of Transport Policy & Law:

Transport Laws & Regulations • Transport Economics • Transport Geography • Sustainable Transportation • Transport Policies & Management

Details of positions, eligibility criteria and application process are available on NRTI websitewww.nrti.edu.in

Candidates may submit their application along with a CV with details including educational qualifications, list of publications (with reprints of the best papers), research, teaching and professional experience and four references. Applications must be submitted online at link http://www.nrti.edu.in/ faculty_recruitment.html before 18th January 2020.

William Taylor, the acting US ambassador to Ukraine, whose appearance to Congress built the case for impeaching Trump, will step down at the end of the year





Key envoy

Stage set for impeachment vote

Pelosi calls Trump threat to U.S. in House debate before the vote on crucial issue

Any plan without participation of Afghan people is wrong — Rear Admiral Ali Shamkhani Iran official, on US-Taliban talks

> BRIEF IN

Nevada objects to plutonium mission

Reno: Nevada wants a federal judge to declare illegal what it calls the US government's secret plutonium smuggling operation and order the removal of weapons-grade material already shipped to a security site north of Las Vegas over the state's objections. The latest filing in a year-long legal battle asks US district judge Miranda Du in Reno to reject the government's motion to dismiss the state's lawsuit. Nevada is challenging the energy department's covert shipment of the highly radioactive material from South Carolina last year. The department insists the issue is moot because it already has promised that no more plutonium will be brought to Nevada.

Macron to better pension plan

Paris: French President Emmanuel Macron will not drop his plan for a single points-based pension system, but is "willing to improve" it in the face of fierce union resistance, an official in the presidency said on Wednesday. "The President will not abandon the project nor water it down, though he is willing to improve it," said the official. The official added: "An improvement is possible concerning the pivot age" of 64 at which a worker would qualify for a full pension - a particular target of union ire that has sparked two weeks of massive public transport strikes.

Thousands in **Poland protest**

Warsaw: Thousands gathered in cities across Poland on Wednesday to protest against a proposal by the



planned six hours of debate on the two articles of impeachment — formal charges — arising from the president's actions toward Ukraine, with time equally divided between the parties and no amendments. Trump would become only the third U.S. president to be impeached. "Today we are here to defend democracy for the people," Pelosi, the top Democrat in Congress, said in a speech on the House floor after reading the pledge of allegiance, drawing applause from lawmakers in her party.

As the debate unfolded. Trump on Twitter called the Democratic-led proceedings "AN ASSAULT ON AMERICA".

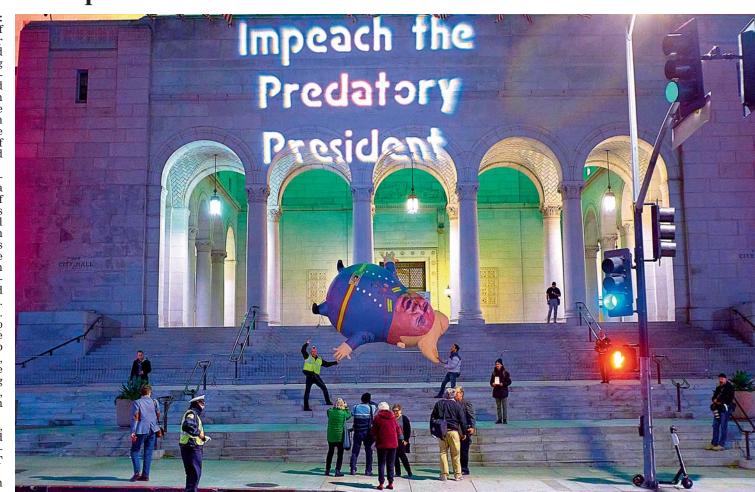
In a series of speeches on the House floor, the Republicans defended the president and accused Democrats of seeking to topple him from power using an unfair and rigged process to nullify the results of the 2016 polls.

Separate votes on the two charges are expected in the early evening. The votes are expected to fall almost entirely along party lines, with Democrats in favor and

Republicans opposed. "If we do not act now, we would be derelict in our duty. It is tragic that the president's reckless actions make impeachment necessary," Pelosi added. "He gave us no

14 DIE AS GANGS BATTLE IN PANAMA PRISON

Panama City, Dec. 18: Rival gang members opened fire in a crowded Panamanian prison killing 14 inmates and wounding around a dozen others, the government announced on Wednesday. The gunbattle, involv-ing AK-47 automatic rifles and other firearms, erupted on late Tuesday in La Joyita penitentiary, one of the country's largest prisons, east of Panama City.



A baby Trump Balloon floats outside City Hall in Los Angeles on Wednesday.

choice. What we are discussing today is the estab-lished fact that the presi-dent violated the Constitution. It is a matter of fact that the president is an ongoing threat to our national security and the integrity of our elections - the basis of our democracy," Pelosi said.

Impeachment is extraordinary check on presidential power spelled the U.S. enabling out in Constitution Congress to remove presidents who commit "high meanors." misde-Reuters

Majority of US House for impeachment

Washington, Dec. 19: Democrats, President Donald Trump is on track to be impeached by the House with the majority now in favor ahead of voting, according to a running tally compiled by The Associated Press. No Republicans have indicated they will support impeachment, setting up a party line vote carried by Democrats. One by one centrist

including many freshmen lawmakers who risk re-election in districts where the president is popular, announced this week that they would support the articles of impeachment. The first article on abuse of power now has a majority .House Speaker Nancy Pelosi is all but certain to have the numbers as began debate on Wednesday on the two

obstruction of Congress.

Trump is angrily object-ing to the impeachment charges, accusing Democrats of "perversion of justice and abuse of power" in their effort to remove him from office. In a fiery letter to Pelosi

on the eve of his expected impeachment, Trump maintained that he did **T**rump

nothing wrong in seeking foreign investigation of political rivals, and he attacked Democrats for focusing on impeachment rather than other issues. Trump also repeated his

objections to the process of the House inquiry, claiming "more due process was afforded to those accused Salem Witch in the Trials.

Homeland Security, mostly because it funds Trump's border wall project. The spending legisla-tion would forestall a government shutdown this weekend and give Trump steady funding for his U.S.-Mexico border fence.

BILL FOR US GOVT

Washington, Dec. 19:

The Democratic-con-trolled House voted to pass

a \$1.4 trillion government

spending package, hand ing President Donald

Trump a victory on his

U.S.-Mexico border fence

while giving Democrats

spending increases across a swath of domestic pro-

The hard-fought legisla-

tion also funds a record

Pentagon budget and is

serving as a must-pass leg-

islative locomotive to tow

an unusually large haul of

unrelated provisions into law, including an expen-sive repeal of Obama-era

taxes on high-cost health plans, help for retired coal

miners, and an increase

from 18 to 21 in the nation-

wide legal age to buy

The two-bill package, some 2,371 pages long after additional tax provi-

sions were folded in on

Wednesday morning, was

unveiled on Tuesday after-

noon and adopted less

than 24 hours later as law-

makers prepared to wrap

up reams of unfinished

work against a backdrop

of Wednesday's vote on impeaching Trump.

The House first passed a

measure funding domestic

programmes on a 297-120

vote. But one-third of the

Democrats defected on a

280-138 vote on the second

bill, which funds the mili-

tary and the Department

tobacco products.

grams.

PROGRAMMES,

WALL PASSED

Slain Sikh cop's memorial proposed

- Agencies

-AP

Houston, Dec. 18: Houston Tollway after Community leaders in Dhaliwal. The court Houston are working towards establishing a permanent memorial to honour slain Indian-American police officer Sandeep Singh Dhaliwal, who was shot dead on duty during a US 290 as the Deputy traffic stop. Harris county commissioners court on Wednesday recom-

transportation, which will review and provide final approval to the resolution. Welcoming the recommendation, Indo-American Chamber of Commerce Greater Houston founding secretarv

members unanimously approved the request made by Precinct 2 commissioner Adrian Garcia to rename the section of the roadway between Texas 249 and

Infosys to pay ₹5.6 cr over California tax fraud case

California attorney general. In the regulatory filing, it said the case is being dismissed with prejudice and was reached to avoid the time, expense, and distraction of protracted litigation on allegations dating back more than 13 years. "The agreement — which notes that Infosys strongly disputes the allegations and in which Infosys admits no wrongdoing — will result in the case being dismissed," Infosys said.

articles of impeachment that charge Trump with abuse of power and

ruling nationalists that would allow for judges to be fired if they question the legitimacy of the government's judicial reforms. Poland's ruling Law and Justice (PiS) party has vowed to keep reforming its justice system after winning an election in October, putting it on a collision course with the European Union which has repeatedly argued the reforms are in breach of EU law and Poland's constitution. PiS says its reforms are necessary to make the court system more efficient. Several thousand people gathered in front of Poland's parliament in Warsaw, where protesters chanted "Free courts!" and "We will win!" while waving Polish flags. "An enslaved court leads to an enslaved nation... I've seen how communist mechanisms work and I don't want a repeat. It's also my country, not just the ruling government's," said Ewa Karbowska, 59, who attended the Warsaw protest. Protesters also gathered in the cities of Wroclaw, Torun, Poznan, Szczecin, Katowice and Bialystok, among others. carrying EU flags.

"After the fight in Hall 14 of the La Joyita peni-This tentiary we can report that 14 prisoners have died," the interior ministry said on Twitter, updating an earlier toll of 12 dead. The countaxes try's prisons director Walter Hernandez said 14 prisoners were wounded, one seriously. The shooting broke out said.

among young inmates in a section of the prison known as Hall 14, which houses around 500 prisoners, authorities said. Deputy director of National Police Alexis Munoz said the shooting arose from "disputes" between inmates. said. - AFP

\$8,00,000 (nearly ₹5.6cr) to settle allegations of misclassification of foreign workers and tax fraud, officials said on Wednesday.

Washington/New Delhi,

Dec. 18: Indian IT major Infosys has agreed to pay

Infosys will pay California \$8,00,000 to resolve allegations that, between 2006 and 2017, approximately 500 Infosys employees were working in the state on Infosys-sponsored B-1 visas rather than H-1B visas, California attorney general Xavier Becerra said

misclassification resulted in Infosys avoiding California payroll taxes such as the unemployment insurance, disability insurance, and employment training

employers to pay workers at the wages prevailing in the state, an official statement

"Wednesday's settlement shows that attempting to evade California law doesn't pay. Infosys brought in workers on the wrong visas in order to underpay them and avoid paying taxes. With this settlement, California has been made whole," Becca In the settlement, Infosys,

The settlement showed that attempting to evade California law doesn't pay. H-1B visas also require Infosys brought in workers on the wrong visas in order to underpay them and avoid paying taxes

> however, denied the allegations and asserted of no wrongdoings Further, the company on Wednesday informed Indian

stock exchanges that it has reached a settlement with

The company asserted that it maintains robust policies and procedures to ensure adherence with applicable regulations and laws.

In 2017, Infosys had agreed to pay the state of New York \$1 million to settle allegations of submitting wrong documents to federal authorities.

The Californian settlement that was carried out in November was released to media on Wednesday.

California initiated legal actions against Infosys after a complaint was filed by whistleblower Jack "Jay" Palmer, a former Infosys employee.

Palmer had sued the Indian IT major in 2017. -PTI

RARE | EXTRACT Analysis showed the birch pitch gum was chewed by a female Genome found in 'ancient' chewing gum

London, Dec. 18: For the first time, researchers have extracted an entire ancient human genome from a sample other than bones, in a gum chewed by a 5,700-yearold female, unearthing details about the diet and oral microbes of stone age people. The researchers, including those from the University of Copenhagen

Denmark, extracted the complete ancient human genome from a sample of birch pitch — a gummy substance derived from the distillation of the

birch tree's bark. According to the study, published in the journal Nature Communications, the 'chewing gum' was found during archaeological excavations at Syltholm in southern Denmark.

"It is amazing to have gotten a complete ancient human genome from anything other than bone," said study co-author Hannes Schroeder from the University of

Copenhagen. Based on the analysis of the genome, the researchers could tell that the birch pitch was



A 5,700-year-old type of 'chewing gum' made from birch pitch found during archaeological excavations at Syltholm, southern Denmark. - AFP

chewed by a female. hunter-gatherers from 'The individual who mainland Europe than chewed the pitch was hunter-gatherers from female and that she was central Scandinavia. genetically more closely the researchers wrote in related to western the study.



The archeologists also found that she probably had dark skin, dark hair, and blue eyes.

Xavier Becerra

- XAVIER BECERRA

California attorney general

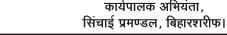
Additionally, the scientists could also extract DNA of oral bacteria and infectious microbes from the pitch sample, proving that these kinds of gums can be a very valuable source of ancient DNA, especially for time periods which have no human remains. According to the researchers, the environmental conditions at the site where the birch pitch was found contributed to preserving the sample.

"Syltholm is completely unique. Almost everything is sealed in mud, which means that the preservation of organic remains is absolutely phenomenal," said Theis Jensen, a study cofrom the author University Copenhagen. The study noted that Stylholm is one of the biggest Stone Age sites in Denmark. According to the findings, the people who occupied the region were heavily exploiting wild resources well into the Neolithic Age, which began about 12,000 years -AFF

Sandeep S. Dhaliwal Memorial Tollway. However, such a request would have to tion of the Sam Texas department of

Jagdip Ahluwalia and its president Swapan Dhairyawan said that this will be a fitting memorial for honouring the Indian-American hero. -PTI

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जल एवं पेड़ बचाएँगे, धरती पर हरियाली लाएँगे, 19 जनवरी 2020 को मानव श्रृंखला बनाएँगे।





Attempt to convince

Jane Fonda reveals she attempted to meet Trump with a group of 'beautiful' climate activists including Pamela Anderson to convince him to tackle global warming

Deadly strike





new deal after Brexit would hurt Britain more than the EU — Ursula von der Leyen **European Commission chief**



Turkey warns on

Ankara: Turkey has warned that US moves to lift a decades-old arms embargo on Cyprus would be a "dangerous escalation", as relations deteriorated further between the Nato allies. The US Congress voted on Wednesday to end the embargo on the island, which was imposed in 1987 to avoid an arms race and encourage the conflict's resolution. Cyprus has been divided since 1974 when Turkey invaded in response to a coup engineered by the then military regime in Athens. The US decision "will have no outcome other than hampering efforts towards a settlement on the island and creating a dangerous escala-tion," the Turkish foreign ministry said in a statement.

Albuquerque: A Saudi Arabian student who prosecutors say illegally obtained a gun in the US and told someone he wanted to kill a professor and others was ordered Wednesday held until his trial on a federal gun charge. US magistrate judge Laura Fashing ruled that Hassan Alqahtani posed a danger and should be kept in federal custody after she heard allegations of domestic violence and threats reportedly made to others. Witnesses told investigators that the Algahtani, 27, had physically attacked his wife, a US citizen, and threatened a girlfriend who he was dating while married.

5 traffickers could be killed in Bali

Bali: Five accused drug smugalers from Hong Kong Chile, Switzerland and Thailand who were caught in Bali could face the firing



Failing to negotiate a



US' Cyprus move

Student in kill list plot ordered held

Science

India emerges third in global research output China tops in publishing scientific papers, US is second

to 2018

Washington, Dec. 18: India has emerged as the world's third largest publisher of science and engineering articles, according to a latest US report. China, which accounts for 20.67 per cent of all global publications in scientific articles, is at the top position, followed by the US at 16.54 per cent, as per the statistics compiled by the US National Foundation (NSF).

The data, which was released on Wednesday, stated that in 2008, India published 48.998 science and engineering articles. This increased to 1,35,788 articles in 2018 and the

grew at a rate of 0.71 per India's emergence as third largest publisher is mainly due to a phenomenal double-digit growth rate in the last one decade from 2008

Wednesday. 23 civilians have been killed in the air strikes and artillery fire in the northwest of the country.

country now accounts for 5.31 per cent of the total world publications in science and engineering.

global scientific publications increased from 2,49,049 in 2008 to 5,28,263 in 2018, in a growth rate of 7.81 per cent per annum. The US, the total global publications in science and engineering articles

DEMOCRACY OR

PUPPET GOVT,

BILAWAL ASKS

DC CORRESPONDENT

Pakistan People's Party

(PPP) chief Bilawal Bhutto on Wednesday expressed that people and politics were not free in

Pakistan, and the masses

have to decide whether

they want a democratic or

Addressing a workers'

convention, he said that

puppet government.

ISLAMABAD, DEC. 18

cent from 3,93,979 in 2008 to 4,22,808 in 2018.

Smoke plume billows following a Syrian government air strike on a residential district of Maaret al-Numan in the northwestern Idlib province on

the report noted.

In China, the number of last 10 years. which made it to the top 10 Germany list are

Though a long way to go, as compared to the US and China in terms of the number of scientific article publications, India's emergence as third largest publisher is mainly due to a phenomenal double-digit growth rate in the last one decade from 2008 to 2018, The global research out-

put, as measured by peerannual reviewed science and engineering (S&E) journal articles and conference papers, grew about four per cent annually over the a rapid increase in producing impactful publica-The other countries tions

HACKED Ottawa, Dec. 18: Privacy watchdogs have launched an investigation into a hack of health records, which a laboratory said may have compromised data on up to 15 million Canadians or nearly half

LAB RESULTS OF

15M CANADIANS

the population. LifeLabs, which does blood work and other tests across Canada, said in a letter to customers that their names, contact information, health card numbers and lab test results were exposed in a cyber attack on its computers in early November. Most of those affected are in Ontario or British Columbia. The company also said it paid an undisclosed sum to the hackers to retrieve the data, and has retained experts to isolate and secure its affected computers. -AFP

Xi in Macau amid Hong Kong unrest

Macau, Dec. 18: Chinese President Xi Jinping HONG KONG landed in Macau on Wednesday as the city prepares to mark 20 years since the former Portuguese colony was returned, a celebration that stands in stark contrast to months of unrest in neighbouring Hong

Kong. Security has been ramped up ahead of Xi's three-day visit which culminates on Friday's

anniversary. China's authoritarian leadership is keen to showcase Macau as a successful example of its "one country, two systems" model, with party leaders heaping praise on a pliant city of 7,00,000 that has grown rich on gambling and deference to authoritarian rule.

The Chinese people and the central government are proud of the achievements and progress Macau has made in the past 20 years since its return to the motherland," Xi said on arrival

– AP

Ahead of Xi's arrival, activist Leung Kwok-hung and about 10 pro-testers held up posters of Xi in a Hong Kong shop-ping center. -APat the city's airport, a troupe of school children waving Chinese and Macau flags behind

ACTIVISTS DENIED

TRAVEL TO MACAU

Hong Kong, Dec. 18: A

ferry company barred a

group of Hong Kong pro testers, including a well-known pro-democracy activist, from boarding a

boat on Wednesday to

Macau, where Xi arrived.

him. Since the 1999 handover by Lisbon, Macau has wit-nessed little of the dissent that has exploded in Hong Kong during six months of often violent pro-democracy protests. — AFP

Firemen investigate a double-decker bus after its crash on a highway in Hong Kong on Wednesday.

Five dead in Hong Kong bus crash

Hong Kong, Dec. 18: people were killed and dozens injured in Hong Kong on Wednesday when a double-decker bus smashed into a tree, police said.

Live footage showed firefighters trying to reach victims on the vehi-cle's top deck, which had been turned into a tangled mess of twisted metal and shattered glass, leaving some passenger

seats dangling to the side Victims were seen being removed in a black body bags and placed next to a sign reading "Temporary Mortuary" on a highway-

close to Chinese border. Police said five people were certified dead at the scene with dozens injured. Authorities said it had activated its "major incident" plan response to the crash. AFP

(1,04,396), Japan (98,793) (97,681), (81,579), Italy (71,240), South Korea (66,376) and France (66,352). China's rate of research output has grown almost twice as

fast as the world's annual average for the last 10 years, while the output of the US and the European Union (EU) has grown at less than half the world's growth rate. Research papers from the US and the EU continue to have the most impact: however, China has shown

Russia

squad if convicted, police on the Indonesian holiday island said on Wednesday. The group, arrested in separate incidents this month and in November, were paraded in shackles and orange jumpsuits at Bali's airport customs office, escorted by machine-gun toting police – a common practice in Indonesia. Muslim-majority Indonesia has some of the world's toughest drug laws, including the death penalty for traffickers. While death sentences are often reduced to long jail terms, Indonesia has executed foreign nationals in the past, including two Australian masterminds of the Bali Nine heroin gang who were shot in 2015. Two of the five are men from Hong Kong, who were caught with 3.2 kg and 4 kg of methamphetamine. respectively, police said.

8 KILLED IN MEXICO SHOOTOUT

Mexico City, Dec. 18: Mexico's National Guard said seven gunmen and one of its officers died in a shootout Wednesday in the north-central state of Guanajuato. A second officer was wounded. Authorities said the suspects opened fire on a National

Guard patrol on a highway near the city of Irapuato and the officers returned fire.

Guanajuato was once considered a relatively peaceful agri cultural and industrial state.

But so far this year it has registered more homicides than any other state in Mexico, including some with much larger populations.

The state recorded 3,211 homicides in the first 11 months of the year, well above the second most violent state, Baja California.

Much of the violence in Guanajuato is caused by gangs that steal fuel from gpipelines. Since the government cracked down on the illegal taps, the gangs have unleashed a campaign of extortion.

Musharraf's case: Pak SC

SHAFQAT ALI | DC ISLAMABAD, DEC. 18

Pakistan's Supreme Court on Wednesday has clari-fied that Chief Justice of Pakistan Asif Saeed Khosa did not give any directive to special court on the treason case against former military ruler Pervez Musharraf. A spokesperson of the

top court said that CJP's media interaction was presented out of context. 'The news being onaired on channels is baseless, wrong and fabricat-

ed," he said. On December 17, special court in Islamabad had sentenced

Pervez the puppet rulers are gov-Musharraf to death in erning the country. He high treason case. A threesaid cases were being regmember bench compris-ing Chief Justice of Peshawar High Court istered against everyone including student unions who try to protest. (PHC) Waqar Seth, Justice Nazar Akbar of Sindh

that was reserved on High Court (SHC) and December 5.

Justice Shahid Karim of Lahore High Court (LHC) During the hearing, Justice Seth said that the announced the verdict ex-president had been

found guilty of violating the Article 6 of the Constitution by clamping the state of emergency on November 3, 2007.

The verdict was split 2-1 and a detanea volume be issued in 48 hours. Chief and a detailed verdict will

Justice Asif Saeed Khosa said that they were focusing on the training of lawyers, judges and staff. Addressing a ceremony

Islamabad on Wednesday, he said that in view of the nation's progress, on the basis of investigations, the judge can review all aspects of the case.

The Chief Justice said that process of reforms without knowing the values of a society is ineffective, adding that the best lawyers should go for practice in the tribal districts.

Chief Justice Khosa went on to say that research programmes should be encouraged in the country.

No order to special court in Australia has its hottest day on record, worst to follow

Sydney, Dec. 18: Australia this week experienced its hottest day on record and the heatwave is expected to worsen, exacerbating an already unprecedented bushfire season, authorities said on Wednesday.

The average nationwide temperatures of 40.9°C on Tuesday beat the previous record of 40.3°C in January 2013, the Bureau of Meteorology said.

"This heat will only intensify further today, meteorologist Diana Eadie Said.

The heatwave is another alarm bell about global warming in Australia, where this year's early and intense start to regular summer bushfires has heaped pressure on the Australian government to do more to tackle climate change

Hundreds of bushfires have been raging across Australia for months, including a "mega-blaze"



A firefighter doses a bushfire in Dargan, 130 kilometres north-west of Sydney on Wednesday. – AFP

burning north of Sydney, destroved

Scientists say the blazes have come earlier and with more intensity than usual due to global warming and a prolonged drought that has left the land tinder dry and many towns running out of water.

The fires have sparked climate protests targeting the conservative government, which has resisted

pressure to address the root causes of global warming in order to protect the country's lucrative coal export industry. Record spot tempera tures were recorded this week in Western Australia, where firefighters have also been battling blazes raging across thou sands of hectares of land. The hot weather is drift ing across the country's arid centre toward the east. Parts of New South Wales are forecast to reach the mid-40s celsius on

conditions worsen, west Sydney is due to tip over 46°C. Turbulent winds of up to 100 kmph are forecast to also hit the east coast and worsen the blazes. "Over the next few days we are going to see firefighters, the emergency services and all those communities close to fires... challenged with a new threat," an officia said.

Thursday. On Saturday, as

Journalist says winning case doesn't mean rape didn't happen, hopes for change FINAL JUSTICE Japan scribe awarded \$30K over #MeToo allegation

Tokyo, Dec. 18: A Tokyo court on Wednesday awarded 3.3 million yen the movement against sex-(\$30,000) in damages to ual harassment and abuse journalist Shiori Ito, who has struggled to take hold. accused a former TV reporter of rape in one of She had sought 11 million yen (\$1,00,000) in comthe most high-profile cases pensation from Norivuki of the #MeToo movement Yamaguchi, a former TV in Japan. The civil case made head-

women come forward.

Ito, 30, has become an

reporter with close links to Prime Minister Shinzo lines in Japan and abroad, Abe, alleging he raped her as it is rare for rape vicafter inviting her to dinner tims to report the crime to to discuss a job opportunity in 2015. the police — according to a 2017 government survey, Yamaguchi continues to only four per cent of

deny any wrong-doing and had filed a counter-suit against Ito, seeking 130



outspoken symbol for million yen in compensa-#MeToo in Japan, where tion.

"We won. The countersuit was turned down,² said Ito outside the court, holding up a banner that read "victory" as supporters cheered and clapped.

"Honestly I still don't know how I feel," she told reporters, struggling to hold back the tears. "However, winning this case doesn't mean this (sexual assault) didn't happen... This is not the end,' she added.

She said she hoped the case would change what



Shiori Ito

she called the "under legal and developed" social environment surrounding rape in Japan.

Japan hiked minimum jail terms for rapists from three to five years and widened the definition of sexual assault victims to include men for the first

the country's biggest city.

Smoke from the fires has

engulfed Sydney, raising

air pollution to hazardous

levels in an event leading

doctors have labelled a

At least three million

hectares of land has been

torched across Australia,

with six people killed and

700

"public

gency.

about

health emer-

homes

time in 2017. Lawmakers decided unanimously to update the 1907 statute to impose tougher penalties on sex attackers and make prosecutions easier, as they look to boost Japan's low number of convictions.

The latest World Economic Forum report on the gender gap pub-lished on the eve of the

case ranked Japan 121st out of 153 countries, slipping even further down the list from 110th the previous year.

Yamaguchi announced he would appeal "immediately" against the ruling, saying: "I have not done anything that goes against the law.

He claimed the court had failed to acknowledge inconsistencies and "falsehoods" in Ito's argument while ignoring his own arguments.

He said the significant international media atten-

ment of the court and vowed to be more vocal in future. Ito spoke out in 2017, shortly before the #MeToo movement, and this was "viewed as odd, especially in Japan", she said. When the #MeToo movement emerged, "I thought 'It wasn't only me!' and I believe there were others who thought so too," she said. "I saw women in Europe or the US actively discussing it and standing up together, -AFPshe said.

tion around the case might

have clouded the judge

New edge

Starting Jan. 15, 2020, Microsoft will be delivering its new Chromium-based Edge browser automatically to Windows 10 users, unless its Edge Blocker Toolkit is applied

DECCAN CHRONICLE

THURSDAY | 19 DECEMBER 2019 | HYDERABAD

echnomics¹²



FB CAN TRACK

CONSENT

USERS WITHOUT

Facebook can determine

where users are even if they

opt out of having their where-

abouts tracked, the company revealed in a letter sent to US

In the missive, which was

widely shared on social media on Tuesday, Facebook explained ways it can still fig-

ure out where people are after they have selected not to share

The social network, respond-

ing to a request for informa-

tion by two senators, contend-ed that knowing a user's whereabouts has benefits

ranging from showing ads for

nearby shops to fighting hack-

ers. "There is no opting out.

No control over your personal information," Republican

Senator Josh Hawley said in a

Google

GOOGLE SETTLES

\$327M TAX BILL

Sydney, Dec. 18: Google

agreed to pay Australian tax

authorities 482 million Australian dollars (USD 327 million) to settle a long-run-ning dispute over the tech

business in the country, offi-

announced

The Australian Tax Office

(ATO) said the payment cov-

ered taxes owed for 2008-2018,

and brought to 1.25 billion

Australian dollars the amount

recovered from global e-com-

giant's

Wednesday.

cials

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multibillion-dollar

on

including

IN AUSTRALIA

Republican

-AFF

precise location data.

San Francisco, Dec. 18:

senators.

Biz groups for dilution of data privacy Bill

Trade groups fear rise in compliance costs; plan to lobby for dilution through US officers, Indian MPs

New Delhi, Dec. 18: Trade groups representing of the world's some biggest firms plan to lobby US officials and Indian lawmakers in a bid to dilute parts of an Indian privacy bill which could hurt businesses, three sources familiar with the plans told Reuters.

companies such as Alphabet Inc's Google and

Facebook to change how

they store and process

Indian users' data

The Personal Data Protection Bill, which Data India's government argues is necessary to protect user privacy, will require panel.

The US-India Business Council (USIBC), part of the US Chamber of Commerce, plans to lobby Indian parliamentarians

Industry executives say

and compliance costs requirements. One provision empowers the government to ask a

some provisions will raise

company to provide anonymised user data to help formulate policies data companies are loathe to share as it is crucial to fuel business growth. Submitted by the government last week, the bill will be reviewed by a 30-

member parliamentary and

who will review the bill



will hold meetings with key U.S. government officials, said one source.

The council may also

lead a delegation to India early next year to meet the

The sources declined to comment as the lobbying plans have not been made public.

The plans signal India's privacy bill could deepen oilateral strains. Washington has been upset with new stringent data storage rules that affect credit card companies and has also protested against e-commerce rules which have hurt firms such as Amazon.com Inc. Meenakshi Lekhi, the head of the parliamentary panel and a lawmaker from the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party, told Reuters

TELEVISIONS AT

THE END OF 2019

AND PIXEL COUNT

ARE ALL ABOUT

THE 4K SETS, ULTRA HD RESOLU-

LG C9 OLED

Series (2019)

The new LG C9 OLED

generation Alpha9

HDR images, helps

It also possesses a

parliamentary panel, the source added. the committee will try to have "the widest possible

consultations" She added, however, that she will seek legal advice on "the participation" of a foreign lobby group dur-ing the panel's delibera-

tions. USIBC said in a statement it was assessing the bill and will engage with the government and other stakeholders "to ensure that industry perspectives on the bill are incorporat-

Another influential lobby group, the U.S.-India Partnership Strategic Forum, has told its members it plans to work with other industry bodies and speak to U.S. officials as it looks to address industry concerns on the privacy bill, a second source said. The group said in a statement it was still assessing the bill.

India is the latest country to seek tighter control over data and domestic operations of global tech firms.

Vietnam has passed a law for technology firms to store "important" personal data on users in the country. Australia last year passed a bill that gave police access to encrypted data.

-Reuters

Fired Google employee files plaint with regulators

San Fransisco, Dec. 18: A fifth former Google worker has filed a com-plaint with federal regulators accusing the company of improperly firing employees for labour organizing activity.

Kathryn Spiers, a security engineer, said Google fired her after she created a pop-up notification for employees to inform them of their labour rights.

In late November,Google fired four other workers for what the company said were violations of its data security policy. Those workers say they don't believe they violated company policies and that Google was really firing them because they were hired a consulting firm all involved in various traditional known for organising activities at being anti-union, Spiers the company. Google discreated a pop-up that told putes that. employees they were Google is known for havallowed to participate in

ing one of the most outspoken workforces in Employees have tech. pushed back on issues ranging from the company's handling of sexual misconduct allegations to its contracts with federal agencies.

But lately, some workers say, the company has been losing patience with its traditionally open culture and is cracking down on labour-organising.

Hansen and provided by a Spiers wrote in a post Google spokesperson. Spiers did not have published on Medium that authorisation for the poppart of her job was to create browser notifications up. to remind employees of company policies. After *The New York* had *Times* published a report been revealing that Google had ject."



most outspoken workforces in tech. Employees have pushed back on issues ranging from the company's handling of sexual misconduct allegations to its contracts with federal

Google says Spiers was fired because she "misused a security and privacy tool to create a pop-up that was neither about security nor privacy," according to an email sent by vicepresident Royal Hansen and provided by a Google spokesperson.

concerted

The notification showed

up when employees visit-

ed the consulting group's

fired because she "mis-

used a security and priva-

cy tool to create a pop-up that was neither about

security nor privacy," according to an email sent

vice-president Royal

Google says Spiers was

"protected

activities.'

website.

Under a settlement Google reached with the National Labour Board in Relations September, the company agreed to post notices to remind employees of their federal rights. Spiers' notification did just that, she wrote.

"..I've had many conver-sations about the importance of maintaining user trust," Spiers wrote. "My a small notificacode tion about employee rights - does not reduce trust.

Spiers had been involved in organising at Google, she wrote on Twitter, including employee resistance to the company working with Customs

JAPAN TO TIGHTEN TECH REGULATIONS

Tokyo, Dec. 18: Japan will tighten regulations to prevent technology including giants Facebook Inc and Google from abusing their market power and having unfair advantage over small businesses, officials said.

Apple Inc , Facebook Inc operations, they

anti-trust issues to the spread of "fake news"

opposed tighter have backed reform.

"We want to put the new law into effect in the way that would make business transactions become transparent without imposing excessive burdens or hamperinnovation," ing Economy Minister Yasutoshi Nishimura told reporters. - Reuters



Samsung Q90R QLED TV (2019)

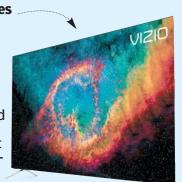
Last year's Samsung Q9FN won many awards for its features and image quality, smart platform with Bixby support and Samsung SmartThings. But it was not a perfect TV and there were complaints about viewing angles and the dimming system.

With Q90, Samsung offers a superior viewing angle that holds its own against OLED, and the local dimming delivers deep blacks without losing shadow detail. The Q90 is able to deliver images that can directly compete with an OLED, with natural colors, bright highlights, deep blacks, and well-defined shadows. The Q90 doesn't support Dolby Vision. However, in all other respects, the Samsung Q90 is an amazing TV that takes QLED to another level.

Vizio P-Series Quantum X

is the go-to product if users are looking for The Vizio the best smart features **P-Series** in a 4K TV. The 2nd Quantum X is packed processor, which uses with great AI enhancements to features and deliver stellar SDR and backed up by excellent make the upscaling and image qualiprocessing incredible. ty. The TV is one of

.





and Amazon.com Inc to disclose the terms of contracts with cus-tomers and report to the government about their

said. Japan's move followed the global trend - from the United States to Europe and Australia of tightening the regulatory screws on the online platforms, which have policy makers scrambling to address concerns ranging from

and hate speech. Google and Facebook have regulations, while traditional media owners, including Rupert Murdoch's *News Corp.*,

titans. Microsoft and Apple

"This settlement is another great outcome for the Australian tax system," said Deputy Commissioner Mark Konza, who has spearheaded the ATO's Tax Avoidance Taskforce.

"It adds to the significant success of the ATO in positively changing the behaviour of digital taxpavers and significantly increasing the tax they pay in Australia," he added.

The ATO launched its crackdown on multinational companies' accounting practices in -AFF 2016.



FB EXPANDS **FACT-CHECKING** WITH INSTAGRAM

Hvderabad. Dec. 18: Propagation of misinformation on social media is a menace affecting governments and people all over the world.

In a bid to help identify, review and reduce the distribution of false information on the platform, Facebook has announced that it will be expanding Instagram's factchecking programme globally, a *zdnet.com* report said on Wednesday. In the recent past, Facebook has been criticised for its response to the spread of misinformation.

The social media giant said the decision to expand the programme builds on the work the company started in the US with third-party fact-checkers in May. "Today, we're expanding our fact-checking pro-gramme globally to allow factorganisations checking around the world to assess and rate misinformation on our platform," Facebook said in a blog post. – Agencies

Hansen wrote, and said that the "decision would have been the same had the pop-up message been on any other sub-

and Border Patrol. The five workers have filed unfair labour practice complaints with the NLRB.

Samsung boss gets 1.5-year jail

Seoul, Dec. 18: Samsung Electronics board Chairman Lee Sang-hoon was sentenced to one and a half years jail for sabotaging legitimate union activities, a South Korean court said.

took place at Samsung

Lee and about 25 other defendants were charged with sabotaging union activities by sub-contracted workers at Samsung Electronics' repair unit, Samsung E Service Co. Ltd. Electronics When union activities



Lee Sang-hoon

tion, Seoul central district court ruled.

Electronics Service in 2013, Samsung Group's Samsung executives and now-defunct elite strategy employees were, to differoffice developed and ent degrees, involved in implemented strategies to finding out sensitive inforhinder the union's operamation about union mem-

bers to convince them to leave the union, inducing the closure of sub-contracting firms with active unions and delaying nego-tiations between labour and management. The verdict follows last

week's ruling by the same court that gave a 16-month iail term to Samsung Electronics vice-president Kang Kyung-hoon on charges of union-busting activities at now-defunct affiliate Samsung Everland, an amusement park operator and part of Samsung C&T.

"We humbly accept that the companies' under-standing and view standing and view towards labour unions in the past fell short of soci-

Samsung Electronics and Samsung C&T said. A professor at Seoul National University, Park Sang-in, described the verdicts as "a further signal of change for South Korean judicial system, which previously gave lenient sentences to con-

victed businessmen." Samsung's new leader, Jay Y. Lee, needs to "build industrial relations which are in line with global standards", the professor added. Lee himself is embroiled in separate trials in a cor-

ruption scandal involving former South Korean President Park Geun-hye. Reuters

robust smart platform and new AI sound options that analyse and improve sound quality in real time.

the best options in its price range. With the best image quality, the Vizio P-Series Quantum X PX-65G1 is a great smart TV choice at an affordable price.

Sony A9G Master Series OLED

A direct replacement for last year's Sony A9F/AF9 OLED, the Sony A9G/AG9 Master Series OLED is the new flagship of Sony's TV fleet. It embraces a characteristically minimalist design with many cutting-edge features like Dolby Vision and Dolby Atmos support, Netflix

Calibrated Mode, and IMAX Enhanced certification.

LG B9 OLED Series

The LG B9 OLED is possibly the most fascinating OLED set in LG's 2019 TV range. Acting as the successor to last year's LG B8, the 2019 version of LG's entry-level OLED is powered by older processors in order to keep the price low.



UNDER | SCANNER | Research vouches for facial recognition system's accuracy, at least under ideal conditions Why some cities balk at face recognition tech

Springfield, Dec. 18: departments Police around the U.S. are asking citizens to trust them to use facial recognition software as another handy tool in their crime-fighting toolbox. But some lawmak-- and even some techers nology giants - are hitting the brakes. Are fears of an all-see-ing, artificially intelligent

industry partners contend that won't happen here. They are pushing back against a movement by cities, states and federal legislators to ban or curtail the technology's use. And the efforts aren't confined to typical bastions of liberal activism that enacted bans this year: San security apparatus overblown? Not if you look Francisco, Oakland, Berkeley and the Boston at China, where advancesuburbs of Somerville and ments in computer vision

US police officials and

their video surveillance

Brookline. the western Take Massachusetts city of Springfield, a former manufacturing hub where a majority of the 155,000 residents are Latino or black,

Debates across the country are highlighting racial concerns and dueling interpretations of the technology's accuracy. Some city councillors are moving to block any future government use.

and where police brutality and misconduct lawsuits have cost the city millions of dollars. Springfield police say they have no plans to deploy facial recognition systems, but some city councillors are moving to block any future government use of the technology anyway.

At an October hearing on the subject, Springfield

City Councilor Orlando Ramos said he doesn't want to take any chances. "It would only lead to more racial discrimination and racial profiling," he said, citing studies that found higher error rates for facial recognition software used to identify women and people with darker skin tones.

"I'm a black woman and I'm dark," another Springfield councillor, Tracye Whitfield, told the city's police commissioner, Cheryl Clapprood, who is white. "I cannot approve something that's going to target me more than it will target you." Clapprood defended the technology

and asked the council to trust her to pursue it carefully. "The facial recognition technology does not come along and drop a net from the sky and carry you off to prison," she said, noting that it could serve as a useful investigative tool by flagging wanted suspects. The council hasn't yet acted, and the Springfield mayor has threatened to veto the proposal that Ramos plans to re-introduce in January.

Similar debates across the country are highlighting racial concerns and dueling interpretations of the technology's accuracy. "I wish our leadership would look at the science

and not at the hysteria," said Lancaster, California, Mayor R. Rex Parris, whose city north of Los Angeles is working to install more than 10,000 streetlight cameras Parris says could monitor known pedophiles and gang mem-"There are ways to bers. build in safeguards.³ Research suggests that facial recognition systems

can be accurate, at least under ideal conditions. A review of the industry's leading facial recognition algorithms by the National Institute of Standards and Technology found they were more than 99% accurate when matching highquality head shots to a

poses. But trying to identify a face from a video feed a potentially useful technique for detectives can cause accuracy rates plunge. National to Institute of Standards and Technology found that recognition accuracy could fall below 10 per cent when using ceiling-mounted cameras commonly found in government buildings. The agency hasn't studied the performance of facial recognition on body camera footage. although experts generally believe that its oftenjumpy video will render the technique even less reliable. -AP

database of other frontal





applied to vast networks of

cameras

enabled authorities to

track members of ethnic

minority groups for signs

of subversive behaviour.

have

street







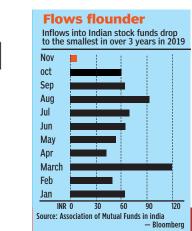








FINANCIA ш Chronicle



group.

removal.

RIL top wealth creator during 2014-19

After a 7-year gap, Reliance Industries has emerged as the biggest wealth creator during 2014-19 by adding ₹5.6 lakh crore of wealth, says Motilal Oswal's Annual Wealth Creation Study 2019. The top-100 wealth creators generated ₹49 lakh crore during 2014-19, the highestever quantum of wealth added. It said Bajaj Finance has the distinction of being

THE TATA-MISTRY BATTLE IN TRIBUNALS

(The chronology of developments that took place in the Tata-Mistry case before the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal and the Mumbai-bench of the National Company Law Tribunal)



in the top-10 biggest as well as fastest wealth creators.

THURSDAY | 19 DECEMBER 2019 | HYDERABAD



INDICATOR	S	%
Sensex	41,558.57	0.50
Nifty 50	12,221.65	0.47
S&P 500*	3,196.35	0.12
Dollar (₹)	70.975	-0.014
Pound Sterling (₹)	92.9805	-0.85
Euro (₹)	78.9585	-0.32
Gold (10gm) (₹)	38,828▲08	0.02
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	66.07	-0.05
IN 10-Yr bond yield	6.705	-0.593
US 10-Yr T-bill yield	11.898	0.476
* As of 10:30 pm IST		

Patanjali buys out Ruchi Soya for ₹4,350 crore

Baba Ramdev's Patanjali Ayurved made its first big acquisition when it paid Rs 4,350 crore to take over Ruchi Soya through an insolvency process. Sources said Patanjali settled Rs 4,350 crore of dues Ruchi Soya had towards financial creditors by infusing Rs 1,100 crore equity and arranging another Rs 3,250 crore via debt.

Life insurers bat for 100% FDI via automatic route



Life insurers, in a presentation to Irdai, have sought 100 per cent foreign direct investment limit in the sector through the

Tata Sons questions realized by the second strength of the second strengt of the second strength of the second strength of the second str Tata Sons questions NCLAT order, to take legal recourse

New Delhi, Dec 18: Ousted Tata Sons Chairman Cyrus Mistry on Wednesday termed the NCLAT judgement to reinstate him at the helm of the company as "victory for the principles of good governance and minority shareholder rights" and not his own personal victory.

Tata Sons, on the other hand, said it will take appropriate legal recourse stating it is not clear as to how the NCLAT order seeks to over-rule the decisions taken by shareholders of Tata Sons and listed Tata operating companies validly constituted shareholder meetings'.

Mistry on his part sought to bury past bitterness, and said that it was now time that "all of us work together for sustainable growth and development of the Tata Group, an institution that we all cherish".

New Delhi, Dec. 18: The NCLAT on Wednesday

quashed the conversion of

Tata Sons-- the principal

holding company and pro-

moter of Tata firms--into a

private company from a

public firm, terming it

The NCLAT said action

taken by the Registrar of

Companies (RoC) to allow

the firm to become a pri-

vate company was against

the provisions the Companies Act, 2013 and

'prejudicial' and 'oppres-sive' to the minority mem-

illegal'

For over 50 years, the Mistry family, as the significant minority shareholder of Tata Sons, has always endeavoured to play the



role of а responsible guardian of an institution that the entire nation is proud of, he added. "For the Tata Group to

prosper as an institution, it is important that the management of individual companies, their Boards, the management of Tata Sons, the Board of Tata Sons and the shareholders of Tata Sons, all work harmoniously within a robust governance framework, that in substance and form,

Months after Mistry was sacked, Tata Sons had

received its shareholders'

nod in September 2017 to

convert itself into a private

limited company from a

New Delhi, Dec. 18:

Ordering reinstatement of Cyrus Mistry as chair-

man of Tata Sons, the

NCLAT expunged 'dis-

paraging' remarks made

against him by the Mumbai bench of NCLT

NCLT REMARKS AGAINST MISTRY EXPUNGED

protects the rights of all including stakeholders, shareholders, investors and the Tata Groups employees, who represent the strongest asset of the Group," Mistry said.

Commenting on the verdict of the appellate tribu-nal, he said, "The outcome of the appeal is a vindication of my stand taken when the then board of Tata Sons, without warning or reason removed me, first as the executive chair

thereby absolving it of the

and based on extraneous-

ly sourced material not

Citing 11 paras of dis-

paraging remarks against

Mistry in its 172-page

order, the NCLAT said, "Remarks made against

on record"

man, and subsequently as a director of Tata Sons.

In contrast, Tata Sons said it will take appropriate legal recourse against the NCLAT order to reinstate Mistry as chairman.

The holding company of ther said the "order appears to even go beyond the specific reliefs sought by the appellant (Mistry)". "It is not clear as to how the NCLAT Order seeks to over-rule the decisions taken by shareholders of Tata Sons and listed Tata operating companies at validly constituted shareholder meetings," it said in a statement.

said in a statement.

The company assured its 'various stakeholders that it not only has always operated in a fair and equitable manner but also acted in accordance with the law and will continue to do so". -PTI

the Tata group firms fur-

Tata Sons strongly believes in the strength of its case and will take appropriate legal recourse, it

rejects plea by the two investment firm's plea seeking waiver in the cri-April 27, 2017 The investment firms move the NCLAT, challenging NCLT order which rejected their petitions over maintainability. They also chal-

over maintainability. They also chal-lenged rejection of their waiver plea. September 21, 2017 NCLAT allows pleas by the two investment firms seeking waiver in filing case of oppression and mismanagement

October 24, 2016 Cyrus Mistry ousted as Tata Sons chairman, Ratan Tata

named as an interim Chairman of the

December 20, 2016 Two Mistry family backed investment firms, Cyrus Investments Pvt Ltd and Sterling

Investments Corporation Pvt Ltd, move the NCLT Mumbai, alleging

oppression of minority shareholders and mismanagement by Tata

Sons. They also challenged Mistry's

Chandrashekaran as Chairman, the

then TCS Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director.

nuary 12, 2017 Tata Sons names N

against Tata Sons. It, however, dismissed Mistry's other petition on maintainability saying the firms do not have more than 10 per cent in Tata Sons. The appellate tribunal directs the Mumbai-bench of the NCLT to issue notice and proceed in

the matter. october 5, 2017 Two investment firms approach the principal bench of NCLT at Delhi, seeking transfer of the matter from Mumbai to Delhi citing likelihood of bias. The principal bench reserves order on the plea of the two investment firms.

ober 6, 2017 The Principal bench of NCLT dismisses the pleas and imposed a cost of Rs 10 lakh on the two investment firms, which was to be shared by both.

18 NCLT Mumbai dismisses pleas of Mistry challenging his removal as Tata Sons chairman as also the allegations of rampant misconduct on part of Ratan Tata and the company's Board. NCLT said it found no merit in his allegations of mismanagement in Tata group firms.

August 3, 2018 The two investment firms approach the NCLAT against the order of the NCLT dismissing his plea challenging his removal as chairman of the company. August 29, 2019 The NCLAT admits petition filed by Cyrus Mistry in his personal capacity and decided to hear along with the main petitions filed by the two investment firms. May 23, 2019 The NCLAT reserves

its order after completing the hearing in the matter. cember 18, 2019 The NCLAT restores Mistry as executive chairman of Tata Sons, but suspended its implementation for four weeks in order to provide time for Tatas to

Tata shares face selling pressure

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD MUMBAL DFC 18

Shares of Tata Group companies faced selling pressure and some of them fell sharply on the news of NCLAT restoring Cyrus Mistry as chairman of Tata Group. Thursday's

(-1.02 per cent), Tata Global Beverages (-4.14 per cent), Tata Coffee (-3.67 per cent), Voltas (-2.26 per cent), Tata Chemicals (-1.65 per cent) and Tata Power (-0.98 per cent). TCS closed flat at Rs

2167.25, up 0.07 per cent while gains for Tata Steel

appeal.

Tata Metaliks (2.07 per cent) and Tata Sponge Iron. The NCLAT verdict may jeopardise Jaguar Land Rover's attempts at finding partners to share the burden of investing in electric vehicles, and Tata Steel's plans to cut 3,000 jobs at its European operations, said a report by Bloomberg "There will be a serious bout of concern and volatility for the group as a whole because many of the large companies are on the cusp of taking some very important decisions," said Bodke, CEO at Prabhudas Lilladher PMS.

Tata Sons to be public firm again public limited company, board's approval. Tata Sons Ltd was initialneed to take shareholder ly a private company' but after insertion of Section consent in taking crucial decisions, which could be passed with just the 43A (1A) in the Companies Act, 1956 on the basis of average annual turnover, it assumed the character of a

deemed 'public company' with effect from February 1, 1975, the order said. Although Tata Sons' counsel had argued that

the firm could become a private company on the basis of a Central government circular issued in September 2013 by taking

February 6, 2017 Mistry removed as a director on the board of Tata Sons, holding company of Tata group firms. March 6, 2017 NCLT Mumbai sets March 6, 2017 NCLT Mumbal sets aside plea of the two investment firms of Mistry family over maintain-ability issue, citing they didn't meet the criteria 10 per cent ownership in a company for the filing of a case of alleged oppression of minority sharealleged oppression of minority share-holders under the Companies Act. The Mistry family owns 18.4 per cent stake in the closely-held Tata Sons but the holding is less than 3 per cent if preferential shares are excluded. April 17, 2017 NCLT Mumbai also

automatic route, which can help the sector attract capital of Rs 40.000-60.000 crore. India has received nearly Rs 30,000 crore worth of FDI in the private sector insurance firms since 2015, when the FDI limit was raised to 49 per cent.

States for 4% fiscal deficit target next year

Some states asked Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman to go for fiscal expansion and relax the deficit target to 4 per cent of the GDP to boost consumption. "The biggest take home from Pre-Budget discussion of FMs is suggestion by Bihar and Kerala to raise the fiscal deficit limit to 4 per cent,' Kerala Finance Minister Thomas Isaac said in a tweet.

Reliance Home Fin seeks nod to pay bondholders

Anil Ambani Group's mortgage finance arm Reliance Home Finance sought permission from banks to repay Rs 91.78 crore to its retail bondholders due next month. The firm owes Rs 91.78 crore, in principal and interest, to 19,964 retail bondholders but is unable to pay because of a restraint placed by the lenders as it is undergoing is a bank-led resolution process.

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bers and depositors. "The Company (Tata Sons) shall be recorded as 'Public Company'.

The RoC will make correction in its record showing the Company as 'Public Company," said the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal.

NCLAT finds

fault with

procedure

FROM PAGE 1

The order held the

Chandrasekaran (for-

mer TCS CEO) as execu-

tive chairman of Tata

Group in January 2017

as illegal. Upholding the interest

of minority sharehold-

ers and the manner in

which Cyrus Mistry

was removed, the NCLAT said: "Such

power can be exercised

only in exceptional cir-

cumstances and in the

Senior advocate C.A.

Mistry's counsel, said: "Cyrus Mistry's insis-

tence was on corporate

governance, protection

of minority sharehold-ers' interest. There has

to be corporate gover-

nance of impeccable standard."

Earlier on July 9, 2018

the NCLT had dis-

missed petitions by two

investment firms. Later.

Mr Mistry personally approached the NCLAT

+

over the NCLT order.

Cyrus

will be affected.

Sundaram,

N

appointment of

removal

which had dismissed his plea challenging his removal as chief of the Tata Group.

A two-member NCLAT bench said that such observations against Mistry and other respondents were "undesirable

pellants, Cyrus Pallonji Mistry and others stand expunged.'

The NCLT had used words like "heart burn", "settle their score", "sov-ereign authority", "his way is highway" etc. in its -PTIorder.

permission directly from the RoC, the NCLAT ruled that the circular cannot override substantive provisions of Section 14 of the Companies Act. 2013 which is mandatory for conversion of a public company' to a 'private company'. -PTI

market opening could see much more volatility in group companies' shares as the news is digested, analysts said.

The losers on the BSE included Tata Motors (-3.05 per cent), Indian Hotel (-2.88 per cent), Tata Investment Corporation . (-2.88 per

were capped despite mar ket expecting some positive news, as shares closed 1.16 per cent up at Rs 444.60 after climbing to Rs 454.70. The market was abuzz with news of Tata Steel restructuring domestic business to unlock value as well as unlock value in

GST Council decides against rate hike

FC BUREAU CHENNAI, DEC. 18

The GST Council that met on Wednesday voted for the first time to fix a uniform rate on lotteries. The council kept away from increasing tax rates, despite the shortfall in tax revenues.

The GST Council voted on a matter for the first time during its meeting. The panel voted in favour of a single GST rate of 28 per cent for lotteries. At present, lotteries run by state governments attract 12 per cent GST while those authorised by them and sold outside the state

attract 28 per cent. Kerala Finance Minister

for voting. Maharashtra and Puducherry also had opposed the single rate for lotteries as they were concerned about losses to state revenue. During the voting, 21 states voted in favour of a uniform rate. The new rate will be effective March 1, 2020.

Thomas Isaac had asked

The council decided to focus on revenue augmentation, considering the shortfall in revenue. The council decided to frame a future roadmap towards increasing tax revenues. Many of the states took up the issue of delay in compensation. They were worried that considering

the revenue projections

given by the Centre, there

may not be enough money compensating the for states.

of the states Some stressed on plugging the leakages, stopping frauds and strengthening the system. With revenue shortfall emerging as a major area of concern, the Centre has set Rs 1.10 lakh crore monthly GST collection target in the remaining months of the fiscal. In the past eight months of the current fiscal, only in April the collection was above Rs 1.10 lakh crore. In four months, the collection was below the Rs 1

lakh crore mark. The Centre on Monday had released over Rs 35,000 crore as pending

compensation after some of the states expressed their concerns in the past few days. Under the separate Compensation Act, if states' GST revenue does not grow by at least 14 per cent over the base year of 2015-16, the Centre pays it the difference, after every two months.

council The also enhanced the exemption of GST on long term lease on industrial plots that facilitate setting up of industrial parks. It was decided that all entities with 20 per cent ownership by central or state governments will be exempt from GST. Earlier, only entities with a 50 per cent government stake

were exempt. Currently, a GST rate of 18 per cent applies to long-term leases for parks with less than 50 per cent government stake.

This will boost the real estate sector as well as industrial production and will be an incentive for manufacturers who want to set up new units in

industrial parks. Levy of penalty relaxed for non-filing of GSTR-1 from July 2017. Currently, the late filing of GSTR1 attracts late fees of a maximum of Rs 10,000 per month of delay. The GST Council also rationalised tax rate on woven and non-woven bags to 18 per

cent.

PNB stock falls after bonds put on rating watch

FALAKNAAZ SYED MUMBAI, DEC. 18

Punjab National Bank (PNB) stock fell 2.32 per cent to Rs 63.20 after it said that rating agency Crisil had put its bonds on "rating watch with developing implications' from stable.

Crisil in September had rated these bonds as stable and the revision was account of on announcements made by the Ministry of Finance with respect to the proposed amalgamation of public sector banks, PNB said in a regulatory filing. United Bank of India and Oriental Bank of Commerce will be merged with PNB, making the merged entity the secondlargest public sector bank. There has been significant progress on the amalgamation including

approvals from the Boards of the banks. Crisil will resolve the ratcompletion, on merged merged entity's business and financial profile.

"Crisil will monitor for potential integration challenges and any impact on the earnings profile of the merged entity. The asset quality of the merged entity will also be a monitorable," it said.

Duty-free import of gold, silver restricted interest of the company. But before exercising such power, reasons should be recorded in writing and intimated to the concerned share-SANGEETHA G Malaysia, which government had levied a have signed free trade countervailing duty of 12.5 holders whose right agree-

Thailand

and

CHENNAI, DEC. 18

Duty-free import of gold and silver in dore or other semi-manufactured forms have been restricted and made subject to approval from authorised agencies. The move is expected to restrict the increasing duty-free import of precious metals from countries with which India has signed free trade agreements.

In a notification pub-lished on Wednesday, the government said that: "import policy of gold other than monetary gold and silver in any form is





forms,

Korea,

amended from 'free' to 'restricted"; import is allowed only through nominated agencies authorised by the RBI (in case of banks) and DGFT (for

other agencies)". This includes gold and silver in the powder form, unwrought form, sheets,

with India. ment Individuals could import products, including gold and silver, without seeking any permission," said Vinin Raina, India President (Marketing), MMTC-PAMP. In the case of South

Korea, India had entered plates, strips, tubes and into a Comprehensive Economic Agreement with pipes, other unwrought other semi-manuthat country, which allows factured forms etc. "As the import duty on for duty-free exports without any value addition. gold is 12.5 per cent, we Hence, South Korean have been witnessing huge exporters have been shipimport of duty-free gold ping a lot of gold coins to from countries like South India.

In the pre-GST era, the

become duty-free. Since 2017, the import of duty-free gold has been going up. As per WTO norms, India cannot apply duties on select products under free trade agreement. Hence, the government has restricted

imports. Individuals who

want to import these prod-

ucts should obtain prior

licence from RBI or DGFT.

per cent on such imports

almost around the time it

imposed excise duty on

gold in the domestic mar-

ket. Post-GST, this counter-

vailing duty did not exist

and hence the imports had

Breaking barriers

Fallon Sherrock becomes the first woman to win a match at the PDC World Dart Championship





I believe each one of us would be happy to continue with Hansi (Flick). — Jerome Boateng, Bayern Munich defender, on wanting interim coach Hansi Flick to take over a permanent manager

SHORT TAKES

Wenger backs Ozil on **Uighur Muslims**

Doha: Former Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger has defended Mesut Ozil after comments made by the Gunners midfielder condemning treatment of Uighur Muslims led to a stinging backlash in China. "Mesut Ozil has the freedom of speech like everybody else and he uses his notoriety to express his opinions which are not necessarily shared by everybody, but he has the right to do that," Wenger told journalists in Doha on Wednesday. "You are a human being, you have an opinion, and then when vou play football you play football. You do your job first and you have to respect that." Ozil, a German of Turkish origin, condemned China's crackdown on Muslim minorities in the western region of Xinjiang in a tweet last week. In response, Chinese state broadcaster CCTV pulled its coverage of Arsenal's Premier League game against Manchester City last weekend. Arsenal have distanced themselves from Ozil's comments, but Chinese state media warned that they would have "serious implications" for his

club. US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo denounced China's reaction over the matter. - AFP

Sporting and SBI play out a draw DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, DEC. 18

Hyderabad Sporting FC and State Bank of India played a stalemate in the Telangana Football Association's 'A' Division Rahim League at the Gymkhana ground here on Monday. Both the teams netted a goal each in the draw. Furkhan scored the in the 35th minute for Sporting while Qizar got the equaliser for State Bank of India in the 70th minute.

Tokyo tickets sold like hot cakes

Katyayani cruises Sinks two records at swimming meet

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, DEC. 18

Katyayani Golem, М. М. Suhas Pranathi, Preetham and Abhay Lakkoju excelled in the 5th Telangana Winter Inter District Swimming Competition held at the GHMC Swimming Pool. Hyderabad's Katyayani set a new record in both the 50 metres and 100 metres freestyle to grab the honours with an exceptional timing of 0.28.28 seconds and 01.05.37 seconds respec-tively in the Girls Group-II

category. Pranathi also clinched gold in both 50m and 100m freestyle with a brilliant timing of 0.31.72 seconds and 01.17.34 seconds respectively.

Suhas secured gold for Hyderabad in 100m freestyle with an impressive time of 01.07.08 seconds in the boys category. Other swimmers who excelled at the meet were Ruthik Reddy, who won golds in the 50m Freestyle, 100m Freestyle, 50m Backstroke and 100m Backstroke in Group-I

boys. Trina Tanuj dominated Group-I girls with golds in the 400m and 800m Freestyle. Goli Jhanavi stood first in the 100m and 200m BackStroke in the same category. B. Sai Nihar stood out in

Group-II boys with golds in the 200m, 400m and 800m Freestyle races. G. Sarayu Reddy got the top places in the 50m,

100m and 200m Backstroke events in Group-II girls. Suhas Preetham was the other performer. He won 50m and 100m



Freestyle races besides 50m and 100m Backstroke Sai golds as well in the Group-

golds as wen in the Group III boys. THE RESULTS GROUP-I 50m Freestyle (Boys): 1. Ruthvik Reddy (RR) 0.25.33, 2. T. Sai Tarun (Karimnagar) 0.25.86, 3. Suryanshu Basa (Hyd) 0.26.12.

50m Freestyle (Girls): 1. M. Pranathi (Hyd) 0.31.72, 2. D. Sai Keerthana (Hyd) 0.35.78, G. Abhichandana (Wgl)

Ruthvik Reddy (RR) 0.56.44, 2. Ch. Abhilash (Khammam) 0.57.44, 3. Y. Charles Finney (RR) 01.16.18. 100m Freestyle (Girls): 1. M.

Sai Keerthana (Hyd) 01.23.32, 3. Eeshitha Rasmayi (Wgl) 01.39.70. GROUP-II 50m Freestyle (Boys): 1. Abhishek Adari (RR) 0.29.30, 2. P. Thrishik (Wgl) (RR) 0.29.55, 3. M. Navaneeth (RR) 0.29.75. 50m Freestyle (Girls): 1.

Katyayani Golem (Hyd) 0.28.28 – New Meet Record, 2. Kashyapi Galvankar (RR) 0.33.06, 3. Harshitha Prabhakar 0.44.17. 100m Freestyle (Girls): 1. Katyayani Golem (Hyd) 01.05.37 — New Meet Record, 2. K. Sanjana (RR) 01.09.42, 3. R. Srihitha (Adb) 01.29.27.



away prizes at the Telangana Winter Inter-District Swimming Championship at the MCH Swimming Pool in Secunderabad as Telangana Swimming Association treasurer G. Umesh (left) and secretary M. Rama Krishna (second from left) cheer on.

Left: Katvavani Golem (left) poses with her certificate and medal alongside coach Alekhva Ponnam after smashing meet records in the 50 as well as 100 metres freestyle races.

100m Freestyle (Boys): 1. P. Thrishik (Wgl) 01.07.41, 2. S. Raj Likith (RR) 01.07.71, 3. M. G. Saharsha (RR) 1.13.18, 3. Aditi Bavikar (Hyd) 1.19.32. Navneeth (RR) 01.09.97. 50m Freestyle (Boys): 1. B.

DECCAN CHRONICLE

GROUP-III 50m Freestyle (Boys): 1. M. Suhas Preetham (Hyd) 0.30.30, 2. Jordan Domnic Franklin (RR) 0.32.48, 3. K. Thanmay Rithwik 0.33.65. 50m Freestyle (Girls): 1. G. Raj Sri Laasya (RR) 0.31.64, 2. G. Sharsha (RR) 0.32.60, 3. Aditi Bavikar (Hyd)

100m Freestyle (Boys): 1. M Suhas Preetham (Hyd) 01.07.08, 2. Akshith Utla (RR) 1.11.59, 3. D. Bhargav





GROUP-IV

Goutham Sasi Vardhan (RR)

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, DEC. 18

Sujayath of Mahbubnagar and Κ.

RANJI TROPHY

Himachal push TN on backfoot

first

completely.

Trophy match.

tions from

Prashanth Chopra (23) and S. L. Verma (36) batted res-

olutely. Tamil Nadu hit back with

three wickets before Rishi

Dhawan (27 batting) made

sure Himachal didn't allow

the advantage slip away

RICKY HELPS ANDHRA

Meanwhile, Ricky Bhui

cracked an unbeaten 70 to

guide Andhra Pradesh to 249 for six against Delhi at

stumps on Day Two of their Group 'A' Ranji

Resuming at 16 for 2,

Andhra rode on Ricky's unconquered 164-ball 70

and some useful contribu-

Golamaru (42), skipper G. H. Vihari (38) and Karan

Shinde (48) to take a first

At the draw of stumps,

Girinath Reddy (11) was

giving company to Ricky with two more days to go in

fifty as Bengal reached 236

for 6 in reply to Kerala's

first innings score of 239. Bengal thus trailed Kerala by just three runs

with four wickets remain-

ing in their first innings at

innings lead of 34 runs.

Manish

GRAB AN UPPER H

Dindigul, Dec. 18: Himachal Pradesh hit back strongly to bundle out Tamil Nadu for 96 and reached 133 for 7 in the second innings to seize the advantage at stumps on Day Two the Ranji Trophy Group 'B' match here on

Wednesday. At stumps, Himachal extended the lead to 195 runs. Resuming at the overnight 8 for no loss, the Tamil Nadu innings last only 46 overs as the Himachal bowlers struck at regular intervals. Vaibhav Arora (3/21) was

the best bowler for HP, while RIshi Dhawan (2/30), Mayank Dagar (2/17) and A P Vashist (2/22) chipped in with wickets. Test star Ravichandran

Ashwin (24) was the top-scorer with his 60-ball knock, including two boundaries, while none of the other batsmen showed the necessary application to pile up a big total and put the pressure on the vis-

iting team. The experienced Abhinav Mukund on whom a lot the match. For Delhi, pacer Navdeep Saini claimed two wickets depended in the absence of on Wednesday to go with Dinesh Karthik, Murali Vijay and Vijay Shankar, was the first to go today, caught by Ankit Kalsi of the one which he took on the opening day. In other Group 'A' match-es, Abhishek Raman (110) scored a century while Manoj Tiwary (51) hit a Vaibhav Årora for 6.

Tamil Nadu was tottering at 43 for 6 before Ashwin and J Kousik (21) came up with a rescue act briefly. The dismissal of the latter sparked a collapse again as four wickets went down for 23 runs. T. Natarajan (2/11) struck an early blow getting P. S. Khanduri for a duck in the

-PTI

BRIEF SCORES

GROUP A

E Delhi 215 vs Andhra 249/6 in 87 overs (Ricky Bhui 70 n. o., Navdeep Saini 3/77)

stumps

Kerala 239 vs Bengal 236/6 in 86 overs (A. Raman 110, Basil Thampi 2/35)

Hyderabad 242 vs Punjab 167/4 in 51 overs (Mandeep Singh 65, Mohammed Siraj 3/40). Vidarbha 510/8 decl. (F.Y. Fazal 136, M.R. Kale 138, A.V.

Wadkar 111, TM UI-Haq 4/87) vs Rajasthan 45/1 in 19 overs (A.V. Gautam 35, U. Yadav 1/15).

GROUP B

Himachal Pradesh 158 in 71.4 overs (A. Vashist 35, Mayank Dagar 33, Sumeet Varma 30, R Ashwin 5/65, R. Sai Kishore 3/22) & 1**33/7 in 46 overs** (S.L. Verma 36, Rishi Dhawan 27 n.o., T. Natarajan 2/11) vs Tamil Nadu 96 (R. Ashwin 24, J. Kousik 21, Vaibhav Arora 3/21).

Uttar Pradesh 281 vs Karnataka 168/4 in 59 overs (A.M. Reddy 23 n.o., S. Gopal 8 n.o.) 9 vs Saurashtra 211/3 in 69 overs (C.A wavs

(RR) 3.12.40. **100m Freestyle (Girls):** 1. Sri Nithya Sagi (RR) 1.14.76, 2. D. Ritu Snehal (Hyd) 1.17.48, (RR) 1.15.70. 100m Freestyle (Girls): 1. G. Raj Sri Laasya (RR) 1.11.13, 2.

3. 0.47.34 100m Freestyle (Boys): 1.

IBSF

0.32.32, 2. Abhay Lakkoju (RR) 0.32.70, 3. T. S. Tejas Kumar (Hyd) 0.34.89. 50m Freestyle (Girls): 1. Sri Nithya Sagi (RR) 0.33.69, 2. D. Ritu Snehal (Hyd) 0.35.09, 3. M. Preethika (Hyd) 0.36.15. 100m Freestyle (Boys): 1. Abhay Lakkoju (RR) 1.11.57,

Tokyo: Tokyo's Olympic tickets continue to be very hard to find particularly in Japan. Organisers on Wednesday said there were 23 million tickets requested in the latest lottery for Japan residents only. The bad news is that only 1 million tickets were available. Which means that almost everybody went away empty handed. Next summer's Olympics have generated unprecedented demand. Organisers said 3.57 million tickets had been awarded to Japan residents in previous lotteries. Organisers confirmed for the first time the demand was almost 20 times over supply about 60 million tickets requested. - AFP

NETS NICK PELICANS IN NBA GAME

Los Angeles: A determined Indiana fightback and lastminute heroics by Malcolm Broadon and Domantas Sabonis led the Pacers to a dramatic 105-102 upset of the NBA-best Los Angeles Lakers on Tuesday. LeBron James produced 20

points, nine rebounds and nine assists for the Lakers, who played without injured star forward Anthony Davis and saw their road win streak snapped at 14 games, two shy of the NBA record.

Pacers forward Sabonis, son of Lithuanian legend Arvydas Sabonis, scored 26 points and grabbed 10 rebounds while Brodgon added 14 points and six assists and sank a reverse layup to put Indiana ahead to stay with 36 seconds remaining. The Lakers (24-4) fell level with Milwaukee for the NBA's best record just two days before they visit the Eastern Conference leaders. The Lakers hit 43-of-91 shots (47.3 per cent) from the floor while Indiana made 41-of-85 (48.2 pe cent). - AFP



Thirteen-year-old Gadda Srikanth plays a shot on way to a 56-26, 38-54, 68-25, 47-61, 88-21 victory over Zayed in the State Ranking Snooker tournament being held at Film Nagar Culture Centre in Hyderabad, on Wednesday

Nizam, Srikanth on top of table

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, DEC. 18

WIRAKAG

Nizamuddin and Gadda Srikanth impressed at the State Ranking Snooker and Billiards tournament being held at Film Nagar Centre Culture in Hyderabad.

While Nizam made a break of 77, which is high-47-61, 88-21. est in the ongoing tournament, 13-year-old Srikanth played a very tough match and outplayed his oppo-nent in the decider frame. Srikanth, a seventh class student and youngest player of the tournament, defeated Zayed 3-2. After a victor.

see-saw battle saw the first four frames split, the teenager turned the heat on in the decisive frame to next frame to win it 59-2,

Nizamuddin made a break of 77, the highest of the tournament while 13-yearold Srikanth, the youngest competitor at the event, punched above his weight to outplay his opponent in a dominating decider frame at State ranking snooker.

dominate it and take the match at 56-26, 38-54, 68-25, Nizamuddin annihilated Ather Khan 3-0. He won the first frame 135-07 which included a record break of 77 that suprassed Akhil Reddy's 76 — and then took the next two at 61-15 and 57-20 to emerge

Earlier, Akhil, who lost the first frame 36-68, pulled up his socks in the

making it one frame apiece. Akhil took the third frame 66-52 and the fourth with a record 76-24, advancing to the second round

THE RESULTS Senior snooker first round: Nizamuddin bt Ather Khan 3-0 (135(77)-07, 61-15, 57bt Ather Khan 3-0 (135(77)-07, 61-15, 57-20); Gadda Srikanth bt Zayed 3-2 (56-26, 38-54, 68-25, 47-61, 88-21); Akhil Reddy bt Abhi Raj 3-1 (36-68, 59-2, 66-52, 76(76)-24); Clinton Mathew bt Naresh Jassi 3-0 (67-09, 63-21, 59-10); Rayyan Aziz bt Henry James 3-1 (51-52, 58-12, 88-29, 77-05); Mr Imran Ali bt Pranav 3-1 (66-43, 70-17, 29-67, 69-47); Md Irfan Honzol Ft Dharzi 3-1 (62-23, 30-64, 52) Ahmed bt Dheeraj 3-1 (62-23, 39-64, 52-22, 66-19); Aman Velupula bt Md Bilal

Khan 3-2 (58-68, 61-29, 42-47, 57-24, 76-39); Md Aslam bt Bharath Chowdhary 3-1 (53-60, 62-02, 66-08, 50-05); Brandan Marcel bt Rameez Hassan 3-0 (52-09, 77-08, 74-23); S. Arjun Kumar bt Noor Mohammed 3-1 (49-15, 45-53, 72-01, 75-32); Bharath Reddy bt Sreyas Jain 3-2 (58-18, 13-65, 28-64, 58-17, 51-43); Yashaswi bt Sameer Khan 3-0 (64-20, 79-37, 64-31); K. Sharma bt Devpal 3-2 (56-24, 62-39, 39-63, 45-49, 51-15); Balakrishna bt Sandeep Reddy 3-0 (64-11, 66(57)-32, 56-40); Praveen bt Arun pakide 3-0 (61-12, 52-39, 53-42); Syed Ahmed bt Rashid Patel 3-0 (77-18, 75-10, 65-39); Praghesh bt Vikram 3-1 (56-8, 39-44, 61-48, 65-28); Ronak Khemani bt Madhusudhan Reddy 3-0 (62-33, 43-35, 61-50); Akshay bt Sarkar 3-1 (54-47, 28-69, 69-23, 63-11); Phani Raj Kopalle bt Khaja Mohnuddin 3-0 (57-52, 60-38, 77-18); Y. Ajay Kumar bt Sandeep Kumar 3-2 (51-3, 48-62, 75-55, 39-41, 72-25); Ashwin Rao bt Aravind Goud 3-1 (54-51, 57-47); Qa-40, 61-10, 42-57, 36-75, 55-48); Khan 3-2 (58-68, 61-29, 42-47, 57-24, 76-29-34, 75-41); Abnilash bi Mukthar Ali 3-2 (80-40, 61-10, 42-57, 36-75, 55-48); Sarfaraz bt Md Imran 3-0 (51-37, 59-41, 78-42); Ajay Bhusan bt Syed Habeeb 3-0 (63-25, 71-26, 71-20); P. Avinash bt Kunal Ram 3-0 (56-13, 72-14, 66-27); K. Vibhas bt Md Fasiuddin 3-1 (51-57, 56-2, 59-28, 70, 71). 39-31): Rameezuddin Khan bt Sayed Zaffar 3-1 (35-60, 75-8, 77-6, 62-29)

Hemalatha of Warangal Urban emerged winners in the boys and girls cate gories respectively at the fifth junior inter-district tenni-koit championship held at the Srinidhi High in School Madhira, Khammam.

In a lop-sided boys sin-gles title clash, Sujayath had no problems in seeing Warangal-U's off Ganesh 21-10, 21-10. In the girls final, Hemalatha got the better of Khammam's M. Madhurya 21-16, 21-15 to take home the crown.

THE RESULTS

THE RESULTS Boys singles final: Md. Sujayath (Mahbubnagar) bt B. Ganesh (Warangal-U) 21-10, 21-10. Semifinals: Md. Sujayath (Mahbubnagar) bt P. Vivek (Mulugu) 21-11, 21-14; B. Ganesh (Mahbubnagar) P. Ajay (Siddipet) 21-14, 21-15. Guarterfinals: Md. Sujayath (Mahaboob Nagar) bt S. Koushik (Warangal-U) 21-8, 21-14; P. Vivek (Warangal-U) bt M. Siraj (Warangal-U) bt Saikiran (Hyderabad) 21-10, 21-11; P. Ajay (Siddipet) bt Saikrishna (Mahbubnagar) 21-15, 21-12. Girls singles final: K. Hemalatha (Warangal-U) bt M. Madhurya (Khammam) 21-6, 21-15. Semifinals: M. Madhurya (Khammam) bt G. Akhila (Mahaboobabad) 21-19, 21-4; K. Hemalatha (Warangal-U) bt K. Thrisha (Nizamabad) 21-18, 18-21, 21-12. Oursterfinal: M. Mathurya

Thrisha (Nizamabad) 21-18, 18-21, 21-Thrisha (Nizamabad) 21-18, 18-21, 21-17. Guarterfinals: M. Madhurya (Khammam) bt P. Malleshwari (Mahbubnagar) 21-19, 21-14; K. Thrisha (Nizamabad) bt Nagaveni (Nagarkarnul) 21-18, 21-17; G. Akhila (Mahboobabad) bt K. Sandhya (Mahbobnagar) 21-19, 21-18; K. Hemalatha (Mahbubnagar) bt K. Yadamma (Mahbubnagar) 21-15, 21-17

Pujara 69 n.o., A. V. Vasavada 11 n.o)



Vidarbha batsman Akshay Wadkar celebrates his century against Rajasthan on the second day of their Ranji Trophy match at VCA Stadium in Nagpur on Wednesday.

TRIALS FOR U-12 LONG DISTANCE **RUNNERS IN CITY**

Hyderabad, Dec. 18: The Bolarum Sporting Club is looking to take long distance runners aged under 12 years, for a long term program. Children born between 2008 and 2009 are eligible to participate in the selection run at the Bolarum grounds on December 22. Interested runners should report at the ground along with their birth certificates by 9 am. For more details, contact E. S. Shyam on 9490749278 or Sashikanth on 9703674343.



Players of the Holy Family Trimulgherry 'A' team pose with chief guest Elvis Stephenson (MLA) after winning the United Christmas Celebration Committee inter-church football tournament at the AOC grounds. The winners defeated Holy Family Trimulgherry 'B' team 5-4 via penalty shootout after both teams were locked 1-1 at the end of regulation time. Anuj, Vineeth, Joseph, Anuj and Xavier scored for Holy Family 'A' while Arvind, Vivian, Sam and Mohit scored for Holy Family 'B' as the winning team's goalkeeper Vicky saved a shot.





ITALIAN LEAGUE IS SORRY FOR RACIST ART ADVERT

Rome, Dec. 18: The head of Serie 'A' has apologised for using art featuring monkeys in an anti-racism campaign

The Italian top flight had initially said the work aimed to defend the values of "integration, multicul-turalism and fraternity", but was forced to backpedal after widespread criticism and ridicule.

Serie 'A''s managing director Luigi De Siervo on Tuesday said he "apologises to everyone offended by the work by artist Simone Fugazzotto", which showed three monkeys in close-up, but with slightly different colours over the basic brown.

"Although the artist had explained that the meaning was specifically a message against racism, many have found the work questionable," De Siervo said in a statement.





MCC vs Pak

The Marylebone Cricket Club on Wednesday said it will send a squad to Pakistan in February next year under the captaincy of president Kumar Sangakkara

18: Rohit Sharma capti-

vated with his languid

with fellow centurion

Rahul (102 off 104 balls)

balls) thoroughly enter-

taining 72-run stand in

flourish.

Nichola

Pooran

on Wednesday.





He's (Maxwell) a gun. A threedimensional player that can have such a huge impact. — Aaron Finch, Australia's limited-overs skipper backs allrounder Glenn Maxwell

> SHORT TAKES **ICC probes into**

Qatar T10 league

Dubai: The International Cricket Council is investigating the Qatar T10 league after intercepting "a number of known corruptors" in the event, which it sanctioned a year ago and featured some prominent retired players such as South Africa's Hashim Amla. The ICC's Anti-Corruption Unit was working with the organisers to moni tor the league since its inception. "The ICC sanctioned this event 12 months ago based on the sound information provided by the organisers," ICC's Integrity Unit General Manager Alex Marshall said in a state ment. "However, substantia changes to both team ownership and the organisers just days prior to the event getting underway rang alarm bells for us and we applied additional investigative resource." – PT

Captain Azhar eyes memorable win

Karachi: Pakistan skipper Azhar Ali said Wednesday he wants the return of Test cricket to the country to be a memorable one as his team seeks victory over Sri Lanka in Karachi starting Thursday. Their series is the first in Pakistan since a militant attack on the Sri Lankan team bus killed eight people in March 2009, leading to the suspen-sion of international cricket in the country as foreign sides refused to visit over security fears. The return of Test cricket to Pakistan last week was something of a washout, with their first encounter hit by the weather in Rawalpindi before stuttering to a tame draw. After 10 years playing away, Pakistan desperately wanted to make the most at home. - AFP

Trick and run treat

Kuldeep's hat-trick, centuries by KL, Rohit help India level series

Visakhapatnam, Dec. (75 off 47 balls) and skipper Keiron Pollard (0) off successive deliveries to spark a West

brilliance in company of an equally graceful KL Rahul before Indies collapse. Kuldeep (3/52 in 10 Kuldeep Yadav topped it overs) then removed the dogged Shai Hope (78 up with a hat-trick in off 85 balls), Jason Holder (11) and Alzarri Joseph (0) off succes-India's series-levelling 107-run victory against the West Indies in the second one-dayer here sive deliveries to seal the issue in favour of The Indian vice-cap-India. This was his sectain hit his 28th ODI hundred — 159 off 138 balls — and added 227 for the opening stand ond hat-trick in ODIs. He became the first Indian player to claim

two hat-tricks in international cricket. On a shirtfront of a track, as India put up an imposing 387 for 5 in 50 overs. Rishabh Pant (39 off 16 balls) and Shreyas Iyer's (53 off 32 West Indies was never going to make a comeback after losing five wickets for 18 runs and it was only a matter of time before India ended their four-match losing streak at home.

only four overs also pro-The decider will now be played at Cuttack on vided the impetus required during a final December 22. Rohit, as In reply, the West usual, batted at his own Indies, who looked good pace and looked like the bandmaster of an orchestra, who made at 192 for 3 in the 30th over, were bowled out the Caribbean bowlers for 280 in 43.3 overs. It was Mohammed Shami dance to his tune. Sheldon Cottrell was (3/39 in 7.3 overs), who removed the dangerous punished with such ferocity that he didn't have energy to do a cus-

tomary 'Cottrell Salute' once Iyer was out and it was more or less similar for

all others like Alzarri Joseph and Keemo Paul. It was also a perfect demonstration on how to press the accel erator in this format first 50 off 67, the next off 40 balls and the last

off only 25. The innings had 17 boundaries and five sixes and Rohit played the same shot again and again. It was a swivel off his hips between fine leg and deep fine leg to rising deliveries. The West Indies bowlers were wary of

pitching it up to him fearing his drives but ended up bowling short on the hips and the Indian gleefully played the shot again and again. At times, they did realise the mistake and pitched it up but then 'Retro Rohit' came out from nowhere playing 1980s slog shots, shuffling towards legstump and making room to hit over cover boundary. -PTI

Kuldeep first Indian to bag two international hat-tricks

Visakhapatnam, Dec. 18: Wrist spinner Kuldeep Yadav on Wednesday became the first India player to claim two hat-tricks in international cricket, joining an elite band that includes pace legend Wasim Akram. He achieved the feat during the second ODI against the West Indies here. The 25-year-old from Uttar Pradesh, who had claimed his first ODI hat-trick against Australia in Kolkata in 2017, dismissed Shai Hope, Jason Holder and Alzarri Joseph in the last 3 deliveries of the 33rd over to achieve the milestone.

DECCAN CHRONICLE

K. L. Rahul after scoring a century against West Indies in Visakhapatnam on Wednesday. K. MURALI KRISHNA

CARD

India: R. Sharma c Hope b Cottrell 159, KL Rahul c Chase b Joseph 102, V. Kohli c Chase b Pollard 0, S. lyer c Hope b Cottrell 53, R. Pant c Pooran b Paul 39, K. Jadhav (not out) 16, R. Jadeja (not out) 0. Extras (b-1, lb-3, nb-1, w-13) 18. Total (for five wick-

ets in 50 overs) 387. FoW: 1-227, 2-232, 3-292, 4-365, 5-373. Bowling: Cottrell 9-0-83-2, Holder 9-0-45-0, Pierre 9-0-62-0, Paul 7-0-57-1, Joseph 9-1-68-1, Chase 5-0-48-0, Pollard 2-0-20-1.

West Indies: E. Lewis c Iyer b Thakur 30, S. Hope c Kohli b Kuldeep Yadav 78, S. Hetmyer run out (Iyer/Jadeja) 4, R. Chase b Jadeja 4, N. Pooran c Kuldeep Yadav b Mohammed Shami 75, K. Pollard c Pant b Mohammed Shami 0, J. Holder st Pant b Kuldeep Yadav 11, K. Paul b Mohammed Shami 46, A. Joseph c Jadhav b Kuldeep Yadav 0, K. Pierre

c Kohli b Jadeja 21, S. Cottrell (not out) 0. Extras (b-1, lb-2, w-8) 11. Total (in 43.3 overs) 280.

FoW: 1-61, 2-73, 3-86, 4-192, 5-192, 6-210, 7-210, 8-210, 9-260.

Bowling: Deepak 7-1-44-0, Thakur 8-0-55-1, Shami 7.3-0-39-3, R Jadeja 10-0-74-2, Kuldeep 10-0-52-3, lyer 1-0-13-0.

MOST 150+ SCORES IN ONE-DAYERS

Batsman	М	Runs	150+	
Rohit Sharma (India)	220	8881	8	
 David Warner (Australia)	116	4990	6	
 Chris Gayle (West Indies)	301	10480	5	
 Sachin Tendulkar (India)	463	18426	5	
Hashim Amla (SA)	181	8113	4	
 Sanath Jayasuriya (SL)	445	13430	4	
 Viray Kohli (India)	241	11524	4	

Stats: S. PERVEZ QAISER

Rohit Sharma celebrates his century against West Indies. K. MURALI KRISHNA

BIG HITTERS AND A MAGICIAN! Five players to watch out for

ights, camera and auction Pat Cummins, Josh

Kolkata, Dec. 18: The spotlight will be on swashbuck-lers from the West Indies and Australia but some lesser-known youngsters could walk away with the big deals at the IPL players' auction here on Thursday where the franchises are expected to be restrained in spending.

The 13th edition of the lucrative franchise league will have added signifi-cance as 2020 is also a T20 World Cup year. At 14 years and 350 days, Afghanistan's Noor Ahmad is the youngest name in auction pool. The left-arm chinaman, with a base price of ₹30 lakh, may join the likes of Rashid Khan and Mohammed Nabi to play for the high-profile franchise league. Noor was impressive in the Under-19 one-day series against India recently, picking up nine wickets and with the teams' fascination for wrist spinners, he could be taken up early.

Among Indian young-sters, Mumbai left-hander opener Yashasvi Jaiswal and Priyam Garg, who is leading the India Under-19 World Cup squad, will be the ones to watch out for along with Tamil Nadu leftarm spinner R Sai Kishore and Bengal pacer Ishan Porel. All of them come with a base price of $\gtrless 20$ lakh. On to the stars and Shimron Hetmyer, the 22year-old West Indian big-

hitter who was released by Royal

Yashasvi Jaiswa

Challengers Bangalore ahead of the auction, has Hazlewood, Chris Lynn, Mitchell Marsh and Glenn already made a case for himself with a match-win-Maxwell. The five, along ning 85-ball century in the with South African Dale first ODI against India in Steyn Angelo Mathews, are in the Chennai.

The Guyanese southpaw, with a base price of Rs 50 lakh, was also the highest highest bracket of ₹2 crore. The World Cup-bound Aussie cricketers had opted run-getter in the preceding out of the 2019 auction but T201 series -120 in three this time they have checked matches at a strike-rate of in keeping in mind the T20 World Cup at home in October. While Mitchell 151.89. He will be on the radar when the eight franchises bid for the 73 slots up Starc has opted out this for grabs. Having been year, the likes of Maxwell, bought at a huge price of Lynn are likely to be top ₹4.2 crore last year, Royal Challengers Bangalore had draws let the batsman go follow-ing a lacklustre IPL 2019 in a row all-rounder where he scored 90 runs Cummins might get a good from five matches. But with deal. He had an impressive three right-to-match cards 2017 season with 15 wickets available, RCB may still at a strike rate of 18.46. It, exercise the option to retain however, remains to be seen the in-form player. However, with a bigger how Dale Steyn and Angelo Mathews would fare with a purse, the other franchises steep base price of ₹2 crore. would also target Hetmyer Steyn had gone unsold in the previous IPL auction

at the auction being held for the first time in Kolkata. Another West Indian, medium-pacer Kesrick Williams, who troubled India skipper Virat Kohli with his variations in the T20 International series, is also expected to trigger intense bidding with a base price of ₹50 lakh. The limited money in most franchises' purse could mean that the bidding wouldn't be particulary aggressive for

those with higher base price. The auction features five Australians

-+

Grandhomme along with nine other players. They are likely to be the busiest among the teams to fill in 10-12 slots. and Sri Lankan

With the likes of Tim Southee, Pat Cummins and Josh Hazlewood up for grabs, it would be interesting to see how they would go about it with ₹27.90 crore left in their purse.

Among Indians, former Kolkata Knight Riders vice captain Robin Uthappa. who was released by his IPL-winning team, has kept his base price at ₹1.5 crore. Currently leading Kerala in the domestic circuit, Uthappa scored 139 runs in six matches of the Syed Ali Trophy Mushtaq National Championship and it remains to be seen whether the 34-year-old finds any takers

Piyush Chawla, who is among four bowlers to have picked up 150 wickets in the also by IPL, was

but was roped in by Royal Challengers Bangalore as a released KKR. The legreplacement for Nathan spinner, along Coulter-Nile. That didn't go with ageing too well for him as he sufall-rounder fered an injury that ruled him out of the World Cup. Perennial underachievers price tags of ₹1 crore. Challengers Bangalore have a star-stud-

Hazlewood,

Having skipped two years

ded batting line-up, led by

Virat Kohli, and what they

would need is a top-class pacer and someone who

could play the role of a

finisher. Going into the

auction, RCB off-

loaded Hetmyer,

Marcus Stoinis,

and Colin de

Cummins,

Royal

Yusuf Pathan, have PTI

TYNA

FRANCHISES Chennai Super Kings ₹**14.60 cr**

FUNDS WITH

SUNN

Delhi Capitals ₹27.85 cr

Kings XI Punjab ₹42.70 cr

Kolkata Knight Riders ₹35.65 cr

Mumbai Indians ₹**13.05 cr**

Rajasthan Royals ₹**28.90 cr**

Royal Challengers ₹**27.90 cr**

Sunrisers Hyderabad ₹**17 cr**

any of the world's top cricketers will **LVL**be among 332 players going under the hammer when the Indian Premier League holds its auction on Thursday. Here are five players who could break the bank when the eight teams in the Twenty20 tournament place their bids in . Kolkata:



EOIN MORGAN (ENGLAND)

Having led England to their first 50-over World Cup in July, fast-scoring Morgan will be a hot property again having set his base price at 15 million rupees (\$212,000).

Morgan last played for Kings XI Punjab in 2017 and went unsold last year, but that is unlikely to happen again given his exploits in the World Cup which included a world record 17 sixes in blasting 148 off 71 balls against Afghanistan.



SHIMRON **HETMYER** (WEST INDIES)

Hetmyer is fast building a reputation as the new bighitting weapon to take

+



GLENN MAXWELL (AUSTRALIA)

Explosive hitter Maxwell surprised the cricketing world when he recently took a short break because of mental health issues. He returned to club cricket last month and put his name in the IPL auction having played previ-ously for Kings XI Punjab, Mumbai

Indians and Delhi Daredevils (now

Capitals) Maxwell has scored 1,397 runs in the IPL at an average of 22.9 at a rapid strike rate of 161.13. He is one of the five Australians to have their base price set at 20 million rupees (\$282,000).

JASON ROY (ENGLAND)



Roy was a key to England's World Cup success with a hundred and four half-centuries. Rated as one of the game's most

destructive limited-overs openers Roy

could trigger a bidding war given his rapid strike rate of more than 145 in Twenty20s and a base price of 15 million rupees (\$212,000).

He played previously for the now-defunct Gujarat Lions and Delhi Capitals as well as enjoying successful stints in South Africa's Mzansi Super League and the Pakistan Super League.



TABRAIZ SHAMSI (SOUTH AFRICA)

Shamsi has emerged as South Africa's first-choice limited overs spinner since Imran Tahir's retirement from ODIs.

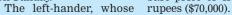
The left-arm bowler's unusual wicket celebrations include the

magician's trick of turning a handkerchief into a stick, with online footage of his exploits going viral. "The most important thing is still the bowling," he said. "If there are no wickets, there are no celebrations.

Playing for the Paarl Rocks in the domestic Mzansi Super League, Shamsi has had many opportunities to perform the sleight of hand, taking 14 wickets in nine matches and he has set his base price at a modest five million rupees (\$70,000).

over from the now-retired Chris Gayle and the 22year-old would have done no harm to his auction price with a sparkling career-best 139 in the West Indies' one-day international win against India on Sunday.

release by the Virat Kohliled Bangalore may yet turn out to be a huge mistake, toyed with the Indian bowling. "I wasn't think-ing about that too much," said Hetmeyer who should see plenty of interest at a base price of five million







Noor Ahmad











Crisis management



Former Italian football federation president Giancarlo Abete was named emergency commissioner of Italian league



DECCAN CHRONICLE

THURSDAY | 19 DECEMBER 2019 | HYDERABAD



It was a weird game, the weirdest one l've been involved in.

— Dean Smith, Aston Villa manager, after their win 5-0 win over Liverpool in the quarterfinal of the League Cup

> INDIAN IFAGUE

Bagan, Bengal Derby put off

New Delhi: The upcoming I-League derby between Mohun Bagan and East Bengal in Kolkata was on Wednesday postponed after organisers failed to get "security assur-ances" from the state police for an expected full house. The clash was scheduled to be held on December 22 and though the All India Football Federation (AIFF) did not specify the exact reason why security assurances couldn't come through, sources in the apex body said "it was related to the ongoing protests against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act." In a letter, the police conveyed its inability to provide security. "With reference to the much-awaited Hero I-League match between Mohun Bagan AC and Quess East Bengal originally scheduled to be held at Kolkata's Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan (VYBK) on Sunday, December 22, 2019, a formal letter from the office of the Dv. Commissioner of Police. Bidhannagar to Mohun Bagan has cited that "organising a fullscale match shall be quite challenging," the AIFF said. - PTI

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Aston Villa's Jonathan Kodjia's (left) shot is deflected by Liverpool's goalkeeper Caoimhin Kelleher during their English League Cup quarterfinal – AFP match at Villa Park in Birmingham, central England, on Tuesday. Aston Villa won 5-0.

Liverpool drown

Villa beat Reds 5-0 in English League Cup quarters

team suffered a harsh lesson as Aston Villa ran out 5-0 winners to reach the League Cup semifinals, with Jonathan Kodjia scoring twice.

An

better performance from unrecognisable the visitors than the score-Liverpool line-up con-tained five debutants and line suggests. Harvey Elliot became the youngest player to ever play in the Premier an average age of 19 years, six months and three days League just a month after with the European champions' first team and his 16th birthday last sea-coaching staff, including son when at Fulham

Birmingham, Dec. 18: manager Jurgen Klopp, in before a summer move to unfortunate Liverpool's youngest ever Qatar for their Club World Anfield. Cup semifinal against

Monterrey on Wednesday.

That

And he was the standout performer of Liverpool's inexperience young crop as his driven showed defensively on effort produced a good early save from Orjan Tuesday despite a much Nvland.

However, the floodgates opened 14 minutes in when Conor Hourihane's free-kick evaded everyone and flew under Caoimhin Kelleher's grasp.

The Irish under-21 international goalkeeper was game, probably the weird-

again moments later when Elmohamady's Ahmed attempted cross deflected off Morgan Boyes and looped in at the far post for

an own goal. Kodjia had not scored this season prior to kickoff with his chances in Smith's first team severely restricted by the signing of

Brazilian striker Wesley in the summer. "It was a bit of a weird

est one I've been involved in for a quarterfinal of a major competition," said Villa boss Dean Smith.

"I came through coaching those sorts of age groups. It was great to see them on that stage tonight, so we had to be very pro-

fessional," Smith added. Villa, meanwhile, can look forward to a first cup semi-final in five years with the other three quarter-final ties taking place on Wednesday. AFP

SHOOTING NATIONALS Rahi, Sanjeev right on target

New Delhi, Dec. 18: 🔴 Sanjeev Rajput, Tokyo 2020 Olympic quota winners continued their fine form at the ongoing 63rd National Shooting Championship Competitions (63rdNSCC) tions (63rdNSUC) Rifle/Pistol in Bhopal, as Sanjeev Rajput, Rahi Sarnobat, Manu Bhaker and Aishwary Singh Tomar, all returning winners

After Divyansh Panwar

had won the Men's Air Rifle on the opening day,

senior shooter Sanjeev Rajput on Wednesday won

the Men's 50m Rifle 3 Positions (3P) while Rahi

who shot 32 for the silver.

This after Rahi shot 589 to

Aishwary Singh Tomar won gold in their respective events at the 63rd **National Shooting** Championship Competitions (63rdNSCC) for rifle and pistol underway in Bhopal.

Rahi Sarnobat,

Manu Bhaker and

page 16

top qualification and Manu 582 to follow her through to the finals. Manu also won the jun-

aced the Women's 25m Pistol, both registering ior women's 25m Pistol gold while Aishwary Tomar, who had won the top scores in qualification through to the finals. Sanjeev representing Haryana, shot a solid 1176 junior Air Rifle earlier in to top qualification before the championships, won a sublime 459.6 to seal the junior Men's 3P with a gold while Maharashtra's 455 in the final. Rahi shot 41 in the final to The teenager dominate Manu Bhaker

from Madhya Pradesh had also shot a fine 1175 in qualification

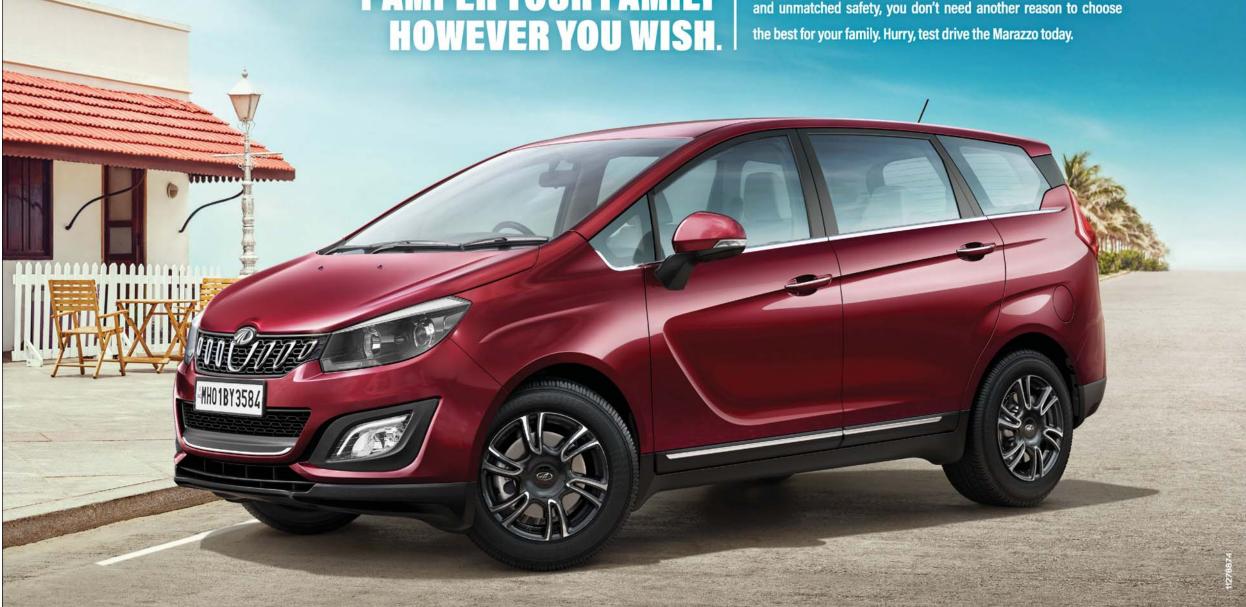


Manu Bhaker (centre) is flanked by her parents after winning gold in the junior women's 25m pistol at the 63rd National Shooting Championship Competitions (63rd NSCC) for rifle pistol in Bhopal on Wednesday.

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